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

Govt okays Rs 76,200-cr port at Maharashtra

NEW DELHI: The Cabinet on Wednesday approved developing a major greenfield port at Vadnavan in Maharashtra, which will be an integral part of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC). The development of this port - strategically located close to the international trade route, and with a potential to attract mother vessels - will entail an investment of around Rs 76,200 crore. Another Rs 4,000 crore will be spent in building road and rail links. Union I&B minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said with the operationalisation of the port, the country's container handling capacity will be doubled. Vadnavan port with 20-metre natural depth will have the capacity to handle 23.3 million TEU (twenty-foot equivalent unit), a measure of volume in units of twenty-foot-long containers. It will emerge as one of the 10



biggest ports in the world and will create up to 12 lakh jobs. The port, located around 130 km from Mumbai, will be developed in two phases - first phase by 2030 and second phase by 2039 - and will have a cumulative capacity to handle 298 million tonne cargo per annum. A joint venture of Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority and Maritime Board of Maharashtra will develop this infrastructure project on public private participation mode. There will be no funding from the Budget. "The port will act as the main feeder port IMEEEC and propel cargo movement to Chabahar Port in Iran and to International

North South Transport Corridor as well," said Union shipping minister Sarbananda Sonowal. The new port will get nine container terminals of 1km length each; four multipurpose berths of 250 metres each and another four berths for handling liquid cargo. The dredged material will be used to reclaim 1,448 hectares that will be used for construction of berths for container and general cargo vessels, storage yard for containers and other cargo, rail yard and lines, internal roads and utility services. Around 571 hectares will be acquired for rail and road connectivity to the port.

Retail inflation easing, food prices remain a concern: RBI

NEW DELHI: Retail inflation is gradually easing but the path has been interrupted by volatile and elevated food inflation, which may cause it to reverse after a temporary fall below the target during the second quarter of 2024-25, a RBI bulletin said on Wednesday. The central bank has consistently cautioned about the volatile food prices, particularly of vegetables and some cereals, which have come under pressure due to the heatwave sweeping across some states. While prediction of normal monsoon rains may augur well for crops and improve supplies, the impact of weather related shocks needs close monitoring. "As long as food price

pressures persist, however, the goal of aligning inflation with its target remains a work in progress," according to the RBI document. The central bank has a target of keeping inflation at 4% (plus/minus 2%). Latest data showed retail inflation, as measured by the consumer price index (CPI), slowed to a 12-month low of 4.8% in May. Vegetables and pulses prices remained under pressure while core inflation which is estimated after stripping out food and fuel was steady at 3.1%. Food inflation remained unchanged at 7.9%. The central bank said the prospects for agriculture are brightening with early landfall of southwest

monsoon. The stubborn food price pressures have for the time being pushed back any hopes of a cut in interest rates as RBI would like to assess the price situation against the backdrop of the erratic weather patterns, experts say. RBI has kept the policy rate unchanged at 6.5% and has reiterated its stance of remaining focused on the withdrawal of accommodation to ensure that inflation progressively aligns to the target, while supporting growth. The RBI bulletin said high-frequency indicators suggest the real GDP growth in the first quarter of 2024-25 is broadly maintaining the pace it achieved in the preceding quarter.



Delhi Gets Fourth ISBT Station near Tikri Border

Delhi: In order to make traveling easier for outer Delhi residents who frequently travel to Haryana and other regions, the Delhi government may build a fourth inter-state bus station near the Tikri border. According to government officials, the land is already there and the proposal is in its early stages. The plan's practicality is being investigated. The source also said that smaller terminals like Mumbai that hold six buses may start and be expanded.

According to another officer, ISBT in outer Delhi may aid during winter pollution-related transport restrictions. Buses with engine specification issues may also be diverted to the new terminal. Only electric, CNG, or BS-VI buses from Haryana, UP, and Rajasthan can enter the city during certain times to reduce pollution.

Delhi Panchayat Sangh Pramukh Than Singh Yadav added that residents have been clamoring for a bus terminal and Delhi metro extension for a long time since it will make travel easier and boost the region's economy. The recent Lok Sabha Elections focused on Delhi metro development and inter-state and inter-city connections in the city's outside areas.

Hooch kills 29 in Tamil Nadu's Kallakurichi; more than 70 under treatment

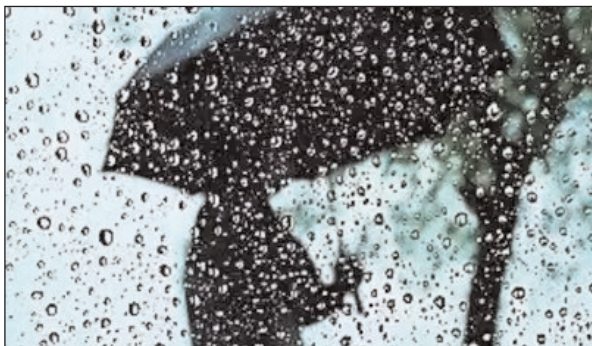
KALLAKURICHI: At least 29 people died on Wednesday after drinking illicit arrack near Kallakurichi in Tamil Nadu on Tuesday night. More than 70 others are being treated in hospitals in Kallakurichi, Villupuram, Salem and Puducherry.

Police arrested a bootlegger named K Govindaraj alias Kannukutti, 49, on charges of selling illicit arrack and seized more than 200 litres of the brew. Samples tested at a forensic laboratory in Villupuram were found to have the poisonous

methanol. Police said dozens of people from Kallakurichi town and neighbouring areas had consumed illicit arrack sold by bootleggers at Karunapuram on Tuesday night. On reaching home, most of them complained.

Monsoon at a standstill since June 12, stalled movement delays Kharif crop sowing

NEW DELHI: The monsoon, which made its onset over Kerala two days in advance and arrived in the North-East six days before its normal date, has remained almost at a standstill since June 12 after making gradual progress and covering roughly 40% of the geographical area during the first 14 days. The current relatively longer hiatus has not only contributed to the current heat wave phase but also delayed sowing operation of kharif (summer sown) crops in north and North-West India.



Though the India Meteorological Department (IMD), banking on upcoming La Nina formation, still maintains that the country is most likely to get fairly good rainfall during July-Sept, it has downgraded its forecast for June rainfall for the

country as a whole from 'normal' to 'below normal' due to the current pause in the movement of monsoon La Nina conditions - climate pattern associated with the periodic cooling of ocean surface temperatures in the central and east-central equatorial

Pacific - are generally associated with good monsoon rainfall in India. Past data shows that the summer monsoon was either 'normal' or 'above normal' in most of the last 22 La Nina years since 1954 except 1974 and 2000 when it was below normal. IMD has, already, predicted 'above normal' monsoon rainfall for the country as a whole this year. "Monsoon hiatus is very common in the monsoon season. Monsoon does not progress in one stretch. But the current hiatus is relatively longer.

Delhi government extends cab registration deadline by 2 months.

Delhi: Reliable sources say the Delhi transport department has extended the aggregator policy deadline for four-wheeler and two-wheeler cab registration by two months. Officials said the government did not take coercive action until the extension was formalized, even though the deadline was June 15. "Most large fleet operators and aggregators have registered with the agency, but collecting vehicle numbers and registering each vehicle takes time. Registration has

What is the aggregator policy?
The scheme was introduced in November 2023 to regulate cab and delivery service operations.

- Bike taxis to be legalized for the first time, but only EVs to be used in future.
- Aggregator fleets to be switched to EV by gradual phasing out other fuel-based vehicles by 2030.
- Two-wheelers to be registered as commercial vehicles.
- Based on polluters pay principle, no license fee for registration of commercial EVs.
- Mandatory for aggregators to install a panic button and integration with 112 for emergencies.
- Fees for aggregators to be regulated by transport dept.

