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

Odisha CM Mohan Majhi announces approval of Subhadra scheme for women

BHUBANESWAR: Chief minister Mohan Charan Majhi announced the approval of an initiative for women's empowerment, Subhadra, in the state legislative assembly. "I take this opportunity on this auspicious day to inform this House about the approval of a path-breaking initiative for women's empowerment, Subhadra, by the state cabinet. As decided by the state cabinet in its meeting held on August 22, 2024, at Lok Seva Bhawan, the scheme has been approved for implementation from the financial year 2024-25 to the financial year 2028-29. 1x1 polls An outlay of Rs 55,825.00 crore has been made for this initiative," a press release from the CMO said on Friday. According to the CMO, Subhadra will transform the lives of more than 1 crore women in the state. It will cover



In order to ensure transparency in providing assistance

In order to ensure transparency in providing assistance, the payment will be made directly to the beneficiary's Aadhaar-enabled single-holder (DBT) bank account through the Aadhaar Payment Bridge System (APBS). A Subhadra Debit Card will also be issued to the beneficiaries. In order to encourage digital transactions, 100 beneficiaries with maximum digital transactions will be identified in each Gram Panchayat and Urban Local Body all eligible women aged 21 years or above

and an additional incentive of Rs 500 shall be given to each of them. "Our government is committed towards 'Antyodaya'. Hence, women from economically well-off families, government servants or Income Tax payees will not be eligible under this scheme. Besides, women who are receiving assistance of Rs 1,500 or more per month or Rs 18,000 or more per year under any other government scheme will also be ineligible. and less than 60 years old.

Women can apply by filling out the forms available free of charge at anganwadi centres

To avail themselves of the benefits under this scheme, women can apply by filling out the forms available free of charge at anganwadi centres, block offices, Mo Seva Kendras, Jan Seva Kendras, etc. A call centre will also be set up for Subhadra. "The Women and Child Development Department will establish a Subhadra Society for the implementation and monitoring of the programme. Our government is taking steps to launch "Subhadra" at the earliest," the CMO said. A total of Rs 10,000 per annum will be paid in two instalments of Rs 5000 each on Rakhi International Women's Day (March 8). Thus, an eligible woman beneficiary will get Rs 50,000 in total in five years.

Supreme Court ruled that insulting or humiliating an individual belonging to the SC or ST

NEW DELHI: Supreme Court ruled that insulting or humiliating an individual belonging to the SC or ST community without insinuating about his caste, tribe or the concept of untouchability would not be an offence under the stringent provisions of SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra gave this ruling while granting anticipatory bail to Shajan Skaria, editor of an online Malayalam news channel, who was booked under SC/ST Act for calling CPM MLA P V Sreenijan, who belongs to the SC community, a 'mafia don' and was denied pre-arrest bail by trial court and the Kerala high court. 1x1 polls Accepting the arguments of senior advocates Sidharth Luthra and Gaurav Agrawal on behalf of the editor, SC said, "Not every intentional insult or intimidation



Two bike-borne assailants open fire at sweets shop in Delhi's Tilak Nagar

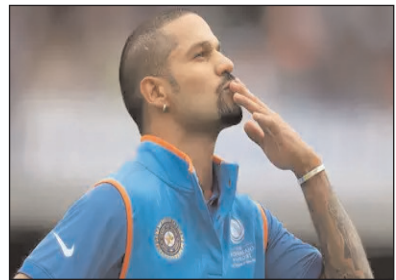
The incident took place around 11.15 pm when unknown individuals shot at Singla's Sweets shop, causing damage to its front glass. Following the incident, Delhi Police responded promptly, and a crime team along with the district operations unit reached the scene. An FIR has been registered under relevant provisions of law, and an investigation is underway. According to preliminary investigations, two persons on a bike fired multiple shots at the shop's front glass and then fled on the same bike. Four empty cartridges were recovered from the location. The video has nothing to do in general with members of SC or ST. His target was just the complainant (Sreenijan) alone."

ed to promote feelings of enmity, hatred or ill-will against members of Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes. The video has nothing to do in general with members of SC or ST. His target was just the complainant (Sreenijan) alone."

Cognizant sues Infosys in the US court

Cognizant TriZetto filed a lawsuit against Infosys in a Texas federal court, alleging that Infosys stole trade secrets related to its healthcare software. Cognizant seeks monetary damages and an injunction against Infosys. Cognizant sues Infosys in the US court: Here's what the complaint says US-based software major Cognizant TriZetto has filed a lawsuit against Indian tech giant Infosys in a Texas federal court. The lawsuit filed by Cognizant alleges that Infosys has stolen trade secrets related to its healthcare insurance software. New Jersey-based Cognizant has 70% employees based out of India. Infosys has vehemently denied these allegations and has vowed to defend itself in court.

Shikhar Dhawan retires with a record of his yet to be broken



From a second-ball duck on his India debut in an ODI against Australia in 2010 to forming one of India's most formidable opening partnerships with Rohit Sharma and becoming India's man of the moment in ICC tournaments, Dhawan has had a successful career in the India jersey. Here's a look at the highlights of his career. Former India opener Shikhar Dhawan called time on his career on Saturday, announcing his decision to retire from all forms of cricket with immediate effect. From a second-ball duck on his India debut in an ODI against Australia in 2010 to forming one of India's most formidable opening partnerships with Rohit Sharma and becoming India's man of the moment in ICC tournaments, Dhawan has had a successful career in the India jersey. 'When I look ahead, I see a new world' - says Shikhar Dhawan after announcing retirement Here's a look at the highlights of Dhawan's career, which includes a yet-to-be-broken record he made on his Test debut. - Dhawan took 85 balls to reach his maiden hundred in Tests -- the quickest by a batter on Test debut.

