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

'Prepared futuristic vision for cooperation in new areas': PM

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina underscored the robust and multi-faceted relationship between India and Bangladesh in the first state visit by a foreign leader since the new Indian government took office post the recent Lok Sabha elections. During the visit, both leaders revealed a series of joint initiatives and agreements that focused on mutual growth and regional cooperation. Releasing the joint statement, PM Narendra Modi said, "Bangladesh is situated at the confluence of Neighbourhood First Policy, Act East Policy, Vision Sagar and Indo-Pacific Vision. In the last one year, we have together completed many important projects of public welfare. Trade in Indian Rupees has started between the



two countries. The world's longest river cruise on the Ganges River between India and Bangladesh has been successfully completed. "The first cross-border friendship pipeline between India and Bangladesh has been completed. Export of electricity from Nepal to Bangladesh through the Indian grid has become the first example of sub-regional cooperation in the energy sector. Implementing such a big initiative in so many areas in just one year reflects the speed and scale of our relations", PM Modi added. On defence

cooperation, PM Modi held discussions ranging from defence production to the modernization of armed forces, as well as decisions to enhance cooperation in counter-terrorism, combating fundamentalism, and peaceful border management with the Bangladesh counterpart. PM Sheikh Hasina expressed deep appreciation for India's role as a major neighbor, trusted friend, and regional partner. Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina said, "India is our major neighbour, trusted friend, and regional partner.

Bangladesh greatly values our relations with India, which were born during our war of liberation in 1971. I pay homage to the brave, fallen heroes of India who sacrificed their lives during our war of liberation in 1971." "I invite PM Modi to visit Bangladesh. Come to Bangladesh to witness what all we have done and plan to do", Hasina said during joint press meet. PM Modi engaged in comprehensive discussions with Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who is currently on a visit to India. The talks aimed to bolster collaboration across various sectors, including trade and connectivity. India and Bangladesh exchanged MoUs and agreements in the presence of PM Modi and Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina, at Hyderabad House in Delhi.

Pakistani spies used these 3 apps to hack into the laptop of Brahmos Aerospace's missile engineer

HYDERABAD: Nishant Agrawal, former BrahMos scientist has recently been sentenced to life imprisonment by a sessions court for leaking military secrets to Pakistan. Nishant, who worked in the missile assembly unit in Nagpur, was an award-winning engineer. The sessions court convicted him under the Section 235 of the Criminal Procedure Code. He was found guilty of offenses punishable under Section 66(f) of the Information Technology Act and various sections of the Official Secrets Act (OSA) for leaking critical information about armaments to foreign operatives and her Indian targets. The three apps that Pakistani spies used to trap BrahMos scientist Nishant were: Qwhisper, Chat to Hire and X-trust.



HC: Denying physical intimacy to husband amounts to cruelty

BHOPAL: Refusing physical relations to a husband amounts to cruelty under Hindu Marriage Act, Madhya Pradesh HC said, while upholding a family court's decision to grant divorce to the husband on this ground. HC gave this verdict for a couple that got married on May 26,

2013. It observed that denial of physical intimacy to a husband amounts to cruelty. Just 3 days after marriage, the woman's brother took her to her parental home for her to take some exam. When her in-laws went to bring her back a few days later, she refused to come with them. Awasthi told the court that on Sejal's directions, Agrawal had clicked on links sent by her and installed three apps on his personal laptop in 2017. These apps were: Qwhisper, Chat to Hire and X-trust.

Chief priest of Ram temple Acharya Laxmikant Dixit who led consecration ceremony dies

NEW DELHI: Esteemed chief priest Acharya Laxmikant Dixit who led the consecration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, passed away on Saturday morning at the age of 86. Family members reported that Dixit had been unwell for the past few days. His last rites will be performed at Manikarnika Ghat. Dixit played a significant role in the consecration ceremony of Lord Ram's idol at the Ayodhya temple on January 22, an event presided over by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Recognized as one of Varanasi's senior scholars, Dixit was originally from Solapur district in Maharashtra, though his family has resided in Varanasi.

Kannada actor Darshan spent over Rs 70 lakh to hide crime, proof



BENGALURU: Kannada film actor Darshan may face the heat of the Income Tax (I-T) department soon as city police have decided to write to it about Rs 70.4 lakh seized from his house and his aides and other accused in Renukaswamy's murder case, reports C. A senior police officer said they had seized Rs 37.4 lakh from Darshan's house on June 19. Another Rs 3 lakh was seized from Darshan's wife Vijayalakshmi's house. Darshan had allegedly given the money to his wife after the murder of Renukaswamy, the officer added. Earlier, police found Darshan had paid Rs 30 lakh to his aides to arrange four fall guys to surrender and portray Renukaswamy was murdered over a financial dispute. 'In all, 70L involved to hide crime, proof' Four persons had surrendered before Kamakshipalya police accordingly. Two of them had taken Rs 5 lakh each from Darshan's aides and the other two were assured the money would be given to their kin after they were arrested. According to police, they had recovered Rs 10 lakh from the two accused and the remaining money was found in the residence of Pradosh, an aide of Darshan arrested in the case. They said the total amount involved in the case to hide the crime and destroy evidence was Rs 70.4 lakh. Darshan has confessed to having borrowed Rs 40 lakh from a friend for addressing legal complications arising out of the murder and destroying evidence.

'Open to all kinds of investigations', says Axis My India chief Pradeep Gupta

NEW DELHI: Facing severe criticism from opposition parties over allegations that exit polls were used to manipulate the stock market, Axis My India's chief Pradeep Gupta expressed his openness to all kinds of investigations. He said proper regulations for pollsters could improve the industry. Gupta's comments come after opposition parties and civil society groups demanded thorough investigations, including by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC).



These calls followed a dramatic stock market rally driven by exit polls predicting a massive BJP victory, which sharply fell after the actual results revealed the ruling party did not secure a clear majority. In an interaction with PTI editors, Gupta reiterated his long-standing demand for norms and regulations for pollsters. He dismissed calls for banning exit polls as "childish," saying that the public and organizations desire to know election outcomes, and such bans would be futile.

Centre cracks whip, tells staff to be in office by 9.15am or lose 1/2 day casual leave

NEW DELHI: Cracking the whip on latecomers, the Centre's department of personnel and training (DoPT) has decided to condone a maximum delay of 15 minutes, and instructed employees across the country to be in office latest by 9.15am and mark their attendance. All employees, including senior officers, have been told to use the biometric attendance system, something several of them have not been using ever since the Covid outbreak four years ago. Staff members have been cautioned that half-day casual leave will be deducted in case they do not turn up by 9.15 in the morning. "For any reason,



if the employee is not able to attend office on a particular day, it should be informed in advance and casual leave should be applied for," the circular said, adding that officers will monitor the attendance and punctuality of employees in their sections. Central govt offices are open from 9am to 5.30pm but it is normal for junior-level employees to turn up late and leave early, including those in public-facing jobs, inconveniencing people. No fixed hours, we take work home too, say senior officials. Senior officers complain that they do not have any fixed office hours as they usually leave after 7pm. Besides, they argue that post-Covid, with access to electronic files, they often end up working from home, including on holidays or over the weekend. Soon after coming to office in 2014, Modi govt had sought to enforce office timings, which was resisted by employees, many of whom argued that they travel long distances. Aadhaar-enabled biometric attendance system was monitored to ensure that people were on time, until Covid led to suspension of the mechanism. Several senior officers had installed biometric devices on their table to avoid standing in queues to mark their attendance. The latest directive refers to instructions issued last year which had asked central govt employees to revert to biometric attendance, which was resumed in Feb 2022.

'Tamil Nadu Hooch tragedy is state sponsored murder,' says BJP

NEW DELHI: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Shehzad Poonawalla has strongly condemned the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) government and its leader, M K Stalin, for the loss of 53 lives in the Kallakurichi hooch tragedy in Tamil Nadu. He said that the incident is a "state-sponsored murder." Poonawalla said that the majority of the victims were young



individuals, accusing the DMK government of failing to take responsibility and action against those involved in the production and distribution of illicit liquor. "53 people lost their lives. The major-

ity of them are youth... A state-sponsored murder for which the DMK government is solely responsible. But instead of taking action on this state-sponsored murder, DMK continues to shield the villains of this ghastly crime," Poonawalla added. He further criticized the DMK with a scathing remark saying, "DMK means D for Do Nothing, M for Muzzle Everyone.

Hoax bomb threat grounds Air Arabia flight at Calicut

NEW DELHI: A hoax bomb threat targeting an Air Arabia flight scheduled to depart for Sharjah from Calicut International Airport on Saturday morning caused significant disruption, leading to the grounding of the aircraft while the police bomb detection squad inspected it, airport sources reported. The incident began when ground staff discovered a note reading "bomb" on one of the seats of the aircraft. The note was left by a passenger who had arrived on the flight from Sharjah to Calicut. This discovery occurred before boarding for the return flight commenced, a senior airport official said. Upon finding the note, airport authorities promptly alerted the police.

Who are Hinduja and why is richest family in legal trouble

NEW DELHI: The Hinduja family, known for their vast business empire spanning various sectors, tops the Sunday Times list of the UK's 350 richest people with an estimated fortune of £37 billion. However, Gopi Hinduja himself was not named in the case. The Hinduja Group, controlled by the family, has diverse business interests ranging from trucks and lubricants to banking and cable television. The group was founded by P a r m a n a n d Deepchand Hinduja, who started his merchant banking and trade businesses in British India before moving to Bombay in 1914 and expanding internationally to Iran in 1919. The brothers later shifted their base to London in 1979, where it remains today, with the group claiming to employ 200,000 people worldwide. Srichand P Hinduja, the eldest son, took over the reins in 1935 and is credited with founding IndusInd Bank. Following his death in May 2023, Gopichand Hinduja assumed the role of Chairman and is recognized for the Group's ventures into the power and infrastructure sectors. Forbes ranking them as the seventh richest in India and the 146th richest globally in recent years. In a recent court case in Switzerland, Indian-born businessman Prakash Hinduja and his family members were found guilty of exploiting workers and providing unauthorized employment.

Lord Jagannath ji's resting journey kicks off with much fanfare

MAYOR INAUGURATED VISHRAM YATRA

Prayagraj: Jyeshtha Purnima under the auspices of the Silver Year of Shri Jagannath Ji Mahotsav Committee Trust On the occasion of bathing of Lord Jagannath Ji, Goddess Subhadra and brother Balbhadra, after bathing them on the occasion of Snan Utsav, Lord Jagannath Ji went to the rest house with great pomp and show under the leadership of Trust President Durga Prasad Gupta and Trust Rath Yatra Coordinator Basant Lal Azad. On this occasion, Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani broke coconut

and congratulated Trust President Durga Prasad Gupta, Rath Yatra coordinator Basant Lal Azad, Minister Gagan Das Gupta, Kumar Narayan, Satish Chandra Kesarwani, Anil Gupta Annu Bhaiya, former councilor Vijay, Vaishya, former councilor Umesh Chandra Jaiswal, Kanhaiya Lal Gupta, Rajesh Kesarwani, Poonam Gupta started the Vishram Yatra by performing Maha Aarti.

Before this, Trust Minister Gagan Das Gupta and Treasurer Jairam Gupta performed the puja as per the rituals, after anointing a symbolic



bath with 108 pitchers of the chariot of Goddess Ganga water, after which Lord Subhadra and Balbhadra ji. Jagannath ji was seated on Gaya Rath Yatra co-coordina-

tor Rajesh Kesarwani said that the Vishram Yatra included tableaux of DJ band, pipe band, Ganesh ji, Garuda ji, Hanuman ji, Radha Krishna, Krishna Sudama, Lakshmi Narayan, Narasimha Lord, Krishna Balram, Kashiraj Nagar Prayageshwarnath Temple Jagannath. Starting from Dham, taking rest at Arya Bhawan Johari Zero Road via Katghar Salikganj, Mutthiganj, Ram Bhawan Sulaki Square, Mansarovar, Moti Mahal Johnson Ganj, Ghanatghar, Rath Yatra co-coordinator Rajesh Kesarwani conducted the

Yatra, Jairam was prominent in the Yatra. Gupta, Amar Rastogi, Triloki Kesarwani, Prabodh Manas, Happy Kaser, Satyendra Kushwaha, Mahesh Verma, Sanjay Singh, Shubham Aggarwal, Ram Lal Chaurasia, Mamta Mishra Meenu Pandey Lata Upadhyay, Pinky Gupta, Anju Lata Jaiswal, Jaya Mishra, Mamta Mishra, Anju Shukla, Rajlakshmi, Abhilash Kesarwani, Shatrughan Jaiswal, Ajay Agrahari, Sachin Gupta, Sumit Kesarwani, Monu Gupta, Kamlesh Kesharwani, etc. were present in thousands of devotees.

