

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Title Code - UPENG04488

NATIONAL ENGLISH DAILY

MORNING EDITION PRAYAGRAJ

Wednesday, 24, July 2024

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

Union Budget: Winners and losers from Modi govt's first budget after Lok Sabha elections

NEW DELHI:

In the first budget of Modi govt 3.0, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman unveiled a \$24 billion package with measures aimed at employment generation, skilling programs for youth and women, and a new tax regime for lower-income earners. The budget gave special attention to states represented by Modi's key allies, such as Andhra Pradesh and Bihar.

Union Budget 2024-25: Winners and losers from Modi govt's first budget after Lok Sabha elections

Andhra Pradesh and Bihar were in focus in the first budget of Modi govt since the Lok Sabha polls. India's first budget since Narendra Modi was reelected as prime minister for a third term focused on creating jobs and supporting local businesses and infrastructure



Budget focused on India's youth

Modi government's new policies announced in the budget focused on India's youth, with policies including plans to give one month of wage to all new entrants to the job market. It also announced several skilling programs, as well as an apprenticeship program to top 500 corporates for young Indians. Andhra Pradesh and Bihar — states that are governed by parties allied

with Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party — were in focus in the budget. The government has allocated 150 billion rupees in financial aid via multilateral agencies to Andhra Pradesh, while support for Bihar state will be expedited. It also pledged constructing roads, airports, medical colleges, and improving tourism spots in Bihar. Shares of companies based in Andhra Pradesh, such as Power Mech Projects Ltd.

without blowing out the deficit. Finance

minister Nirmala Sitharaman

announced a \$24 billion package, with employment-linked measures for businesses to help spur jobs, skilling programs for India's youth and women, as well as a new tax regime for India's lower income earners. States represented by Modi's key allies — Andhra Pradesh and Bihar — also got budget attention. India's fiscal deficit target was cut to 4.9% of gross domestic product for the current financial year through March, from the target of 5.1% announced during the interim budget. India's bonds jumped, while stocks dropped after Sitharaman announced an increase on capital gains tax. A record payout from the central bank gave the government ample resources to lift spending without damaging its deficit plans.

MAGA meltdown after smooth Democratic transition that hands baton to Kamala

WASHINGTON:

Vicious rumors about President Joe Biden's "terminal illness" and a "White House coup" and racist dogwhistles surrounding Kamala Harris' life and career flowed through the sewers of social media on Tuesday as MAGA maniacs went into full meltdown mode following an unexpectedly smooth transition in the Democratic Party. With hashtags such as #whereisjoe and #dumbasrock, Trump supporters rained abuse on his opponents, going so far as to claim Democratic back room operatives had orchestrated a "palace coup" by blackmailing Biden into bowing out of the Presidential race.

Laura Loomer, one such supporter patronized and praised by Trump, claimed Biden is "terminally ill and unable to perform his duties" and "final preparations are being made for him, and soon we will have President



MP women 'partially buried alive': NCW seeks report from police

NEW DELHI: The National Commission for Women (NCW) on Monday initiated a suo-moto cognizance of a media report incident, which occurred in Madhya Pradesh's Hinauta, Rewa district, where two women were nearly buried alive by a truck that dumped gravel on them, as a result of a

@KamalaHarris as the 47th President." apparently based on Biden not being seen in public for five days (he is at his beach home recovering from Covid). A slow-moving Biden getting into a limo to head back to the White House

land dispute. The Chairperson of NCW Rekha Sharma, sent a letter to the Director General of Police (DGP) of Madhya Pradesh, requesting a comprehensive report on the matter. NCW said in a post on X: "The National Commission for Women has taken suo moto cognizance .

fueled further rumors about his health. But in a statement, Biden said he would address the nation from the Oval Office at 8 pm on Wednesday, "on what lies ahead, and how I will finish the job for the American people."

10 major announcements made by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman

NEW DELHI: Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday presented the Union Budget 2024 in Parliament. In the first budget of Modi 3.0, Sitharaman announced several key decisions that focused on nine areas including the agriculture, manufacturing, and services sectors. She also announced major changes in the capital gains tax regime and income tax regimes. "The people have given a unique opportunity to our government to take the country on the path of strong development and all-round prosperity," FM Nirmala Sitharaman said. India's inflation rate is stable and moving toward the government's 4% target, she said, while the economy grew at a sizzling 8.2% rate in the last fiscal year.

Secret Service director Kimberly resigns over Trump shooting:

US Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle has tendered her resignation coming under fire over the recent assassination attempt of former President Donald Trump, CNN reported. The move came a day after lawmakers grilled her over the agency's handling of Trump's protection at the Pennsylvania rally where a shooter fired at Trump. There have been bipartisan calls in Congress for her resignation and a push by Republican lawmakers to impeach her. Lawmakers were particularly incensed after her appearance for public testimony in front of the House Oversight Committee Monday, where she was unwilling to answer many of the committee's questions.

Kimberly initially put her feet down and reiterated that she would not resign but the Monday hearing was the last nail as she admitted that Secret Service failed. She took full responsibility for the security lapses and called the assassination attempt as the Service's most significant operational failure.

"I take full responsibility for the security lapse," she said in the email to staff Tuesday. "In light of recent events, it is with a heavy heart that I have made the difficult decision to step down as your director." 20-year-old shooter, Thomas Matthew Crooks, was able to get within 135 meters (157 yards) of the stage where the former president was speaking when he opened fire. That's despite a threat on Trump's life from Iran leading to additional security for the former president in the days before the July 13 rally. Kimberly Cheatle, who had served as Secret Service director since August 2022, had been facing growing calls to resign that she has been resisting. The bullet narrowly missed Trump's head and raised questions over the lapses of the Secret Service.

Big Data for real-world impact with IISc's Computational Data Science Programme

Harness the power of Big Data for real-world impact with IISc's Computational Data Science Programme. In today's hyper-digital economy, data has become the cornerstone of decision-making processes, transforming how businesses operate and strategize. The global big data analytics market is forecasted to reach about 84 billion U.S. dollars in 2024 and is projected to grow to



103 billion U.S. dollars by 2027. This substantial expansion underscores the critical role of data science in various industries. Amid this extensive data harnessing, computational data science has emerged as a pivotal

subset of data science, empowering professionals to analyze information effectively and make data-driven decisions. This expertise is crucial for leveraging customer behavior, enhancing business intelligence, and opti-

mizing operational efficiency. The need to build skills in such Big Data subsets has now become increasingly important given the growing demand for data professionals. Industry statistics highlight this significance. In India alone, there are approximately 95,000 vacancies for Data Scientists today, with the demand for data science professional.

UP Police cracks down on suspects in Rohit Pandey murder case in Ballia

Lucknow

Following CM Yogi's stern rebuke regarding Rohit Pandey's murder in broad daylight in front of Bansdih Kotwali gate in Ballia, both police and administration sprang into action on Tuesday. The police arrested two suspects with bounties of ₹25,000 each on their heads and forwarded them to judicial custody, while the main suspect, Rohit Yadav, surrendered in court along with an associate. The administration demolished the house of the main suspect and his two associates, as parts of their houses were built on PWD land. Additionally, two constables were suspended for allegedly hobnobbing with the



accused. In Bahraich, nine individuals charged with molesting a girl and disturbing the peace were arrested and forwarded to jail, with actions being taken against them under the Goonda Act. On Saturday, in front of Bansdih Kotwali Gate, a gang of youths attacked Rohit Pandey in a fight for supremacy, killing him with sharp weapons. Based on a complaint, the police named six individuals in the case and

filed an FIR against several unknown persons. During a review meeting in Azamgarh on Monday, MLA Ketki Singh informed CM Yogi about the incident. The CM reprimanded officials and ordered strict action. Following this, area youths demonstrated at the SP office demanding arrests. Consequently, the police announced a ₹25,000 reward on each named suspect. During the raid, police arrested two suspects, Ankit

Shafali stars as India thrash Nepal to qualify for women's Asia Cup semifinals

NEW DELHI: India's explosive batter Shafali Verma led the charge with a remarkable 48-ball 81, her career-best, propelling the defending champions to a decisive 82-run victory over Nepal in a commanding display at the Women's Asia Cup T20 tournament at the Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium in Dambulla on Tuesday. This win ensured India's progression to the semifinals. The match witnessed India experi-



menting with their batting lineup, with Shafali Verma and Dayalan Hemalatha opening the innings.

The duo provided a stellar start, amassing 122 runs in the first 14 overs, setting a strong foundation for India's

innings. Opting to bat first after winning the toss, India capitalized on the opportunity with Hemalatha contributing a valuable 47 runs. The partnership's aggressive approach was instrumental in India reaching a competitive total of 178 for three. Jemimah Rodrigues further bolstered the innings with an unbeaten 28 off 15 balls, enhancing the score with three boundaries in the concluding over.

Indian IT industry has a 'new' highest-paid CEO

CEO C.Vijayakumar emerges as the top-paid Indian CEO with a substantial remuneration increase. The annual report reveals detailed breakdown of his salary, including base pay, bonuses, and incentives.

Moreover, Vijayakumar discusses company performance and the evolving workplace model in a shareholder letter.

Indian IT industry has a 'new' highest-paid CEO: Here's how much he earned. HCLTech CEO C Vijayakumar HCLTech CEO C Vijayakumar has become the highest paid Indian CEO. According to the company's annual report released on July 22, Vijayakumar's remuneration for the fiscal year 2024 jumped to around Rs 84.16 crore, a 190.75 per cent year-on-year increase.

'Call security': CJI DY Chandrachud scolds senior lawyer Mathews Nedumpara

NEW DELHI: Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud pulled up senior advocate Mathews Nedumpara after a heated exchange during a hearing on NEET-UG on Tuesday and ordered security personnel to remove him from the courtroom. According to a video shared by Bar and Bench, the Chief Justice stepped in after Nedumpara, representing one of the petitioners, interrupted Narender Hooda, also appearing for a petitioner, as he was addressing the bench. "I have something to say," said Nedumpara, cutting short Hooda's argument. To this, Chief Justice Chandrachud asked him to speak after Hooda completed his argument.

In response to an inquiry from the bench, Nedumpara asserted.

that he is the most senior among all lawyers present before the court. "I can answer. I am the amicus." The Chief Justice retorted, "I have not appointed any amicus." The advocate persisted, "If you don't respect me, I will leave." This was followed by a stern response from the Chief Justice. "Mr Nedumpara, I am cautioning you. You will not address the gallery. I am presiding over the court. Please summon security and have him escorted out of the courtroom," he said. To this, the lawyer replied, "I am leaving. I am going." The Chief Justice reiterated, "You need not state that, you may leave. I have witnessed the judiciary for the past 24 years.

Modi Govt's first budget will bring smile on the faces of youth & farmers: Yogesh Shukla

Meja: Senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader Yogesh Shukla, while expressing his reaction regarding the budget, said that the first budget of the third term of the Modi government is going to give impetus to the efforts to fulfill the dreams of a developed India. The priorities set by the Union Finance Minister will definitely fulfill the goals of productivity in agriculture, employment generation, development in overall human resources, social justice, energy security and necessary new research and development. He further said that this budget is definitely a budget that will bring a smile of happiness on the faces of the youth and farmers.



Union Budget disappointing- Varshney

Prayagraj: U.P. Congress Committee former Spokesman Kishore Varshney described the Budget as disappointing. While criticizing the budget presented by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Varshney said there is nothing in this budget which convinces us that the Government has an effective strategy to tackle the crisis of growth, investment and savings sluggishness, stagnant agricultural production, slowing down of Industrial growth. The budget is actually to save the BJP led NDA Government as they allocated huge funds to Bihar and Andhra while other states are totally neglected even for their due credit. Budget is not meant for poorer and common man, no any provisions for education. She didn't mentioned how to tackle the problems of youths, farmers, women and fails to meet the challenges to reforms such as inflation, unemployment and poverty. We may say again that the budget is not for AAM AADMI and common man.



'Budget for appeasing allies': AIMIM

Prayagraj: Giving a sharp reaction to the Central Government's budget, All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen AIMIM called it a joke with the poor people and to please the leaders of the allied party. AIMIM Metropolitan President Afsar Mehmood called this budget an injustice to the poor farmers and the unemployed. The unemployed are not getting the right price for their produce. The internships being done in the name of unemployment do not pretend to be a solution to unemployment.

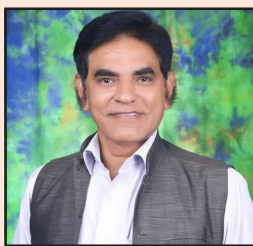
Khuldabad police returned lost mobile safely

Prayagraj: Khuldabad police station of Prayagraj Commissionerate took immediate action on the information of a missing Vivo Y-21 mobile. This mobile belonged to the family members of Ajmat Khan, who is a resident of Sultanpur Bhawa. Due to the promptness and precise efforts of the police, the mobile was safely recovered and handed over to the family members. Sub Inspector Lal Bharat Yadav and Constable Manish Yadav played an important role in this successful operation, whose activeness made this work possible. The return of the missing mobile brought a wave of happiness on the faces of the family members. The promptness and hard work of the police ensured the return of the lost mobile.