Over 100 Google DeepMind employees write open letter, want Google to stop working on these contracts

Over 100 employees at Google DeepMind urged the company to end military contracts, citing ethical concerns. They highlighted the use of AI for warfare, specifically mentioning Google's Project Nimbus with the Israeli military. The signatories emphasized that such actions conflict with Google's AI Principles. As of August 2024, Google has not meaningfully responded to



their concerns. About 200 employees at Google DeepMind, the company's AI division's, have signed an open letter urging the company to end its contracts with military organisations, Time Magazine reports. The letter, dated May 16, 2024, expresses concerns that DeepMind's AI technology is being used for warfare purposes, potentially violating Google's own AI principles. The letter specifically references Google's defence contract with the Israeli

military, known as Project Nimbus, as well as reports of AI being used for mass surveillance and target selection in Gaza. While not focusing on any particular conflict, the signatories emphasise that their concerns are about upholding ethical AI practices. "Any involvement with military and weapon manufacturing impacts our position as leaders in ethical.

Rajnath Singh discusses 'key' strategic matters with US NSA Jake Sullivan



Union defence minister Rajnath Singh met US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan and US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin to discuss strategic issues and strengthen defence cooperation. Singh engaged with US defence companies at a USISPF roundtable, promoting collaboration under India's Make in India program to achieve self-reliance in the defence sector. Union defence minister Rajnath Singh held

talks with US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan on crucial strategic issues of mutual concern, a day after India and the US signed two agreements to strengthen their comprehensive global strategic partnership. Singh is currently on a

four-day official visit to the United States to strengthen the partnership between the two nations. Additionally, Singh had discussions with prominent US defence companies at a roundtable organized by the US India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF). He encouraged these companies to collaborate with Indian partners to expedite the Make in India program.

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

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



peace, and economic progress in the Indo-Pacific and South Asia regions". The proposed sale will improve India's capability "to meet current and future threats" by enhancing its capacity to conduct ASW operations from its MH-60R helicopters, the notification said. The Navy in March this year had commissioned its first squadron of six submarine-hunting MH-60R Seahawk helicopters, armed with Hellfire missiles, MK-54 torpedoes and precision-kill rockets, at INS Garuda in Kochi, as was then reported. By next year, India is slated to induct 24 heavy-duty Seahawks, which are also equipped with multi-mode radars and night-vision devices, under the Rs 15,157 crore (\$2.13 billion) contract inked with the US in February 2020. The notification said the Indian government has requested to buy AN/SSQ-53G high-altitude ASW

sonobuoys, AN/SSQ-62F HAASW sonobuoys and AN/SSQ-36 sonobuoys as well as engineering, technical and logistics support. "The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region," it said. Navy officers say the induction of Seahawks, which operate from decks of aircraft carriers and other frontline warships, represents a "significant capability jump" in detecting and destroying enemy submarines prowling in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). The choppers can also be used for anti-ship strikes, over the horizon network-centric operations and electronic warfare.

Actor Nagarjuna's N Convention Center faces demolition over encroachment dispute

The demolition of Hyderabad's N Convention Center, owned by actor Nagarjuna, began after claims of illegal construction on Tammidi Cheruvu land. Reports indicate the center encroached on three and a half acres of the lake. This action follows an investigation into the extent of the encroachment initiated by local authorities. Actor Nagarjuna's N Convention Center faces demolition over encroachment dispute Hyderabad: Demolition of the N Convention Center in Madhapur, owned by actor Nagarjuna, begun on Friday under official orders. The Hydra officials have initiated the process following allegations that the convention center was illegally constructed.

Rape accused jumps into pond while trying to flee police custody in Assam; dies



NEW DELHI: Main accused in the Assam rape case died after he jumped into a pond while trying to escape the police custody, reported news agency PTI citing an official. "The accused escaped from police custody and jumped into the pond. A search operation was launched immediately and his body was recovered after nearly two hours," police added. Police said the accused was taken to the location where the crime was allegedly committed for a re-creation of the crime scene around

3.30 am. Assam Police on Friday arrested the accused, who is one of the three youths, who gang-raped a 14-year-old girl in the Nagaon district on Thursday evening, which CM Himanta Biswa Sarma described as "an attack on indigenous Assamese people". The girl was allegedly assaulted and raped by three persons while she was returning home from her tuition on her bicycle in Dhing area around 8 pm on Thursday, police said. Sarma had vowed to bring the perpetrators.

Anil Kumar Jadli Takes Charge as Director (HR), NTPC

Meja, Shri Anil Kumar Jadli has taken charge as Director (HR), NTPC on 23rd August 2024. He started his career in NTPC way back in 1993 as an Executive Trainee. His ascent from his humble beginning as an Executive Trainee to the top echelon of HR function in NTPC signifies his passion, commitment and hard work. He is a post graduate in Organic Chemistry from Garwal University and did his post graduate diploma in Business Management in Human Resource Management from MDI, Gurgaon. He has also received management and leadership training inputs from ESCP-EAP (Paris, Berlin and Turin).