Preparations for Mahakumbh: 40 roads of Sangam city to speak of Prayag's spiritual greatness

Prayagraj: As pilgrims and tourists enter Prayagraj to be a part of the mega religious fair of Mahakumbh-2025, even the roads of Sangam city will tell the tale of this great city steeped in religion and spirituality. Mahakumbh Mela officer Vijay Kiran Anand said that these roads were specifically selected for thematic development. They will showcase a variety of themes, including history, spirituality and mythology. These 'smart and beautiful' roads are expected to further enhance Prayagraj's tourism potential, he added.

Some of these roads will showcase scenes from the Mahakumbh, while others will depict the churning of the cosmic ocean (Sagar Manthan) and the descent of Ganga on earth as per the Hindu mythology.

In preparation for the upcoming Mahakumbh-2025, the Prayagraj Mela Authority has begun beautifying 40 roads throughout the district on specific themes. These roads are being transformed into 'smart roads' by not only being widened but would also have plants, lighting and depictions as per specific theme decided for each of them, officials said.

This thematic approach aims to evoke a sense of belonging and connection to history and culture as people traverse these routes. For example, the road where freedom fighter Shaheed Lal Padmadhar died while opposing the British during the freedom struggle, will showcase the entire sequence of events,

including the date, to educate passers-by about his sacrifice.

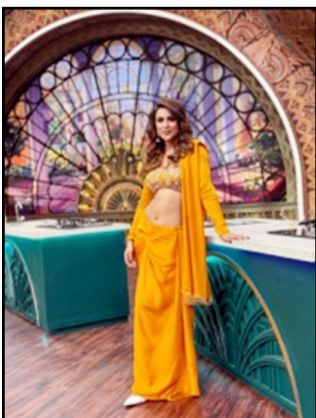
Similarly, the Peshwai routes used by Akharas (Hindu monastic orders) might also be decked up with scenes of Peshwai processions and the Kumbh Mela. Everything, including the lighting will be designed to complement the chosen theme, officials explained.

Another unique aspect of this project will be the use of a single type of sapling for each road. For instance, if palm trees are chosen for a particular road, they will be planted consistently along its entire length, creating a unified identity for that route, the officials shared.

The project encompasses several roads, including the Balsans crossing to Phaphamau Bridge, MNNIT intersection to Maharana Pratap crossing (Stanley Road), Baksi Bandh to Ganga Murti intersection in Daraganj (Nagwasuki), Maharana Pratap intersection to Hanuman Mandir (Kasturba Gandhi Marg), Subedarganj to Bamrauli (Pritam Nagar intersection). Similarly, the project would also cover the stretch from Khusrobagh via Karbala intersection, Nawab Yusuf Marg, on both sides of PD Tandon Park, from DRM office intersection to CAV Inter College, from DRM office to Station Road via Niranjn railway overbridge, Leader Road and Old GT Road (Bangad Dharamshala to Johnsonganj crossing) and a few others.

Nia Sharma opens up about kitchen mishaps

Varanasi: On Colors' Laughter Chefs Unlimited Entertainment, every weekend is a blast as celebrities try their hand at cooking. One of them, Nia Sharma, is currently putting her culinary skills to the test and a recent incident on the sets showcased her commendable patience and dedication towards her craft. During an intense cooking challenge, Sharma accidentally hurt herself while frying food at her station. Amidst the fast-paced culinary action, she collided with a drawer, causing her another injury. Instead of panicking or getting upset, Nia handled the situation with remarkable composure and calm. Without losing a moment, the actress immediately attended to her injury, and ensured that she continued to participate in the challenge and prepare the dishes assigned to her. Nia Sharma said, "I think I am a decent cook, and minor mistakes while cooking make me nervous. When I spilled some oil, I didn't let it get to me. But right after that, I bumped into a drawer. Despite these two incidents, I just wanted to cook and do it well. I didn't think much of it at the time, but later I noticed that it had caused a small blister on my stomach. This is all part of cooking - there are ups and downs, but they all add up to a complete cooking experience."



Green corridor to be developed at Alopshankari temple

Prayagraj: In run-up to the Mahakumbh-2025, development work for the temples in Prayagraj has intensified. As part of this initiative, the Maa Alopshankari temple complex in Alopibagh is slated for a mega transformation into a green corridor. A dozen shops currently situated between the complex's exit gates and Maa Jalpa Devi will be demolished by the Prayagraj Development Authority (PDA). Only after their removal will the tourism department commence the green corridor project, estimated at Rs. 7 crores, informed district officials.

Additionally, plans are underway to install red sandstone at the entrance and boundary wall, adorned with carvings depicting various forms of Maa Durga. The temple pavilion's roof will also be made water-proofed, and a

drinking water facility will be established within the temple complex, they added.

The deadline for completion of these development works has been set for November 30, informed regional tourism officer, Aparajita Singh while confirming the plans to develop the temple complex as a green corridor.

Work on this has already started. When the PDA vacates the shops, the area will be decked up with greenery in a systematic manner, she said. The popular Alopshankari temple of Sangam city, revered as one of the 51 Shaktipeeths of the country, is to be developed in keeping with the South Indian style of temple architecture.

The Mandapam (general gathering area) has a special place in South Indian temples. Along these very lines, a huge mandapam is to be

built here. Also, fine artwork will be made on the back wall of the temple as well. Keeping in mind the architectural beauty of the temple complex, construction will be done towards Japla Devi at the back as well. There will also be a yagya kund constructed and a huge platform built.

ABOUT THE TEMPLE: Located at a distance of around 6 km from Prayagraj Junction, Alopi Devi Mandir is an ancient temple located in Alopibagh locality of Prayagraj. Situated near Triveni Sangam, it is one of the revered Shaktipeeths, and among the most-visit temples in Prayagraj. Dedicated to Goddess Sati, Alopi Devi Mandir is a special temple where no idol of the goddess has been kept and instead a cradle is worshipped. According to legend, a part of the right hand of Goddess Sati fell here and

went invisible or missing, that is why this Siddhpeeth has been named Alop (disappeared) Shankari and a cradle has been placed here as a symbol.

According to another legend, Alopi Mata is the newlywed bride who disappeared from the wooden carriage when the marriage procession was attacked by a group of robbers. The strange disappearance of the bride was deemed as a miracle and a temple was erected at the same site to worship the divine bride. There lies a wooden cot in the sanctum sanctorum, also known as the 'doli' of the new bride. There is a platform in the middle of the temple courtyard where a pool is made. Above it is a special hammock or cradle, which is kept covered with a red cloth. One can also see the idols of Lord Hanuman and Nava Durga on the temple premises.

Safe Operation and Stress Free Life; Monthly safety seminar organized

Prayagraj: The chief guest of the seminar was Chief Electrical Engineer U.M.Re. Prayagraj, along with Divisional Railway Manager, Additional Railway Divisional Manager, Senior Divisional Operations Manager, Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer U.M.R. Prayagraj and other officers were present, 13 Chief Loco Inspectors and 74 running personnel participated in the seminar. In the seminar, information was given about the Kanchenjunga Express train accident and possible mistakes made during SPAD and their prevention.

Chief Guest of the Seminar Chief Chief Electrical Engineer U.M.Re. Prayagraj, while communicating with the running employees, said that they should work with their discretion while being aware of the rules and also gave the mantra of safe operation and said that they should make a habit of signal call out, do not get confused, take complete rest before duty.

Divisional Railway Manager, Prayagraj, Himanshu Badoni, while speaking in the seminar, said that safety and operation are complementary to

each other, in your work, keep the speed of the train as per the signal and visibility along with being aware of the rules. He described RS as the Brahmastra of Assistant Loco Pilot and directed to use it at the right time. In the seminar, Additional Divisional Railway Manager, Senior Divisional Operations Manager also advised the running personnel for safe operation. Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer Operations advised all the officers. Expressing gratitude, all the loco pilots and assistant loco pilots assured to follow the advice

given by the officers in letter and spirit. In the safety seminar by running personnel, Awadhesh Kumar, B.M.Shukla, Pramod Kumar, Prakhari Tripathi, Shruti Singh, etc. gave frank opinions. The program was conducted by Chief Crew Controller (General) Prayagraj Vasudev Pandey, Principal Chief Electrical Engineer, Divisional Railway Manager and other divisional officers distributed ORS packets to the running personnel for safe operation by keeping themselves healthy and protecting themselves from the scorching heat.

Preparation going on in full swing for special communicable disease control & Dastak campaign

Prayagraj: Under the chairmanship of District Development Officer Mr. Bholanath Kanojia, will run from 01 July to 31 July in the auditorium of Vikas Bhawan on Saturday. A review meeting of the district level inter-departmental coordination committee was organized in connection with the preparations for the special communicable disease control campaign and the Dastak campaign running from July 11 to July 31. In the meeting, the District Development Officer, Medical and Health Department, District Panchayati Raj Department, Urban Development Department, Women and Child Development and Nutrition Department, Education Department, Animal Husbandry Department, Agriculture and Irrigation Department, Disabled Empowerment Department, Horticulture Department, Food and Drug Administration Department and Took information from officials of other concerned departments about the preparations made regarding the assigned responsibilities. He has given instructions to spray antilarvae in waterlogged areas and clean nearby drains and pits. The District Development Officer has asked to print pamphlets and distribute them at hotspot places and orga-

nize workshops at these places to make people aware regarding prevention of communicable diseases.

The District Development Officer has asked to run a special cleaning campaign in water-logged places, water-logged ponds, vacant plots and places with bushes. He has asked to run cleanliness campaign in rural areas also.

The District Development Officer has asked to run awareness programs by the Municipal Corporation, Malaria Department and Health Department to prevent mosquito borne diseases and to prevent waterlogging and to pay special attention to cleanliness. He has also asked to ensure regular arrangements for cleanliness in animal enclosures. The District Development Officer has asked to run awareness programs in schools. It has been asked to run a special awareness campaign for cleanliness in the city and rural areas, to avoid waterlogging and to maintain cleanliness around our homes. He has asked to update the Mohalla Committee and train its members and ASHAs. On this occasion, District Malaria Officer Mr. AK Singh, Additional Chief Medical Officer and officials of other related departments were present.



'Love You Mom' tattoo saves criminal from externment

PRAYAGRAJ: In an attempt to dispose of the pending cases under the Goonda Act, the Prayagraj Police Commissioner's court took up four cases on Friday, including that of a notorious criminal known for bomb-hurling incidents, who was given a chance to mend his ways. Three others were asked to mark their presence in court every fortnight. Himanshu aka Anshu Bambaaz (25) appeared in court under the Goonda Act, registered against him at Georgetown police station, claiming he had not been involved in any trouble for many years. With a history of hurling crude bombs, the court was to decide if he should be externed from the district (zila badar). As police officials questioned him about his criminal record and present activities, they noticed that Anshu had tattooed 'Love you mom' in Hindi on his arm.

When questioned about the tattoo, Anshu replied that he loves his mother a lot and pleaded with the court not to extern him from the district. Police commissioner Ramit Sharma then conducted an inquiry and found that since Anshu hurled crude bombs near CMP Degree College, he had not been involved in any trouble or criminal activity recently. He was then made to swear on his mother to stop all criminal activities and return to a normal life. Sharma said Anshu was given a chance to mend his ways and join the mainstream of society. However, he was warned that if he commits another crime, he would be dealt with strictly.

Campaign to start from martyrdom day of Shyama Prasad Mukherjee

Prayagraj: After the completion of Lok Sabha elections and review of electoral defeat and victory, BJP workers are now preparing to join the campaign run by the party. Media in-charge Vivek Mishra said that it will start on June 23, the martyrdom day of Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, under which a seminar will be organized at the party office located on Civil Line on Sunday. Apart from this, wreath laying and seminar will be organized on the portrait of Shyama Prasad Mukherjee at all 1216 booths of the metropolis. The tree plantation program will start on the same day from June 23, which will conclude on July 6, the birth anniversary of Shyama Prasad Mukherjee. Under the tree plantation programme, a plan has been made to plant a tree at all the booths in the metropolis. MISA prisoners will be honored and a seminar will be organized on 25th June (in protest against Emergency). Metropolitan President Rajendra Mishra said that all these programs of the party will be organized from booth to mandal and power center level, in which booth, mandal presidents, public representatives, party officials, all Morcha presidents have to make the program successful with full alertness. Photos of all the programs are to be downloaded on Namo and Saral app.