Timeline for phasing out fuel-based vehicles	2-wheelers (goods)	3-wheelers (goods & passengers)	4-wheelers (goods & passengers)
Within 6 months	10%	5%	5%
Within 1 year	25%	25%	15%
Within 2 years	50%	50%	25%
Within 3 years	75%	75%	50%
Within 4 years	100%	100%	75%
Within 5 years	-	-	100%

begun for most two-wheelers. We will extend the deadline by two months and pass the order within a week. "A senior transport department official, who requested anonymity, said. The Delhi Motor Vehicle Aggregator and Delivery Service Provider Scheme was

launched in November to regulate cab and delivery services in the Capital. In March 2024, they introduced bwww.myfleet.delhi.gov.in to streamline licensing, fee payments, and policy-compliant vehicle onboarding. Aggregators had 90 days to register and license their fleets.

Officials said 15 four-wheeler and two-wheeler aggregators have registered for cab fleets and delivery services. Due to the extensive onboarding procedure, we will not penalize running fleets. After first registrations, we will advise aggregators, "said the official. The aggregator scheme, notified on November 29, 2023, applies to any person or business operating a fleet of vehicles digitally or otherwise to ferry passengers or link drivers providing.

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

HYDERABAD: Travelling to the United States with a Puma, Adidas, or Nike fake? Your bargain buys might just get confiscated - or even destroyed - by US customs officials. With US Customs and Border Protection (CPB) stepping up its surveillance of smuggling of counterfeit goods, many Indian students and travellers who flew into America in recent months had their fake luxury items seized at the port of entry. Some told TOI they had to watch the staff run scissors through their clothes or ditch them in the

trash can. CPB rules say an individual can carry one counterfeit item of each type (like one shirt, handbag, or pair of shoes) provided it is for personal use and not for sale. Anything in "excess" of this is banned. I travelled to the US to meet my son, who is pursuing a master's in supply chain management in Texas. I was carrying eight shirts, four trousers, some socks, and a pair of shoes. All the goods were still packed as I had just bought them, said a schoolteacher from Jamshedpur, Jharkhand. "At the port of entry

officials checked my bags and bombarded me with questions about where I was travelling from, who the goods were for, if I was smuggling them, etc. Though I tried explaining to them that it was all for my son, they insisted that I could not take them as they were all counterfeit goods - copies of big brands - which I wasn't aware of. Since they threatened me with criminal charges, I had no choice but to let them seize everything immediately." The traveller said many of the clothing items were torn before being discarded.

T20 World Cup: Confident India eye winning Super 8 start against plucky Afghanistan

BARBADOS: The Indian team is in a happy space. The players look relaxed, enjoying every bit of the trip, pulling each other's legs, breaking out into laughter once in a while, yet extremely intense when they get into the nets to bat or bowl. It has a lot to do with captain Rohit Sharma and his ways - frank, friendly, chatting with the media and telling his boys, "Go talk to the media yaar, dil khol ke baat karon, how long will the captain speak for you?" It's this infec-



tious energy and happy vibes of Rohit that have put an already good team completely at ease as they get ready to play Afghanistan on Thursday. India landed here a couple of days earlier and

trained at the Kensington Oval nets. They struggled with the bat on a few occasions after a spot of rain made the pitch stickier, but were always quietly confident that "if New York conditions

could be negotiated, everything else can be". After Afghanistan on Thursday, India play Bangladesh on Saturday. If current form and pedigree are any indication, India should wrap

Health trade license required for city amusements

Delhi: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) will immediately provide health trade permits for permanent and temporary recreational activities. This license applies to banquet halls, restaurants, hotels, and boarding facilities as well as tents, canopies, enclosures, and open spaces. Entertainment-related Section 422 of the Delhi Municipal Corporation (DMC) Act was used to make the decision. A spokesperson said, "The license covers music, singing, dance, electronic, digital, laser display, holographic projection, and virtual performance. We charge Rs 15,000 for registration.

Meeting organized with Divisional Rail Users Consultative Committee

Prayagraj: A meeting of the officials of Prayagraj Division was organized with the Divisional Rail Users Consultative Committee in the Sankalp Auditorium of the Divisional Office. The chairman of this meeting was Divisional Railway Manager/Prayagraj, Himanshu Badoni. Additional Divisional Railway Manager/General, Sanjay Singh and Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/Coaching, Himanshu Shukla and other senior officers were present in this meeting. The Railway Users Consultative Committee, a representation of the Railway Administration and users, meets from time to time with the Railway Administration to take measures to improve the service provided by the Railways to the Railway users. Addressing the members of the Divisional Railway Users Consultative Committee, the Divisional Railway Manager said that the problems and suggestions of the general public and railway users are exchanged by

you, which helps us in further improving our facilities. It also helps in carrying out development works as per the needs of the general public.

Indian Railways is the lifeline of the nation, as a major and important part of Indian Railways and North Central Railways, Prayagraj Division is the most densely populated Ghaziabad - Pt. of the 750 km New Delhi - Howrah main route. Deendayal Upadhyay is serving the block. The work of redevelopment of Prayagraj Junction and Kanpur Central railway stations of Prayagraj division and development of 15 stations under Amrit Bharat Station is in progress, due to which excellent facilities will soon be available to the passengers at these stations. On this occasion, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/Coaching, Himanshu Shukla, while informing the members of Divisional Railway User Consultative Committee through PPT, said that 324 trains out of

360 running on the main line in Prayagraj division are operating at a maximum speed of 130 km per hour. Getting on speed. Under the One Station One Product



campaign, stalls have been opened at 38 stations. Rail coach restaurants have been opened in Prayagraj and Mirzapur, water vending machines have been installed, automatic ticket vending machines have been installed. Working in the field of cleanliness, mechanized cleaning is being done at 12 stations in Prayagraj division.

Prayagraj Division pro-

vides services to about 2 lakh passengers daily from 151 stations. Passenger services are being continuously upgraded in Prayagraj division and every possible

page of trains at various stations, change in timings of trains, foot over bridges, road under bridges, cleanliness in trains, availability and prices of food items, tickets at concessional rates for senior citizens, Coach display system, adequate availability of dustbins at appropriate places, shock-free braking system in trains, expansion in distance and frequency of trains, providing additional security forces in trains, arrangement for entry-exit from the other side at Etawah station, parcel services. Many topics like making transportation simple and easy, panic button in all lifts and phone facility, running of new trains were discussed in depth.

Divisional Railway Manager/Prayagraj, Himanshu Badoni assured the members of the Divisional Railway User Consultative Committee that the issues raised by them would be resolved soon. Divisional Railway Manager, Additional Divisional

Railway Manager and Senior Divisional Commercial Manager thanked everyone for making Railways aware of the public issues. In this meeting, Vinod Kumar from Noida, Amarendra Kumar from Gurugram, Sanjay Pandit from Aligarh, Farrukhabad from Rajesh Hajela, Gopal Yadav from Etawah, Mahendranath Modi from Kanpur, Jitendra Kumar Pandey from Kanpur, Virendra Kumar from Kanpur, Jagnayak Singh Yadav, Girish Chandra Yadav from Fatehpur, Shiv Prasad Tripathi from Fatehpur, Omkar Nath Gautam from Kaushambi, Praveesh Kesarwani from Kaushambi, Ravendra Pratap Singh, Chandrakesh Kushwaha, Rajkumar Tripathi from Chitrakoot, Punit Trivedi, Praveen Chandra Srivastava, Ratan Aggarwal from Prayagraj, Ashok Kumar Pandey, Shashank Sonkar, Anita Jaiswal, Shiv Shankar Singh from Prayagraj, Tribhuvan Nath Patel and Shiv Prasad Tripathi from Prayagraj were present.

Swimmers perform yoga at Triveni Sangam

Prayagraj: Swimmers of various age groups converged at the Triveni Sangam in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, on Wednesday to celebrate yoga ahead of the International Day of Yoga on June 21. The serene waters of the river provided a unique backdrop as enthusiasts engaged in yoga postures, combining their aquatic skills with the ancient practice.