He has an illustrious career spanning over more than three decades encompassing both line and HR functions. After working in line function for around a decade, he switched over to HR function in 2004. From 2004 onwards, he looked after various facets of HR in various projects of NTPC in different capacity including Head of HR. He moved to Corporate HR in the year 2020, where he was instrumental in formulation and implementation of various HR strategies and initiatives.

He is a strong believer of "people before PLF" philosophy. With his rich and varied experience, HR in NTPC will achieve new feats in the days to come.

Football Tournament on NSD Starts Today

Prayagraj: Northern Football Academy is organizing various football competitions on the occasion of National Sports Day (29th August) on the birthday of Hockey Wizard Major Dhyan Chand ji. All these competitions will be played in two categories (Under-15 and Senior). Five a side football, tiebreaker competition, accuracy competition will be played in the team championship. For registration to participate in the competition, one may contact football coach Indranil Ghosh on (9453231784).

Plantation of trees by CSC under Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam campaign

Prayagraj: The "One Tree in Maa Ke Naam" campaign is an exemplary gesture of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's service to nature and respect for the mother. In this sequence, CSC employees and CSC Jan Seva Kendra operators planted large trees across the country by CSC SPV. CSC Prayagraj District Manager Shailendra Singh said that in all the development blocks of the district, saplings of shady and fruit trees like mango, guava, jamun, teak, peepal and mahogany have been planted by CSC operators. All these plants will be under the care of CSC operators. And this is the most appropriate step for environmental protection. About 1200 saplings have been planted in the entire district.



In Sanatan Dharma, there are 45 days of Amrit Yoga Charity and service increases by bathing: Shandilya Ji Maharaj

Prayagraj: Jagadguru Narayanacharya Swami Shandilya Ji Maharaj Shringverpur Peethadhiswar said that this time there is Amrit Yoga in the Mahakumbh to be held in Tirtharaj Prayagraj. This Maha Kumbh Mela will start from Paush Purnima on 13 January 2020 and will end on Mahashivratri on 26 March, that is, there will be six major bathing festivals in the 45 day Maha Kumbh, out of which royal bath will take place on three main bathing festivals. During this time, all the



13 Akharas will take royal bath in sequence. During this period, crores of people from India and abroad watch the royal bath. Jagadguru Narayanacharya Swami Shandilya Ji Maharaj told that there are six major bathing festivals in the 45-day Mahakumbh. In this, the first main bathing festival is Paush Purnima on 13 January 2025, the second main bathing festival is Makar Sankranti on 14 January, the third main bathing festival is Mauni Amavasya on 29 January, the fourth main bathing festival is Basant Panchami on 3 February, the fifth main bathing festival is Maghi Purnima on 12 February and the sixth and the last bathing festival Mahashivratri is on 26 February 2025. He said that the government and fair administration are making preparations on a large scale for Mahakumbh. The fair administration is predicting the arrival of 40 crore devotees and bathers in Mahakumbh from the country and abroad.

Jagadguru Narayanacharya Swami Shandilya Ji Maharaj said that although Kumbh is organized in Prayagraj, Nashik, Ujjain and Haridwar, but Magh Mela, Ardh Kumbh Mela and Maha Kumbh Mela held on the Sangam banks of Tirtharaj Prayagraj have special significance because since the creation of the universe, Earlier, Lord Brahma had performed a huge yagya in the holy place Prayagraj. During the holocaust, Lord Vishnu was seated on Akshaya Vat. 12 Madhav, lying Hanuman ji, confluence of Ganga-Yamuna and invisible Saraswati and other important places including Maharishi Bhardwaj's ashram are situated here, due to which the importance of Prayagraj increases especially.



It is duty to make children aware of the importance of traditional festivals: Ved Prakash

Shri Krishna Janmotsav program was celebrated with pomp and show amid colorful cultural programs at ML Public School

Meja: Shri Krishna Janmotsav program was celebrated with great pomp by cutting the cake by the school children at ML Public School, Bagaha, Sirsa. The program was started by school manager Ved Prakash Gupta by garlanding the statue of Mother Saraswati and lighting the lamp. During this period, after Saraswati Vandana Vandana, a colorful cultural program and a captivating drama was also presented by the school children. In the program, school children also presented pyramid and

pot breaking program highlighting the pastimes based on the life of Lord Shri Krishna through songs and music, which was greatly appreciated by the people present.

The little ones of the school gave a beautiful presentation on the song Tu Meri Radha Pyaari Main Tera Kishan Kanhaiya. Thereafter, as the Chief Guest, Manager Ved Prakash Gupta, while addressing the children, said that it is the duty of all of us to make them aware by organizing such programs to maintain the traditional

importance of festivals in Sanatan Dharma. On this occasion, school principal Satish Upadhyay and teachers Vipul Yadav, Kuldeep, Kamlesh Sharma, Rishu, Vijay Kumar, Mohan Mishra, Manoj, Gaurav, Madan, Bijendra, Vipin, Abhiranjan Gupta Avinash, Navdeep, Savita, Itirina, Meenakshi, Pooja Tripathi. Apart from Ravi Keshari, Soumya Gupta and Siddhi Gupta etc., many other people were prominently present.