Budget lays foundation stone of Developed India: BJP

Prayagraj: The first budget of the third term of the Modi government is the budget 2024-25 that lays the foundation stone of 'Developed India'. This visionary budget, being all-touching and all-inclusive, aims to fulfill the welfare of the poor, women, youth and food giver class and also provide support to the industry. And it is going to strengthen the infrastructure. I express my gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman and her entire team for this budget, said Rajendra Mishra (BJP Metropolitan President).



Budget leading to prosperity and strong growth: Mayor

Prayagraj: The budget of the first and 18th Lok Sabha of the third term of the Modi government in 2024-25 specifically focuses on food farmers, prosperity of women, employment of youth, skill training, MSME and middle class. The budget is dedicated to employment and skills, inclusive human resource development and social justice, manufacturing and services, urban development, energy conservation, infrastructure, innovation, research and development and new generation reforms, all-round prosperity and strong growth. For which I express my heartfelt gratitude to the Honorable Prime Minister and Honorable Finance Minister, Mayor Umesh Chandra Ganesh Kesarwani.



Budget, a tacit acknowledgment of govt's failures - sans course correction: Shekhar Bahuguna

Prayagraj: "The Union finance minister must be commended for adopting major policy proposals from Congress's 2024 manifesto. Employment-linked incentives and apprenticeship provisions have been announced. These are good ideas that will alleviate some pain. What the government must have asked itself is: are these solutions to the fundamental problems? The honest answer would have been 'no'. The touted New Employment Generation scheme has been allocated Rs. 10,000 crore and New Internship Program Rs. 2,000 crore. The lack of self-confidence is palpable. As it did with the Atmanirbhar Bharat package, government is principally relying on supply side measures to solve issues that are predominantly driven by lack

of demand in the economy. On an average, every company will be taking on 20,000 interns, a non-starter. The government is promising to finance a portion of the recruitment expense. But if demand does not pick up and production capacity remains the same, which company will risk reducing profit margins by adding more workers?" quipped senior Congress leader, Shekhar Bahuguna while commenting on union budget on Tuesday.

"Inflation remains a big concern for most families. The finance minister glossed over the problem by claiming price rise was within the target and non-core inflation was low. In June, food inflation crossed 9.5 percent. Vegetable and fruit prices are beyond the reach of common people.

After ten years, people expect more than platitudes about strengthening supply chain to counter price rise. Analysis of household consumption survey shows that more than 80 percent people are spending less

penditure on pensions has been marginally increased. MGNREGS budget has been kept stagnant when this financial year 5.8 crore people have demanded jobs already and 25 lakh new persons have been included in the

light of this year's budget was what a X user referred to as 'extra 2ab', alluding to PM's speech years ago where he rhetorically asked, "where does the extra 2ab come from? The 2ab (Andhra and Bihar) comes from coalition compulsions. There were moments it felt that we had been transported from parliament to legislative assemblies of Andhra Pradesh and Bihar. Such brazen appeasement shatters PM's image of a strongman," he lamented while addressing shortcomings of union budget.

"We must look at the current budget in historical context. Tomorrow, July 24, is the anniversary of Dr Manmohan Singh's maiden budget, delivered in 1991. Back then, reforms were unpopular and opposed by most political parties, including some senior members in

Congress. Yet, Dr. Singh boldly embraced the idea whose time has come and announced long-term structural economic reforms that set India on the path of high economic growth.

In 1991, Congress had won 232 seats, like BJP's 240 in 2024. In 1991, the nation had to mortgage its gold. In 2024, Indians are facing a generational income crisis. The similarities end there. While Rao and Singh risked political power to ensure long-term prosperity for Indians, the current PM and FM duo chose to leverage the budget to consolidate its weakening hold over its political allies. The government had a golden opportunity to eschew political compulsions and set the tone for economic recovery. It intentionally let it slip," he concluded.



than Rs. 200 per day, while almost 34 percent people spend less than Rs. 100 per day. This vast population has nothing to gain from this budget," he remarked.

"Food and fertiliser subsidies have been reduced. Defence budget has also seen a marginal cut while ex-

job cards. Crop insurance scheme, urea subsidy, and nutrient based subsidy have all been reduced. Like MGNREGS, allocation for PM Kisan has not been increased despite more people becoming eligible each year. Beyond the empty assertions of prosperity, the high-

Nandi hails union budget, with focus of small traders

Prayagraj: This budget is an all-inclusive and all-targeted budget focusing on all-round development of basic infrastructure, strengthening the Self-reliant India campaign as per the aspirations of the countrymen. I express my heartfelt gratitude to the respected Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji and the honorable Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman ji for this unprecedented and development-oriented budget. This budget will provide a new path of progress to small traders as well as small industries. Special attention has also been given to the middle class in the budget. There is a lot of focus on manufacturing and infrastructure in the budget. The development of infrastructure will also give a new impetus to the pace of industrialization, which will strengthen the resolve for overall economic development! This budget has been specially made keeping in mind the promotion of employment, skill training, MSME and indigenous technology.



Fair sex calls union budget 'growth-oriented'



Prayagraj: During a candid discussion, women termed the budget proposals as "growth-oriented" and it would help generate employment. Radha Gupta, housewife opined that is the budget that will make India self-reliant. Budget is good for women empowerment, the resolve of developed India will be fulfilled. Household budget will be reduced due to household items becoming cheaper.

Sangeeta Singh, housewife claims, Finance Minis-

ter has given big relief on income tax. Taxation has been simplified. Standard deduction has been increased to Rs. 75 thousand which is very good. There is a good budget for housewives.

Rupa Tiwari, working woman said, "Government of India has a plan to provide further subsidy to micro, small and medium enterprises for further growth, which will be of great benefit to the small and medium sector. Very good tax ben-

efits have been given from 50% to 70% rebate."

Anupriya Sharma, housewife remarked, "This budget is the budget of the poor, women, youth and farmers. This budget has been made keeping in mind employment and skills. The government is doing a very good job to increase employment."

Nidhi Tripathi, social activist said, "This budget represents the impoverished, women, young people, and farmers. The

budget was created with employment and skill levels in mind. The government's efforts to boost employment are doing quite well."

Ritu Singh, Ghani housewife remarked "The general budget of the government is for the common people. This budget will bring a lot of savings in the household budget. There will always be light in solar panel Duwar village also, due to which women will benefit a lot from micro industry."

Om Jai Maa Vindhyavasini Padyatra Committee's Dharmendra Kesarwani passes away

Prayagraj: Dharmendra Kesarwani Pintu, former president of reputed cloth merchant and religious organization Om Jai Maa Vindhyavasini Padyatra Committee, died suddenly. Patron of the committee, Rajesh Kesarwani said that late Dharmendra Kesarwani Pintu (45 years) Bahadurganj. He was a reputed businessman of Mutthiganj and was the outgoing president of Om Jai Maa Vindhyavasini Samiti, a prestigious religious organization of Prayagraj. Under his leadership, thousands of padyatras were organized



on his demise expressed their condolences, prayed to God to give peace to his soul and prayed to give his family the strength to bear this loss. Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani was among those who expressed their condolences. Business leaders Satish Chandra Kesarwani, Vijay Vaishya, Pramil Kesarwani, Pappu Katra, Rajesh Kesarwani, Neeraj Kesarwani, Raju Jaiswal, Abhilash Kesarwani, Shatrughan Jaiswal, Ajay Agrahari, Basant Lal Azad, and hundreds of businessmen and committee members expressed their condolences.

Curtains draw over Garden Association's meet

Prayagraj: Tuesday, the second day of the month of Shravan, by the grace of Hanuman ji, the new session of the Garden Association was organized under the chairmanship of Prabha Bhargava. The song for lighting the lamp was sung by Usha Tripathi, Nishi Agarwal and the lamp lighting was done by Prabha Bhargava, Smita Agarwal, Jamnottari Gupta, Kalpana Chawla did it jointly. Anjana Banerjee first presented Ganesh Vandana with dance. After that, Vande Mataram song was performed excellently by Anjana Banerjee through drama and with her support courtesy of Anshul Chandel, Venu Aggarwal, Kirti Tandon. Garden Association President Prabha Bhargava welcomed all the members in the beginning. Those who became new members were welcomed by giving them saplings. All the executive members of the association were present on this occasion. Kirti Tandon pre-

sented the report of last year's work report. Seema Aggarwal Treasurer presented the details of last year's income and expenditure. Jamnottari discussed the contribution of Kiran Chawla's numerology in optimizing the design of future person and environment. Prabha Bhargava discussed in detail about timely planting of flowers,



planting of seasonal vegetables, filling of pots, mixing of fertilizers, chrysanthemum etc. Various types of plants were presented as gifts to all the members of the Garden Association. The program was efficiently conducted by Kiran Chawla and the vote of thanks was given by Kirti Tandon, Secretary of the Association.

Kargil Diwas: BJYM to hold torch rally

Prayagraj: On the occasion of 25th anniversary of Kargil Day, BJP Yuva Morcha will hold a huge torch rally from Chandrashekhar Azad Statue Park at 5:00 pm on the eve of Kargil Day on 25th July, remembering the brave soldiers of Kargil and paying tribute to the martyred soldiers. Media in-charge Rajesh Kesarwani told that the message rally will start from Azad Park, pass through Hindu Hostel, Balsan Square and end at Azad Park from Balsan Square and after that the Vijay Deep will be lit in front of Azad ji's statue park which will last till 26th July. It will continue to burn and on 26th July, an exhibition will be organized by Yuva Morcha in the memory of the brave soldiers of Kargil.

Barkha Bisht's entry spices up 'Mera Balam Thanedaar'

Varanasi: COLORS' gripping family drama 'Mera Balam Thanedaar' is about to sweeten the plot with a miraculous changeover. After amassing love for its riveting plot, the hit show which follows the marital journey of opposites IPS Officer Veer (Shagun Pandey) and the lively Bulbul (Shruti Choudhary), will welcome actor Barkha Bisht as Meethi Maai. With the catchphrase 'meetha meetha bolo', the new entrant is a graceful godwoman, devoted to Lord Krishna, armed with a bansuri (flute) in one hand and a pouch full of toffees in the other. Fresh from a year of intense tapasya (penance), Meethi Maai returns to her Ajmer ashram, trailing a parade of devotees who swear by her miracle-producing prayers. It seems Lord Krishna has a soft spot for this saint, blessing her with magical powers that leave everyone humbled and awestruck. Will her mystical ways meddle with the already chaotic lives of Veer and Bulbul? Moreover, is she a miracle worker or a mischief-maker? Only time will tell. Barkha Bisht essaying the role of Meethi Maai shares, "I'm thrilled to make my return to television after so many years, and what better way than with 'Mera

Balam Thanedaar' on COLORS. The role of Meethi Maai is a breath of fresh air - she's a character that stands out in her uniqueness. As a graceful and witty godwoman devoted to Lord Krishna, she brings a fascinating dynamic to the show. She's deeply respected for her spiritual strength, having just returned to her Ashram in Ajmer after intense tapasya, yet she's far from being regressive. Interestingly, Meethi Maai and I share the same life mantra - 'meetha meetha bolo'. It's a philosophy I've always believed in, and now I get to embody it on screen. As for the differences between Meethi Maai and myself, well, that's a sweet mystery I'll leave for viewers to unravel as they watch the show. I can't wait for everyone to see how she stirs things up between Veer and Bulbul. I can only say get ready for some sweet surprises and more mysteries!"

In the current storyline, Veer and Bulbul hatch a plan to expose Diksha, the former's meddling and envious sister-in-law, while also finding out about an impending bomb blast. Will Veer succeed in preventing the bomb blast and unmasking the mastermind behind it?

Ashish Kr Chauhan, MD and CEO at NSE on Union Budget 2024 under Modi 3.0 Govt

Varanasi: "The budget for the financial year 2024-25 presented by Hon'ble Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman has given a huge fillip to job creation in India by ensuring that the private sector also participates in job creation in addition to the government sector while ensuring that India becomes the number 1 start up nation and a nation of entrepreneurs by providing relief on the angel tax as well as increasing Mudra loan scheme limit from Rs 10 lakhs to Rs 20 lakhs per person. She has also focused on increasing women participation in India's labour force which will help India reap demographic dividend even further by increasing young women's participation in the workforce. Skill development as a part of job creation has been also an out of the box idea from her while keeping infrastructure outlay intact and reducing fiscal deficit at 4.9% from the expectation of 5.1%. All these things are being achieved without much tinkering with the direct or indirect tax structure ensuring that India's long term credit rating improves by giving a glide path to 4.5% fiscal deficit in 2025-26. Overall, 10/10."