The event, captured in a video on X, showcased participants holding up posters proclaiming 'Yoga Day', illustrating their commitment to the upcoming global observance. The video, which swiftly garnered 13.1K views, highlighted the diversity among the participants, ranging widely in age and background. In the footage, swimmers can be seen gracefully executing various yoga poses under the guidance of instructors, blending physical exertion with meditative calm. With June 21 approaching, anticipation builds for widespread celebrations of yoga's profound impact on health and wellness worldwide.

SJC victorious with Veer's bowling

Prayagraj: St. Joseph's College (SJC) defeated DSA Coaching Center by seven wickets and scored full marks in the first Late Hafiz Ghazanfar Ullah Memorial Under-12 Cricket Competition. Off-spinner Veer Singh (2-0-02-5) played an important role in this victory. In the match played on Wednesday at MIC ground, DSA Coaching Center scored 60 runs in 17.5 overs (Aaron 13, Veer Singh 5/02, Shrestha Singh 2/05) made. In reply, St. Joseph's College scored 61 runs for 3 wickets (Parth Shukla 33 not out, Pratyush Kumar 13, Mohit 2/29) in 6.2 overs. Veer Singh was given the Man of the Match award by Chief Reservation Supervisor (Administration) of North Central Railway and former Vinoo Mankad-CK Naidu cricketer Wazarat Hussain.



IP Rambrij, ideal father for his late son

Prayagraj: Father's Day is celebrated on the third Sunday of June in 70 countries of the world including India. Bahujan theater artist of Prayagraj district, theater director IP Rambrij has been continuously working for the conservation, promotion and development of Bahujan literature, art and culture as well as Bahujan theater since last 2007 as well as for its restoration. IP Rambrij had been organizing presentational Summer Bahujan Bal Rang Workshop during summer vacations for the creative, artistic and personality development of children in the age group of 07 to 17 years. In 2016, when IP Rambrij's only son LR Prabuddh, who was 07 years old, was born, perhaps nature was not acceptable but Rambrij started taking his son Prabuddh also to the summer presentational Bahujan Bal Rang Workshop at an interval of one day. On the evening of June 10, due to loose motion and vomiting and financial constraints, Prabuddh was admitted to the same Children's Hospital. On July 23, 2010, his son, who remained in the ICU of the same Children's Hospital for 14 days after his birth, was admitted to the same Children's Hospital on June 11, 2016. As a child actor in the

hospital, before the curtain rose, he dropped the curtain of his theater forever, that is, he slept forever in the glue of nature. The workshop was to conclude on 15th June in the auditorium of the Cultural Centre, but after enduring the pain of grief for seven days, dozens of dance, drama and singing presentations of the Summer Bahujan Bal Rang Workshop were performed in the auditorium of the Cultural Center on 22nd June.

IP Rambrij should be remembered on Father's Day because Rambrij's only son passed away from his hands but IP Rambrij for whom 11th June is a mourning day, but after 2016, a presentational Summer Enlightened Child Color Workshop is being organized on 11th June in the Auditorium of the Cultural Center. Since 2016, Prabuddha Gautam Children's Theater has been giving honors to the five child artists (two boys and three girls) who participated in the workshop. In this honour, every five child artists are given a cash prize of Rs 2,000 and a certificate of honor every year. Till now this honor has been given to 40 boys and girls. IP Rambrij could not become an ideal father for his father but he is definitely an ideal father for his late son.

Now, CUET not compulsory for admissions to AU colleges

Prayagraj: For the new academic session 2024-25, it won't be mandatory for the students to have appeared in the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) for admission in the courses being run by colleges affiliated to Allahabad University. Instead, their Intermediate merit will be the basis for admission to these colleges.

The University Admission Cell has issued guidelines for the students studying in the colleges who haven't appeared in CUET. This time, the university administration has given the exemption for direct registration to colleges, officials shared.

Admissions in undergraduate courses are being taken in Allahabad University and affiliated colleges

through CUET since the academic session 2021-22. Due to this process, the varsity campus seats are getting filled, but many seats in the courses offered by colleges are left vacant.

For most of the last year, only 50% to 60% of undergraduate seats in colleges got filled.

To fill seats in colleges, the university has now permitted that admission of students can be taken even if a student has not appeared in CUET.

However, first, the colleges will have to give priority to the students who appear in CUET. If seats remain vacant, colleges will be able to admit students who have not appeared in CUET based on merit list made on students' intermediate marks. Moreover, the stu-

dents being admitted to university and colleges will now have to register only once.

Earlier, the students had to register at the university, after which one had to register by paying fees at the college concerned.

Director of AU Admission Cell Prof JK Pati said that admission to varsity campus will be given based on CUET score and if a student has registered in the university and has not been admitted, then he or she will be informed about this. They will not have to register again in the colleges by paying fees yet again. The registration fee has been fixed at Rs. 300 for general and OBC category students and Rs. 150 for disabled as well as SC/ST category candidates.

18th board meeting of Prayagraj Fair Authority concluded

Consensus reached on many important points related to Mahakumbh 2025

Prayagraj: The 18th board meeting of Prayagraj Fair Authority was held in the Gandhi Auditorium located in the office under the chairmanship of Divisional Commissioner Vijay Vishwa Pant and in the presence of all concerned officials, in which Mahakumbh 2025 was planned. Consensus was reached on many important related points. First of all, while discussing the layout plan of the upcoming Mahakumbh, the fair officer was informed about how the fair being spread over approximately 4000 hectares will be divided into 25 sectors. He was also informed that this time 2000 tents will be installed in the tent city instead of 1200 and the circuit house will be increased from three to five places, whose total capacity will be around 250 tents. Public accommodation will also be built for about 25000

persons. Many other important points were also told in the meeting, including the work of creating the website and mobile app by the Prayagraj Fair Authority, which is in its final stages. In this context,



it was informed that a multidisciplinary committee comprising professors from MNNIT and Triple IT was formed to provide guidance on the functionalities of the website and the suggestions of the committee have been incorporated in the website and mobile application. The objective of

the website and mobile app is to disseminate the history of Prayagraj and Kumbh Mela, its cultural and spiritual heritage and to provide appropriate information to the devotees in view of the Maha Kumbh Mela. In the

same sequence, to provide information to the devotees coming throughout the year during the fair period and after the fair period. Places of worship will be developed for better experience of tourists. Apart from this, in order to provide a safe and well-arranged place for the devotees who come to Sangam by boat and motor

boat throughout the year, facilities of changing room, place of worship and floating jetty will also be provided for year-round use.

Like Mahakumbh 2019, digital Lost and Found Centers will be set up in the upcoming Mahakumbh too whose main objective will be to help in reuniting lost persons with their families in the Mela area. This time around 10 digital lost and found centers will be established. Besides, there will be ICT based monitoring of food and civil supplies also. Strengthening of Alopibagh Junction, Harsh Vardhan Junction, Bangar Dharamshala Junction, GT Jawahar Junction and Dhumanganj Thana Junction and beautification of various highways and approach roads, landscape development and beautification of flyovers will be monitored by the fair authority.

Review meeting of construction works and development programs concluded under DM

Gave instructions to compulsorily complete construction works with quality within stipulated time

Prayagraj: Under the chairmanship of District Magistrate Navneet Singh Chahal, was held in Sangam Auditorium on Wednesday. A meeting was organized to review the progress of construction works and development works costing more than Rs 50 lakh. In the meeting, the District Magistrate reviewed the work of PWD, Setu Nigam, UP Roads, UPPCL, UPNRS, Housing Development Council, C&DS, Government Construction Corporation, UP Jal Nigam Rural and other executing agencies point by point. He received detailed information from the executing agencies about the progress of their related projects. Giving strict instructions to the officials, he said that whatever construction work is going on, all the work should be completed on time with quality. Under no circumstances should there be a situation of revised estimate. The District Magistrate has directed that the completed buildings/construction works should be compulsorily inspected by a third party. He has said that the

handover process should be completed after all the works are completed as per the standard, along with this, he also informed the departmental officers of the department to which the construction work is related by being present in the upcoming meeting and keeping them informed about the progress of the construction work. Asked to go. The District Magistrate said that the projects which have been completed and if there are any shortcomings in them, they should be removed immediately and the transfer process should be carried out.