M.P.V.M celebrates Sri Krishna Janmashtami with full zeal

Prayagraj: Maharshi Patanjali Vidya Mandir celebrated the birth of Lord Krishna with grandeur. The celebrations commenced

the skit titled 'Vijayi Bhava' depicting an outstanding performance of Lord Krishna and Arjun, where the Lord himself breaks the

peaceful mood for all the attendees but also made the entire hall move to the tunes of the Krishna.



with a flamboyant dance drama showcasing the manifold aspects of the Jagatguru. A beautiful poem was recited by a student of class 10 titled 'Krishna Ki Vyatha'. The major highlight of the entire program was

'moh' of Arjun who was reluctant to fight the war against his own people i.e. the Kauravas. Lord Krishna even inspires Arjun to fight for Dharma. The audience also witnessed a pleasant chain of Krishna Bhajans

The program concluded with the address by Dr. Krishna Gupta the Hon. Secretary of the school who told the children the meaning of 'Krishna'. She even told the students to take inspirations and lessons from the Lord Himself, to stay focused and most importantly to spread love. The Principal of the school, Mrs. Alpona Dey congratulated all the teachers and the students for their meticulous efforts and their exemplary performances. She even thanked Krishna Ma'am for her presence as the real life Krishna for the school, for her constant support and advice.

Playing with identity of Hindus not tolerated: Hindu Raksha Samiti

Hindu Raksha Samiti demonstrated against Bangladesh

Prayagraj: The condition of Bangladesh is putting every country of the world to shame today. The crimes that people of a particular religion are committing against Hindu families today are highly condemnable. Hindus have always followed the religion of brotherhood. But people belonging to a particular caste religion have always played with the faith of Hindus and now they are playing with the identity of Hindus. Sudarshan ji Maharaj said this. Media in-charge of the program Brijesh Tripathi and Rajesh Kesarwani told that today a huge protest was orga-

nized under the aegis of Hindu Raksha Samiti organized at Harikrupa Mandapam Phulpur Prayagraj. Which was con-



ducted by Shiv Kailash Ji of Swayamsevak Sangh. In the post circulation system, the city Panchayat President Amarnath Yadav did it. Mainly present in the pro-

gram were Raj Vihari ji, Balak Das ji Maharaj, Jagat Bharti, Badri Prasad, Surya Narayan Singh, BJP District President Mrs. Kavita Patel, Kisan Morcha District President Laxmikant Upadhyay, Ashish Bharatiya, Rajesh Kesarwani, Prabhakar Pandey, Amar Nath. Thousands of workers including Tiwari, Ashwini Kumar Dwivedi, Kanhaiya Lal Pandey, Virendra Bahadur Singh, Vipendra Singh, Rakesh Singh, Manoj Nishad, Alok Gupta, Anil Maurya, Dilip Yadav, Rohit Keshari, Shyam Bihari Pandey, Anirudh Singh Patel were present.

Children of primary school Bathuavar drenched in Krishna Leela

Varanasi: A day before the festival of Shri Krishna Janmashtami, in a cultural program organized in the primary school Bathuavar of the area, the children dressed as Radha Krishna won everyone's heart. A scene like Gokuldam was seen in the entire school campus with a large number of Radha Krishna, Gopis and mischievous friends. People were mesmerized on seeing this. The students decorated an attractive tableau of Lord Shri Krishna. A colorful cultural program was presented. The students presented programs of music, dance and short drama related to the life of Lord Shri Krishna. In the program, the students presented a very lively tableau of Lord Shri Krishna's birth, Bal Leela, Kaliya Nag Mardan, Kansa Vadh,



Draupadi Cheer Haran and Geeta's teachings etc. The children of the said school, dressed in the guise of Bal Krishna, Radha Rani and Gop Gopis, overwhelmed all the parents present with their dance and music. Shreya Gautam of class one was given the first prize for presenting an attractive tableau playing the role of Radha and Divyansh, a student of the same class, played the role of Shri Krishna. Thereafter, various cultural programmes were presented by the students and there was a festive atmosphere in the entire school. The Principal of the school, Sanyukta Singh, gave information to the children about Shri Krishna Janmashtami and distributed medals and certificates to the winners. Wishing Shri Krishna Janmashtami to the parents and respected people present, she gave the message to learn from the life of Lord Shri Krishna and to always be optimistic and justice-loving in life. On this occasion, SMC President Shri Prakash Rai, Reenu Devi, Asha Devi, Sushma Yadav, Shubham Pal, Rajkumari Devi, Chinta Devi, Chamela Devi and a large number of parents were present.

Membership is soul of the organization: Mahesh Chandra Srivastava

BJP will run a great public relations campaign

Prayagraj: Metropolis in-charge Mahesh Chandra was the chief guest in the metropolitan membership workshop organized at the party office in Civil Line on Saturday regarding the membership campaign of BJP starting from September 1. Explaining about the membership campaign, Srivastava said that membership campaign is not just a campaign but membership is the soul of the organization. During the campaign, the aim is to be all-embracing, all-pervading, all-touching. The first phase of the campaign will be run from 1 to 25 September, the second phase from 1 to 15 October, and the third phase from 16 to 31 October as an active membership campaign. At least one active member has to be made at every booth. A grand public relations campaign will be run from 11th to 17th September under which national, state level leaders, public representatives, Morcha will contact every house and tell about the ideology of the organization and the achievements of the Central and State Government and will also inform the members of

the house through missed calls. Will make. During this period, every worker will also contact at the booth level. Members will be made online (missed call, Namu app and website), offline and through QR code. At least 200 members are to be made at each booth. "Contact to Support" program will be conducted with 100 key voters in the Lok Sabha



constituency. Along with this, "Atal Membership Festival" will be celebrated every Sunday during the membership campaign because this is the 100th birthday of Atal ji. We have to reach out to all components of the society and make them members. Group specific contact campaign will be run to connect different castes, classes and groups with the organization. Primary and active member-

ship register has to be made from 1st to 10th November. The campaign will be concluded on 10th November itself. MLA Siddharth Nath Singh said that the membership campaign should be taken seriously. Membership campaign is the medium to convey the ideology of the organization.