Unjust treatment, accusations of rape, and injustices allegedly committed against female employees at CHC Kaudihar

Prayagraj: Recently, 02 petitions have been filed in the Honorable High Court by female health workers, in which Superintendent CHC Kaudihar, Dr. Anurag Tiwari and Health Education Officer (HEO) Dinesh Kumar Yadav have been alleged of indecency, abuse, abusive language, harassment and sexual exploitation of women. Taking the above matter seriously, the Hon'ble High Court in its order has passed an order to inform CMO Prayagraj Dr. Ashu Pandey in writing

what action has been taken so far on the complaint of sexual harassment.

Even before this, a case of sexual harassment had come to light against both these officials, due to which they were transferred and a warning letter was also issued to both of them by CMO Prayagraj. Sexual harassment of women employees by higher officials is a serious matter and there is a lot of fear among other female staff and local women and it seems that any unpleasant incident



can be done by them to anyone else at any time! CMO Prayagraj is allegedly supporting these two

officials in the said case, and while whitewashing the allegations, the transfer of both of them is canceled

and they are posted back to the same place. And whatever staff complains against them, they are transferred by CMO Prayagraj. Due to which the affected women are very scared. They are running from door to door for justice but till now they have not been able to get justice. Unless the accused are transferred somewhere else, women will not be able to get justice. The dictatorial attitude/arbitrary orders/respect of women/safety of CMO Prayagraj are all under doubt.

Amar Shaheed Chandrashekhar Azad's birth anniversary celebrated in CMP Degree College

Prayagraj: The birth anniversary of Amar Shaheed Chandrashekhar Azad was celebrated with enthusiasm at CMP Degree College on Tuesday. People paid tribute remembering his martyrdom. Many eyes became moist remembering the contribution of the freedom fighter. Dr. Ajay Prakash Khare, Principal of CMP Degree College, offered flowers on the statue of Chandrashekhar Azad and bowed to him with tears in his eyes. The Principal said in his address that Azad was a fearless warrior of the freedom struggle. While addressing the students, he said that Chandrashekhar Azad shared the stories of his life and his struggle, which inspired the students. He said that he was a fearless hero, endowed with unwavering courage and commitment to the



cause of India's freedom. His ideals and ideas continue to resonate in the hearts and minds of millions of people, especially the youth. On this occasion, Dr. Anant Singh, Dr. Ram Chiranjeev Pal, Dr. Manish,

Dr. Ritesh, Dr. Sanjay Singh, Dr. Archana Tripathi, Dr. Sanjay Pandey, Dr. Anil Pandit, Ashutosh Mishra, Dr. Nafees, Dr. Bhupesh Tripathi, Nar Narayan Singh, Shantanu Mishra. And other students were present.

Shri Shiv Mahapuram Katha will start with Mangal Kalash Yatra today

Prayagraj: Munshi Ram Prasad's garden from 24th July to 30th July under the auspices of Kartavya Path Parivar Prayagraj. Shiv Mahapuram

Katha will be organized in the courtyard of Narayan Vatika. Media in-charge of the event Rajesh Kesarwani said that Shiv Mahapuram Katha will be

inaugurated today on July 24 at 9:00 am with Mangal Kalash Shobha Yatra which will continue till July 31 with Purnahuti. The story will be

concluded by revered saint Shri Satanand Maharaj Ji and told that on this occasion, 11000 Parthiv Shivalinga will be constructed every day at the

place of story and Shiva Rudrabhishek and Trimukhi Rudraksharchan will be done with Ganga water by the Brahmins of Kashi.

Lakhs of youth to benefit from skill training prog

Prayagraj/Lucknow: Lakhs of youth of Uttar Pradesh will benefit from the provisions made in the General Budget 2024-25. They will not only be able to get more skill training but will also be able to connect with future employment related courses. Not only this, they will also be able to get loan for skill training. It is noteworthy that on Tuesday, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, while presenting the General Budget 2024-25, made several announcements regarding the skill development of the youth, due to which the skills of a large number of youth of the state and the country will be improved and they will be able to connect with employment.

State Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Vocational Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Kapil Dev Aggarwal said that under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, important steps have already been taken for the skill development of youth in Uttar Pradesh. Certainly, the youth of the state will benefit from the new provisions made in the General Budget 2024-25 and they will get trained and get new employment opportunities. Model skill loan will provide financial help to students from weaker sections, while upgrad-

ing 1000 industrial training institutes will strengthen industrial education in the state. He said that in the last 7 years, lakhs of youth have been trained and employed in the state through the Skill Development Mission. If we talk about 2023-24, then 2.08 lakh youth were trained, out of which 1.21 lakh youth have been appointed with a view to providing employment. Since the formation of Yogi government in 2017, more than 16 lakh 38 thousand youth have been trained, in which employment was also provided to about 5.69 lakh.

Among the major announcements made by Nirmala Sitharaman was a new scheme for skill training in collaboration with the state government and industry under the Prime Minister's Package. Apart from this, skill training will be given to 20 lakh youth in a period of 5 years. 1,000 Industrial Training Institutes will be upgraded in a hub and spoke arrangement with a result oriented approach. The course content and framework will be prepared as per the skill requirements of the industry and new courses will be introduced to meet the new needs. Not only this, the Model Skill Loan Scheme will be modified to provide loan facility up to Rs 7.5 lakh with the guarantee of Government Enhanced Fund. This will help 25,000 students every year.

March of Disha Student Org & Naujawan Bharat Sabha on Azad's b'day

Prayagraj: On the birthday of Amar Shaheed Chandrashekhar Azad, a foot march was taken out by Disha Student Organization and Naujawan Bharat Sabha from the Students' Union Building of Allahabad University. The march reached Chandrashekhar Azad Square (Netram Square) via University Square. Here the workers raised loud slogans and put up a board of Azad Square, did wall writing, poster and pasted stickers at various places and raised the demand that the name of Netram Square should be changed to Chandrashekhar Azad Square. After the meeting here, the march was taken out to the Azad statue in Azad Park, where the meeting was concluded with speeches and revolutionary songs. Avinash of Disha student organization said that Chandrashekhar Azad and his organization HSRA wanted to create a society

where every exploitation should be ended. The working people should be in power. There should be no trace of caste discrimination, oppression of women and religious conflicts. There should be complete separation of religion from politics. But today, under the guise of religious politics, efforts are being made to push the important issues of unemployment and nomination leaks to the background. Their views are veiled because the system created after independence is contrary to the dreams of these martyrs.

Akash said that the people of the country are deprived of very basic rights like education, medicine, employment, housing etc. A large number of people have lost their jobs. It is becoming difficult for people to arrange food for two days. Students and youth, fed up with lack of employment, rigging in examinations and paper leaks,



are taking steps like suicide. Disha Student Organization believes that today remembering revolutionaries like Chandrashekhar Azad means standing up to change this picture.

The only true tribute to him can be to struggle to build the society of his dreams by following his ideas. Prasen said that the present capitalist system is trapped in the incurable whirlpool of economic crisis. The policies of economic liberalization and

privatization in 1990-91 were an attempt to get out of this whirlpool. But as always happens, the capitalist system postpones its immediate crisis as a bigger crisis in the future. In fact, after independence, the public sectors which were created with the hard-earned money of the people, were handed over to the capitalists one by one at throwaway prices after the implementation of economic liberalization policies in

1990-91, being sold. On one hand, posts in government departments are being abolished through various kinds of tricks. The percentage of jobs done on contract and as compared to permanent recruitment is being increased. Rights like pension and allowances given to employees are being cut. Employees of railways, banks, electricity, roadways etc. are continuously fighting against these cuts. But today there is a need that the employees should bring their struggle out of narrow-mindedness and establish student-labor-employee unity, only then the government can be forced to withdraw its anti-people policies. In the second shift, the yatra was taken out in the areas of Karaila. Mainly Shiva, Nidhi, Chandraprakash, Priyanshu, Prashant, Premchand, Manish, Apoorva, Suhail, Ashwini etc. participated in the program.

George Town Barwari Durga Puja to kick off celebrations from Oct 8

Prayagraj: Memorable events organised by Georgetown Barwari Durga Puja Committee will enter 96th year, with this year edition kicking off on October 8 and culminating on October 13 in premises of Jagat Taran prangan to mark Durga Puja. Shedding light on this year festivities President Arindam Ghosh said, "Stress is laid on the fact that the idol of Goddess Durga should portray the many facets of her personality and the element of artistry should draw one towards the aura of goddess. It is our endeavour to see that people visiting pandals

should undergo a novel experience every year which is the reason why aesthetics combined with artistry has given shape to pandals of various hues, shades and designs over the previous decade. Focus is on creating the pandal of different material and likewise ornaments of the goddess are also being prepared out of this material, courtesy artists from West Bengal. Arindam Ghosh of George Town Barwari Durga Puja, also added, "Everyone is cordially invited with family and friends to the 96th year of celebrations of George Town Barwari

Durga Puja from October 8 to October 13 and Shree Shree Kali Puja at Jagat Taran Girls' P.G. Degree College, 32, A.N. Jha Marg



(Hamilton Road), Prayagraj as per the itinerary."

An air of festivity intertwined with an element of

vibrancy is blowing round the corner as the countdown for Durga Puja celebrations kicks off. Owe to the efforts of some members of the Bengali community, Durga Puja celebrations in the city, heralding onset of festivities on a large scale, if not grandiose. Recalling the old days celebrations, Sandeep Mitra says, "In essence Durga Puja celebrations apart from serving as the rendezvous point of people from all communities including Bengalis, also provided a platform to local talents in the field of performing arts to display their skills before

the people."

Secretary Sumit Bhattacharya and Treasurer Subrato Sen added that in the early years focus was on Puja, which had to be performed in orthodox Bengali style with the precondition that the puhoit performing it should be from the Bengali community. It was only in the later years that extracurricular activities were introduced with the objective of breaking the monotony in the daily schedule. With this in mind the element of entertainment was introduced to allure and captivate the visitors to Durga Puja pandals.

Strict action demanded against mafias involved in irregularities in NEET-UG exam

Prayagraj: Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), while keeping a positive opinion on the decision of the Supreme Court in the context of NEET-UG examination, demands from the Central Government that the CBI should speed up the investigation and take strict action against the culprits and the Supreme Court in the context of NEET-UG. The CBI, which is investigating the allegations of irregularities in the NEET-UG examination, should immediately

ensure that such action is taken against those who have been involved in compromising the integrity of the examination.

That no one should have the courage to get involved in incidents like paper leaks in future. Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad had organized a nationwide movement in the month of June to resolve the issues arising regarding the compromise on transparency of examination including the demand for a CBI investigation. National

General Secretary of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad, Shri Yagyavalkya Shukla said that the Supreme Court has -The Central Government will have to ensure justice for the students by following the instructions given to be taken in the context of UG examination. There should be systemic reforms so that various problems including transparency that have emerged in various examinations including NEET-UG examination can be permanently resolved.

Dr. S Krishna Kumar takes Charge as Chairman & Director Hari Bhari Waste

Prayagraj: Former Union Power Minister Dr.S.Krishna Kumar (I.A.S) takes Charge as Chairman and Director of Hari Bhari Waste Valorization India Pvt. Ltd. Former Union Minister and bureaucrat Dr.S.Krishna Kumar will be leading Hari Bhari group as its Chairman and Director, he is known to be the man behind India's major Renewable Energy reforms as the Union Minister for Renewable Energy was awarded as the energy

management in Prayagraj, Moradabad and Patiala with upcoming many plants in the process in M.P., Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan. Hari Bhari has a joint venture with Norway based NGT Company for its innovative waste to energy technologies and it has signed MOU with UP government to develop the same in various locations. Total Foreign direct investment commitment for these projects is 100 million US Dollars for next 5 years.

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PDs should work keeping in mind both govt's money and public's interest: Vijay Vaish

Prayagraj: Former Chief Whip of BJP Councilor Party Vijay Vaish and hundreds of citizens of Bahadurganj, on the instructions of the Vice Chairman of Prayagraj Development Authority, along with the authority's EXN Kaushalendra Singh and JE Vivek Gupta and other officials, started a protest to build a drain at Sulaki intersection. The problem arising out of excavation was told during the inspection by the officials. On the said occasion, Vijay Vaish informed the officials of the authority that Bahadurganj

Mohalla is situated on Old GT Road, which is also known as Shershah Suri Marg. There are 10 feet deep and 10 feet deep sewer lines on both sides of the road, due to which water comes out from the houses of common people during rainy season and even in heavy rains, water never stops here, hence there is no need to make unnecessary drains on both sides. The public will not be benefited but instead of widening the road, the road will become smaller because three feet space will be taken on both sides for the drain

and the drain being made is above the alignment of the



road. Vijay Vaish told the officials of the authority. It was also shown that when the sewer line pipe of

people's houses goes under the drain, then how will

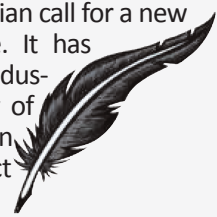
the unnecessary digging people be able to clean it if the pipe gets choked, hence the authority should stop to higher officials.