Avanse Financial Services Limited files DRHP with SEBI for an IPO

Varanasi: Avanse Financial Services Limited, an education focused non-banking financial company ("NBFC") operating in India, has filed Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) with SEBI for an Initial Public Offering (IPO). Avanse Financial Services is the second largest education focused NBFC in India by assets under management ("AUM") as of March 31, 2024 (Source: CRISIL Report). It also has the second highest disbursements during the Financial Year 2023 and recorded the second highest profit after tax in Financial Year 2024 among education focused NBFCs in India. The company offer a full stack education offering with products ranging from education loans for students to growth capital for education institutions through education infrastructure loans (Source: CRISIL Report). Through student-loans - international and education loans - domestic businesses, the company provides loans and other value-added services to Indian students and professionals who are admitted to study overseas or at domestic institutions. It also provides collateral-backed financing to private educational institutions in India.

The Public Offer aggregating up to ₹3500 crore comprises of a fresh issue of equity shares of up to ₹1000 crores and an offer for sale (OFS) of up to ₹2500 crore by the "Selling Shareholder" (The "Offer for Sale") with face value of ₹5 each equity share. The offer for sale comprises of equity

shares aggregating up to ₹1758 crore by Olive Vine Investment Ltd ("Promoter Selling Shareholder"); equity shares aggregating up to ₹342 crore by International Finance Corporation and, equity shares aggregating up to ₹400 crore by Kedaara Capital Growth Fund III LLP ("Kedaara Capital"), together with IFC, the "Investor Selling Shareholders" (the promoter selling shareholder, along with the investor selling shareholders, collectively referred to as the "Selling Shareholders") ("offer for sale"), and together with the fresh issue, the "Offer").

The Promoter of the Company is Olive Vine Investment Ltd. Avanse Financial Services Limited proposes to utilize the Net Proceeds towards augmenting capital base to meet the Company's future capital requirements arising out of growth of business and assets.

The Equity Shares that will be offered through the Red Herring Prospectus are proposed to be listed on the Stock Exchanges, being BSE Limited ("BSE") and National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("NSE") together with BSE, the "Stock Exchanges")

Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited, Avendus Capital Private Limited, J.P. Morgan India Private Limited, Nomura Financial Advisory and Securities (India) Private Limited, Nuvama Wealth Management Limited (formerly known as Edelweiss Securities Limited) and SBI Capital Markets Limited are the Book Running Lead Managers to the issue.

Remarkable contribution of Prof. Rajendra Singh (Rajju Bhaiya) Univ in making Guinness Book of World Records

Prayagraj: When 95,276 people set a world record through Yoga-Pratigya, a Guinness World Record Award Ceremony was organized at the Raj Bhavan and by presenting the Guinness World Record Award certificate, it was described as a wonderful and wonderful achievement. On this occasion, the Chancellor presented certificates to 12 universities that performed excellently in the Yoga Pratigya campaign. Prof. Rajendra Singh (Rajju Bhaiya) University, Prayagraj also had a notable contribution in making the record. 1.56 lakh Yoga oath was administered by the university and affiliated colleges. In the program or-

ganized at Raj Bhavan, Lucknow, Vice Chancellor of Prof. Rajendra Singh (Rajju Bhaiya) University, Dr. Akhilesh Kumar Singh along with his team, Dean of Arts Faculty, Prof. Vivek Kumar Singh, Finance Officer, Shashi Bhushan Singh Tomar, Controller of Examinations, Vinita Yadav and Dr. Divya Dwivedi. Participated together. A citation was given by the Chancellor for this remarkable contribution by the university. On this occasion, the Chancellor said that even the most difficult tasks can be completed by being determined towards the work, having faith in oneself and making efforts with positivity. It is noteworthy that

Yoga Week program was successfully conducted on the occasion of International Yoga Day in the campus of Professor Rajendra



Singh (Rajju Bhaiya) University, Prayagraj. In this program, Vice Chancellor Dr. Akhilesh Kumar Singh, Registrar Sanjay Kumar, Fi-

nance Officer Shashi Bhushan Singh Tomar, Controller of Examinations Vinita Yadav, Dean Arts Faculty Professor Vivek

Principals of employees colleges, students, teachers of colleges and visitors were present in large numbers. The program of weekly yoga practice was conducted smoothly every day from 15 June 2024 to 21 June 2024 by Professor Rajendra Singh (Rajju Bhaiya) University, Prayagraj. As per the instructions of the Raj Bhavan, a yoga exercise program was also organized by the university administration for the prisoners in Naini Central Jail located in Prayagraj, in which the prisoners were made to practice yoga to adopt a healthy lifestyle while remaining healthy.

Let it be known that under the inspiration of the Prime Minister and the Raj

Bhavan, the University Administration is determined to make the University a healthy campus and a green campus with the call of 'Stay Healthy, Stay Healthy' under the leadership of the Honorable Vice Chancellor, all the members of the University family remain stress-free. In order to do better work, people were encouraged to make yoga and blood donation an essential part of their lifestyle and to practice regularly and donate blood thrice a year. On the occasion of Yoga Day, on 21 June 2024, a large number of university and college teachers, administrative colleagues and students participated enthusiastically in the sports complex of the university.

Vice Chancellor advised one & all to practice yoga

Naini Prayagraj: On the occasion of International Yoga Day, Professor Rajendra Singh (Rajju Bhaiya) University celebrated International Yoga Day in the university campus today. On this occasion, the Vice Chancellor including the Registrar, Finance Officer, Controller of Examinations, all the officials, teachers, non-teaching staff, officers and students of the university celebrated group yoga programs in large numbers in the university



campus. Vice Chancellor Dr. Akhilesh Kumar Singh, who was presiding over this program, told the important facts of yoga and also advised to practice yoga regularly.

The coordinator of the program, Dr. Utkarsh Upadhyay, while speaking to all the participants about the topic of yoga this time 'Yoga for self and society' on the occasion of International Yoga Day, emphasized on creating uniformity and equality in the society by identifying oneself with yoga. Yoga practice was conducted by trained yoga charyo. Blood donation camp organized: A blood donation camp was organized in the university on International Yoga Day. Students and teachers participated enthusiastically in the camp and donated blood. Units of blood were successfully collected in this blood donation camp. University Vice Chancellor Dr. Akhilesh Kumar Singh said that by donating blood you can save someone's life. Blood donation is the best among all donations. He inspired the students to donate blood so that they can help the needy. The program was organized by Dr. Utkarsh Upadhyay.

CRPF did yoga with Prime Rose Education Institute

Prayagraj: On the occasion of World Yoga Day, under the leadership and instructions of Second in Command Anil Shukla, CRPF 93 Battalion Prayagraj and Prime Rose Education Institute jointly celebrated Yoga Day in Mundera Mandi Prayagraj. Ajay Kumar and Yashveer



Singh, Assistant Commandant of the Central Reserve Police Force, told all the people present about the benefits of doing yoga so that people remain healthy. Also, the children doing internship from Prime Rose Education Institute came by the manager of the organization, Farhan Alam. The importance of today's day was also told. Mainly Shivam Dua, Prateek Tiwari, Anusha Upadhyay, Newin Paul, Kriti along with the entire CRPF team were present in the program. This news was informed by Gufran Khan, media incharge of the institute.

Uttar Pradesh (Under-17) football team announced PEFI Under-17 National Football Championship

Prayagraj: Under-17 National Football Championship is being organized by Physical Education Foundation of India (PEFI) in Vardaman University, West Bengal from June 22 in which Uttar Pradesh state football team is also going to participate. Physical Education Foundation of India (PEFI) is a national sports promotion organization certified by the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs, Government of India. On the basis of excellent sports performance in the seven-day long training camp in Prayagraj, the best 17 players have been selected out of 36 players.



The selected players include 06 from Meerut, 05 from Prayagraj, 2 from Lucknow, Ambedkar Nagar, Agra, Varanasi, Basti districts 1-1 player each are selected. According to Nandini Rawat, Secretary of PEFI Uttar Pradesh, the Uttar Pradesh football team is as follows: Shivam Yadav, Prashant Pal, Ashwini Tomar, Tejaswa Tomar, Rudra Pratap Singh, Vaibhav Manishi (all Meerut), Alok Kumar Prajapati, Priyaansu Verma (both Lucknow), Rahul Chandna, Shivam Saroj, Vedant Tripathi, Mayank Maurya, Shrestha Maurya (all Prayagraj), Satyam (Ambedkar Nagar), Ankush Singh (Agra), Siddharth Singh (Basti), Shreyans Chowksey (Varanasi), Head Coach - Indranil Ghosh (Prayagraj), Team Manager - Dr. Dinesh Singh Yadav (Agra).

ABVP protests cancellation of UGC-NET exam, burns effigy of NTA

Prayagraj/Varanasi: Following the recent cancellation of the UGC-NET exam due to reported irregularities, students across the country are facing confusion and disappointment. The cancellation has particularly affected PhD admissions, which rely on UGC-NET scores, leaving many candidates uncertain about their futures. In response, the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) Kashi Hindu University unit staged a protest against the National Testing Agency (NTA), burning an effigy of the NTA as a demonstration of their anger. The protest began at Mahila Mahavidyalaya and proceeded to Lanka Gate, with students chanting slogans such as "NTA Murdabad."

ABVP State Secretary Abhay Pratap Singh expressed his concerns, stating, "The ongoing irregulari-

ties in examinations are both disturbing and unfortunate, undermining the credibility of agencies like the NTA and jeopardizing students' futures. This situation is



unacceptable. We demand strict action against those responsible to ensure justice for the students."

Prashant Rai, Unit President of ABVP Kashi Hindu University, echoed these sentiments, highlighting the repeated incidents of paper

leaks that have thrown students' futures into uncertainty. He called for a CBI investigation into the matter and demanded strict action against the perpetra-

ter for not taking decisive action despite the recurring issues. Tripathi emphasized the need for a CBI investigation and severe punishment for those involved to safeguard students' futures.

ABVP demands a thorough CBI investigation into the continuous irregularities and calls for strict action against all culprits, including those within the bureaucracy, to prevent such incidents from endangering students' futures again.

The protest saw participation from activists including Pallav, Aruhi Singh, Omkar, Abhishek, Keshari Nandan, Awadhesh Dev, Ankit, Anuj, Adhokshaj, Vipul Singh, Chandni Pratap, Gajendra Muni, Dilip Murmu, Krishna Kumar, Vikas Tiwari, Ashwani Chauhan, Krishnakant, Dhruv, Shubham, Divya Parashar, Udit, and others.

Big conspiracy attempt in Rly Co-operative Bank!

Allegedly with the connivance of Management Committee and Men's Union

Prayagraj/Lucknow: In the 106th meeting of the General Body of the Bank organized by Northern Railway Multi State Co-operative Bank at Chaudhary Charan Singh Sahakari Bhawan, Vidhan Sabha Marg, Lucknow, General Secretary of All India Railway Men's Federation, Comrade Shiv Gopal Mishra, Deputy Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Government, Honorable Brijesh In the presence of the reader, on the instructions of the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Ministry of Cooperative Government of India, the Forum requested the Managing Director to make three of the five directors of

Prayagraj Division disqualified by the Managing Director as directors again, which is completely against the rules. Disqualified Dharendra Singh Yadav, Abhay Kumar, Arvind Kumar Pandey, Raudas, and Vikram Singh are not directors or delegates at present. According to Section 30(2) of the Multi State Cooperative Society Act 2002 (Amended 2023), these people cannot participate in any program of the bank for 3 years from the date of expulsion. Despite that, inviting all the ineligible people in the program and giving them a place on the stage is completely prohibited. It is against the rules.

When they protested against this, the delegates were silenced because the program was supposed to be a bank but it was completely under the control of the Men's Union.

Protesting against the above incident, National President of Indian Railway Employees Federation, Manoj Pandey said that after the disqualification of the five directors of Prayagraj Division (who are officials of the recognized union), the Railways has been booked for violating the bank bye-laws on the same basis. -Demand for disqualification of 30{thirty} out of 34{thirty} delegates of Prayagraj division of the Cooperative

Bank and demanded immediate elections of Prayagraj division because only two years have passed since the elections of the bank. The election was held in April 22.