A target of 2.5 lakh has been given to Prayagraj metropolis to make 2.5 lakh members. Apart from this, a target has been given to make members at every level. Under this, state officials will get 5 thousand, MP (Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha) 20 thousand, MLA and Legislative Council member 10 thousand, District President 1 thousand, District Panchayat President 15 thousand, Mayor 10 thousand, Municipality President 2 thousand, Nagar Panchayat President 1 thousand, Corporation Councillor 500, Ward Councillor 200, Cooperative Director 1 thousand while all oth-

ers have to make at least 100 members. While presiding over the workshop, Metropolitan President Rajendra Mishra said that whoever has been given the responsibility in the membership campaign, should fulfill it with full honesty and work hard to make the campaign successful. Ramesh Pasi has been made the membership campaign head. Kunj Bihari Mishra conducted the operation. On this occasion, Mayor Ganesh Kesharwani, former cabinet minister Dr Narendra Kumar Singh Gaur, MLA Siddharth Nath Singh, KP Truck President Dr Sushil Sinha Abhilasha Gupta, Upendra Singh, Shasti Vashney, Ranjit Singh, Ramesh Pasi, Ravi Kesharwani, Murari Lal Aggarwal, Mrityunjay Tiwari, Devendra Nath Mishra, Sanjay Srivastava, Rajesh Kesharwani Vivek Mishra, Anand Vaishya Sudarshan, Anand Dubey, Shiva Tripathi, Rajesh Gond, Nawab Khan, Rakesh Bharti, Prashant Shukla, Anand Jaiswal, Vijay Srivastava, Ajoorva A large number of workers like Chandra, Abha Singh, Shikha Rastogi, Kiran Jaiswal, etc. were involved.

Caste census required for 90% of persons not enrolled in system: RaGa Must for individuals sitting out of the system

Prayagraj: The goal of a caste census is to learn not only the number of different castes, but also their contribution to the country's economy. Gandhi stated that he has a vision to understand how money is dispersed in the country among various castes.

I've been in politics since 2004, and the BJP has been like a mentor to me, teaching me what not to do. Congress has been vociferous about the caste census, which was promised in its Lok Sabha election campaign. The grand old party had vowed to undertake a countrywide socioeconomic and caste census to count castes and sub-castes and assess their socioeconomic circumstances. The Congress has committed to pass a constitutional change to enhance the 50% reservation quota for SC, ST, and OBC.

Rahul Gandhi, the opposition leader in the Lok Sabha, renewed his call for a caste census on Saturday, alleging that 90% of India's population is not covered

by the system. Addressing the 'Samvidhan Samman Sammelan' in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj, the former Congress head stated, "Ninety percent of people are sitting outside the system; they have skills and knowledge but lack access (to the top). This is why we have increased the need for a caste-based institutional census. BJP leaders claim that an OBC section would be included following the caste census...We want a list of diverse communities. For us, the caste census is more than just a census; it is the cornerstone for policymaking," Gandhi stated.

Simply performing a caste census is not enough; it is also necessary to determine how wealth is allocated...It is also necessary to determine the extent to which OBCs, Dalits, and labourers participate in the bureaucracy, courts, and media, he noted.

The goal of the caste census is to learn not only how many castes exist, but

also how they contribute to the country's economy. Gandhi stated that his objective is to understand how money is dispersed in the country among various castes. I've been in politics since 2004, and the BJP has



been a mentor to me, teaching me what not to do, he continued.

The former Congress chief alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is trying to replicate the model of kings and emperors. "You (Modi) consider yourself non-biological. You consider yourself connected with the god. Right after the (Lok Sabha) election, you had to bow down before the Constitution.

This was not done by us but by people," he said.

Rahul Gandhi said those who think that the "caste census" can be stopped or the 50-per cent ceiling on reservation cannot be lifted are dreaming.

Hitting out at the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) at the Centre, Rahul Gandhi said ever since he joined politics in 2004, he has been "bothered and disturbed" by the leaders of the saffron party. "I consider them (BJP leaders) as my guru, those who taught me what not to do. This is an ideological fight (with the BJP) and it will continue," he added.

"Unlike Prime Minister Modi, I do my work considering it as my responsibility and not for others to remember me. It is Narendra Modi's way of doing his work so that he is remembered. My thinking is that 90 per cent of the country's power is utilised in making it," the Congress leader said.

Rahul Gandhi recalled that he recently met a cobbler in Uttar Pradesh who told him that he does not get due respect from others and that people ridicule him.