While reviewing the works of the Bridge Corporation, the District Magistrate has given instructions to complete all the under construction works on time with quality. He has said that all the work should be completed within the stipulated time limit in every case. He has asked to complete that part of the overbridge under construction in Alopibagh, which is causing traffic jam, on top priority. While reviewing the works of Jal Nigam, the Dis-

trict Magistrate, along with expeditiously completing the works being done under Jal Jeevan Mission, has also directed that digging work should be done on the roadside only at the standard distance prescribed by PWD. Along with this, he has also directed to ensure that the roads are rebuilt in the same condition as they were after the work. He has asked the departments related to road construction to identify those roads and submit a report where after digging the road, the construction work has not been done as per the standard. He has asked each department to get information about the availability of land for construction works and the problems being faced in the proceedings related to land acquisition and to resolve the problems by coordinating with the concerned Sub-Collector.

While reviewing the schemes, the District Magistrate has directed all the concerned officers to ensure 100% progress against the target. He said that any kind of laxity and negligence in the implementation of

schemes will not be acceptable. The District Magistrate has directed the officers of all concerned departments to essentially resolve the complaints related to IGRS with quality and before the stipulated deadline. He has instructed the officers to keep reviewing the IGRS portal related to their department daily.

He warned that if the complaints are not resolved within the time limit, strict action will be taken against the concerned officials. The District Magistrate has given instructions to ensure vaccination of animals in relation to the target by obtaining information from the Chief Veterinary Officer about egg production, protection of destitute cattle, artificial insemination, delivery of destitute cattle, ear tagging. Taking information about the progress of construction of new roads, he has asked the PWD department officials to complete the construction work in a quality manner and to complete the work of strengthening/repairing the roads this month itself.

Baba Seva Samiti organized marriage of five poor girls

Prayagraj: Marriage of five girls was organized in a mass marriage organized by Baba Seva Samiti in Kaundhiara police station area. Under the leadership of Baba Seva Samiti director Mastan Baba Vinay, Seva Samiti President Asha Sharma and Secretary Amritlal Vishwakarma along with Seva Samiti Vice President Vimal Vishwakarma presented household items as dowry to all the newly married couples along with jewelry to the new bride. Were done. Director of the committee, Mastan

Baba Vinay told that the objective of the committee is that Baba Seva Samiti will be helpful from time to time to the poor families who are not able to fully support their families. Vinay Baba said that if Mastan Baba is pleased, Baba Seva Samiti will get poor girls married every year and will provide everything needed to the newly married couples. On this occasion, officials and members of Baba Samiti along with family members of the newly married couples were present.

Jila Mahila Vyapar Mandal submits memo for tree plantation, ponds & repair of roads

Prayagraj: District Mahila Vyapar Mandal submitted a memorandum of request to Additional Municipal Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Prayagraj for tree plantation, ponds and repair of roads. District President Avantika Tandon, General Secretary Smt. Pallavi Arora, and Treasurer Smt. Hina Khan submitted a memorandum to Additional Municipal Commissioner Mr. Ambrish Kumar. A memorandum was submitted to Bind to take necessary steps. Seeing the record breaking heat of this year, the District Mahila Vyapar Mandal has tried to take a concrete step and has requested all the people of Prayagraj to contribute their

valuable money in this effort of planting dense and shady trees. Must contribute. District Mahila Vyapar Mandal has proposed to plant 1000 trees under a unique initiative. These trees will be shady and big, like Neem, Banyan, Peepal, Kadam etc., which will become fully developed in 2-5 years. Expecting cooperation from the Municipal Corporation to make this initiative successful, it is requested to please make arrangements to provide tree guards for the protection of trees. District President Mrs. Avantika Tandon said that apart from this, we also have to remind that every Over the years, pews were installed at various places by the Municipal



Corporation. So far this year, 20 stalls have been arranged, but not a single stall has been installed at the main intersections of the markets. At present the temperature has reached 47-48 degrees Celsius. If the Municipal Corporation arranges 50 benches as soon as possible, that too in the main markets and intersections so that people can get relief from the heat.

General Secretary Mrs. Pallavi Arora made a humble request that arrangements should be made to fill the potholes on the roads before the arrival of monsoon so that any untoward incident can be avoided. It has been requested to pay immediate attention to these

proposals and take necessary action. Senior Vice President Mrs. Hina Khan said that tree plantation is the only way to avoid global warming and we all need to restore the thousands of trees that have been cut in Prayagraj. Together, shade trees will have to be planted in large quantities. District Mahila Vyapar Mandal expects the people of Prayagraj to participate in this noble work and after one year, whoever takes care of his trees will also be given a grand honour. To run this campaign smoothly, people can enter their name, mobile number, and select the desired tree through an app. This process will be completed within a month.

Indranil Ghosh appointed as Head Coach of UP Football team 3rd PEFI National U-17 Football Championship

Prayagraj: PEFI Under-17 National Football Championship is being organized by Physical Education Foundation of India (PEFI) in Vardaman West Bengal from June 22 in which Uttar Pradesh state football team will also 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.



Northern Football Academy coach Indranil Ghosh has been appointed as the Head Coach of the Uttar Pradesh Football team. This information was given by PEFI Uttar Pradesh Secretary Nandini Rawat in an email letter to Indranil Ghosh. Indranil has earlier been a coach of Himachal Pradesh, Lakshadweep as well as Allahabad University, Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology Uttar Pradesh, Prayagraj District in many national & state level football competitions.

Recently Indranil was also the goalkeeper coach of the Tripura team in the Santosh Trophy Senior Men's and Women's National Competition. On this achievement of Indranil, Vishnu Bhagwan Public School Director Abhishek Tiwari, Principal Dinesh Kumar Srivastava, Dr. Shailesh Verma, football coach Sanjay Bhattacharya, Sunil Nigam, Sushil Kumar congratulated him.

RaGa is future of India: Cong

Prayagraj: The District Congress Committee Gangapur workers celebrated the 54th birth day of pioneer leader of country, MP Rahul Gandhi as sankalp diwas. The function was organized at Shagun palace in the afternoon under the president ship of DCC president Suresh Yadav. The 5 ponds pounds cake was cut and sweets were distributed among party workers. They said that Rahul Gandhi's relentless campaign in the country against anti people Modi Government proved massive support in recent concluded Loksabha election. His approach with masses during Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra also improved strong base of the party. The party men exhorted people specially youths to imbibe Rahul



ji to whom countrymen have great expectations and added that he resembles his late father Rajiv Gandhi. They wishing long life to Rahul and said that he developed his personality gaining long experiences. He is a principal challenger to PM Modi, BJP and RSS who spent thousands crores rupees for his character assassination. He is the future of India. Later they distributed fruits among patients in various hospitals, gifts to orphans and food packets to poorer.

The function was conducted by former Spokesman, UPCC Kishore Varshney, UPCC General Secretary Mukund Tiwari, Fuzail Hashimi, Harikesh Tripathi, Sanjay Tiwari, Haseeb Ahmed, Manoj Pasi, Arshad Ali, Parvej Siddiqui, Rakesh Patel, MP Singh, Sartaj Mohammed, Ajay Srivastav, Mehfuji Ahmed, zahid Neta and others were present.