Comrade Manoj Pandey, General Secretary of North Central Railway Workers Union and National President of Indian Railway Employees Federation, said that out of the five directors declared ineligible, three directors: 1- Shri Abhay Kumar, 2- Shri Arvind Kumar Pandey have resigned from the posts of the union. There was a suspicion that he would be made the director again, that is why the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies has

already complained about it to the Government of India vide number IREF/CD-11/24 dated 19/04/2024.

In this regard, Comrade Manoj said that there is a clear provision in Article 30{2} of the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act 2002 amended 2022 that the disqualified board members cannot become management committee members again for 3 years. Accusing the Managing Director and senior officials of the Union along with the Bank Management Committee, Manoj Pandey said that all of them are colluding and conspiring to play with the Acts of the Bank. In the same series, today the General Secretary of the Men's Federa-

tion has violated the rules. Keeping in mind the work done by Dhritrashtra, an unsuccessful attempt has been made to make three out of the five disqualified as directors again, which will not be tolerated, if something like this happens, we will approach the court. Comrade Manoj has demanded through a letter sent to the Central Registrar that instructions should be issued to quickly complete the election process as per the provisions of Article 45{J}{5} of the Filling Up of 5 vacant seats of the Management Committee of the Amended Act 2022. Make efforts so that bank operations continue smoothly.

Maha Kumbh Mela: UP govt to transform restaurants, hotels, dhabas on major routes connecting Sangam

Prayagraj: To make the Maha Kumbh Mela of 2025 more grand and divine, the Uttar Pradesh government announced to provide subsidies for the transformation of dhabas, restaurants, and hotels on the major routes in order to offer improved facilities to tourists and devotees attending the festival.

Regional Tourism Officer of Prayagraj, Aparajita Singh said, "To improve the experience of

tourists and devotees visiting Prayagraj, the Yogi government is going to make the major dhabas, restaurants, and hotels located on the main routes smart."

She further stated, "For this, 75 of its representatives have been selected, who will receive online training from Friday. These include dhabas, restaurants, and hotels located on the major routes connecting

Lucknow-Prayagraj, Kanpur-Prayagraj, Rewa-Prayagraj, Chitrakoot-Prayagraj, Mirzapur-Prayagraj, and Varanasi-Prayagraj. The selected dhabas, restaurants, and hotels on the Maha Kumbh's main routes previously needed more basic facilities. To address this, a plan has been developed to upgrade their kitchens, seating areas, and parking spaces. Additionally, selected

representatives are receiving training and government support, including subsidies for transformation. The state's new tourism policy holds great potential for elevating religious, spiritual, and cultural tourism alongside agro and eco-tourism. It introduces 22 new activities, such as wellness resorts, heritage homestays, budget hotels, heritage hotels, star

hotels, eco-tourism units, caravan tourism, exhibitions, pilgrimages, Dharamshala, all-weather seasonal camps, reservoirs, lakes, wellness tourism, and adventure tourism. To further this expansion, large dhabas, restaurants, and hotels on major routes are included, and they are receiving a 25 per cent subsidy on investment amounts. The next Maha Kumbh Mela will take place from January

14 to February 26, 2025, in Prayagraj (Allahabad), India. The festival will begin on January 13, 2025, with the Poush Purnima bathing festival and end on February 26, 2025, with Maha Shivaratri. The main bathing festival, known as the "Shahi Snan" (royal baths), will take place on January 14 (Makar Sankranti), January 29 (Mauni Amavasya), and February 3 (Basant Panchami).

Post-mortem hints at elderly woman's murder, FIR lodged

Prayagraj: The post-mortem report of an elderly woman whose body was found at her home on Thursday night revealed that she was assaulted multiple times with a sharp object. As per the police, an FIR has been registered against unidentified assailants and further investigation is being carried out. Help of CCTV footages is being taken to identify suspects, they add. As per reports, resident of Anandpuram locality under Dhumanganj police station Kusumlata Srivastava, 65, retired as a section officer from the UP Board. She used to live with her younger son Saurabh while her elder son lives in Noida.

On Thursday evening, she was alone at home. Late in the evening, their domestic help reached the house and found the main gate opened. The house was found ransacked while Kusumlata Srivastava was found dead on the terrace. Deep injury marks were found on the elderly woman's face, head and neck. Police suspect that the assailants ransacked the house during a loot bid. SHO, Dhumanganj police station, Vaibhav Singh said locals were being questioned and CCTV footages were being scanned to get clues about the suspects.

Tarun Gauba new Prayagraj Police Commissioner

Prayagraj: The Uttar Pradesh government on Saturday transferred 16 Indian Police Service (IPS) officers, including police commissioners of Lucknow and Prayagraj. This is the first transfer list of IPS officers after the Lok Sabha elections.

Lucknow Police Commissioner S B Shiradkar, a 1993-batch IPS officer, will exchange his position with Additional Director General (ADG) of Lucknow Zone, Amrendra K Sengar, a 1995-batch IPS officer. Prayagraj Police Commissioner Ramit Sharma, a 1999-batch IPS officer, has been asked to join as additional director general, Bareilly zone. He has been replaced by Tarun Gauba, who was posted as inspector general (IG), Lucknow range.

Editorial

Nancy meets Dalai Lama as shows eagerness to engage India on Tibet

For Tibet watchers, the past few weeks have been special; one does not know which side to turn one's attention to. Apart from the 'courtesy calls' to the Dalai Lama by some of the candidates during the campaign for the legislative elections, an announcement about renaming some places in Tibet has been making the rounds (this, however, remains irrelevant as nobody has seen the new names yet). More important was the news from Washington that the US Congress has passed the 'Resolve Tibet Act', now waiting for President Joe Biden's signature to become law. Among other things, the Act mentions that the "claims made by officials of the People's Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party that Tibet has been a part of China since ancient times are historically inaccurate". It has serious implications for India's northern border, which for millennia had been with Tibet; unfortunately, after Tibet's invasion in the early 1950s, it ended up being the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China. The Act also speaks of Beijing's current policies, which "are systematically suppressing the ability of the Tibetan people to preserve their religion, culture, language, history, way of life, and environment". Since 1959, when the Dalai Lama crossed the Indian border into Arunachal Pradesh (then the North East Frontier Agency), successive governments in Delhi have supported the Dalai Lama and his followers in this regard and ensured that India was their second home. Today, projects such as the Nalanda University in Bihar could further strengthen the relations between Tibet, where the 'Nalanda Tradition' was practiced for centuries, and India. Then, the Act says that Beijing "is failing to meet the expectations of the United States to engage in meaningful dialogue with the Dalai Lama or his representatives or to reach a negotiated resolution that includes the aspirations of the Tibetan people". It is doubtful that concrete progress will be seen in this regard in the near future for the single reason that Beijing is today not in a mood to listen to any 'advice' from the US (or India). Perhaps more meaningful is the following point: "The US public diplomacy efforts should counter disinformation about Tibet from [Beijing], including disinformation about the history of Tibet, the Tibetan people, and Tibetan institutions, including that of the Dalai Lama." Apart from the new law, the visit to India (and Dharamsala) of former United States House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, along with other members of a Congressional delegation and their audience with the Dalai Lama, needs to be looked into as it raises several questions. Why did the US delegation visit Dharamsala just a few days before the Dalai Lama leaves for the US for knee surgery? Could not the delegation have met the religious leader in the US? But perhaps Washington was keen to involve India in the Tibetan issue? That Delhi agreed to this is clear, as the same delegation was received in Delhi by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister Jaishankar on its return from Dharamsala. The media missed another visit, which was certainly not a coincidence. Xinhua News Agency reported that on June 18, the day the US delegation arrived in Dharamsala, President Xi Jinping conducted an 'investigation' at the Hongjue monastery in Xining City (Qinghai province): "to understand the Tibetan Buddhist community to carry forward.

One of the key concepts in Sanatan Dharma is 'maya'. Nothing is what it seems. This illusory nature of maya leads us into delusion and prevents us from understanding the true nature of things. In the material world, for instance, that which appears 'spontaneous', 'coincidental', 'unrelated' at first glance might have an underlying connection that eludes the naked eye. Take for example, foreign interference in Indian elections, or the illegitimate intrusion of international lobbies in Indian domestic politics. Foreign interference is a serious issue that compromises the sovereignty and integrity of a nation. Chinese manoeuvring in Australian domestic politics led the bilateral relationship almost to a point of no return. The US Senate formed a high-powered intelligence committee to probe allegations of Russian efforts to influence 2016 presidential elections. Despite a restive debate in India that has led the external affairs minister and even the prime minister to comment on the topic bang in the middle of general elections, it is difficult to pinpoint the nature of the meddling, the source, and the way public discourse is being subtly remodelled to build and suit narratives by influence operations. There is no fixed template for foreign interference. Given its amorphous nature, it becomes even more difficult to combat



such information warfare in an open society like India that has a democratic political system, a complex, ram-bunctious polity and a discursive tradition of argumentation and debate. Swirling allegations in India of western interference have always been met with layers of incredulity and plausible deniability. If we can't pinpoint the players in this murky game of shadows, if we can't access their motives, mitigating the challenges becomes nearly impossible. We often hear about Western 'Deep State' and foreign lobbies that are opposed to the so-called 'Hindu nationalist' regime in India, working to subvert the democratically elected government, or even trying to shape electoral outcomes. What is this 'Deep State'? How does it operate? What is its motive? Is it a signifier for the shape-shifting aggregation of western intelligence agencies, perma-bureaucracy, academia, major foundations, multinational corpo-

rates, civil society, political activists, 'human rights' organizations, 'democracy rating' agencies, media outlets and think tanks that further each other's interests and all curiously end up advancing the major goals of American foreign policy, neoliberals and globalists? It all sounds very far-fetched and fantastic, and therein lies its effectiveness. Diffusion is an instrument of statecraft. Tracing the source of influence operations led by the Deep State could be a bit like tracing hackers who keep their IPs bouncing around the globe. And if you can't trace it, you have no case. The omnipotence and omniscience of this ambiguous clique of vested interests paint a maya-jaal (an illusory network) of narratives in a way that not only pushes and establishes preset western notions/ interpretations, but also make the view-points and perspectives seem 'organic' and even indigenous. It also makes targeted action difficult and open to criticism. If a for-

ign journalist's visa is not renewed by the Indian government, the focus is likely to be on the controversy. The government will inevitably be painted as a 'thin-skinned bully' and the fact that a foreign national working in India may have wilfully blurred the line between 'journalism' and 'political activism' will be silently glossed over. It'll invite even more charges of 'democratic backsliding' and 'repression', no matter how ill-placed and misleading those charges are. There have been allegations that the major narrative weapons in the Opposition's armoury, such as 'caste census', in the just concluded general elections where the Narendra Modi-led BJP saw an erosion in power, were provided by shadowy figures of this nebulous foreign adversary. According to painstaking research by Disinfo Lab, an independent OSINT-based research organization, that went after the hydra-headed money trail, it appears that liberal 'philanthropy' funds were pumped out to various fronts, think tanks, western media outlets, and members of academia in nations such as France and the US to influence public discourse in India through a tsunami of macro, micro and meta narratives and impact voter mindset. The pattern of funding, according to their findings, suggests an aim to invalidate the legitimacy of Indian electoral process and

undermine Indian democracy, the world's largest where 642 million Indians recently exercised their voting rights. Former Prasar Bharati chief Shashi Shekhar Vempati's compilation of some of these media headlines are worth a look, if only to have an idea about the depth and scale of the 'seemingly uncoordinated' operations. As I said, 'maya-jaal'. These patterns are visible, however, with a degree of effort. For instance, there has been a lot of noise of late over a report by Australian government-funded ABC News's 'Four Corners' report that highlighted India's alleged actions against Khalistani terrorists based in Australia, one of the nations in the Five Eyes (FVEY) Anglosphere intelligence network comprising Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the US. India is already involved in major controversies with Canada and Washington over the issue of Khalistani terrorism, and the report named 'Infiltrating Australia', claims that the Indian government is prying into the lives of the Indian diaspora to smoke out the Khalistani network, and that at least four Indian diplomats were asked to leave by the Australian government on charges of "spying". Interestingly, while the Australian government has sought to play down the controversy - the media discourse.