"He has so much skill but he does not get any respect. There are thousands of people like him," Rahul Gandhi said, stressing the need for their involvement and participation in the society.

Talking about skilled workers, such as cobblers, barbers, carpenters, washermen and others, he said, "Certification centres can be opened in all districts in which the network of these skilled workers can be utilised..." "My vision is that it should be known how much wealth is in the hands of the OBC, Dalits and labourers. What is the participation of these people in the institutions of India, be it the bureaucracy, the judiciary or the media?" he asked while claiming that 90 per cent Indians have no representation in the country's top corporations, judiciary or media. "The prime minister waived loans worth Rs 16 lakh crore of 25 people but no Dalit, tribal or minority-community member was there on the list," Rahul Gandhi said.

"This will definitely happen. It cannot be stopped. Neither the caste census nor an economic survey or an institutional survey can be prevented and the 50-per cent barrier will also fall. All of these will happen," he said. The Congress leader asserted that the people of the country have made up their mind in favour of a "caste census". "The order of the people has come. The prime minister

should accept it and implement it. If he does not do so, someone else will become the prime minister," he said.

Prerna Srivastava elected captain of Vashisht Vatsalya School

Prayagraj: Advocate Prashant Srivastava's brilliant daughter Prerna Srivastava was elected the captain of Vashisht Vatsalya School. The oath taking ceremony of the newly elected office bearers of the student council was organized in Vashisht Vatsalya Public School, in which Principal Nalini Singh administered the oath to all the office bearers including School Captain Prerna Srivastava and Vice Captain Shivangi Shukla.



Principal Nalini Singh said that along with value based quality education, all-round development of the students is very important to enable them to carve out their place in this age of cut throat competition so that they can contribute to the society choice based on their ability, intellectual mind. The Principal wished School Captain Prerna Srivastava, Vice Captain Shivangi Shukla and all the students to win the laurels in life in their respective field of profession.

Congressmen welcomed Rahul Gandhi

Prayagraj: Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, who arrived here to participate in the Constitution Honor Conference, General Secretary Avinash Pandey, in-charge of the airport, Deputy Leader of Op-



position in Rajya Sabha Pramod Tiwari, State President Ajay Rai, Leader in Assembly Aradhana Mishra Mona, MP Ujwal Raman Singh, National Secretary. Apart from Rajesh Tiwari, many people including District President Suresh Yadav, Mukund Tiwari, Fuzail Hashmi, Kishore Varshney, Harikesh Tripathi, Talat Azim, Gaurav Pandey welcomed him in Bamrauli.

Surya Command hosts "TECH VISTA" seminar

Prayagraj: As part of efforts to be 'Future Ready' for Multi Domain Operations, Surya Command hosted a seminar "Tech Vista - Mapping Technological Frontiers of India and China," bringing together a confluence of experts and thought leaders. The seminar was aimed at exploring the intricate and rapidly evolving technological landscapes of two of the world's leading nations.

The seminar commenced with opening remarks, delivered by Lt Gen Mukesh Chadha SM, VSM, Chief of Staff Central Command, who emphasized the importance of understanding technological advancements to maintain strategic and military balance in the region.

Distinguished speakers with impeccable expertise, experience and perspective on technological advancements and military strategies, deliberated on this very important aspect. The talks highlighted seminar's objective to share knowledge and develop a comprehensive understanding of the technological strategies of India and China. The insights and discussions from this seminar are expected to assist in strategic planning and technological advancements of the Indian Army. The event underscored the importance of staying vigilant, adaptive and innovative in the face of rapidly evolving technological threats.

Lt Gen Anindya Sengupta, UYSM, AVSM, YSM, GOC-in-C Central Command, in his closing remarks, expressed gratitude to all the speakers, participants and organizers for their contributions. He reiterated the importance of continuous dialogue and knowledge-sharing to navigate the complex technological landscape to ensure national security.



Rajnikant Maheshwari became national patron of Uttar Pradesh Fireworks

TWO-DAY CONVENTION OF ORGANIZATION HELD

Prayagraj: The two-day national convention of Uttar Pradesh Fireworks concluded in Lucknow on Saturday. Deputy Chief Minister Brijesh Pathak participated in the two-day convention on Friday. Deputy Chief Minister Brijesh Pathak listened to the problems of firecracker traders of the country and the state in the program of Federation of All India Fireworks Traders Association and he assured to solve all the problems and stand with the traders. Federation of All India Fireworks Traders Association was formed on the first day of the convention. Senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader and Legislative Council member Rajnikant Maheshwari was declared the national patron of the federation. Fireworks dealers from many states like Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar,

Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Punjab participated in the program of Federation of All India Fireworks organization. National Patron of the Federation and Legislative Council Member Rajnikant Maheshwari raised the problems related to firecracker manufacturers and traders from the stage. Submitting their five-point demands to the Finance Minister, they demanded that renewal is done for five years in the entire country but in some districts in Uttar Pradesh, it is done for one year or two years which is not appropriate. The process of renewal of license holder should be simplified. In the districts where renewal has not been done, it should be done immediately. Like other businesses, fireworks business should be simplified. Temporary license is given for one month

but in Uttar Pradesh it is given only for a few days which can be one month. On the second day of the convention, hundreds of firecracker traders from across Uttar Pradesh associated with Uttar Pradesh Fireworks Dealers Association



gathered at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Scientific Convention Centre. Uttar Pradesh Government Finance Minister Suresh Khanna and Industrial Development Minister Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi participated as chief guests in this program. The problems related to firecracker trade were put before Cabinet