On this, the authority officials said that I will inform the problem mentioned by you in public interest to the higher officials of the authority and you will also be informed about the decision. On that occasion, Mr. Bhagwan Kesarwani Rajkumar Vaishya Rajesh Kesarwani Advocate Akhilesh Vaishya Krishna Jyoti Sachin Kesarwani Ajay Agrahari Vishnu Gupta Shatrughan Jaiswal Rakesh Kumar Gupta Ravi Kumar Abhishek Gupta Ravi Gupta etc. expressed their problem to higher officials.

Editorial

Verge of a cascade of conflicts

The world today appears to be on the verge of a cascade of conflicts. Over two years since it started, the Russia-Ukraine war does not seem to be heading towards an imminent settlement. Likewise, despite calls for a ceasefire, the Israel-Hamas conflict appears unlikely to abate anytime soon. And now, events over the past month involving Israel and Iran have demonstrated the potential for a wider regional conflict. While the wars in Eurasia and the Middle East may seem disjointed and seeped in their own historical and political contexts, they are also interconnected in a broader sense of the emerging great power competition for the future of the world order. What we are witnessing today is an era of great power competition in an increasingly multipolar world. The US and China are the chief protagonists in this new order, although each is constrained by its domestic politics and capacities. This creates a certain power vacuum, but also space for autonomy of action, balancing and bandwagoning, and even adventurism by middle powers. In this environment, while there are no distinct blocs that have emerged, there are certain alignments that are becoming more prominent. For instance, NATO seems to have found a fresh purpose following Russia's assault on Ukraine, but there are deep concerns related to American policy continuity. Likewise, there is the emergence of a Russia-Iran-China axis based on common interests and grievances with the West. But there are limits to the nature of support that each lends to the other. After years of mutual antagonism, Israel and Iran now appear to be on the brink of a new conflict. The proximate cause for this can be traced back to Israel's frustration with what it argues is Iranian support for Hamas, and other groups such as the Hezbollah, the Houthis, the Syrian government and groups in Iraq. Over the course of the past month, the two countries have engaged in a cycle of attack and counter-attack. Neither seems to desire a major escalation. But the ladder of escalation often follows its own logic, which can put the best-laid plans to waste. Two strategic outcomes can be observed amid these recent events. First, the persistence of the war in Gaza and the emerging spillovers have exposed the limitations of American and Chinese power, particularly since the situation does not necessarily serve either's strategic interests. Second, there is a clear alignment, albeit with increasing friction, between the US and Israel. The US has been at the forefront, supporting Israel in its war against Hamas, and led its defence amid the recent Iranian strikes. It is interesting to note that this effort was supported by regional actors like Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Jordan. In addition, options to coerce Iran economically are being discussed in both the European Union (EU) and the US. On the other hand, China and Russia have been critical of Israeli actions since October 2023. Amid the Iran-Israel tensions, Beijing has backed Iran and sought to preserve its tenuous effort at reconciliation between Saudi Arabia and Tehran. Russia, meanwhile, has become Iran's largest military backer since 2022 and threw its diplomatic weight behind Iran's "retaliatory measures" on April 14 against Israel. On the other side of the world, the war in Ukraine is well into its third year. The conflict has fundamentally reshaped European geopolitics and geo-economics. The war has re-energised transatlantic unity for the moment. However, the direction of American domestic politics has a significant bearing on this momentum. Beijing has sought to straddle the line in Europe by trying to appear neutral while backing the Russian call for a new regional security architecture. It has supported Russia's defence industrial complex with the supply of dual-use items, but has been cautious to avoid direct weapons support. Russia, meanwhile, has economically become more dependent .



There was no Google in those days

I was born in the Indian Railways township of Tundla, a major junction on the historic Delhi-Howrah trunk route, in the heartland of Uttar Pradesh. The town had a population of just 30,000 then, divided almost equally between the railwaymen and their dependents and 'the townwallahs', as the others - shopkeepers, traders, professionals and some farmers - living there were fondly called. Tundla was like a microcosm of India, with people from all parts of the country, representing all religions, faiths, languages, traditions, colours and festivals, living there. Ramlila, Durga Puja and Guru Parva festivities always fascinated me, as did the sombreness of the

Muharram processions. Nobody ever asked me my caste or, for that matter, my religion. My parents were refugees, thanks to the unfortunate Partition. My father had to leave behind his ancient village in the Frontier, bordering Afghanistan, and my mother had to flee from Mianwali in western Punjab. But it did not matter to our neighbours or friends. It was a childhood full of carefree joy, play and happiness. The whole town was like a family, which would transform into a big mela (a fair) on occasions like Diwali, Durga Puja and 'chhabbis janyari' (January 26, the Republic Day of India). I did not know anything about caste. Two families living opposite our house

were Dalit, which I had heard - mostly in whispers - from the priest of our local temple, but we all prayed together, celebrated together, and often ate together. I am sure the caste fissures were all there, and probably profoundly, but they were under the radar, never paraded nakedly. Caste was a reality, a big social cleavage in villages just outside our microcosm, but I also know for sure that most even in those villages would have wanted to be like us. Honestly, I did not know - and did not care to know - my caste until I was already settled, had travelled all around the world, married and even had the first child. The 1990 violence over the implementation of the Mandal

report shattered me. Suddenly, everybody was asking each other about their caste. If you used only 'Kumar' or 'Singh' or 'Bharti' as your last name, people were careful not to offend you, staying neutral on the Mandal debate in social gatherings. It was in such an atmosphere and anxiety I called up my father one evening to ask him about our 'caste'. He was baffled. All he managed to say was, "We are Hindus, Panjabi Hindus." I persisted, "That I know, but what is our caste ... I mean caste?" I listed out all the four varnas and asked him to tick the right box. He said, "We are Arora. I do not know beyond that." There was no Google in those days.

Impact of mobilization of caste panchayats on voting



In the this Lok Sabha election, a large number of Jat voters were seen missing in Western UP, called Jatland. Rajputs and Thakurs have also opened a front against the BJP governments in the entire northern region of India. Their Panchayats are being held and despite the persuasion of many big Rajput and Thakur leaders, their opposition is not calming down. In this way, the disappointment shown among the voters in Western Uttar Pradesh, known as Jat Land, on April 19 and the number of voters who came to vote at the booths till almost noon, has given rise to disappointment that whether this time Are voters so angry with the attitude of one party governments that they do not even want to exercise their voting rights? But what is this resentment that if people are angry with the governments of one party, then they should not vote, this will only increase the problem. The way Jats are disappearing from the Panchayats, and the Rajput community and other castes also want to establish their dominance by doing Panchayats and want to show the ruling party that not only Jats, but also Rajputs and Thakurs live in the area. The government is feeling scared because of it, but the unity seen in the Panchayats of these three

big castes will be affected in some way or the other. In such a situation, when these three castes have tried to create an opposing wave through Panchayats, then they need to remain united to get their demands met. In western Uttar Pradesh, there is evidence of unity of Ajjars i.e. Ahirs, Jats, Gurjars and Rajputs. In a way, Thakur is also a caste of Rajputs, so it is counted in it. These four farmer communities are not only hardworking but also honest. And these four communities can tolerate everything, but do not tolerate fraud. Although I believe that all the farmer communities or should we say all the farming communities are honest and hardworking, the Jat and Rajput communities have always been at the forefront in taking decisions in the Panchayats, taking everyone along and history is witness to this. These communities have always resolved all

small and big disputes in the villages through their Panchayats. Apart from this, the kindness among the farming communities, especially the big farmers, is so much that no one can go through their doors without eating and drinking. About four years ago, when the Corona epidemic was spreading globally and there was chaos all around, people suffering from Corona were dying and villagers living in cities were returning to their homes on foot hungry and thirsty, then the farmers He had opened the stores of his house and helped such helpless travelers a lot. Not only this, almost all the works were closed at that time, but the farmers kept the country's GDP intact by working day and night in their fields. At that time, only one or two leaders would have come forward to help the people, the rest of the help was either done by the farmers,

or by those who were sons of farmers and were in jobs. But the way farmers have been ignored in this country for the last few years and especially what has happened to them during the farmers' movement, it is clear that the resentment of Jats, Rajputs and other big castes was bound to come to the fore. But it is not wise to stay away from voting and separate from each other. However, if we talk about reduction in voting, we will see that while 69.2 percent voting took place in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, this time only 55 to 66 percent voting took place at various booths. If the voting percentage remains the same in future, then it will be a big warning not only for the democracy of the country but also for the Election Commission about the dissatisfaction of the voters. Because voters are the basis of elections and if voters do not vote, then how will governments be elected? The fewer voters will vote, the easier it will be for the political parties to manipulate them in their favor and it will also be easier to win, because the mood of the voters is such that the angry voters do not vote or Those who vote for a particular party get burnt on NOTA, whereas those who vote only for a particular party come to vote in any circumstances

and in this way, even if the voting percentage is low, that party can also win, due to which a large number of voters are attracted. The section should be angry. But this is not even 100% true. Because many times people come out in large numbers for anti-voting and those voters get angry, who are stuck to one party and are angry with that party for some reason. But they do not get angry and vote for other parties, rather they prefer to sit at home and protest against voting. If we want to see such examples, we will see that in the 2018 assembly elections in Rajasthan, the Rajputs there had opened a front against the BJP and the result was that the BJP had lost in Rajasthan. Despite being less in number than other castes, the opposition of Rajputs proved too much for BJP and after two five-year plans, BJP could return to power in Rajasthan in the year 2023. This time, the way the resentment of Rajputs has come to the fore in the northern region of India after the Jats from Western Uttar Pradesh, anything can happen. In fact, for the last one year, BJP has been continuously trying to target every caste in the country except Muslims, which have good numerical strength. , for the Lok Sabha elections. But as elections approached

There's A Deeper Problem

According to the India Meteorological Department's (IMD) latest forecast, India is expected to receive above-normal rainfall during the upcoming June-September southwest monsoon season. This is great news after a gap of eight years; 2016 was when India last experienced decent rain. The country's dependence on monsoon can be gauged from the fact that it receives about 70-90% of its annual rainfall in the four months of June-September. Normal monsoon has a direct impact on the country's economy. Evenly-distributed rainfall is crucial for the 61% of Indian farmers who are dependent on monsoon for agriculture. A positive monsoon enhances agricultural production, which in turn boosts the country's economy and

enhances food security. Over the last few decades, dwindling resources have led to overuse of groundwater. According to the Central Groundwater Board of India, 18% of India's groundwater assessment units are overexploited or critical, meaning that the rate at which water is extracted is higher than the rate at which the aquifer can recharge. The overuse of groundwater for agriculture has increased since the 1960s, especially after the Green Revolution. To fulfil requirements, a largely unregulated groundwater irrigation economy has mushroomed in rural areas. Increased availability of borewells and free or subsidised electricity have allowed farmers to withdraw groundwater at will, leading to the resource's over-exploitation. The practice raises concerns given

that about 75% of the annual groundwater recharge takes place during the southwest monsoon. With climate change altering monsoon patterns, these recharge cycles can get disrupted, consequently leading to high crop failures. The IMD's latest monsoon prediction is music to not only farmers but also lakhs of people in Indian cities that have been battling water-related crises. Bengaluru is foremost among them these days. It has two major sources of water - while Cauvery water takes care of 60% of the city's water needs, the rest is fulfilled by borewells handled by Bengaluru's water supply authority. Two large lakes in the metropolis, Varthur and Bellandur, have been lying empty for the last four years due to desilting work.

Suspicion and allegations on the use of EVM

Another election, during a tour to Hyderabad, requested the Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL) to study the possibility of using an electronic device for conducting elections, writes Anil Maheshwari and Vipul Maheshwari in The Power of the Ballot: Travail and Triumph in the Elections. In 1979, a prototype was developed, and its operation was demonstrated by the Election Commission of India (ECI) before the representatives of political parties in August 1980, they add. Meanwhile, BEL, a Defence Ministry PSU, had also developed a microcomputer-based voting equipment, which they had used for the elections for the various unions of the company, say the authors. In January 1981, BEL approached the ECI for a contract for manufacturing EVMs, and on July 29, 1981, the ECI held a meeting with the representatives of BEL, ECIL, the Ministry of Law, and the CEOs of some states regarding the use of EVMs in elections. But since its introduction, some parties have raised doubts over the possibility of EVMs malfunctioning or being tampered with to register votes in favour of a particular candidate or party. Even the introduction of the Voter-Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) has not been able to satisfy c o m p l a i n e r s . Incidentally, a VVPAT

machine is attached to the main EVM, which, as soon as a button is pressed, prints out a piece of paper with the voter's choice. The printed slip is visible for seven seconds. These slips are used later by officials to verify the votes cast in randomly selected polling booths. It was with the very idea of introducing more transparency into the election process that the concept of VVPAT was proposed in 2010. Following discussions with political parties and others, the idea was referred to the ECI's Technical Expert Committee. Finally, VVPAT machines were attached to EVMs and trials were conducted in some constituencies during the 2013 assembly elections. Following that, the ECI decided to introduce VVPATs in a phased manner, and in the 2019 General Elections, all EVMs were used with VVPAT machines. Let me point out two things. Firstly, it was precisely to remove doubts regarding the EVMs that VVPAT machines were introduced - to provide voters with a means to verify that their vote was cast correctly and for the audit of stored electronic results. Using these machines, voters can review a physical ballot to confirm their electronic vote. Secondly, it was the VVPAT machines that malfunctioned in the recent by-polls, and not the EVMs," writes former.