Terror attacks in Kashmir: Critical revamping needed in war against terrorism

Even before the abrogation, the authorities made claims that their counter-terrorism efforts had confined the terrorism to three districts of South Kashmir and that the Pir Panjal area, i.e., the Jammu region, had been rid of militancy a long time ago. Hence, post-Article 370 abrogation, the real test was in the Kashmir valley. No one thought of the Pir Panjal area. So, today, almost five years after August 5, 2019, in Kashmir, the spike in the brutal terror attacks in Pir Panjal, an area declared terrorism-free long ago, is more than shocking. Sounding an alarming note, the recent developments suggest the following: First, contrary to official and media versions, the

state's success in crushing the Pakistan-sponsored terrorism is not good enough. Second, in the Kashmir valley, though the big-ticket terror attacks and fidayeen missions are not visible, Islamist outfits like Jamaat-e-Islami are massively working on the ground on radicalisation, restructuring, and strengthening their terror and Islamist networks. Third, the fact that the hard-core Pakistani terrorists infiltrate and strike in Pir Panjal (Jammu region) shows they have robust intelligence penetration and networks and a support base among the local population.

Trends in Kashmir valley

One needs to look at the sentiment in the

Valley and the other developments to understand the trajectory of future trends. The phase after August 5, 2019, has seen a massive boost in tourism in Kashmir. Every year, the tourist footfall breaks its previous records. The local economy and trade have boomed, resulting in a large inflow of capital and growth in the economic prosperity of Kashmir. Present-day Kashmir may have strong separatist and fundamentalist ideological fervour coupled with unprecedented economic prosperity on account of booming tourism and development projects.

The combination of money and anti-India sentiments is a lethal combination.

China's name change spree in Xinjiang and Tibet continues unabated

The Chinese Central government has not only been devising but also religiously implementing the policy to change the names of streets, villages, places, and townships in the country, especially in the minority-dominated areas in its western part. The Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) and the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) have borne the maximum brunt in this process. For example, in Chinese academic parlance, Tibet has been described as Xijiang since 2023. This Chinese trick has two mottoes: firstly, China deliberately attempts to dilute the culture of the minority people, or perhaps aims at stamping out ethno-religious or ethno-cultural identities of the minorities, particularly the Uyghurs and Tibetans; and secondly, it wants to expand the process of sinification by dint of imposing the overarching Chinese communist ideology on the minority people. In a joint report published recently by Human Rights Watch (HRW) and a Norway-based Uyghur organisation (Uyghur Help), the Chinese atrocities on Uyghur culture and identity have come to light time and again. According to the report, the Chinese Central Government has been "systematically changing hun-



dreds of village names" bearing historical, religious, and cultural meanings for Uyghurs into new names that faithfully reflect the ideology of the Communist Party of China (CCP). It is important to note herewith that the name-changing spree in Tibet and Xinjiang by the Chinese can be traced back to the end of the 2000s, particularly after the Tibet unrest in March 2008 and the Urumqi riots (5 July 2009) in XUAR. Along with the stern policy of "Strike Hard, Maximum Pressure" in both Tibet and Xinjiang, it led to massive securitisation and surveillance in both the restive regions in the later period. The Chinese authorities have meted out excesses against Tibetans and Uyghurs. They slyly began one of the government-sponsored measures of "cultural erasure" of the Uyghurs and Tibetans as part of their sinification design. It has been an uphill task for these hapless minorities to maintain their centuries-old unique culture against 75 years

of Chinese onslaught.

The HRW Report gives detailed information, elaborating that as many as 3,600 of a total of 25,000 villages in Xinjiang (almost 15 per cent of the total villages) have witnessed name change in the last one and a half decades (from 2009 to 2023). In 630 villages (nearly one-fifth of the total of 3,600 villages), the names bearing the religion, culture, and history of Uyghurs have witnessed change. The popular Uyghur names, such as Mazar (shrine), Hoja (Sufi teacher), Meschit (mosque), Haniqa (Sufi meeting place), Gumbaz (dome), Orda (palace), Xelpe (Khalifa), Wap (Islamic Foundation), Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca), Dutar (an Uyghur music instrument) and Sultan (Emir), are now replaced with pejorative Chinese names such as Hongxing (Red Star), Qianjin (Forward), Hongqi (Red Flag), Youyi (Friendship), Guangming (Light), Bostan (Oasis), Hexie (harmony).

Climate hypocrisy: West's moral high ground

In 2019, during the UN Climate Action Summit in New York, leaders from industrialised nations delivered impassioned speeches about the urgency of addressing climate change. Yet, behind closed doors, they continued to approve new fossil fuel projects and delay meaningful climate finance commitments. This dichotomy highlights a fundamental hypocrisy in global climate politics: The West often preaches sustainability but falls short in practice, prioritising economic interests over environmental imperatives. As the countdown to the COP29 climate



summit in Azerbaijan this November continues, the Bonn Climate Change Conference in Germany concluded in a stalemate last week. Nations disagreed on the size and scope of loss and damage financing, repre-

senting a significant setback in global climate negotiations. The Bonn talks did not achieve meaningful progress on climate financing, underscoring a persistent issue: industrialised nations, which bear the greatest responsi-

bility for the current climate crisis, resisted calls from Global South countries to compensate those who suffer the most but have contributed the least to greenhouse gas emissions. Over a decade ago, developed nations pledged to mobilise \$100 billion annually by 2020 to support climate action in developing countries. Copenhagen Accord in 2009 and reiterated in the Paris Agreement, has not been met. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) reported that climate finance reached only \$79.6 billion in 2019.

NEET 'paper leak': Unease in Sangh, ABVP

NEW DELHI: The cancellation of the UGC-NET examination and police probes in Bihar and Gujarat into the alleged leak of the NEET-UG question paper have led to unease in the BJP and RSS affiliates including the student wing ABVP which said Thursday that "jab praja ke taraf se sawaal hai, to sarkar ke taraf se jawab hona chahiye (when people ask questions, the government must answer)." Stating there was a "question mark" on the "credibility" of the National Testing Agency (NTA) that conducts these examinations, ABVP national general secretary Yagywalkya Shukla, referring to the NEET fiasco, told The Indian Express: "There is a perception of mismanagement by NTA. How is it that question papers are reaching 15-20 minutes late in certain centres? How is it that 7-8 students from the same centre get 100% marks? How did 67 students



get 720 marks? There is a question mark on NTA's credibility. Aur jab praja ke taraf se sawaal hai, to sarkar ke taraf se jawab hona chahiye." "Could it be that when the national leadership had its attention elsewhere (in the Lok Sabha elections), something wrong happened? The role of NTA is under the cloud of suspicion. ABVP demands that the entire episode should be investigated by the CBI. The role of NTA should be probed. The process of grace marks should be reviewed. Our delegation has already met Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over this." According to Shukla, the ABVP had started

an agitation on June 5. "We raised questions over the grace marks issue on June 6. And on June 8, we declared a nationwide agitation. The government must work towards ensuring transparency in examinations so that trust of students in the system is retained. Millions of dreams, of both students and parents, are associated with these exams," he said. The ABVP has also passed a resolution regarding this in its Rashtriya Karyakari Parishad (national executive). It has also demanded the setting up of a separate Central agency to just investigate irregularities in exams in the country.

Supreme Court declines to stay NEET counselling; Congress begins protest

NEW DELHI Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Thursday launched another attack on PM Modi over the alleged irregularities in NEET and cancellation of UGC-NET. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has "psychologically collapsed" post-elections and will struggle to run a government like this. "We will punish the culprits, and therefore, we have formed a high level committee to probe the matter," said Pradhan today at a press conference. Meanwhile, today morning, while hearing fresh petitions seeking cancellation of NEET UG 2024, the Supreme Court refused to put a stay in the counselling

process. To further intensify their protest against the BJP-led NDA government in the alleged NEET irregularities, the Congress is today hosting a nationwide protest demanding justice for the NEET UG, UGC NET candidates. Dharmendra Pradhan takes 'moral responsibility' for NEET 'errors', sets up high-level panel In a first admission of irregularity in the conduct of the NEET undergraduate exam this year, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Thursday acknowledged there have been "some errors limited to specific regions", referring to Bihar's investigation into allegations of paper leak, and announced the

setting up of a high-level committee to fix responsibility within the NTA and review its structure and functioning. One of the people suspected of being behind an alleged question paper leak of NEET UG 2024 has told the Bihar police that four aspirants had gathered at a location chosen by him a night before the exam and "memorised answers" of questions from the paper. The Congress party in J&K has started a protest in the area, as a part of the nationwide protest being carried out by Congress today. The J&K wing of Gandhi-led political party is demanding cancellation of NEET UG 2024.

As Patnaik begins a new innings as Opposition leader, in his Assembly team?

Former Odisha chief minister Naveen Patnaik is all set to begin his new innings — this time on the Opposition benches. On , BJD's legislature party elected him as the Leader of the Opposition after his party lost the state assembly polls to the Bharatiya Janata Party.

or Patnaik, a five-time CM who hasn't lost a single election since his Lok Sabha debut in 1997, this marks a significant change — this is the first time since the BJD's assembly debut in 2000 that the former CM will occupy the Opposition bench. Along with him,

the BJD also elected senior MLA Prasanna Acharya as the deputy leader of the legislature party. Former speaker Pramila Mallik will be the chief whip of the party while former minister Pratap Keshari Deb has been picked as its deputy chief whip.

CAPSULES

As Sukhu's wife hits campaign trail, Himachal Congress divisions come bubbling up

Kangra

Even before Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu's wife Kamlesh Thakur could reach Dehra in Kangra district on Thursday to launch her campaign for the July 10 Assembly bypoll, problems had flared up for her in this high-stakes battlefield. State Congress treasurer Dr Rajesh Sharma, whose name Himachal Pradesh Congress Committee (HPCC) president Pratibha Singh had recommended for the ticket, vented his anger at Sukhu at a public meeting in Dehra on Wednesday, accusing him of mental harassment. "If anything happens to me, my wife or children, then CM Sukhu will be responsible," Sharma said. Soon afterwards, the Congress leader suffered what was described as a panic attack and was admitted to a hospital in Kangra. A day before, on Tuesday, Thakur's candidature was announced even though Sukhu said more than once that he was not keen on the ticket for his wife. Although Thakur has been an active member of the HPCC for around two decades, she will be making her electoral debut on July 19. In an attempt to end the conflict, she said at her first election rally on Thursday, "Dr Sharma is like a brother. We will soon settle our differences mutually," Thakur told reporters that there would be no lack of development in Dehra and added that "every issue in the constituency will be resolved with the help of the the CM". She said Dehra was her maternal home and no daughter would want her maternal home to remain underdeveloped.

EC sets the ball rolling for J-K polls, electoral roll to be published by Aug

Jammu and Kashmir The poll panel has also started the process for holding 47 by-polls that are due across the country, they said. (Express file photo) The Election Commission (EC) this week kicked off preparations for holding Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana, Jharkhand, and Maharashtra, by announcing the revision of the electoral rolls by August 20. Sources said the EC wrote to the Chief



Electoral Officers of the poll-bound states and Union Territory on Thursday, giving the schedule of the special summary revision (SSR) of the electoral roll. In a statement on Friday, the EC said the pre-special summary revision exercises, including rationalising the loca-

tions of polling stations to make them more convenient, would start on June 25. The electoral rolls would be updated with the cut-off date of July 1 in the poll-bound states and UT — Haryana, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, and J-K, the EC said. The draft rolls would be pub-

lished on July 25, after which electors have the chance to file claims and objections till August 9. The publication of the final electoral roll will be done by August 20, as per the schedule. While J-K has not had an Assembly in place since it was dissolved in 2018, the term of the Haryana, Maharashtra, and Jharkhand assemblies is ending on November 11, November 26, and January 5, 2025, meaning the elections have to be completed before that.

Bengal CM set to inaugurate Jagannath temple in coastal town

Medinipur West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is all set to inaugurate a Jagannath temple in the coastal town of Digha in Purba Medinipur district in the first week of July. Sources in the state administration said she could inaugurate the temple on the first day of the Ratha Yatra festival, which begins on July 7. "The temple is now ready for inauguration. We are waiting for the CM's green signal. After we receive that, we will officially announce the inaugu-



ration date," said a state government official. The Jagannath Dham, built as a replica of the Jagannath temple in Puri in neighbouring Odisha, is located in the seaside resort town adjacent to New Digha



railway station. Spread across 22 acres, the temple, a pet project of the CM, was built for Rs 143 crore, according to the state urban development department. The Jagannath Dham has been built by the West Bengal

Housing Infrastructure Development Corporation (WBHIDCO), with the Kolkata-based Design Studio handling the design and architecture. Banerjee laid the foundation stone of the temple, which is located eight km from Chandaneswar temple in Odisha's Balasore district, in 2019. Back then, she claimed that she expected the temple to generate a foot-fall equal to the temple in Puri and said tourists would enjoy the same facilities on Digha's beaches as in Puri.