Minister Suresh Khanna by the officials of Uttar Pradesh Fireworks Dealers Association present in the program. After listening to the problems of firecracker traders, Suresh Khanna assured every firecracker trader in Uttar Pradesh of cooperation from the government and administration. He said that any problem at any level will be resolved and the government will issue guidelines to all the district officers to ensure that no firecracker trader is harassed in any way. And jointly submitted a memorandum of their problems to Parliamentary Affairs Minister Suresh Khanna and Industrial Development Minister Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi, while addressing the firecracker traders, said that he is always conscious about the development of the state and the firecracker

trade is a business that gives happiness to everyone. Cabinet Minister Nand Gopal Nandi said that the power of the organization is paramount. The program of your organization is very beautiful and the voice you have raised will definitely reach this voice to the administration through the government and your problems will be resolved. During the program, Uttar Pradesh Fireworks Dealer Association President Hemant Chandna, General Secretary Akhilesh Gupta, Senior Vice President Atul Singhal, Dau Dayal Aggarwal, Treasurer Anubhav Aggarwal, Prayagraj Division President Mohd. Qadir, Ravi Pahuja, Munnakhatri, Soeb, Mohd. Naseem, media in-charge Rakesh Kataria, Joint Secretary Arvind Aggarwal, Ranjit Gupta etc. were present.

Devdoot Vanar Sena's to ensure Manthan Chitrakoot's success: Ajit Pratap Singh

Prayagraj: The organization that helps people during the Corona period has become a topic of discussion on social media and other places today. Today, active workers of Vanar Sena can be seen in every district and every state. A former student of Allahabad University and PCS officer Ajit Pratap Singh is always ready for the needy people through his organization Devdoot Vanar Sena and makes every possible effort to help people through his organization.

He told that social workers and Devdoot Vanar Sena should participate enthusiastically in this Manthan Chitrakoot and make the program successful. Founder of Rashtriya Naujawan Sabha, Patron of Vanar Sena, former MP Dhananjay Singh has said that your arrival will be encouraging for all of us and will inspire people to help the society. Devdoot Vanar Sena cordially invites you.

Four new directors elected in Railway Cooperative Bank

Manoj Pandey ensured disqualification of five directors and twenty-two delegates

Prayagraj: Comrade Manoj Pandey, National President of Indian Railway Employees Federation (IREF) and General Secretary of North Central Railway Workers Union (NCRWU), has been opening the bye-laws of the bank bylaws in Northern Railway Multi State Primary Cooperative Bank Limited, Prayagraj Division, Lucknow for the last two years. A campaign was launched to disqualify five directors and twenty-two delegates (officers of all recognized unions) elected with common violations. Comrade Manoj had complained about this to Union Minister, Ministry of Co-operation, Government of India, Honorable Amit Shah, Central Registrar, Ministry of Co-operation, Government of India, New Delhi, Reserve Bank of India (Co-operation), Lucknow and Managing Director, Northern Railway Multi

State Primary Cooperative Bank Limited, Lucknow. Apart from this, Honorable B.L., who was the Union Minister of State for Cooperation, Government of India at that time. Verma and the Central Registrar of Cooperatives, Government of India, had also informed about the irregularities taking place in the Railway Cooperative Bank Prayagraj Division and violation of the bye-laws of the bank. Subsequently, the Central Registrar Cooperative and Reserve Bank of India (Cooperative), Lucknow, took cognizance of the entire matter and gave strict instructions to the Managing Director and Chairman Management Committee to take action.

As per the instructions of the Central Registrar, the Managing Director and Chairman Managing Committee disqualified five directors of Prayagraj Board 1- Mr.

Dhirendra Singh Yadav 2- Mr. Abhay Kumar 3- Mr. Arvind Kumar Pandey 4- Mr. Roudas 5- Mr. Vikram Singh and twenty-two delegates. Instructed to hold elections among the remaining seven delegates (who are not office bearers of any recognized union) under the Casual Election 2024 and for the election Shri Surya Pal Gangwar, District Magistrate, Lucknow, Northern Railway Multi State Primary Cooperative Bank Limited, Lucknow. Declared as election officer and ordered to conduct fair elections. To stop the disqualification proceedings, Mr. Arvind Kumar Pandey and others took refuge in the High Court of Prayagraj but did not get any relief. Let us tell you that the advocates of Mr. Arvind Pandey and others, Mr. Anil Tiwari, Honored President of the Bar and Senior Advocate, have been

waiting for about an hour. In the above cross-examination, Comrade Manoj Pandey's advocate Mr. Rajesh Kumar could not stand before Dube and the court dismissed the petition. The process of Cooperative Bank's contingent election 2024 was completed under the supervision of the Election Officer from 16 July 2024 to 13 August 2024, in which 1- Shri Pappu Kumar Yadav 2- Shri Baij Nath 3- Arvind Kumar 4- Udit Narayan Mishra, Scheduled Caste, were elected unopposed. Due to lack of delegate, the post of one director remained vacant.