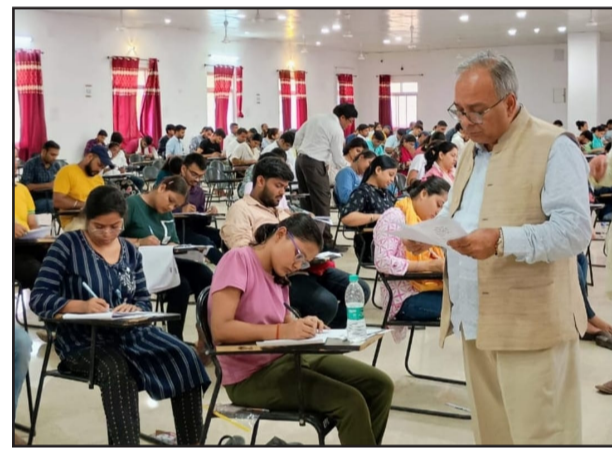
State level awards on World Disability Day on Dec 3

Prayagraj/Lucknow: Every year on 3 December, on the occasion of World Disability Day, state level awards are given to individuals and organizations doing excellent work in the field of disability. For these awards, State Level Award Rules-2017 is prevalent by the Department of Disabled Persons, in which 12 different categories have been arranged. State Government's Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Backward Class Welfare and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Narendra Kashyap said that as per the rules, applications are being invited for these awards through wide publicity. Interested persons or organizations can contact the office of the Disabled Persons Officer of the concerned district and apply in the prescribed format by 15th July. Under the State Level Award Rules-2017, categories for awards have been set, which include State Level Award for Skilled Disabled Employees/Self-Employed Disabled Persons, State Level Award for Best Employer for Disabled Persons and Best Placement Officer or Agency, Best Person Working for Disabled Persons. And state level award for the best organization, state level award for source of inspiration, state level award for the best innovative research or product development for improving the lives of persons with disabilities, state level award for the best work for creating a barrier-free environment for persons with disabilities, for persons with disabilities.

State Level Award for Best District Providing Rehabilitation Services, State Level Award for Best Creative Disabled Adult and Best Child/Girl, State Level Award for Best Braille Press, State Level Award for Best Disabled Friendly Website, Best Disabled Sportsperson State level awards will be given for the same and officers/employees working for the empowerment of persons with disabilities will be given state level awards. He has urged all the eligible candidates and organizations doing excellent work in the field of disability to apply on time so that their services can be honoured.

Vice Chancellor inspected examination center

Prayagraj: Uttar Pradesh Professor Satyakam, Vice Chancellor of Rajarshi Tandon Open University, Prayagraj, conducted a surprise inspection of the examination center located in the Yamuna campus of the university on Wednesday. The examinations for the session June 2024 are being conducted in the Yamuna campus of the university. During this, he instructed the center administrators to make special arrangements to protect the candidates



from the scorching heat. Along with this, the Vice Chancellor gave instructions for arranging cold water near the campus for the parents of the candidates. Undergraduate and postgraduate examinations are being conducted in a transparent and peaceful manner in the university campus. At the time of surprise inspection, Vice Chancellor Professor Satyakam along with Controller of Examinations DP Singh, Center Administrator Professor AK Malik and other teachers were present.

Protest takes place over laxity of government in security of advocates

Advocate Security Act raised, hue and cry over safety of colleagues in Yatra

Prayagraj: State-wide Advocate Suraksha Yatra reached Prayagraj here on Wednesday regarding the issue of security of advocates. Advocates under the banner of Rural Bar Association protested in front of the DM office by raising slogans regarding advocate safety. Under the leadership of the association's national president Gyan Prakash Shukla and national general secretary Anil Mahesh, the lawyers raised a loud voice demanding the Advocates Protection Act. Addressing the general meeting of advocates at the Collectorate Gate, the national president of the association, Gyan Prakash Shukla said that in UP, the government formed a drafting committee regarding the Advocates Protection Act but despite taking suggestions from the advocates, it could not implement it till date. He said that

the state governments of Karnataka and Rajasthan have implemented the Advocates Protection Act.

Whereas the Uttar

of the Association, Anil Tripathi Mahesh said that the way the Advocate Security Awareness Yatra is getting support in the dis-



Pradesh government is continuously adopting a taut policy on this important issue related to the safety of lawyers. He said that deadly attacks on advocates even inside the courts in the state courts is a matter of deep concern. At the same time, in the general meeting, General Secretary

tracts like Pratapgarh, Kaushambi, Rae Bareilly, Unnao etc., this Association will force the government to implement the Advocates Protection Act. He said that after the completion of Advocate Suraksha Yatra at the district headquarters in the state, the association will also gherao

the Parliament during the monsoon session of Parliament in New Delhi with this demand. National Vice President Vikas Mishra conducted the general meeting. Before this, the lawyers raised slogans for hours in front of the District Magistrate's office demanding the Advocates Protection Act. When the Advocate Suraksha Yatra reached the Collectorate Gate, a large number of advocates were seen joining the Yatra. The advocates welcomed National President Gyan Prakash Shukla and General Secretary Anil Tripathi Mahesh who had brought the security visit and also assured full support for this demand. Advocates like Vikas Pandey, Mahesh Yadav, Arvind Tripathi, Suryaprakash Saroj, Ankit Singh, Rakesh Paswan, Sunil Patel etc. were present on this occasion.

RaGa a source of inspiration for youth: Pradeep Kr Mishra

Prayagraj: All the officials of the Metropolitan Congress Committee celebrated the 54th birthday of mass leader Shri Rahul Gandhi with great enthusiasm at Anand Bhawan, the ancestral home of the Gandhi family. Today, on Wednesday, 19 June, all the officials of the Metropolitan Congress Committee celebrated the 54th birthday of the Gandhi family at Anand Bhawan, the ancestral home of the Gandhi family. The occasion was the 54th birthday of Jannayak leader Shri Rahul Gandhi, which was celebrated by the Congressmen with great enthusiasm

and passion. All the Congressmen fed each other sweets and sang songs and wished for his long life. Metropolitan President Pradeep Kumar Mishra Anshuman Ji said that Shri Rahul Gandhi ji is a source of inspiration for the youth and a leader of the poor and the oppressed. We salute him wholeheartedly. Prominent in this program were newly elected MP Shri Ujjwal Raman Singh, former MLA Anugrah Narayan Singh, Pradeep Kumar Mishra Anshuman, Arun Tiwari, Shekhar Bahuguna, Javed Urfi, Irshad Ullah, Subhash Pandey, Raghunath Dwivedi, Lallan



Patel, Rajesh Rakesh, Vinay Pandey, Nayan Kushwah, Diwakar Bhartiya, Sushil Tiwari, Vivek Pandey, Ajendra Gaur, Jitendra Rai, Rahul Mishra, Istiaq Ahmed, Anup Tripathi, Manas Shukla, Shakeel

Ahmed, Akshay Yadav Krantiveer, Rajendra Aggarwal, Abhishek Shukla, Tabrez, Bharat Lal, Gulshan Neta, Sunny Sonkar, Pradeep Verma etc. After 800 years, Nalanda University again

came alive, moment of pride for India: BJP Prayagraj: Nalanda University Navnirman modern and world by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. BJP members congratulated the countrymen on the inauguration of India's largest zero campus. On this occasion, BJP Metropolitan President Rajendra Mishra and District Spokesperson Rajesh Kesarwani said that in the 1190s, Bakhtiyar Khilji had destroyed India's Nalanda University by burning it and completely destroyed it. Nalanda University, which was a major center of education in the world, has come alive again after almost 800

years, which is a proud moment for every Indian and we have full faith that once again Nalanda University will become the center of our ancient knowledge and spirituality and will fulfill the educational needs of the youth. Will complete and once again restore the pride and glory of ancient India. Among those who congratulated were Kunj Bihari Mishra, Devesh Singh, Rajesh Kesarwani, Ramesh Pasi, Vijay Vaishya, Vivek Aggarwal, Anand Vaishya Sudarshan, Raghavendra Singh, Prashant Shukla, Rakesh Bharti, Ajay Agrahari, Shatrughan Jaiswal, etc.

BID TO BOOST GREEN COVER Over 73 lakh saplings to be planted in Prayagraj

Prayagraj: As part of an initiative to give green cover a fillip, plans are afoot to plant over 73 lakh tree saplings during the massive tree plantation exercise set to be undertaken next month in Prayagraj. A total of 24 government departments have each been allocated specific targets for tree plantations. Collectively, they will plant a total of 73,15,160 saplings in the

district, officials said. The Yogi government is continuously striving to develop the state as a green province.