Kerala JD(S) gives in to LDF pressure, set to form new outfit

Kerala The Janata Dal (Secular)'s Kerala unit, which is an ally of the CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) in the state, has decided to float a new outfit, saying that it cannot be part of a party that allies with the BJP. The JD(S)'s Kerala unit president and MLA Mathew T Thomas told the media Wednesday: "The party in Kerala does not want to be known as a fraction of a party that is an ally of BJP. After considering legal aspects, we will take a decision in such a manner to allow all elected members of the party, including those in local bodies, to continue in their posts. A new party will be registered and the state unit of the JD (S) will get merged into that new party," he said. The JD(S) has two MLAs in Kerala —



Thomas and K Krishnakutty. The latter is the power minister in the CPM-led LDF government. The JD(S) joined the BJP-led NDA in September 2023. Since then, the CPM has been putting pressure on the state JD(S) unit to either cut ties with the JD(S) leadership or exit the LDF in the state. The JD(S)'s Kerala unit had then even announced that it had decided to snap ties with the parent party and that it would explore the option of forming a new party to remain with the LDF. But there was no movement on that

front so far. The issue has now assumed urgency after the JD(S) joined the Narendra Modi-led NDA government 3.0 earlier this month, with senior JD(S) leader H D Kumaraswamy inducted as the Union minister of steel and heavy industries. The CPM started facing heat from other allies of the LDF. Last week, the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), which has one MLA in Kerala, has raised questions over the JD(S) continuing to be a part of the LDF Cabinet headed by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

Buzz over his 'exit' from NCP, Bhujbal keeps Mahayuti, MVA on tenterhooks

Maharashtra civil supplies minister and senior Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Chhagan Bhujbal is known in state political circles as a firebrand who often speaks his mind. Bhujbal seems to be again keeping his party and the Mahayuti coalition guessing, this time over the Maratha quota issue as well as the Rajya Sabha nomination for party chief Ajit Pawar's wife Suntera. The speculation about Bhujbal's exit from his party amid reports of rising tension among the Mahayuti partners — including the BJP, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and Ajit-led NCP — after the NDA's poor show in the recent Lok Sabha polls appears to be adding to the ruling camp's troubles in the



run-up to the state Assembly polls slated for October this year. Meanwhile, fuelling the buzz, Shiv Sena (UBT) president Uddhav Thackeray referred to reports about Bhujbal's possible exit during his address at his party's foundation day event Wednesday. Even as Bhujbal, seen as one of the tallest OBC leaders of the state, has denied any such moves, his statements on being denied the Rajya Sabha berth by

the NCP and his opposition to the inclusion of Marathas in the OBC category have left the Mahayuti leaders red-faced. "I am not upset. While working in a political party you have to make collective decisions. Everything does not happen as per one's wish... There were many aspirants (for a Rajya Sabha berth) but only one can get the nomination. I am not an Independent that I will go by my wish. As a party worker, a party

leader, one has to abide by the party's decision. Sometimes the party faces some compulsions," Bhujbal had said while dispelling rumours that he was upset over Sunetra's nomination. Earlier this week, at a meeting of its supporters, the Bhujbal-headed Mahatma Phule Samata Parishad — an umbrella organisation of the OBC organisations — decided to press for a caste survey — a move which is likely to deepen the fissures between the Mahayuti partners. In the past, Ajit Pawar too has demanded a caste survey on the lines of the one conducted in Bihar by CM and JD(U) supremo Nitish Kumar. Besides, Bhujbal's position has been at odds with the BJP-led NDA's stand on several issues.

'We didn't play him well': Afghanistan coach Jonathan

NEW DELHI: Afghanistan coach Jonathan Trott pointed out the failure to execute plans against India's pace bowler Jasprit Bumrah for their loss in the T20 World Cup Super Eight clash on Thursday. Trott also expressed his disappointment over his team's shot selection in their defeat. "Obviously, Bumrah is going to be a key bowler for any side. For India, he's crucial and we needed to play him better. His figures suggest we didn't play him very well. We'd obviously spoken about it and how we were going to play him. So, we weren't able to execute that and, yeah, that's very disappointing," Trott was quoted as saying by Reuters after the match. "Obviously disappointed with a few of the shots or the decision-making," Trott added. Trott supported skipper Rashid Khan's decision to use his overs early and emphasized the need for other bowlers to step up.

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



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

"One of the gatemen said that he had seen the train passing at a speed higher than the allowed limit and had immediately called Rangapani station to alert them. We are checking the timing of the landline conversation and are questioning the station manager and other officials about what they had done

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

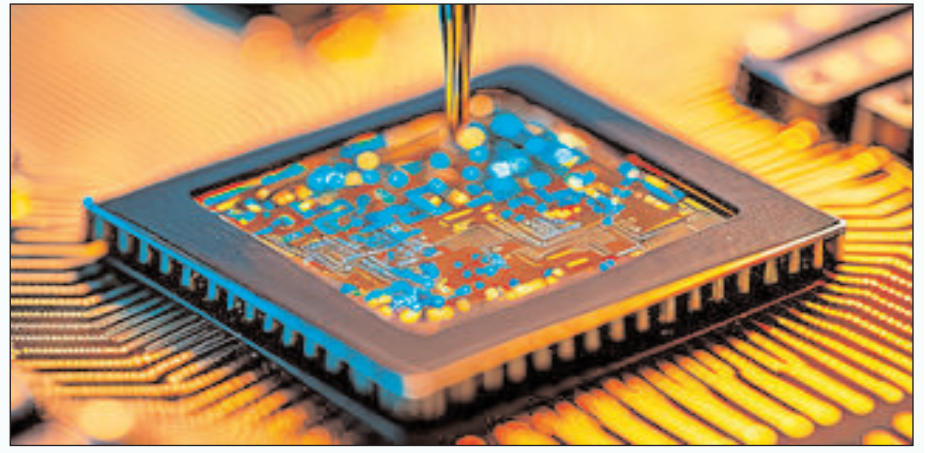
additional divisional railway manager's office in Siliguri. Probe day 1_ Level-crossing gateman had alerted about goods train speed. So far around 30 people - including railway personnel, multiple witnesses and rescuers who reached the spot immediately after the accident - have been called to help the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

said that he had seen the train passing at a speed higher than the allowed limit and had immediately called Rangapani station to alert them. We are checking the timing of the landline conversation and are questioning the station manager and other officials about what they had done after receiving the information," said Surendra Kumar, divisional railway manager, Katihar Division, who is part of the investigation team.

Beyond Rs 76k-crore: Government to scale up semiconductor package

NEW DELHI:

Government is looking at rolling out a fresh multi-billion-dollar incentive package for semiconductor companies after nearly exhausting the Rs 76,000-crore plan that was launched in Dec 2021 for supporting investing companies, top sources told TOI. Preliminary work on the new package, which is "in all likelihood be much bigger than the previous one", has already begun, even though announcements in this regard will be made only once the new govt takes charge post the national elections, they said. "The new package would be one of the key agendas for the new govt and will be taken up on a priority basis," one of the sources said, pointing out that new proposals that are coming in for semiconductors necessitate a fresh package. "The matter would be tabled before the new Cabinet as some of the proposals are at an advanced



stage and would require immediate assurances from the state in terms of incentives," the source said. Success of Dec 2021 package is prompting the govt to work out a new one, especially in view of the aggressive stance of countries such as the US and China, which have announced much bigger packages for companies that are investing in semiconductors. Under the current plan, govt extends fiscal support of up to 50% of a project's cost to eligible display and semiconductor fabricators. This has been almost exhausted after

the spate of investments that came in. India, which had previously failed to get any credible proposals for semiconductor manufacturing after trying for decades, finally managed to score big after American Micron emerged as the first major player to enter the space with a Rs 22,500-crore testing and packaging unit in Gujarat in June last year. This was followed up with approval to three proposals worth nearly Rs 1.3 lakh crore in Feb this year. These comprise: Rs 91,000-crore project of Tata to set up India's first semiconductor fab unit.

Modi praised me earlier but now wants my defeat: Sharad Pawar

PUNE/NASHIK: Sharad Pawar on Sunday said PM Narendra Modi is inconsistent with his views and his stand. "When he spoke in Delhi, he said I have done historic work as Union agriculture minister. In Baramati, the PM said he came into national politics by holding my finger. But now, he says that anything and everything should be done to defeat me in Baramati," Pawar said at a public rally on Sunday.

Delhi plans to plant 2.3 lakh trees and 3.8 lakh bushes in parks

Delhi: To reduce dust pollution and increase green cover, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi plans to plant 2.3 lakh trees and 3.8 lakh bushes in parks, schools, open spaces, and roadsides this year. In 2023-24, the city planted two lakh trees and 3.25 lakh plants. The horticulture department requested zonal office requirements to complete the assignment. "We will plant when the details are acquired. An officer stated schools, hospitals, parks, and below flyovers are used for this. He stated that the government will continue roadside tree planting in some colonies at homeowners' request.

MCD plans to carpet or repair 50 km of interior roadways by Oct. to reduce dust. Between April 2023 and February 2024, 139 km of roads were resurfaced or repaired. A civic council wants to resurface 180km of roads by Oct. Road maintenance and resurfacing are ongoing. After winter, we started dense carpet work on damaged areas. Work is being done with MLA or Mukhyamantri Sadak Punarnirman Yojna non-plan head funding "said the official. Our 52 mechanical road sweepers are for PWD roads. He added that 195 water sprinklers, jet machines, and 30 mobile anti-smog guns are reducing dust pollution on roadways. PWD gave MCD 60 anti-smog weapons to reduce dust near construction sites. In highrises, 15 smog cannons are deployed. The official claimed these work as needed. In response to summer fires, MCD has limited unauthorised entry and the carrying of cigarettes, bidis, lighters, and matchboxes. "Supervisory staff must notify Delhi Fire Services immediately of fires.

Junior engineers and supervisors have SOPs for 24/7 landfill supervision. The official stated fresh solid garbage is unloaded, compacted, and coated with bio-cover to prevent fires.

UPA govt. faltered on free ration, ours giving succour to 80 crore: BJP

NEW DELHI: BJP on Sunday claimed that Congress-led UPA had expressed inability to distribute free ration despite a Supreme Court order and contrasted the approach of the Manmohan Singh govt with free ration being given to over 80 crore people by the Modi govt under PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana since the pandemic. "On 6th Sept 2010,



Manmohan Singh said, 'govt will do all it can to provide affordable food to those below the poverty line but cannot implement Supreme Court's order to give free

foodgrain to the poor'. He further said 'Supreme Court should not go into the realm of policy formulation', BJP IT department head Amit Malviya said as he shared a media

report of 2010. BJP functionary said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi provided free ration to over 80 crore people. "If Congress comes, it will kick the stomach of the poor," he added. In Aug 2010, Supreme Court had said agriculture minister Sharad Pawar should figure out how to give away the excess foodgrain to poor families.

EC publishes a "rate list" for enticing competitions

Delhi: you can get a buffet or a packed lunch that includes two curries, rice, achaar, roti, and sweets for Rs 80. You can also get a mini meal of chhole bhature or poori aalu for Rs 37. You can also get a small cup of tea or coffee for Rs 6. These prices do not include the cost of a roadside eatery or canteen. Every cup of tea or coffee, packed lunch, or small meal provided to a political worker conducting a

campaign during the capital election will be tracked and contributed to the candidate's overall poll expenditure. Not only will food costs be important, but so will the price of the chairs and tables that will be used at candidate polling places or during election gatherings. The candidates' election expenses also include the cost of renting vehicles for campaigning, posting posters, banners, and

hoardings, hiring a man to beat a drum, hiring horses and elephants for a road show, and hiring videographers, photographers, and drones to record the events. Every penny spent by the candidates is tracked from the time of nomination filing to the casting of ballots, with the total amount not to exceed the Rs 75 lakh cap on election expenses set by the Election Commission of India.