Commissioner (CEC), during a tour to Hyderabad, requested the Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL) to study the possibility of using an electronic device for conducting elections, writes Anil Maheshwari and Vipul Maheshwari in The Power of the Ballot: Travail and Triumph in the Elections. In 1979, a prototype was developed, and its operation was demonstrated by the Election Commission of India (ECI) before the representatives of political parties in August 1980, they add. Meanwhile, BEL, a Defence Ministry PSU, had also developed a microcomputer-based voting equipment, which they had used for the elections for the various unions of the company, say the authors. In January 1981, BEL approached the ECI for a contract for manufacturing EVMs, and on July 29, 1981, the ECI held a meeting with the representatives of BEL, ECIL, the Ministry of Law, and the CEOs of some states regarding the use of EVMs in elections. But since its introduction, some parties have raised doubts over the possibility of EVMs malfunctioning or being tampered with to register votes in favour of a particular candidate or party. Even the introduction of the Voter-Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) has not been able to satisfy c o m p l a i n e r s . Incidentally, a VVPAT

Government wants MTNL to become BSNL



Delhi: After failing to find a solution, the government is considering handing over MTNL's operations to its larger sibling BSNL instead of merging the two state-run enterprises, which have received numerous bailouts, including two years ago. Highly placed sources said the Committee of Secretaries (CoS) will review the new plan before Cabinet approval. The proposal to transfer Delhi and Mumbai-based MTNL to BSNL will help the latter revive and deliver pan-India services. Not integrating the firms eliminates the requirement to delist MTNL from the bourses. In a

merger, MTNL would be delisted and required to buy back shares. One insider stated this may be avoided by simply turning over operations. However, MTNL's dismal performance has not hurt its shares. MTNL's share price on the BSE rose 139% in a year,

closing at Rs 46.3 from Rs 19.4 on July 12, 2014, despite huge losses and subscriber reduction. Over the past decade, the telecom industry has grown rapidly, yet MTNL has lost market share and business (like BSNL). MTNL's wireline business (including internet)

dropped to 6% in April from 12.5% in April 2014. However, its mobile business share has dropped to about 0.2% from 0.4% a decade ago. Since MTNL will only own land and buildings, handing over daily operations to BSNL may affect its share price. The source said

the DoT wants to speed up the integration of the two companies, which have been languishing with no sign of a turnaround. MTNL lost Rs 3,303 crore in the year ended March 31, 2024, up from Rs 2,911 crore. Revenue from activities fell 15% to Rs 728 crore in 2023-24 from Rs 862 crore in FY23. At the end of FY24, MTNL owed Rs 25,795 crore, up from Rs 23,500 crore. The company's debt excludes short-term borrowings and non-convertible debentures of Rs 3,569 crore, which the government pays interest and principal.

Haryana Sikh body prohibits wedding fires, DJs



Delhi: A Haryana Sikh social reform forum has banned firearms, DJs, and lehengas for weddings to reduce extravagant spending. The campaign begins in five Sikh-majority Haryana districts and subsequently spreads across the state. Jagdev Singh Jhinda's social group, Samaj Sudhar Lahar, would launch this campaign in Karnal, Kurukshetra, Kaithal, Panipat, and Jind districts. Youth and women committees in several districts have banned weapons during wedding celebrations. "Many people oppose such spending and seek to raise awareness. We want to outlaw air-

guns, DJs, and orchestras in weddings. Many guests have fought while dancing at Sikh and other weddings. Gunshots in the air have killed and injured many state residents. He said to eliminate these ills. Jhinda declared that Sikh brides should not wear lehenga, so they founded a women's association to promote salwar kameez.

The Sikh leader said they don't have punishments for violating these rules because they want people to follow them. We are creating 21-member youth and women committees in each hamlet in five districts to spread

awareness of the prohibition. He added more individuals are needed to make it successful. Jhinda added that people who disobey the reform body will face fines and social punishment later. Karnail Singh, another Sikh leader, said they created Samaj Sudhar Lahar on Sunday at the gurdwara in hamlet Malikpur, Jind. Office bearers will be nominated at the next meeting in Nissing, Karnal, to intensify reform body efforts. Jhinda said that these limits are working in his native hamlet Rastak Jhinda in district Karnal and hopes to duplicate them across the state.

Manipur distributes 300 crore to 4 lakh as part of social programs

Delhi: Under 46 state and federal programs, the Manipur government provided direct benefit transfers (DBT) of Rs 300 crore to four lakh people. The drive's main target group was internally displaced individuals who were impacted by the ethnic violence that broke out in May 2023. For the benefit of the displaced families from the Kuki and Meitei tribes as well as those living in relief camps, Rs 32 crore was provided. As the first installment of the recently announced special aid of Rs 1 lakh per family for dis-



placed families in relief camps, Rs 25,000 per family, or Rs 15 crore, was made available. This will help about 6,000 displaced families. In order to assist handloom weavers and other craftsmen, the government has introduced the Chief

Minister's Yarn Scheme, which offers yarn at fair prices with government subsidies. The government also introduced the Sportspersons Livelihood Guarantee Scheme, which is intended to help retired athletes.

Centre refutes Stalin, announcing 3-lakh cr project clearance for TN



Government sources also indicated the state has not implemented approved projects

Delhi: While dismissing Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin's claims of the Centre not sanctioning significant projects for the state in the past decade, sources highlighted railway, highway, and social infrastructure projects worth at least Rs 3 lakh crore. Government sources also indicated the state has not implemented approved projects. Tamil Nadu received Rs 5,167 crore from the Jal Jeevan mission between FY20 and

FY24. Under PM Vishwakarma, the state has not helped check and register 8.4 lakh program hopefuls, sources said, adding that states should use central schemes. They said a record number of central projects were sanctioned and implemented in Tamil Nadu in the past decade and that states are not discriminated against. Stalin's claim is false. Indeed, the NDA government has boosted money for trains, roadways, airports, social and rural schemes in the state during the previous decade "added an official. Officials said the state received Rs 6,331 crore in the Budget for railway development this year, up from Rs 879 crore between 2009 and 2014.

Haryana BSP-INDLD alliance; Abhay Chautala will be CM face

Delhi: The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) will join forces for the October assembly elections in Haryana. Abhay Chautala, general secretary of INLD, would represent the party. BSP will compete for 37 seats in the 90-seat state assembly, while INLD will vie for 53. Chautala's designation as the alliance's chief minister was revealed by Akash Anand, the nephew of BSP chief Mayawati.

Despite their understanding of seat sharing, Chautala stated that INLD would not be reluctant to share additional seats with its alliance partner in light of the candidates' chances of winning.

Chautala said that after consultations, the parties would decide how to divide the seats among themselves.



MVA Secures Two Seats, Mahayuti Wins All Nine Seats It Contested



Delhi: The Mahayuti alliance, which is in power in Maharashtra and is composed of the BJP, Shiv Sena, and NCP, won every one of the nine seats it ran for in the biennial elections, giving it an 11-seat state legislative council. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) secured five seats in the results of the earlier-day polls, while the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) led by Ajit Pawar and the Shiv Sena led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde secured two seats apiece. The results were released in the evening. Milind Narvekar, a close aide to Uddhav Thackeray, the chairman of the Shiv Sena (UBT), and Congress candidate Pradnya Satav emerged victorious from the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA). The NCP (SP) led by Sharad Pawar backed Jayant Patil, the candidate for the Peasants and Workers' Party (PWP), lost the polls.

Refund for Selling Old Car

Delhi: You may want to scrap your old car. Because doing so will get you new car discounts. To encourage Delhiites to trash their old cars, the transport department intends to rebate motor vehicle tax and registration by 10-20%, depending on vehicle category and fuel used. Motor tax is 20% lower when buying a new automobile or two-wheeler after scrapping a petrol, CNG, or LPG non-transport vehicle. The registration of a new diesel automobile or motorcycle will be 15% cheaper for those who scrap them. Diesel buses and transport vehicles receive a 10% discount, while petrol, CNG, and LPG ones receive 15%. To qualify for savings, one must acquire a new car in the same category as the scrapped one. A spokesperson added that motor vehicle tax reductions should not exceed 50% of scrap value.

The National Green Tribunal prohibited diesel and petrol vehicles over 10 and 15 years old from Delhi roads. Because many outdated cars remain on the road, the state government wants to scrap them. The official stated the buyer must get a concession certificate after dismantling the old car to get the discount. "This certificate will be valid for three years, during which one should purchase a new vehicle," stated. The initiative, which would be implemented once authorized by the government, encourages Delhi residents to replace their old automobiles with newer, more ecologically friendly ones to reduce pollution and improve air quality.

Rain leaves Delhi vegetable buyers high and dry

Delhi: Tomato prices have risen in wholesale and retail markets in the capital in recent days due to monsoon rains. Tomatoes, a household essential, cost over Rs 100 per kg in numerous city neighborhoods. Vegetable traders blamed the rise on northern regions' heavy weather affecting truck

transit. The Union ministry of consumer affairs, food, and public distribution's price monitoring section reported an average wholesale price of Rs 3,600 per quintal (Rs 36 per kilo) for tomatoes. July's pricing was about 1.5 times normal. Azadpur Mandi dealers reported retail veggies were offered at 100-150%

of wholesale. Krishna Gulati of Hauz Khas said her normal vegetable supplier offered her tomatoes for Rs 100 per kilogram on Friday compared to Rs 40 earlier this month. "I questioned him how prices rose so much in Delhi with little rain. According to Gulati, wholesale prices had risen.

Mahayuti defeats MVA as 7 Congress MLAs cross-vote in MLC polls

Delhi: Seven Congress MLAs voted for Shiv Sena and Ajit Pawar-led NCP in MLC polls for 11 seats, which had 12 candidates, confirming fears of cross-voting. Mahayuti Friday won all nine legislative council seats, while Maha Vikas Aghadi lost one of three seats. Five BJP candidates and two each of CM Eknath Shinde-led Sena and NCP won, with Congress and Sena (UBT) winning one seat each. MVA and NCP (SP)-backed Peasants and Workers Party's Jayant Patil lost. The result hurts MVA before the assembly elections and reveals that CM

Shinde and Ajit Pawar kept their legislators when there was anticipation they might vote for the other side. Significantly, Uddhav Thackeray's trusty assistant Milind Narvekar won the third round after being predicted to win in the first. After its poor Lok Sabha performance in Maharashtra and its recent loss in the Mumbai graduates and teachers seat elections, deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis led poll management for Mahayuti, which gained support. Seven Congress members voted for NCP or Sena.

RSS branch to finance ministry: Help farmers, control inflation

Delhi: The Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM), an RSS offshoot, has urged the Union finance ministry to offer micro irrigation system subsidies for small farmers and ensure remunerative prices for growers due to inflation, especially in essentials and food items. It also offered industry tax incentives on an employment-output ratio to increase employment. The ruling National Democratic Alliance's Bharatiya Janata Party draws its ideology from the RSS. The ideas were presented last month during a pre-budget meeting with government officials, according to



sources. The SJM proposes a wealth tax on vacant land to discourage "unnecessary land holding on the pretext of future requirements." The ruling National Democratic Alliance's Bharatiya Janata Party draws its ideology from the RSS. The ideas were presented last month

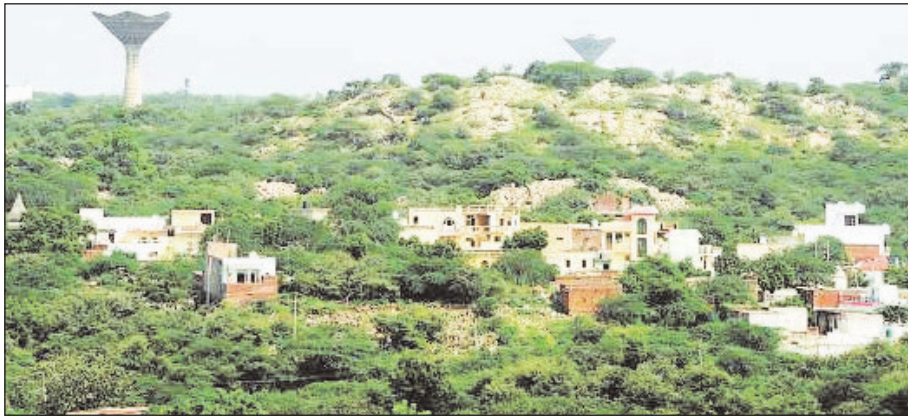
during a pre-budget meeting with government officials, according to sources.