"The development of green belts and extensive tree plantations in the city is part of this effort and the government machinery has already become active," they added. Confirming the development, nodal officer of the campaign and divisional forest officer, Prayagraj, Arvind Kumar, said the

forest department would itself plant 22,45,300 plants this time.

Besides, the rural development department will plant 29,87,000 saplings and the agriculture department will plant 5,09,000 saplings, Kumar added. Similarly, the horticulture department will plant 3,69,000 saplings and the environment department will plant 2,27,000 saplings and so on. "All departments have been informed of their

targets and instructed to prepare accordingly," he said. The tree plantations being undertaken each year are yielding positive results. According to DFO, Prayagraj, green cover in Prayagraj's urban and rural areas has grown significantly in recent years. Green cover in the district has increased by 27.06 square kilometres over the previous years. These positive outcomes are the result of the government's special

emphasis on tree planting. The report from the Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, confirms the city's and district's continuous increase in greenery. According to the report, green coverage in the district rose by 2.32% in 2017, 2.36% in 2019, and 2.85% in 2021.

The government's record for plant survival during last year's tree plantation is also commendable. As per the officials, 95% of the

71,92,852 saplings planted the previous year are still alive and thriving. After the plants were tagged, they received continuous irrigation and maintenance. As many as 68,33,000 plants that were planted last year are still green and thriving. Furthermore, dense tree plantings using the 'Miyawaki' method will be prioritised in urban areas this time, officials said.

Editorial

India must kill terrorists.

Nijjar blowback shows it also needs laws to guide assassins

Two bullets had been fired into his gut, and one between his eyes: The assassins authored the end of the book Henry Liu had been writing. From his modest home in the suburbs of San Francisco, the investigative journalist had relentlessly attacked the Kuomintang dictatorship in Taiwan. The hit men—members of the crime cartel United Bamboo Gang, recruited by Taiwan's military intelligence chief Vice-Admiral Wang Hsi-ling—declined payment for the job, seeing themselves as patriots silencing a dangerous Communist agent. Later, his wife Helen Liu, offered a simple explanation for why her husband was murdered: "In Taiwan, people cannot speak freely. And he had a big mouth." Earlier this week, police in Canada arrested three Indian nationals for the murder of Sikh separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, fuelling suspicions that India's Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) has been targeting Khalistan operatives in the West. The men, alleged to be linked to the crime network of jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, are being investigated for their ties to Indian intelligence officers that Canada has claimed were involved in Nijjar's assassination. The government of India has angrily denied the allegations—but in recent weeks, senior political leaders have seemed to defend the country's right to use covert means against its enemies overseas. "Terrorists will be killed in their homes," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in one recent rally, amid reports that R&AW was eliminating terrorists in Pakistan. For many Indians—enraged by seeing the perpetrators of terrorist attacks from 1993 bombings to 2008 Mumbai attacks sheltering in safe havens in Pakistan, or Khalistan supporters openly calling for violence from the West—the use of covert means seems a legitimate exercise of power. This is not new. Following the bombing of the Indian embassy in Kabul in 2008, then National Security Advisor MK Narayanan demanded the country pay Pakistan back "in the same coin." Lawyers and political philosophers familiar with the complex history of assassinations by nation-states, though, would likely urge reflection on exactly when such force might be used—and what its consequences could be. "Although I may kill a man," the Renaissance jurist Alberico Gentili counselled the kings and princes of his violent times, "I may not do so by treachery." They listened, for good reasons. There is, no doubt, something profoundly spurious about the moral outrage that has surrounded India's alleged assassination campaign: The UK attempted to kill Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, and murdered Irish terrorists at home and abroad and Israel has long staged targeted killings. The US, lawyer scholars Luis Chiesa and Alexander KA Greenawalt have persuasively argued, ignored international law to kill co-founder of Al-Qaeda Osama Bin Laden and Colombian drug cartel boss Pablo Escobar. For its part, Russia frequently—and crudely—kills regime opponents overseas. Like India, nation-states everywhere have struggled to deal with criminals and terrorists their adversaries choose not to act against. However, the absence of an ethical norm doesn't mean that the many powerful arguments against covert action can be ignored. For most of history, international relations scholar Ward Thomas writes, assassination was used without scruple. Leaders of the ancient world regarded killing for public purposes as a moral project, and murder was seen as a legitimate foreign policy tool in the 17th century. The American political scientist Hans Morgenthau noted that "the Republic of Venice, from 1415 to 1525, planned or attempted about two hundred assassinations for purposes of its foreign policy".

Accolades for being seen to have elevated India

The largest democratic process in the world, the Indian Lok Sabha elections 2024, has attracted the attention of one and all across the globe. This general election is a watershed moment for Bharat which will initiate the country towards its new self of 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047. Besides, it also holds the possibility of establishing India's dynamic presence on the global stage. In academic discourses, it is often said that in the last ten years, under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India, today is in the final stage of decolonisation. Under the visionary captaincy of Modi, Bharat, which was called "sone ki chidiya" i.e. the golden bird, in ancient times, is re-emerging as an economic power, recovering from hundreds of years of 'slavery' post-colonisation. Besides, it has also forged a new identity on the global stage with its scientific, strategic and 'soft' power. However, the anti-India international forces are not able to digest Bharat's new rise and are trying to hinder its advancement. The international media coverage, particularly news reports, articles, and editorials concerning Modi and the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, serves as one of the most reliable indicators of this negative approach towards Bharat. In

keeping with the idea that Bharat was called the golden bird once upon a time, the British economist Angus Maddison in his book *The World Economy: A Millennial Perspective* has shown that India was the richest country and the largest economy in the world till the 10th century, its GDP was more than one-third of the world's economy, which remained very high till the 16th-17th century. But on account of the loot by external forces and inappropriate domestic policies post-independence, the GDP gradually slumped to 2.6 per cent in 2014. It is only with the efficient implementation framework created by the Narendra Modi government that India jumped from the 10th largest economy of the world in 2014 to the fifth largest economy today. By 2027, hopefully, we are going to be the third-largest economy. Along with this, India's influence has also increased on global platforms, strategically and scientifically. With the successful launch of Chandrayaan-3 to the Moon, the nation has registered its presence strongly in the field of science and technology. It has also emerged as a major exporter in space industry and defence equipment. Also, providing Covid vaccines to the entire world during the pandemic and showcasing its prowess in the G20

meeting and other international platforms has added to India's prestige manifold in the world today. Unfortunately, India's rise has not gone well with certain vested interests, inimical to Bharat, in Pakistan, China, the Arab world as well as Western countries. These forces feel envious of India's remarkable progress under the leadership of Modi, marching towards Viksit Bharat @2047. That is why it can be seen that these anti-India forces are trying to influence the Lok Sabha elections in an effort to stop Modi's visionary drive towards progress that he has envisaged for the country. There seems to be a sinister conspiracy to influence the Indian voters by running a 'well-planned campaign' at the global level. Naseem Javed, a corporate political philosopher and currently the president of the Canadian think tank Expothon Worldwide, in his book titled *Alpha Dreamers: The Five Billion Connected Alpha Dreamers Who Will Change the World in 2019* writes, the people in the world, today, are interconnected. Global public opinion is now an authentic voice. This global public opinion can be used by various forces to influence any country. It would be pertinent to note in this context the international media's

attitude vis-a-vis current elections in India. Whether it's The New York Times of the US, England's The Guardian, Qatar's (Arabia's) Al Jazeera, Pakistan's The Dawn or China's The People's Daily Online, there is a common thread seen in all—the portrayal of Narendra Modi and the BJP as the villain, whereas no negative sentiment could be found against Rahul Gandhi and his Congress or other Opposition parties. However, a paradox can be seen in all these newspapers as, despite their strong criticism, all of them believe "aage toh Modi hi" (only Modi will win again). The New York Times on April 20, 2024, wrote, "In this year's elections, the scion of India's most storied political family (Rahul Gandhi) is still trying to unseat Modi—and change the nation's course...he's modelling himself after Mahatma Gandhi. He doesn't want to take any position of power". Whereas, the publication on April 23, 2024, portrayed Modi as a villain, and commented that he abolished the semi-autonomy of the Muslim-majority state of Jammu and Kashmir; enacted a citizenship law (CAA) widely viewed as prejudiced against Muslims; and helped construct a grand Ram Mandir. These comments come at a time when it has been