China continues LAC infrastructure build-up 4 years into face-off

NEW DELHI: Four years into the face-to-face military confrontation in eastern Ladakh, which also triggered tensions all along the Line of Actual Control, there has been no let-up in the way China continues to build border infrastructure and dual-use 'Xiaokang' villages, strengthen military positions and deploy additional aircraft at its air-bases facing India. Latest satellite imagery, intelligence reports and other inputs show this ongoing Chinese activity in all the three sectors of the 3,488-km LAC, stretching from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh, defence and security establishment sources told. "People's Liberation Army (PLA) is relentlessly consolidating its military positions and support infrastructure in various depth and staging areas along the LAC, including near the buffer zones created after troop disengagements in eastern Ladakh," a source said. China con-



tinues LAC infra build-up 4 yrs into face-off, shows latest satellite imagery. Increased PLA activity is seen in the eastern sector near Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh and Naku La in north Sikkim, a defence source said. India also continues to match PLA with 'mirror military deployments'. China, for instance, recently completed construction of a road from the north of Samzungling to the Galwan Valley, providing the PLA with a 15-km shorter alternate axis to rapidly build-up troops in the area. A no-patrol buffer zone was created around Patrolling Point-14 in Galwan Valley three weeks

after the violent clash in which 20 Indian soldiers and an unspecified number of Chinese troops were killed there on June 15, 2020. Similarly, sources said, PLA has been progressively strengthening military and transport infrastructure to the rear of the other buffer zones on both banks of Pangong Tso, including the Kailash range, and Gogra-Hot Springs, all of which have largely come up in areas that India considers its own territory. PLA has also been focussing on last-mile connectivity through roads, bridges, tunnels and helpads to its forward positions. , while also construct-

ing new bunkers, camps, underground shelters, artillery positions, radar sites and ammunition dumps in other stretches of the LAC. "This increased PLA activity is especially being seen in the eastern sector, across Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh

and Naku La in north Sikkim," another source said.

India, of course, continues to match the PLA with "mirror military deployments", while it has also majorly cranked up infrastructure and capability development along the frontier, as earlier reported by TOI.

China has also offset some of its air combat disadvantage due to high-altitude terrain constraints by deploying additional fighters, bombers, reconnaissance aircraft and drones after upgrading its airfields like Hotan, Kashgar, Gargunsa, Shigatse, Bangda, Nyingchi and Heping, among.

Sahil Khan held in C'garh in 15k cr betting app case

MUMBAI: Actor Sahil Khan was arrested on Sunday in connection with his alleged role in the Rs 15,000 crore Mahadev betting app case. Khan (50) was produced in court and was sent to police custody till May 1. An SIT of crime branch nabbed him from a hotel in Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh. Khan, who had been working as a fitness expert until recently, had fled the city on April 24 and had been dodging the police by constantly changing his location. After his anticipatory bail application was rejected by Bombay HC on April 24, police had been trying to nab him. To track down his whereabouts, police were tracking his location which showed he was constantly on the move at different points of time.

Gadchiroli in Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Telangana, and Chhattisgarh. A senior crime branch officer said Khan was a partner in a betting app firm. "He had been promoting the app through social media and had also forged some documents.

One-year DDA flat maintenance with RWAs

Delhi: Delhi Development Authority would give residents' welfare societies maintenance work within a year of creation to ensure flat maintenance. This will also apply to Diwali Special Housing Scheme 2023 units. This conclusion followed Real Estate Regulatory Authority criteria. A maintenance fee is normally collected by DDA during allotment. It has maintained flats for 10-20 years, depending on the scheme. A DDA official stated that applicants must join the registered agency or RWA to maintain common services. Per pocket, one RWA will be registered. All new DDA plans require upfront monthly costs for one year, depending on flat type. "DDA shall do daily maintenance from maintenance charges for one year or until RWA is formed, whichever comes first. An RWA will get the balance

maintenance fund if it is founded before one year. If a RWA is not created within a year, it will be done on actuals "said the official. "For subsequent years, the necessary arrangement will be communicated to the residents," he said. Residents expect standard changes to speed up DDA flat maintenance, which had been delayed for a long period. The authority defined maintenance as green space maintenance, campus, colony, and housing pocket cleaning, light fitting replacement in common areas, lift maintenance and operation, and common area electrical bill payment. "After transfer, the urban authority will be responsible for common areas in many housing pockets. The authority indicated in a pamphlet that DDA will maintain the area until the urban body takes possession.

How first battle between Modi govt 3.0, INDIA bloc hits a flashpoint over NEET

New Delhi: With the Lok Sabha election results signalling a resurgent Opposition INDIA bloc, the raging row over alleged irregularities in the NEET-UG examination and the now-cancelled UGC-NET examination have become the first major issue of conflict between the new BJP-led NDA government and the Opposition alliance. This is set to make stormy the first session of the 18th Lok Sabha beginning June 24. The Congress-led Opposition has made its intent clear soon after the poll results — that it will not let the government rest, vowing that it would be a “fierce challenger” on issues of national importance. At a press conference in Delhi two days ago, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi repeatedly attacked the government and Prime Minister Narendra Modi over their



alleged failures to stop paper leaks. Rahul made it clear that the Modi government 3.0 will face “intense scrutiny” of the Opposition on various public issues. “They (government) can indulge in eye-wash. But they will face such pressure from the Opposition that they are going to think twice about whatever they are doing. We will make sure that we put so much pressure on them that this issue (leaks of exam papers) is resolved,” Rahul said. He added that the Opposition would raise this issue in the upcoming session of Parliament. **Was paper leaks a**

poll issue? During the recent Lok Sabha polls, which saw the INDIA bloc win 234 seats, the issue of paper leaks featured frequently in the election speeches of prominent Opposition faces — including Rahul, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav, among other INDIA leaders — as a way to reach out to the youth. The Congress, in its manifesto, had promised fast-track courts to adjudicate cases related to question paper leaks.

Guntur: A row broke out over the demolition of an office of YSRCP in Guntur district on Saturday with party chief Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy accusing Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu of functioning “like a dictator”. “Chandrababu took vendetta politics to the next level. Like a dictator, he got YSRCP’s central office demolished with excavators and bulldozers, which was almost complete,” he said in a post on X. Former CM Jagan also accused the state government of carrying out the demolition against the high court orders.

What had the high court said about demolition activity? According to a statement by YSRCP, the Andhra Pradesh High Court on Friday had ordered the demolition to be halted. The order was also conveyed to the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) commissioner by a party lawyer, but the authority is said to



have still gone ahead and demolished the structure at 5.30 am on Saturday. “The demolition proceeded even though the YSRCP had approached the High Court the previous day (Friday), challenging the preliminary actions of the CRDA (Capital Region Development Authority),” the statement read. According to YSRCP, CRDA’s action amounts to contempt of court. “Law and justice completely vanished”: Jagan on NDA govt in Andhra. The former chief minister lashed out at the newly-formed NDA government in the state and added that the demolition indicates how Naidu’s reign in the next five

years would be. “Law and justice have completely disappeared in the state,” he said in his post. The NDA government in the state comprises of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) in alliance with Pawan Kalyan’s Jana Sena Party and the BJP. In the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, the TDP won 16 seats while its allies won three (BJP) and two (JSP) respectively. In the state Assembly polls which were held simultaneously, the TDP won 136 Assembly seats, while the JSP and BJP emerged victorious in 21 and eight seats respectively. The Jagan Mohan Reddy-led YSRCP was restricted to 11 seats, down from the 151 it won in 2019.

Like a dictator’: Jagan Mohan Reddy hits out at Andhra CM

CAPSULES

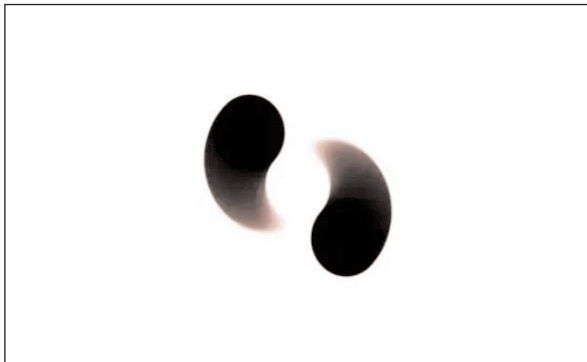
Aundh-Baner residents grapple with inadequate garbage disposal problem and its consequences

Ill-equipped waste disposal systems, leading to garbage getting piled at various points, is a cause of worry for residents of Aundh, an area which is otherwise considered as one of Pune’s most developed and progressive zones. Residents are concerned about the problems that could be caused by frequent dumping of trash at various spots in the Aundh-Baner areas, such as those between Jupiter Hospital and Nagras Road. “I know there are these agencies that dump garbage anywhere in Aundh; there are specific spots. There is no control at all,” noted Subhabrata Sanyal, 51, a resident of Kumar Padmalay. He said the waste menace could also draw in more stray dogs, posing a threat to people going for morning and evening walks.

“When you walk onto the streets, you can see food littered all over, that attracts stray dogs. In case we go near the garbage by mistake, these animals could even attack us,” observed Deepa Adiga, 47, a resident of Sylvan Heights. Residents blamed lack of a proper collection system by the municipality for the mounting garbage piles. “Sometimes the municipal truck may be arriving at a particular time and the waste is generated later, particularly by restaurants where the waste is generated very late at night, post 11 pm or midnight, after the restaurant is closed,” said Anil Gokarn, founder of ProEarth Co., a company that deals with effective waste management.

Meet Dot, a new AI chatbot that could become your ‘friend, companion and confidant’

AI chatbots like Gemini, ChatGPT, and Copilot may be helping you with work and everyday tasks, but Dot AI is designed as a digital companion that mimics human speech and empathy. Developed by New Computer, a startup founded by ex-Apple designer Jason Yuan and engineer Sam Whitmore, the app is currently available for free on the Apple App Store. While it may appear to be just another AI chatbot at first glance, what makes Dot unique is



its ability to remember your conversations to offer a more personalized experience. As of now, there are no specific details on the underlying technology, but some reports suggest that Dot AI uses natural language pro-

cessing in combination with machine learning to understand user inputs and generate responses. Unlike ChatGPT, Gemini, and Copilot, which focus on providing factually correct information, Dot AI focuses on

emotional support and intelligence. Dot AI App Store For unlimited conversations, you have to buy a monthly subscription. According to the Apple App Store listing, Dot AI is described as a “friend, companion, and confidant.” On opening the app, users are taken through an onboarding process with questions like “What do you do for work?”, “Favorite TV show?”, and “How do you spend a typical Sunday?” Based on these answers, the chatbot asks more

about the user.

Subscribe for new launches, reviews and all that’s making headlines in the tech world. The App Store description also indicates that Dot AI has an infinite long-term memory and can assist with career advice and date spot recommendations. While a free plan offers limited conversations, users can bypass this limit by purchasing the paid plan for \$11.99 per month, which includes access to Chronicles, a feature that curates a history of the user.

Tamil Nadu govt to rehabilitate reformed bootleggers

Tamil Nadu:

Prohibition and Excise Minister S Muthusamy told the legislative assembly on Friday that bootleggers who are remorseful and wish to turn over a new leaf will be rehabilitated after they serve a prison term. Such persons who repent for their wrongdoings should be rehabilitated to prevent them from returning to bootlegging, he said. The minister’s statement comes amid the hooch tragedy that has claimed the lives of 48



persons and has affected the health of more than 100 people, who are currently undergoing treatment at various hospitals. “Persons punished for the offence of distilling and selling illicit arrack will be rehabilitated if they show a change of heart, after serving a term,” Muthusamy said. They will be provided a sub-

sidy of Rs 50,000 each and encouraged to start a trade on their own. The government has earmarked Rs 5 crore for the rehabilitation fund, he said replying to the demand for grants for his department. Further, an integrated scheme will be formulated to equip them with the required skills through various departments, he added. A campaign to create awareness among the people, particularly the youth, on the dangers of consuming illicit arrack.

No request yet from Nikhil Gupta for consular access: MEA

New Delhi: Indian authorities haven’t received any request for consular access from Nikhil Gupta, the Indian national extradited to the US from the Czech Republic following allegations of his involvement in a foiled plot to assassinate Khalistani extremist Pannun. Gupta, who was arrested in the Czech Republic in June last year, was extradited to the US on June 14. “He was extradited to the US on June 14. We have so far not received any request for consular access from Gupta but his family has got in touch with us,” External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. “We are in touch with the family mem-



bers and are looking at the matter as to what can be done on their request,” he said during his weekly media briefing while replying to a question. Gupta, 53, pleaded not guilty when he was produced in a court in New York on June 17. While Gupta was in custody of Czech authorities, Indian officials were given consular access to him on a few occasions. Last November, US federal prosecutors charged Gupta with working with an Indian government

employee in the foiled plot to kill Pannun in New York. Pannun, wanted in India on terror charges, holds dual of the US and Canada. The issue of consular access to Gupta would be decided in line with provisions of the Vienna Convention on Consular of 1963, people familiar with the matter said. Article 36 of the Convention states that a detained person will have to make a request for consular access to authorities of his or her country. “Nevertheless, consular officers shall refrain from taking action on behalf of a national who is in prison, custody or detention if he expressly opposes such action,” the article states.