The SJM proposes a wealth tax on vacant land to discourage "unnecessary land holding on the pretext of future requirements." This was done to offer homes for all, stated a

source. "Affordable housing should include hostels for workers and students," says SJM. RSS offshoots have urged the government to curb inflation, a significant issue. In line with it, the SJM suggests that government spending on rural infrastructure like warehouses and cold chains "may be increased substantially." Pointing out that increased farmer prices are thought to induce food inflation, SJM national co-convenor Ashwani Mahajan stated there is evidence that farmer pricing may lower inflation by preventing market profiteering.

Illegal Farmhouses Threaten Aravalli Hills Ecosystem: Sohna, Gurgaon

Delhi: Illegal farmhouses are destroying trees in the Aravalli Hills, particularly near Sohna's Gair Mumkin Pahar. Section 4 of the Punjab Land Preservation Act (PLPA) makes the Aravalli Hills uncuttable and needs government authorization to chop trees. A rise in illegal farmhouses threatens the national treasure of Aravalli trees and the delicate ecological balance of the surrounding area. Illegal farmhouses have long colonized the Aravalli Hills, but the situation has grown. Stakeholders and environmentalists are concerned about landowners blatantly felling trees.



Unchecked deforestation is destroying Raisina Hills' beauty, a worrying trend. Villagers say that illegal farmhouse owners take down trees, add stones, and install iron gates. These activities involve clearing forested areas to build approach roads to their farmhouses. Gates restrict

locals' access and the government's action. Recent forest department operations have destroyed several illegal farmhouses, but a worrying analysis found that more than 500 new farmhouses were built in 2022. Even the Forest Department doesn't grasp the latest farm-

house development boom. The causes of this unlawful activity surge are unclear, making regulatory work difficult. The lack of a unified plan to combat this problem makes illegal farmhouses thrive. A concerted effort by local communities, government institutions, and environmental groups

is essential. Waking up is important to solve this problem and address its causes. There is an urgent need to address the proliferation of illegal farmhouses in the Aravalli Hills, particularly in Gair Mumkin Pahar. These constructions' unrestrained development and environmental violations will threaten the Aravalli ecosystem. Local communities' rights and well-being will be violated. Governments, environmentalists, and local stakeholders must work together to solve this problem. They should enforce laws and adopt sustainable methods to protect the Aravalli Hills' natural heritage.

Publicize child begging helpline

Delhi: In a PIL against child begging, a bench led by acting chief justice Manmohan was informed by the Delhi government that anyone can report an event on the hotline, and a mechanism has been built to counsel and transmit the situation. After hearing the authorities, the court closed the PIL and ordered Delhi to provide an affidavit of compliance after eight weeks. The writ petition was dismissed, including Justice Tushar Rao Gedela, ordered respondents to promote the child hotline number 1098. Standing coun-



sel Santosh Kumar Tripathi represented the Delhi government, which assured the court that a framework is in place to respond to child beggars.

He also said out-of-school youngsters are being identified and admitted to schools. Residents can now record sightings

and help relocate animals for safer routes. Road accidents must be prevented, says the chief minister.

Discover how scoliosis affects child development. Discover the value of early diagnosis and treatment. How to help scoliosis-afflicted kids live better.

Government will sell wheat

Delhi: In order to sell FCI's wheat stock, the food ministry has set a minimum sale price of Rs 2,325/quintal for private bulk buyers like millers, below the market price of Rs 2,400/quintal. The minimum rice price for bulk buyers is Rs 2,800/quintal. Prices do not include FCI depot transportation. The ministry stated in an official notification that FCI will discuss



with the ministry to determine the quantity of grain inventories to be offloaded after considering PDS stock,

buffer norms, and 20 lakh tons. FCI has 289 lakh tonnes of wheat. Government may lift rice export prohibition and resume wheat sales. Minimum sale prices for FCI wheat and rice holdings.

A group of ministers will decide on export ban removal. Pre-registering farmers for urad procurement by government cooperatives.

Used truck prices rise as logistics companies slash costs

USED TRUCK PRICES ON THE UPSWING			
GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT (TONNE)	Jun-24	Jun-23	YOY Change
1.5 to 2	₹3,29,727	₹2,39,490	38%
2 to 3.5	₹5,82,400	₹4,76,462	22%
3.5 to 7.5	₹6,39,000	₹5,29,000	21%
7.5 to 16	₹8,10,000	₹7,55,833	7%
16 to 19	₹9,63,000	₹8,83,500	9%
25 to 28.5	₹13,60,000	₹12,88,000	6%
31 to 36	₹15,77,000	₹11,00,000	43%
37 to 43.5	₹16,00,000	₹13,50,750	18%

All vehicles are five years old. Source: Shriram Mobility Bulletin July 2024

Delhi: Used truck prices rose double-digits year-over-year for light commercial vehicles. A 38% increase in used vehicle costs for 1.5- to 2-tonne vehicles. The 2 to 3.5 tonne category rose 22% and the 3.5 to 7.5 section 21%. The only other segment with bigger price hikes was 31 to 36 tonnes, but truck marketers said this was a distortion because few higher GVW trucks are repossessed. The smaller tonnage unorganized fleet for inter and intra city logistics has been switching from new to old rucks in the recent year. Price hikes and logistics market stress due to inconsistent freight rate increases are to blame. Ashutosh Pandey, CEO, Mahindra First Choice Wheels, said smaller unorganized

fleet owners must cut costs and utilize 40% cheaper trucks. Marketers say the move toward used trucks has been obvious for about two years. Shriram Finance spokesman: "Over the past two years, prices for all types of used commercial vehicles, BS IV or BS VI, have increased 25-30%." "The subdued sales during 2019-22 have resulted in a shortage of supply in the used truck market." The used truck industry is booming, and prices are projected to stay high as new vehicle prices rise. The current batch of new trucks (one or two years old) will be available pre-owned after a few years. "This could potentially drive sustained growth in the used vehicle segment," he said.

India rice stocks three times target, alleviating supply concerns

Delhi: Two government sources in India, the world's second-largest rice producer, reported that rice stocks were nearly three times their target at the start of August. The surplus will boost market hopes of fresh Delhi lifting a recent export prohibition, along with the fresh season crop expected in October. Last month, the world's top rice exporter abruptly halted non-Basmati white rice exports, sending prices to multi-year highs. On August 1, state warehouses had 37.6 million metric tons of Indian rice, including unmilled husk varieties, sources told Reuters. Rice suits us "unidentified source said. Our supplies are sufficient as we near the end of the 2022-23 rice marketing year. Next crop is around the corner. "Sources reported



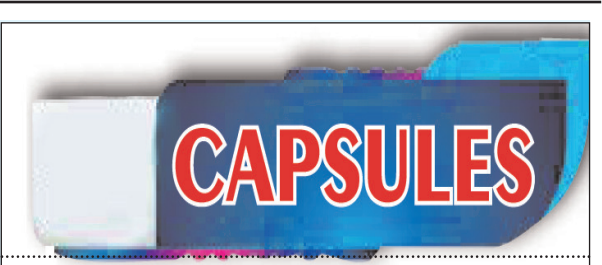
24.6 million metric tons of rice and 13 million metric tons of unmilled rice on Aug. 1.

Local government regulations require state-run warehouses to have 13.5 million metric tons of rice, including Strategic Reserves of 2 million for the quarter starting July 1. Rice is planted in June and July in India, and harvesting begins in October. The Food Corporation of India (FCI), India's primary grain importer, would increase state granary rice inventories with new season purchas-

es. FCI purchased 84.6 million metric tons of rice paddy from domestic farmers in 2022-23, yielding 57 million tons. Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare: Indian farmers harvested a record 135.5 million metric tons of rice in 2022-23. According to the weather service, eastern Indian rice-growing states may receive excess rainfall in August. A good crop will require FCI to acquire lots of rice from farmers, strengthening government granary inventories.

Cruel to crush the snouts of dogs such as pugs

Delhi: PETA India announced that it would be conducting an appeal in advance of World Plastic Surgery Day to remind people that, although humans may have a choice in the form of their nose, pet dog breeds like pugs and other flat-faced dogs do not. According to PETA, those who are kind hearted should never purchase them since they are purposefully and cruelly bred to have a nose so compressed it makes it impossible for them to even breathe. According to PETA, a number of cities, including Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Kolkata, will host the awareness campaign at the same time. Marine Lines in Mumbai will have a massive billboard up. Pugs and other breathing-impaired breeds (BIB)—such as shih tzus, boxers, Boston terriers, French and English bulldogs, Pekingese, and Cavalier King Charles spaniels—suffer from brachycephalic syndrome.



Government bans pro-Khalistan SFJ for 5 years, citing anti-India actions

Delhi: The Centre has declared pro-Khalistan outfit Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) a 'unlawful association' for another five years, citing its continued anti-India and subversive activities and support for violent extremism in Punjab and elsewhere to create a sovereign Khalistan. On July 10, 2019, UAPA banned SFJ as a 'unlawful association' for its aggressive 'Referendum 2020' campaign for a Khalistan state on social media and in countries with large Sikh diasporas. In notification, MHA warned that SFJ, without immediate curbs on its unlawful activities, may escalate its attempts to carve out a Khalistan nation from Indian territory by destabilizing the lawful government; continue advocating secession of Punjab from the Union of India and formation of Khalistan; propagate anti-national and separatist sentiments prejudicial to territorial integrity and security; and escalate secessionist movements.



Delhi raised pollution certificate prices

Delhi: The Delhi administration has immediately changed two-, three-, and four-wheeler pollution-checking rates. Rates for petrol, CNG, and LPG two-wheelers and three-wheelers have been revised to ₹80. New pricing for fuel, CNG, and LPG four-wheelers are now 110. Diesel owners will pay 140 extra. The national capital's PUC rates were updated after 13 years. In response to increased pollution checking costs, Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot told PTI that PUC charges were revised. Gahlot stated, "We revised the charges to meet the Delhi Petrol Dealers Association's long-standing demands and escalating pollution inspection costs. We are committed to safeguarding Delhi's air quality and ensuring all vehicles fulfill pollution limits." Two- and three-wheeler pollution-checking fees for petrol, CNG, or LPG have increased from 60 to 80. However, the price of four-wheelers has risen by 30 from 80 to 110. The maximum PUC certificate increment for diesel automobiles is 100 to 140. Vehicle requirements limit PUC certificate validity. Car and two-wheeler owners must renew their PUC certificate every six months after a year for a new vehicle.



Central armed police chiefs promise a 10% quota for ex-Agnives

Delhi: Heads of various central armed police forces (CAPFs) reiterated their commitment to implement a 10% quota for ex-Engineers in all constable-level posts, saying the forces will benefit from trained and disciplined manpower.

After the Union cabinet approved the Agnipath scheme in June 2022, the home ministry announced a 10% CAPF job quota for ex-Agniveers with four years of service. X tweeted recordings of the director-generals of CRPF, BSF, CISF, Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), and Railway

Protection Force (RPF) stating that ex-Agniveers will receive 10% CAPF quotas. The DGs in these videos mention the recruitment rules amendments for each CAPF that relaxed ex-Agniveers. These include exemption from the physical efficiency exam and age relaxation of five years for the first cohort of ex-Agniveers and three years for succeeding batches.

"All CRPF ex-Agniveer recruitment arrangements are complete. Due to their Army discipline, Agnives will be valuable.