understood both at the national and international level that all these measures were taken to correct long-standing historical mistakes. It's not without reason that the public opinion of the nation remained in favour of Modi all this time. Similarly, Al Jazeera on April 12, 2024, was critical of Modi being portrayed as Bhisma Pitamah, the famous character of the epic Mahabharata, using Artificial Intelligence (AI). It must be noted that the image of Bhisma Pitamah is that of a great selfless character who was detached from the throne and wanted to keep the state safe and secure from all sides. In another story, Al Jazeera on April 19, 2024, posed the question, "Can Sunil Kanugolu (Congress poll strategist) bring India's Modi down?" On the other hand, The Guardian, on April 18, 2024, was seen as troubled by the fact that "Modi's Hindu nationalist agenda has won him support among swathes of India's 80 per cent Hindu majority, often enabling him to transcend traditional caste and class barriers to win votes among poorer, rural, and lowest caste communities as well as affluent urban voters and the rising middle classes. He has also gained accolades for being seen to have elevated India.

"Trade, not aid' - Rao's 1991 reforms speech that changed India's economic landscape

When I spoke to you last, I promised quick and bold measures to restore our sick economy to health. We have taken the first step to fulfil that promise. This is the beginning. A further set of far-reaching changes and reforms is on the way. For the last eighteen months, there has been paralysis on the economic front. The last two governments postponed taking vital decisions. The fiscal position was allowed to deteriorate. The balance-of-payment crisis became unmanageable. Nonresident Indians and foreign leaders became more and more reluctant to lend money to India. Consequently, India's external reserves declined steeply, and we had no foreign exchange to import

even such essential commodities as diesel, kerosene, edible oil, and fertiliser. The net result was that when we came to power, we found the financial position of the country in a terrible mess. The Reserve Bank changed the exchange rate of rupee. This was done so that we can export more. More garments, more leather products, more gems and jewellery, more agricultural products made in India will be sold abroad. This will not only earn us Foreign Exchange but also create new employment at home. And why do we need to earn foreign exchange so badly? Not to import luxury items but to buy commodities like kerosene and diesel, fertilisers, edible oil, and steel. We produce these commodities, but

what we produce is not enough. We are stepping up our production, but for some time, we have to import. The adjustment in exchange rate will discourage the import of nonessential goods. And will therefore save foreign exchange for the imports of essential goods of consumption. It will also end uncertainty about the future of our currency and will encourage nonresident Indians to send more money to be deposited in their accounts in India. After changing the value of the rupee, we undertook a major overhaul of the trade policy. Our message was simple—you cannot import if you do not export. We cut down on the export licenses so that our exporters do not face hurdles.

Semiconductor Ecosystem: A Silent Revolution in India's High-Tech Manufacturing

As our lives become increasingly reliant on technology, semiconductors have become the essential foundation of society. These tiny chips are the powerhouses behind our electronic devices, communication systems, and even the functioning of our agricultural implements, medical equipment and vehicles. India has recognised the enormous socio-economic potential and strategic importance of this silent revolution of technology and is taking the lead in building a robust semiconductor ecosystem and developing a talented workforce. India's goal of becoming self-sufficient and a global leader in semiconductors is supported by the fact that the semiconductor industry is expected to generate over one million job opportunities for semiconductor design engineers, manufacturing engineers, R&D scientists, operators, technicians, and skilled workers in chip design and semiconductor fabrication, packaging, and sales facilities over the next five years. According to the National Association of Software and Service Companies (Nasscom) and Zinnov's latest report, "Around 30 per cent of the new global capability centres established in India

during the December quarter of last year were in the semiconductor space, indicating a growing interest in leveraging the local talent pool in areas such as front-end design, performance testing, and post-silicon validation." The world's leading chip design companies, including Intel, Texas Instruments, AMD, Nvidia, and Qualcomm, have design and R&D centres in India. AMD recently inaugurated its largest global design centre in Bengaluru. In March, an event—'India's Techade: Chips for Viksit Bharat', witnessed the foundation stone of three semiconductor projects worth Rs 1.25 lakh crore. Tata Electronics in partnership with Taiwan's Power Chip Semiconductor Manufacturing Corporation (PSMC), set up the country's first semiconductor fab plant in Dholera (Gujarat) with an investment of Rs 91,000 crore and another plant in Morigaon (Assam) with an investment of Rs 27,000 crore, with the first chips to begin coming off the production line in 2026. US-based semiconductor manufacturer Micron India plant with an investment of Rs 22,500 crore in Sanand (Gujarat), is expected

to roll out the first "Made in India" memory chips by December. It is contributing its bit to the Chandrayaan-3 mission Semiconductor Corporation of India (SCL) proposed to update and expand its chip facility in the Mohali plant with an investment of Rs 20,000 crore, to enhance its contribution to ISRO and to other space research organisations globally. Despite the upward trajectory of India's current semiconductor chip ecosystem, the country remains dependent on the US, Taiwan, China, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, and South Korea, with over 95 per cent of semiconductors imported from these countries. To reduce this dependency on imports, India recognised the strategic importance of a robust domestic semiconductor industry. It unveiled the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) offering 50 per cent capital expenditure support to new entrants, production-linked incentive (PLI), and design-linked incentive (DLI) schemes with an outlay of Rs 76,000 crore, as well as state government incentive support, international partnerships, and a focus on talent development.

Uddhav is writing a new story for Maharashtra

When Uddhav Thackeray took the dais and began his speech, the ground was enveloped in a hushed silence. The janta straightened in their chairs and listened to him with rapt attention and earnest seriousness. The crowd roared when he talked about the 'Maharashtrachi asmita', or the pride of Maharashtra; they hooted, whistled, and clapped when he thundered against Prime Minister Narendra Modi. There was fire in his belly, animation in his speech, and eloquence in his Marathi as he pointed out the wrong from the 'politically right'. On 30 April, I saw a Uddhav at the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) rally

in Pune on the eve of Maharashtra Day, who did not seem like the Shiv Sena (UBT) leader I had read about in newspapers or seen on television. From afar, you and I saw a lacklustre politician—a subdued, gentle soul who was expected to take charge with the same tenacity and political rigidity as his father, Bal Thackeray, the supremo of Maharashtra politics. In 2012, when Uddhav Thackeray took over the Shiv Sena after the death of his father, he did not seem equipped to handle the political manoeuvring required for greatness. He appeared a misfit to navigate and rise to the challenges and ugliness of

the new age politics. An affable personality, with the demeanour of a shy schoolboy, his charm was seen as politically incorrect. Uddhav was assumed to carry the 'bow and arrow' along the path set by Bal Thackeray. But he was ruled out, cut into pieces, and caged in the same bracket as Rahul Gandhi: a reluctant politician, an oddball to the tenacious legacy. The debacle of Maharashtra 2022 gave rise to a new Uddhav Thackeray—he has now dropped the 'charm' and gone full-throttle offensive. During the MVA rally in Pune, I saw Uddhav become the spirited and precocious neta (politician).

Sharing the stage with the maharishi of Indian politics, Sharad Pawar, Uddhav's aura was as invincible as Pawar's. Neither the heat of the sun nor that of politics had affected him. He didn't seem tired. With the same affable demeanour intact, Uddhav exuded confidence, being jhakaas (awesome) with his political rhetoric and bindaas (carefree) despite the soaring political heat. Uddhav was the last speaker of the evening, and the crowd stayed until the very end to listen to him. Young boys and girls, office-going men, and mothers sat through dinnertime, all just to listen to him.