National Conference urges PM to keep his word on holding J-K polls

Jammu: The National Conference urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to back his word on holding assembly elections, restoring statehood and bridging development gaps in Jammu and Kashmir with concrete action. In a statement, NC leaders and members-elect of Parliament, Mian Altaf Ahmad and Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi, said the people of Jammu and Kashmir “are tired of empty promises and meaningless rhetoric”. “It is time for some real progress. Let’s see some action instead of just words. The people of J-K deserve more than just lip service.

It is time for the prime minister to deliver on his promises and bring about real change in the region. The future of J-K hangs in balance, and it is up to PM



Modi to make a difference.

The time for action is now,” they said. The newly elected MPs said the people of J-K “have been dealt a raw deal for the past 10 years”. “They (people) are demanding action, not just empty words. Our people lament the lack of progress despite all the talk of humanity, democracy, and bridging ‘Dil Ki Doori’. It seems like all we have gotten are vague promises and no real answers about where the funds are going,” the joint statement

said. The MPs-elect said people were expecting big announcements about infrastructure projects like Gurez, Simthan, Mughal Road and Karna tunnels, as well as a substantial employment package for the youth. during the two-day trip of the prime minister to the valley. n’But, alas, all they got was big disappointment. With over 14 lakh educated individuals twiddling their thumbs due to unemployment, what good does it do to issue a measly.

Seasoned diplomat and India’s envoy to Turkiye Virander Paul dies

New Delhi: A 1991-batch IFS officer, Paul was struggling with health issues for over one-and-a-half years and he breathed his last at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Delhi this evening, one of his colleagues said. “Deeply grieved at the passing away of Virander Paul, our Ambassador in Türkiye,” Jaishankar said on X. “A great loss to the Indian Foreign Service. Have worked closely with him in his many postings. Always admired his commitment and service and value his many contributions,” he said. Paul held a medical degree from AIIMS. The external affairs minister also conveyed his “deepest condolences” to Paul’s family. Paul is survived by his wife Racheline and two daughters. “We are deeply sad-

dened at the untimely demise of Ambassador Virander Paul, India’s envoy to Turkiye. A dedicated officer, he will always be remembered for his exceptional human qualities and impactful professional contribution,” external affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. “Our heartfelt condolences to his family. Team @MEAIndia stands with them in this difficult hour,” he said on X. Before arriving in Ankara as ambassador of India to Türkiye in the second half of 2022, he was India’s High Commissioner to Kenya and Ambassador to Somalia. Prior to that, he served as additional secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, dealing with multilateral engagement in India’s neighbourhood.

Behind encounter: A missing guide and 2 militants who lost their way

Kathua : The Jammu and Kashmir police have detained two persons who allegedly have guided two militants to the house of an alleged terror associate at Sherpur village in Kathua district's Hiranagar tehsil. After staying at the house, the militants, who infiltrated from Pakistan, ended up in Saida village. Sources told The Indian Express that the two were only caught because a guide who was to accompany them did not show up, and in his absence, they lost the way. At Saida, the two were killed by security forces in an encounter that took place on June 11 and 12. A CRPF personnel was also killed in the encounter. The detained persons, residents of Bathal Chak village in Hiranagar, had claimed that they had come across the militants incidentally, and on being asked, told them the way to the house of the terror associate. According to sources,



police and security forces were not convinced by this version of events, particularly as they did not inform authorities about the incident even after the two militants were killed in the encounter. Police sources said searches were in progress for two more persons, one in whose house the militants stayed for a night and another who was to guide them to the mountains of Udhampur, from where they would have headed either to Doda district or the Kashmir Valley. Sources said the militants, after crossing the International Border into Hiranagar sector, were guided to the house of a terror associate at Sherpur village by the two detained persons.

They stayed at the house for a night, and the next morning, were to be met by a guide, who did not turn up. So, the two militants proceeded towards the forests of Udhampur district on their own. Without a local guide, they lost their way and reached Saida village, where they knocked at a door for water. Residents of the village raised the alarm after seeing them, which resulted in the arrival of the security forces and the ensuing of the encounter in which the two were killed. Separately, the Jammu and Kashmir police said they arrested three people in connection with back-to-back militant attacks on security forces in Doda district.

New Delhi: It is strange police were restrained by a court from arresting former Karnataka chief minister B S Yediyurappa, while Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal and former Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren — both arrested in separate cases — were being treated like any "Tom, Dick or Harry", Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal. Earlier this month, the Karnataka High Court restrained the police from arresting Yediyurappa in a Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) case registered against him. While passing the order, the court had reportedly said he is a former



CM and not some Tom, Dick and Harry. The Delhi high court Friday granted interim stay on the trial court's order giving bail to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in the money laundering case linked to the alleged excise scam. In a post on X, Sibal said, "Judge: Granted anticipatory bail in alleged sexual abuse case to

Yediyurappa saying: He is no Tom, Dick or Harry. H D Ravanna granted bail in alleged kidnapping case." "Arvind Kejriwal, Hemant Soren regarded as Tom, Dick or Harry! Strange," the senior advocate and Supreme Court Bar Association president said. The high court has also issued a notice to Kejriwal seeking his response on ED's plea challenging the trial court's June 20 order by which he was granted bail. "Till the pronouncement of this order, the operation of the impugned order shall remain stayed," a vacation bench of Justice Sudhir Kumar Jain said.

Odisha to sponsor Hockey India till 2036

Bhubhneswar : The Odisha government on Friday announced the extension of its sponsorship for Hockey India until 2036 — a year that marks the centenary of the state's formation in 1936.

The decision was taken after a Hockey India delegation met new Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi at the

state guest house in Bhubaneswar. "During the meeting, we discussed the advancement of sports and strategies to elevate our beloved sport to new heights.

We are deeply thankful to government of Odisha for its steadfast support and commitment to Indian hockey," said Hockey India pres-

ident Dilip Tirkey. Hockey India Secretary General Bhola Nath Singh said the state government has consistently been a pillar of strength for the sport. "The decision to consider extending our partnership until 2036 underscores their dedication to sports and youth development," he said.

Less than 24 hours after 15 school students were hospitalised in Tripura

Tripura: Less than 24 hours after at least 15 school girls were hospitalised in Agartala after complaining of stomach ache and chest pain during the prayer sessions at the schools, the government on Friday terminated the services of the warden and caretaker of one of the hostels where these students live. Over 20 students of two different schools — Bodh Jung Girls School and Maharani Tulsibati Girls Higher Secondary School — were rushed to



Agartala Government Medical College (AGMC) and Gobind Ballabh Pant (GBP) hospital on Thursday in ambulances after the school authority intervened. Around 15 of them were admitted at the hospital while the others received primary treatment. The students, most of

whom stay at the Maharaja Hostel in Indranagar, had eaten rice and pulses before reaching school. Tripura Chief Minister Dr Manik Saha, who is also the health minister of the state, visited the GBP Hospital soon after, the incident came to light and he ordered a probe. As

the investigation continues, Additional Secretary and Director of Tribal Welfare Department S Prabhu wrote to the authorities of Maharaja Bir Bikram Welfare Residential Hostel and said ten boarders of the hostel were admitted to the hospital after they complained of stomach ache and vomiting. The official said, "During the inspection of the hostel, it was found that it is not functioning as per the required hygiene standards.

IMD predicts 'no heatwave for 4-5 days', light rain spell in most of country

New Delhi: The Meteorological Department (IMD)

has predicted that "no heatwave conditions" are likely "in most parts of the country for the next four-five days" — a forecast that's likely to bring some relief to the sweltering national capital. The department's forecast predicts a possibility for a light spell of rains, dust storms or thunderstorms Friday. A minimum temperature of 28.4 degree



Celsius was recorded at Delhi's Safdarjung base station. For over a month, Delhi has been recording maximum temperature of over 40 degree Celsius. In its weekly fore-

cast, the IMD said that the maximum temperature in Delhi is expected to rise slightly to 43°C after the weekend. The IMD also predicted in its bulletin that heatwave conditions will "very likely"

remain in isolated pockets of West Uttar Pradesh throughout the weekend (21 to 23 June) and will abate thereafter. Scattered rainfall is likely in Eastern parts of Uttar Pradesh.

Fifty-four people died of heat-related deaths in Delhi in the last two days — 34 on Wednesday and 20 on Thursday. Of these 13 were reported from Safdarjung Hospital and seven from RML Hospital.

NTCA seeks states on relocation of villages from tiger reserves

New Delhi: NTCA, National Tiger Conservation Authority, tiger reserves, relocation of villages from tiger reserves, Indian express news, current affairs Those who opt for a resettlement and rehabilitation package are entitled to 2 hectares of land, homestead land and



house construction, a one-time financial incentive and basic amenities such as road, water, sanitation, electricity and telecommunication. In a letter to the state wildlife departments, the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) had sought a timeline and action plan on relocation of villages situated inside the critical tiger habitats of tiger reserves. Under the Environment Ministry, NTCA oversees tiger conservation and Project Tiger. Sources said that the letter, written

in light of a review of the status of voluntary village relocation from core areas, asked the state wildlife department to follow-up on the issue on a priority basis. The NTCA has stated there are about 600 villages comprising 64,801 families residing in core areas. The core or critical tiger habitats are areas inside tiger reserves that are kept "inviolate" as per provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act's 2006 amendment for maintaining a viable population of breeding tigers.

India says peace at Chinese border key as direct flights remain stalled

New Delhi: India China direct flights, India China border issues MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said "peace and tranquillity on the border is important" for ties with China to become normal. (File photo) India's foreign ministry said peace on its border with China was critical for relations to become normal, reacting on Friday to a Reuters report that New Delhi was not keen to restart direct flights with China amid a stand-off on their Himalayan frontier. China has been pressing India to restart direct passenger flights after a four-year halt, but New Delhi is resisting as the border



dispute continues to weigh on ties between the world's two most populous countries, Reuters reported. Asked about the lack of direct flights, foreign ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said "peace and tranquillity on the border is important" for ties with China to become normal. He did not

elaborate. India-China relations have been tense since the biggest military confrontation in decades on their disputed Himalayan border killed 20 Indian and at least four Chinese soldiers in June 2020. Thousands of troops remain mobilised on each side. Direct India-China flights

peaked in December 2019 with a total of 539 scheduled flights. Flights were halted four months later as the COVID-19 pandemic escalated, but they have not resumed even though India lifted COVID restrictions on international air routes a year later and China lifted all COVID travel measures in early 2023.

Curfew partially lifted in clash-hit Balasore town

Balasore : With improvement in situation, the Odisha government Friday partially lifted curfew from Balasore town, which was rocked by a group clash. The Balasore district administration completely lifted curfew from Industrial Police Station area even as the prohibitory orders remained enforced in Sahadevkunta and Town police station areas till midnight of June 22. "Curfew will be relaxed from 5 am to 2 pm on June 22, during which all commercial establishments and routine services are allowed to operate," Balasore Collector Ashish Thakare said. Stating that 65 people have been arrested so far on the charges of rioting and violating curfew orders, Thakare said that WiFi internet services will be restored in the town Saturday but mobile internet services will continue to remain suspended.

CAPSULES

Pro tem Speaker choice: Opposition alleges bias against Dalit, Govt says it is as per norms

New Delhi: A DAY after the government announced the appointment of Bhartruhari Mahtab as the pro tem Speaker of Lok Sabha, the Opposition said it was a violation of parliamentary norms as the post should have gone to the most senior MP — Kodikunnil Suresh of Congress. While Mahtab is a seven-time MP from Odisha, Suresh is an eight-time MP from Kerala. Accusing the government of being anti-Dalit, the Congress asked if Suresh was denied the post because he belongs to the Dalit community. The party was backed by INDIA bloc ally CPI(M), with Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan alleging that "upper caste politics" may have played a role behind the decision. Countering the Opposition attack, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said that "as per the Westminster system", the MP who has the longest-serving "uninterrupted tenure" is chosen for the position. Earlier in the day, Congress communication chief Jairam Ramesh said the move shows the "confrontational and bulldozer politics mindset" of the BJP. He asked whether Suresh was not given the position because he is a Dalit. "One more reason (for not giving the post to Suresh) that comes to mind is... that Narendra Modi is anti-Dalit. Suresh is a Dalit." In a statement, Kerala Chief Minister Vijayan said the appointment violated parliamentary norms. "The Union Government should make clear why Mavelikkara MP Kodikunnil Suresh (Congress) was neglected in the appointment despite him being the longest serving member of the House.