Comrade Manoj Pandey, National President of the Indian Railway Employees Federation, present in Lucknow from time to time in the election process of directors, from nomination till their election, directed the Election Officer/

District Magistrate, Lucknow, Mr. Surya Pal Gangwar and the Managing Director of the Bank, Mr. Vijay Kumar for fair elections. Expressing his gratitude, he congratulated the four elected directors and told that the four directors are not officials of any recognized union and all of them will work for the railway employees in an impartial manner because no recognized union has any role in getting them elected as directors. is. Comrade Manoj warned the directors that if their involvement is found in any recognized union, then I will not shy away from fighting a legal battle against them. The four elected directors expressed their gratitude by giving credit for the said fight and its victory to the National President of Indian Railway Employees Federation, Com. Manoj Pandey.

Farmer training program concludes in SHUATS

Prayagraj: The five-day farmer training program of the selected farmers of Bhadohi district under "Sub Mission on Agricultural Extension (ATMA) Scheme" concluded on 24.08.2024 at the Directorate of Extension, Shuats, Prayagraj. Director Extension Dr. Praveen Charan gave a message to the farmers. Encouraged to grow different crops at the same time and told that by adopting the technology of bamboo production through flute method, more saplings can be produced in less time and farmers can become financially prosperous by getting maximum production. Chief Guest Vice Chancellor Dr. Vishwaroop Mehra, while discussing the usefulness of natural farming to the farmers, said that rotten cow dung increases the fer-

tility of the land and according to the principles of low cost natural farming, Jeevamrit and Ghanjeevamrit type fertilizers are prepared. And with this method, thirty acres of land can be cultivated with one native cow. He distributed tissue culture (G-9 spe-



cies) banana plants prepared by Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Mishra of the University along with certificates and training literature to the farmers participating in the training.

SHUATS University. 9, AAIW-10, AAIW. 13 and informed about the characteristics of paddy varieties like Shiats Paddy-1, Shiats Paddy-2, Shiats Paddy-3, Shiats Paddy-4 etc. Dr. Yogesh Chandra Srivastava trained the farmers about organic farming. Training

coordinator Dr. Shishir Kumar gave information to the farmers about rapeseed cultivation. Scientists like Dr. Rambharose Soil Scientist, Dr. Manish Kumar Kesarwani, Dr. Sarvendra Kumar, Dr. Shailendra Kumar Singh, Dr. TD Mishra, Mrs. Meena Nathan etc. were present.

Editorial

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

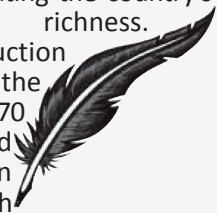
Botswana has solidified its place as a global diamond powerhouse with the discovery of a massive 2,492-carat diamond, the largest found in over a century. This exceptional gem, unearthed at the Karowe Mine, adds to Botswana's legacy of producing some of the world's most valuable diamonds, raising the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

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

The recent discovery

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

will further reassert India's strategic autonomy.

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

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

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

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

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

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

It's an act as old as

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

What's more American than a baseball cap?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

No links to shingles or the Covid vaccine

In a recent video circulated on

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

PAYMENTS TO BEGIN FROM APRIL 2026

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

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

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



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

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

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

Small business payment rules to change by centre

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

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

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

CAPSULES

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

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

Ola leaves Google Maps and relocates to its own Maps Ola

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

Domestic flyers up 5% this year despite higher airfares

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

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



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

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

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

Arm India's techies with AI skills on war footing



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

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

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

Rural income growth to drive demand: RBI report

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

Oberoi Group on 90th anniversary launches scholarship programme



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

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

India launches 'RHUMI-1' first reusable hybrid rocket

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

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



satellites and three Cube satellites.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

a party meeting on Thursday.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

the ethical practices of some hospitality businesses.

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

NCP's Amol Mitkari Attacks Mahayuti

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



Army drone on recon mission strays across LoC into Pakistan

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

5 killed after roof collapses in MP

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

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

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

Stolen Chola-era idol of Krishna brought home from Bangkok

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

has agreed to hand over the sculpture to Idol Wing, Tamil Nadu," said the letter, asking Yadav to depute a team "to take over the object".

"Due to shoddy probes in India, despite idol smuggler Subhash Kapoor being extradited to the country and a lengthy trial, no leads were forthcoming on even a single idol of the thousands he had stolen and sold for past 35 years." said idol hunter and India Pride Project co-founder K Vijay Kumar. "It was by sheer luck the bronze surfaced with another noted antique smuggler and collector Douglas Latchford.

TMC and Congress to work together against BJP in Parliament



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

CAPSULES

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

NEW DELHI: A 24-year-old man, disguised as a 67-year-old, was arrested by the CISF at Delhi's Indira 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 tribes from 50 per cent to 65 per cent in government jobs and higher educational institutions in the state. A division bench of Chief Justice K Vinod Chandran and Justice Harish Kumar reserved the judgment while concluding a marathon hearing on 10 writ petitions filed by one Gaurav Kumar and others. The petitioners had challenged the constitutional validity of the amendments made in

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Reversing decision, Mayawati reinstates nephew Akash Anand as political heir

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

111 of 383 capital villages have PNG pipes: LG Saxena

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

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

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

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

ED mounts probe into Qaida link in Jharkhand land scam

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

High Court relief for students in Stephen's row

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

Army drone on recon mission strays across LoC into Pakistan

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

The government will purchase 156 light combat helicopters from HAL

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

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

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

Making small satellites a piece of cake for these students

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

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

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

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

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