Delhi: Congress sources claimed a two-member fact-finding committee sent by the party's central leadership to investigate its capital loss met with all candidates and top officials in recent days. Every candidate and Delhi official said AAP's elected officials and staffers didn't molest them. Anonymity claims AAP's support for Congress did not convert on any of the three seats. Top party official, requesting "The fact-finding committee will soon hand over the report to the central leadership for its consideration," he said. Congress and

Congress candidates blame Delhi Lok Sabha loss on AAP



AAP, the two parties of opposition's INDIA alliance, shared seats in the capital and contested the Lok Sabha election to avoid splitting anti-BJP support. AAP won four seats and Congress three after winning two straight assembly polls by a big mandate and the recent MCD polls. BJP won 54.3%, AAP 24.1%, and Congress 19.1%. AAP

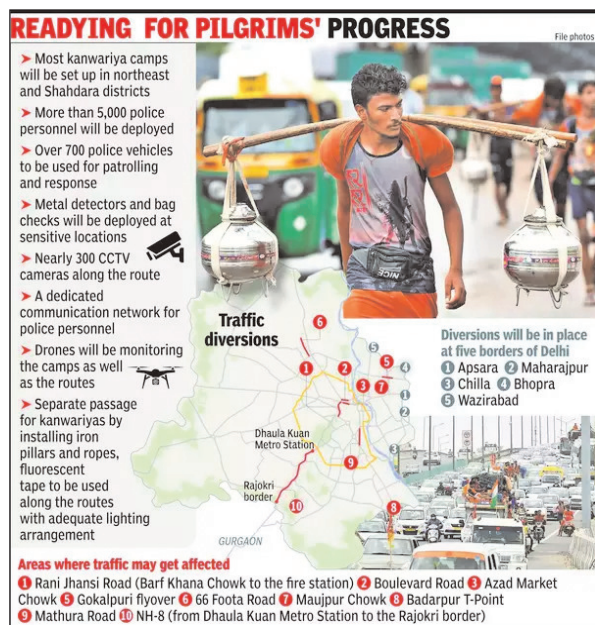
national convener and Delhi CM They worried that if their supporters voted for Congress today, they wouldn't vote for AAP in Delhi assembly elections in Jan-Feb next year "said a senior party official. Several days before the nomination process, we announced our candidacy. In places where its candidates ran, AAP has sent

activists from all constituencies. Senior AAP leaders refused to send personnel to our districts, another Congress man claimed. Senior Congress officials told the committee that many party workers were unhappy with the AAP collaboration. "Some party members also disliked the nomination of two outsiders. Meanwhile, AAP and Congress have stated that their cooperation is restricted to Lo Sabha elections and that they will compete in the Delhi assembly elections separately.

Kanwar Removed Yatra With Cameras And Drones For Tech Boost This Year

Police expect traffic delays, especially near Delhi, due to yatra diversions. Most Kanwariya camps are in Shahdara and North East

Delhi: The city will have around 5,000 police and 700 police cars to secure the Kanwar Yatra. Police expect traffic delays, especially near Delhi, due to yatra diversions. Most Kanwariya camps are in Shahdara and North



East. To prevent accidents, critical areas will have metal detectors and bag checks. When Kanwariyas pass along the route, at least 2,000 troops and 100 vehicles

will be needed in the two districts. "Installing iron pillars, ropes, and neon tapes will form Kanwariya corridors. Good illumination would be provided "A

Delhi Police officer said this will let yatrias go around and avoid chaos. Over 300 CCTV cameras and drones will monitor camps and routes. Police will have a dedicated communication network to coordinate and respond quickly to situations. Identified sensitive places will receive additional personnel. Kanwariyas will remain in Shahdara district, where the route has three zones for greater supervision. A police source said the route would have 68 security checkpoints. "In all, 181 CCTV cameras will be installed along the route, apart from the ones in the camps where the Kanwariyas will stay," said DCP

(Shahdara) Surendra Chaudhary and DCP (Northeast) Joy Tirkey briefed stakeholders on the measures. At five border points—Apsara, Maharajpur, Chilla, Bhopra, and Wazirabad—the yatra will diverge. Heavy commercial vehicle routes will be changed to reduce congestion. Boulevard Road, Azad Market Chowk, and Rani Jhansi Road from Barf Khana Chowk to the fire station are expected to face traffic interruptions. 66 Foota Road, Maujpur Chowk, Badarpur T-Point, Mathura Road, and NH-8, especially from Dhaula Kuan metro station to Rajokri border, were also disrupted.

Must use tech to speed justice

Delhi: Delhi High Court acting chief justice Justice Manmohan stressed the need to use technology to improve the legal system and eliminate justice delays. He spoke at the launch of a pilot 'hybrid court' featuring speech-to-text. "We must employ technology to better the legal system to bring criminals to justice and reduce delays. To ensure the system functions correctly, good technology must be introduced." Justice Manmohan called the speech-to-text evidence recording facility a "very powerful weapon" that may be a "game changer". Speech-to-text combines automatic speech recognition and big language models to efficiently convert spoken words to text. The Digital Court app, which allows access to all e-filed cases and ensures that all physical documents presented in court have digital copies in the case infor-



mation system, was praised by Justice Manmohan for its use of artificial intelligence (AI). AG: "We are trying to promote paperless courts," "Everyone is making an effort and the IT committee headed by Justice Rajiv Shakder is doing a great job." But he also considered how technology was utilized to conduct crimes. "Today, when I sit in court and decide matters, one of the things that strikes me is that technology is being used to circumvent the laws, to break the laws, to promote infringements," stated. "with the law is again to use technology in the right way."

Technology could assist relieve court staff shortages, the justice

said. "All the justices wanting many stenographers is my biggest concern as chief justice. The supply is low. He believed speech-to-text would solve the problem, especially for joint registrars and district judiciaries recording evidence, by freeing up a large pool of stenographers for other uses. Justice Manmohan also addressed judicial finances. "We need more money. Of course, the state has priorities. The ACJ noted there was a money dispute that must be resolved. He stated that hybrid court facilities were being developed in all 691 Delhi district courtrooms with a budget of Rs 387 crore.

No FASTag on windshield, twice cost.

Delhi: If you keep your vehicle's FASTag in your wallet or hand, NH toll gates charge double. NHMCL, the agency under National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), published the new regulation amid reports of people still using smart tags to cheat the system in closed tolling segments including expressways and greenfield highways. NHMCL stated in a policy circular that toll operators or collection agencies will charge the "user fee equivalent to two times" of the applicable charge if a vehicle



entering "FASTag lanes" doesn't have a windshield tag. It has ordered toll collectors to post this information, including penalties, at plazas. Toll collectors must "store the CCTV footage with clear vehicle registration number" of vehicles when collecting the double user fee. In case of dispute, this will be

evidence. NHAI officials said this was done to improve toll plaza efficiency and stop revenue leaks. They said people have sought to escape tolls on Allahabad Bypass, Amritsar-Jamnagar Expressway, and other greenfield highways by using FASTags not fastened to the windshield. Since such highways have near tolling, the user fee is deducted only when a vehicle exits. A spokesperson said customers have avoided exit tolls by exhibiting FASTags in their wallets or vehicles.

Used truck prices rise as logistics companies slash costs

DOUBLE TROUBLE: OVER AND UNDER THE GROUND

GROUNDWATER SITUATION AT DELHI'S THREE LANDFILLS

Location	TDS (mg/l)	Chloride (mg/l)	Hardness as CaCO ₃ (mg/l)
Desirable limit for drinking water	500	250	300
Ghazipur landfill site, near entry gate	1,370	1,540	490
Bhalswa landfill site	500	250	300
Bhalswa landfill site	5,280	2,390	1,060
Bhalswa dairy	3,330	1,495	900
Okhla landfill site	500	250	300
Okhla landfill site	1,990	965	1,090
Okhla bus depot	2,880	990	1,150

DPCC report shows groundwater near the three landfill sites is contaminated. Experts say the unsegregated waste at the landfill sites is leaching into the soil and contaminating groundwater. DPCC has submitted the report to the water ministry. TDS: Total Dissolved Solids, CaCO₃: Calcium carbonate.

Delhi: According to senior civic officials, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) is expanding two waste-to-energy (WtE) plants in Okhla and Tehkhand, southeast Delhi, to process waste from Shahdara's north and south zones and reduce the burden on the Ghazipur landfill. The daily capacity of each facility will increase by 1,000 tonnes. On July 7, the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission approved the Okhla plant's 40 MW increase from 23MW, a senior MCD official said. The Tehkhand plant proposal is also seeking environmental permission, the official said. The Okhla plant processes 1,950 tonnes

of garbage daily, and with another boiler unit, we can feed 2,950 tonnes of new waste daily. The source said the Okhla facility received environmental permission last year and will raise its power output from 25MW to 40MW by increasing its capacity from 2,000 tonne to 3,000 tonne. Shahdara North generates 1,250 tonne of waste daily and South 1,200. Most of this goes to the Ghazipur landfill, but its WtE can only process 1,300 tons per day. According to a February 2023 report submitted to the National Green Tribunal (NGT), Delhi generates 11,332 tonne of waste daily, 8,066 of which are processed by segregation, recycling.

The CBI searches three city police stations and arrests five officers for bribery

Delhi: The CBI raided three police stations in the city and arrested five personnel on bribery allegations as part of its drive on Delhi Police corruption. In a trap operation last week, the agency apprehended an inspector-rank officer. Agency stormed Patparganj police station in east Delhi, where Apoorva Gupta is DCP. According to



accounts, two cops were detained here. Four officers from another east Delhi police station were detained two weeks ago for threatening to book a businessman on money laundering

charges and extorting Rs 24 lakh. Additionally, a station inspector was arrested. District-level senior officials will be investigated in the current raid. An SI was arrested at Hauz Khas police station in another raid, an official said. CBI registered investigations after receiving information that cops demanded bribes from complainants in several cases. CBI then set a

PWD cancels Delhi's Najafgarh-Phirni flyover

Delhi: Officials say the Public Works Department (PWD) abandoned a 4.8km flyover on the Najafgarh-Phirni route to decongest the stretch after it was judged impracticable. The road will be modified, an official stated. "This road's decongestion will be addressed at the grade level. He stated that the zone maintenance wing will do this. PWD proposed the project in January 2023 and delivered it to UTTIPEC in June. One of 77 road intervention plans around traffic hotspots selected by authorities to decongest the city. Najafgarh-Phirni, a

major Delhi-Haryana road, typically has significant traffic jams during peak hours. The project included an elevated corridor to make Outer Delhi-Haryana transportation easier. Officials say the changes will reduce traffic on Najafgarh-Phirni, Kapashera, Dhansa, and Bahadurgarh highways. Last year, the government said the elevated corridor will assist over 200 nearby colonies. Footpaths, cycling lanes, and green spaces will be built as part of the street connectivity plan. Streetlights and high-tension electrical wires may be moved.

Kanwar Yatra guidelines issued, but Delhi citizens skeptical

Delhi: In light of motorists and residents' harrowing experiences due to the flouting of norms and widespread disturbance caused by Kanwar Yatra pilgrim participants, especially late-night loud music, Delhi Police issued a series of advisories to Kanwar camp organizers to reduce confusion. The camps must refrain from playing music after 10pm, limit its volume, and not infringe on traffic lanes. This is done every year, but the Kanwariyas—devotees on the yatra—usually ignore it. Residents and members of the city's



resident welfare associations (RWAs), especially those living along the Kanwar Yatra paths, remain suspicious about the warning causing any on-the-ground change and insist that police preparations will again remain on paper. They blame the city police and other authorities for turning a blind eye every year as unruly

groups of people cause widespread commotion across the city during Kanwar Yatra. Loud music and giant boom boxes on trucks playing songs at deafening volumes throughout the night have become a routine annual affair, and the inability of authorities to contain the menace has emboldened lawbreakers. Eight main routes

will take the Kanwar Yatra through the city. Entrance from Apsara border leads to Seelampur flyover, Kashmir Gate, Rani Jhansi Road, Upper Ridge Road, Dhaula Kuan, and exit from Rajokri border in Haryana. Kanwariyas can also enter Delhi via the Bhopura border and escape via the Outer Ring Road via Tikri or Singhu for Haryana. East Delhi's other major highways are Maharajpur and Ghazipur, and Kanwariyas pass through Kalindi Kunj and Badarpur.

Airport liquor store operating 24/7 in Delhi

Delhi: A 24x7 liquor store in Terminal 3's domestic arrival wing at Indira Gandhi International airport reopened nearly two years after it was closed due to a change in excise policy following a CBI inquiry into alleged excise policy irregularities. Delhi Consumer's Cooperative Wholesale Store Ltd., one of four government agencies handling all liquor stores in the state, received an L10 liquor license from the excise department. Around 140 retail liquor outlets are operated by DCCWS around the city. Store hours are 24x7, but only T3 passengers can enter. Duty-free shops are separate for international arrivals. "The 750-square-foot liquor store is self-service and walk-in. An informed official claimed all and international whisky, beer, gin, and vodka brands, as well.

Hotel and lodging house police license manual

Delhi: Delhi Police has published a guidebook covering the main aspects of the Delhi Police Act, standing orders, and terms and conditions for hotel and lodging house license holders to increase transparency and understanding. The commissioner of police can license or control public amusement or entertainment venues including restaurants and hotels under the Act. Union Ministry of Home Affairs' single platform accepts all lodging and boarding license applications and renewals. The special commissioner of police (licensing & legal) released the manual to help hotel and lodging house operators obtain and maintain licenses. An officer claimed its main purpose is to raise stakeholder awareness for easier business and improved city safety compliance. "The licensing unit has created this handbook to ensure that hotel and lodging house operators have access to clear, concise and accurate information regarding the regulatory requirements and best practices for obtaining and maintaining their licences," said joint CP Bhola Shanker Jaiswal. "This handbook aims to simplify the licensing process, provide step-by-step instructions, necessary forms and valuable insights into the legal and operational standards that must be met.

The government intends three woodlands to green the city

Delhi: Delhi government's program aims to boost green cover. The "Prakriti ke Paas-Parivaar ke Saath" initiative will create three world-class city woods in Garhi Mandu, Lal Kuan, and Ujwa. The government said these green retreats will allow Delhiites to appreciate nature while encouraging sustainability. Minister Gopal Rai stressed that these city woodlands will be developed sustainably without altering their structure. The government wants to give Delhi residents a place to connect with nature and teach kids about it. "The Kejriwal government is ready to further improve the city forests of Delhi and develop them based on ecological security," he said. Rai added that Delhi has long struggled with pollution. However, under CM Arvind Kejriwal, the government has sought to reduce city pollution, he said. Delhi's pollution levels have been progressively falling and its green cover has increased due to these measures, he said. According to Rai, the Kejriwal government's efforts boosted Delhi's green area from 20% in 2013 to 23.06% in 2021. "Delhi residents should help plant trees. The government gives Delhi residents free medical herbs for this reason. Delhi government nurseries are giving away medicinal plants so residents can plant trees in their houses to promote the city's green space," Rai stated.

RML opens 23 OPDs, 3 waiting areas

Delhi: Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Medical Sciences (ABVIMS) & Ram Manohar Lohia (RML) Hospital has added 23 OPD registration counters to improve patient care and comfort. The hospital also features three waiting areas for patients and their attendants.

Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Expands Reach with its New Banking Outlet in Naraina Vihar, New Delhi (NCR)

GURUGRM : Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Limited (Utkarsh SFBL) today announced the inauguration of its new outlet in Naraina Vihar, New Delhi (NCR). With this launch, the Bank has reached 32 banking outlets in New Delhi (NCR) and 920 banking outlets across the country. Commenting on the expansion, Mr. Govind Singh, MD & CEO, Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Limited said, "We are thrilled to extend our banking network in New Delhi (NCR). This is a significant step towards strengthening our presence in the capital city.

Naraina Vihar, known for its vibrant community and commercial activities, presents unique opportunities for growth. The inauguration of this banking outlet will not only support the local communities in accessing



banking services but will also play a pivotal role in fostering economic development, financial inclusion, and empowerment within the local community." The Bank is in a position to provide an array of financial products and services to its customers, which includes savings and current accounts, fixed deposits and recurring deposits. To cater to the aspirations of its customers, the Bank offers various loan products such as housing loans, business loans and loan against property. With its banking outlet infra-

structure, digital banking capabilities and ATM network, the Bank offers integrated customer service. Apart from this, the Bank offers multiple channels such as Internet banking, Mobile banking, Unified Payment Interface (UPI) and Call Centre. Utkarsh SFBL aims to provide financial services to underserved and unserved customer segments while serving other segments of society including micro-banking loans (JLG loans), MSME loans, housing loans and loan against property amongst others.

Veet Unveils Its Revolutionary Veet Pure Range with Brand Ambassador Sara Ali Khan

GURUGRM : Veet®, the leader in depilatory products, announces the launch of its groundbreaking new range, Veet Pure, at an exclusive event held in Mumbai today. The event was graced by Bollywood sensation and Veet brand ambassador, Sara Ali Khan, who unveiled the product to an enthusiastic audience of influencers and beauty enthusiasts. This innovative product line marks a significant milestone for Veet, promising a salon-smooth finish in just 5 minutes^A and offering consumers a no-compromise solution for hair removal. Veet is set to enhance the hair removal



process with the new range of Veet Pure made with natural extracts such as organic aloe vera, rose extracts, and mint extracts. Veet Pure is designed to meet the evolving needs of modern women who seek effective and gentle hair removal solutions. The new product stands out with its gentle yet effective

formula, addressing common concerns associated with hair removal creams, such as foul smell. Actress and Brand Ambassador Sara Ali Khan expressed her excitement at the launch, "I have always been an integral part of the Veet family and have witnessed how it has always catered to the needs of modern women. Hair removal can be such a task, we don't necessarily have the time to indulge in time-consuming salon appointments every time. Veet Pure is a game-changer for women who want an easy and effective hair removal solution that's also gentle on the skin."

Yogi govt to develop effective web portal for Empowerment of Persons with Disability

Lucknow As part of its ongoing effort to foster integrated development of all sections of the society, the Yogi government is placing special emphasis on empowering people with disabilities through various government schemes. In this context, a special online

web portal is being developed in line with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's vision to ensure everyone benefits from these central and state government initiatives, address their queries, provide solutions, and facilitate regular monitoring. This portal for the

Empowerment of Persons with Disability Department will feature user management, online file management, and an approval system. Shreerion India Limited, the nodal agency appointed by the Uttar Pradesh government for IT/ITES solutions.

Om Logistics Ltd. planted over 2000 plants in the Kundli industrial area, promoting sustainability

Chandigarh: Om Logistics Limited, India's premier service provider in supply chain and logistics industry, hosted a plantation drive on July 23, 2024, in the Kundli industrial area. This initiative highlights Om Logistics' commitment to environmental sustainability and aims to enhance the green cover in the industrial area.

Over 2000 plants have been planted under this drive, with the participation of industrialists, business leaders and local community members. This event reflects Om Logistics' dedication to supporting a greener and



healthier environment. The plantation drive graced with the support of prominent industrialists including Dr. Pawan Kansal- CMD from Jagdamba Cutlery Ltd., Mr. Subhash Gupta- President of Kundli Industrial Association, Mr. Arvind Chaudhary- Chairperson of Kundli Industrial Association, Dr. Pramod Singh- Director of Anand Maya Hospital, Mr. Rajesh Sharma- Senior Manager at Om Logistics Limited.

Their participation highlights the collaborative effort to enhance the green cover in the Kundli industrial area and reflects a shared commitment to environmental sustainability.

JTL Industries Ltd. Gets Buy Call from Hem Securities Ltd

CHANDIGARH: JTL Industries Limited (BSE: 534600, NSE: JTLIND) is a fast-growing dynamic steel tube manufacturing company that specializes in producing Black Steel Pipes, Pre-Galvanized and Galvanized Steel Pipes, large-diameter steel tubes and pipes, and hollow structures. The company has received a "Buy Call" from Hem Securities Ltd, with a target of Rs. 288. Recently, the company also approved Raising of funds by way of issue of Equity Shares, through a QIP, in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations. Approved the floor price of 221.57 per Equity Share Earlier, company reported robust earnings for Q1FY25. In Q1FY25, JTL Industries delivered stable financial results, demonstrat-

ing sustained growth year-over-year. Our revenue for the quarter reached Rs.5,153.8 Mn, up from Rs.5,048.0 Mn in Q1FY24, driven by strategic market expansion, increased product demand, higher sales volumes, and enhanced product offerings. EBITDA for Q1FY25 stood at Rs.438.6 Mn, reflecting a 20.8% increase from Q1FY24, underscoring our efficient cost management and operational excellence. The EBITDA margin improved to 8.5% in Q1FY25, up from 7.2% in Q1FY24, driven by our strategic focus on high-margin products and increasing scale. Sales volume grew by 10.8% year-over-year, reaching 85,674 MT in Q1FY25 compared to 77,342 MT in Q1FY24. Notably, value-added products contributed

25% to its total sales mix, with sales volumes of 21,261 MT. Quarterly export volumes reached a record high of 5,917 MT, a robust 31.4% increase from Q1FY24. According to its internal schedule, the company has successfully commercialized the first phase of Nabha Steels and Metals which began operations in June, achieving strong performance with total sales of 10,726 MT. This acquisition marks a significant milestone in our backward integration strategy, enhancing yield, generating synergies, and boosting profitability. Looking ahead, the launch of DFT lines will bolster the company's manufacturing capabilities, increase plant capacity utilization, and enhance production

efficiency. These advancements will help us meet the growing demands of the company's valued customers, supported by the introduction of over 300 value-added SKUs. The company aims to achieve a 50% contribution from value-added products in its total sales mix, driving higher turnover and improved EBITDA margins. The company further added, "Our focus on expanding global footprint and seizing export opportunities remains strong. We anticipate robust demand for our structural pipes, supported by their quality and reliability, further strengthening our export contribution and enhancing financial performance. JTL Industries is dedicated to sustainable growth.

Mr. Abheek Barua, Chief Economist, HDFC Bank, commented on Union Budget 2024

HISAR/AMBALA: The central focus of this budget has been on employment and associated issues like skill formation. The government's efforts to reap India's demographic dividend is visible in its push towards labour intensive production, its skilling initiative, incentivising formal job creation and increasing participation of women in the workforce. The budget estimate that these measures will help create 8 million jobs per year -- which is



line with the employment requirement that has been set out in the economic survey. The change in income tax slabs along with the direct benefit transfer to first time workers, is likely to spur consumption, particularly for small ticket items, by increasing disposable incomes. The budget's

policy mix -- including continued capex, job creation, support for manufacturing, agriculture, and rural development -- is likely to be positive for India's potential growth. The government made no compromise on its capex plans despite the increased allocation to some of its allies. The commitment towards fiscal consolidation with a reduction in the fiscal deficit to 4.9% of GDP in FY25 is a positive for medium-term debt.

Shri Ashishkumar Chauhan, MD and CEO at National Stock Exchange (NSE) on the Union Budget 2024

Vatika Times AMBALA/CHANDIGARH : "The budget for the financial year 2024-25 presented by Hon'ble Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman has given a huge fillip to job



All these things are being achieved without much tinkering with the direct or indirect tax structure ensuring that India's long term credit rating improves by giving a glide path to 4.5% fiscal deficit

creation in India by ensuring that the private sector also participates in job creation in addition to the government sector while ensuring that India becomes the number 1 start up nation and a nation of entrepreneurs by providing relief on the angel tax as well as increasing Mudra loan scheme limit from Rs 10 lakhs to Rs 20 lakhs per per-

son. She has also focused on increasing women participation in India's labour force which will help India reap demographic dividend even further by increasing young women's participation in the workforce. Skill development as a part of job creation has been also an out of the box idea from her while keeping infrastructure outlay intact and reducing fiscal deficit

BJP is misleading the public by merely making empty promises: Sultan Jadoula

Kaithal: Senior Congress leader and former Chief Parliamentary Secretary Sultan Singh Jadoula visited several villages of the constituency and invited the villagers and workers to participate in large numbers in the workers' conference to be held at Pundri's Jashn Palace on August 4 under the campaign 'Haryana Maange Hisaab' from the BJP government. Addressing the villagers during this time, Congress leader Sultan Singh Jadoula said that in the last 10 years, the BJP government has brought Haryana from a very low position to fulfill its selfish interests in the arrogance of power. Today, there are no doctors in the state's hospitals, no teachers in the schools and no employees in government offices. The government is trying to mislead the public by merely making empty promises. He said that the Haryana which was number one in per capita investment and employment during the



regime of former Haryana Chief Minister Chaudhary Bhupendra Singh Hooda before 2014, is number one in unemployment and crime today. Permanent jobs have been converted into temporary ones through Kaushal Nigam. In which there are neither jobs nor pensions. The youth in Agniveer Yojana will return in just 4 years. Former MLA Sultan Singh Jadoula said that BJP has given false guarantees of doubling the income of farmers, recommendations of Swaminathan Commission, price on C-2 plus 50 percent formula, roof over the head of every person by making false promises, to which the public is ready to give a reply.

Along with this, the government is continuously ignoring the

demands of the employees and the working class has come out on the streets against the government with their demands. Congress leader Sultan Jadoula said that under the leadership of former Chief Minister of Haryana Chaudhary Bhupendra Singh Hooda, Congress will work to form the government by waving the flag of victory in the assembly elections and as soon as the Congress government is formed, Haryana will become the number one state in the path of development and employment.

All the announcements of Congress will be implemented with the first pen. 23 Vikas 03 Former MLA Sultan Singh Jadoula inviting the villagers to the workers conference.

UP youth to gain extensive skill training and employment opportunities from 2024-25 budget

Lucknow The General Budget 2024-25, presented on Tuesday by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, includes provisions that will significantly benefit the youth of Uttar Pradesh. These measures will enable lakhs of young people to receive skill training in large numbers and enroll in future employment-oriented courses. Additionally, they will have access to loans for skill training. The Finance Minister's announcements aim to enhance the skills of a vast number of youths in the state and across the country and open up new employment opportunities for them. This focus on youth skill development marks a notable step towards addressing the employment needs of the younger generation. Skill development is a priori-

ty for Yogi govt Kapil Dev Agarwal, the Minister of Vocational Education, Skill Development, and Entrepreneurship (Independent Charge) in Uttar Pradesh, said that significant steps have already been taken for the skill development of the youth in the state under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The new provisions in the 2024-25 budget will undoubtedly benefit the youth of the state and help them get trained and access new employment opportunities, he added. "The model skill loan will provide financial assistance to students from weaker sections, and the upgrade of 1,000 industrial training institutes will strengthen industrial education in the state," he stated further.