The Ultimate Father's Day Gift by KOLLAGE

New Delhi: Father's Day is a special time to honour and celebrate the invaluable role fathers play in our lives. As this meaningful day draws near, many of us are on the lookout for the perfect gift to express our gratitude and love. To mark this occasion, the premier silverware brand KOLLAGE has unveiled their exclusive Gift Edit, featuring a selection of the finest gifts. Crafted from pure copper or brass, each piece is exquisitely coated with fine silver and lacquered to achieve a stunning finish. Their remarkable offerings comprise of Hexa Chess Set This unique chess set is designed in a hexagonal form, adding a touch of elegance to the classic game. The set is presented in a gleaming glass box with the chessboard printed on the top.



Each chess piece is meticulously packed in felt cloth. The pieces are crafted in resin silver, with pure electrolytic copper coated in fine silver, making it a sophisticated addition to any game collection. Mobius PF Round Continuing with their tradition of excellence, the Mobius PF round offers the same impeccable craftsmanship as the Hexa

chess set. This piece is sure to impress with its refined design and quality. Wine Goblet A sophisticated addition to KOLLAGE's bar range, the Wine Goblet is finely silver plated and perfect for any time of the day. It's an ideal gift for all occasions and is best purchased in pairs. With a height of 21 cm, it makes a stunning statement in any collection. Champagne Flute Similar to the Wine Goblet, the Champagne Flute is a testament to KOLLAGE's dedication to quality and elegance. Standing at 22.5 cm, these flutes are perfect for toasting special moments, making them an excellent gift choice. Celebrate Father's Day with the timeless elegance of KOLLAGE's silverware, and show your appreciation.

PAT Day 1 marked by shortage of question and answer booklets

Mumbai: As the Progressive Assessment Test (PAT) for class 3 to 8 students of government and aided schools in the state began on Thursday, a number of schools complained of shortage of question-cum-answer booklets.

On the very first day, schools had to take photocopies of the first language paper. The maths and third language English papers will be held on Friday and Saturday, respectively. The question papers were set by the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT). School heads said despite sending details of the number of

students appearing for PAT, the SCERT on Wednesday directed schools to take photocopies of the question papers wherever there was a shortage. Schools also complained of not receiving the answer keys to the questions. Teachers assess papers based on answer keys. Mahendra Ganpule, spokesperson of the Maharashtra School Principals' Association highlighted the need for improved planning by the education department. Ganpule said, "Despite the challenges, teachers managed to distribute papers on the first day, albeit with additional effort and expense. The issue was more

pronounced in remote areas and was exacerbated by a lack of manpower at the taluka level for distribution." Over one crore students are participating in these exams, which are part of the Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States project funded by the World Bank. The PAT aims to enhance the quality and governance of school education and includes a basic test followed by two comprehensive assessments. The mandatory test is to determine the learning outcome of students. It is based on second semester syllabi. Schools that incurred expenses on photocopying question papers last year.

Girders launched between Kalyan & Kasara till early Sunday morning

MUMBAI: The Central Railway launched a girder on the bridge between Khadavli and Vasind stations shortly till early Sunday morning and also girders for FOB between Asangaon and Atgaon. Due to the girder

work and related rail blocks, passengers were inconvenienced with late night suburban train cancellations for Kasara. Six Mail and Express trains were rescheduled while ten other long distance trains were regulated due to

the girder work. Girders were also launched for FOB between Shahad and Ambivali station. As a result, the suburban local train for Kasara leaving CSMT at 12.15am on Sunday was short terminated at Thane.

CAPSULES

Kashi Vishwanath temple clocked highest revenue in March

VARANASI: As the Kashi Vishwanath Temple continues to attract devotees from far and wide who are making generous donations, the temple earned Rs 83.34 crore in 2023-24 financial year, registering a jump of 42.43% as compared to collections in 2022-23. The income of Rs 11.14 crore in March was also the highest single-month collection made ever by the temple. Talking to, temple's chief executive officer Vishwa Bhushan said, "Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple Trust (SKVTT) has recorded its highest ever collection as well as expenditure in the 2023-24 financial year. On the income part, its gross earning was Rs 83.34 crore, which was 42.43% more than the gross earnings of 2022-23. The expenditure was Rs 25.32 crore which was 40.38% more than the figures of the previous financial year." All previous records of income were broken by Feb-end when Rs 69.92 crore was received by the temple even when the value of precious metals received as donation was not included in it. In 2022-23, the temple had recorded income of Rs 58.51 crore while it was over Rs 26 crore in 2018-19 and 2019-20 financial years.

Rush at OPDs as heat soars, doctors sound dehydration-exhaustion alert

KOLKATA: The hot and discomfort weather conditions in the past few days are taking a toll on the health of Kolkatans, especially those who have to remain outdoors for hours.

"Jewels Amore" showcased by Anjalee and Arjun Kapoor At the BRDS Ahmedabad Fashion Week

Ahmedabad: Introducing "Jewels Amore" by the dynamic design duo Anjalee and Arjun Kapoor, a couture marvel that seamlessly blends the epitome of luxury fashion. This recently unveiled collection showcased at the Grand Finale of BRDS Ahmedabad Fashion week exudes an air of regal sophistication, cocooning its wearers in an ambiance of majestic opulence. The infusion of Swarovski elements elevates its allure, casting a dazzling radiance that weaves an enchanting spell on all



beholders. Anjalee & Arjun Kapoor express, "Beyond being mere garments, these outfits are exquisite pieces of art, a testament to the unmatched craftsmanship of gifted artisans. "Jewels Amore" sets a new standard for haute couture, promising timeless beauty and opulence. Those adorned in these creations are destined to

make a grand entrance, leaving an indelible mark on any occasion. Bhanwar Rathore, founder & president of Bhanwar Rathore Design Studio and title sponsor of the event said that Ahmedabad Fashion Week is undoubtedly one of the biggest fashion weeks of Gujarat. Curating and supporting this event have been an

honour for our organisation as it provides significant networking opportunities for our fashion design students in the design industry. The Most extravagant Fashion Week of Ahmedabad featuring the top Fashion designers and Design institutions of India is powered by Ahmedabad Mirror and associated with ISAS - International Beauty School, Unicorn by Apple, Red FM, Shambhu's Cafe, Concepts Zone is the most premier fashion event in the city of Ahmedabad.

Killer caliber: Meet BSF's first woman sniper

INDORE: The sniper stealthily crawls into position, smoothly works the bolt and slides a round into the chamber. Target in crosshairs. And a glass ceiling pierced at 3,200kmph... It's only when the sniper gets up and takes off the camouflage ghillie suit that you realise it's a 'she'. Meet BSF's first woman sniper, sub-inspector, Suman Kumari, also the first woman to get 'instructor grade' in the grueling eight-week BSF sniper course at Central School of Weapons and



Tactics (CSWT), Indore. Suman joined BSF in 2021 and was commanding a platoon in Punjab when she realized, with fury, the threat of sniper attacks from across the border. Determined to pay back in kind, Suman volunteered for the sniper course and

wrote to her superiors. Encouraged by her steely resolve, they readily gave the go-ahead. "She was the lone woman among 56 men and she put up an amazing performance in every activity. We are hoping that more female recruits will take up this course,"

CSWT IG Bhaskar Singh Rawat told TOI on Saturday.

"Trainees who perform exceptionally well get Alpha and Bravo grading, but a separate screening test is done for 'instructor grade' that Suman has achieved. She is the first woman sniper in BSF and will be an inspiration for other women to come forward. This course is one of the toughest after the commando training," Rawat said. She is now eligible to get posted as a sniper instructor.

The Best Father's Day Gift that will make him Smile by Forever Living Products (India)

New Delhi: Father's Day is a wonderful occasion to appreciate and celebrate the important role that fathers play in our lives. If you're looking for health and nutrition-based products from FLP India (Forever Living Products), here are a few suggestions that could make thoughtful gifts for your father: 1. Aloe Vera Gel: FLP India offers a range of Aloe Vera Gel products known for their potential health benefits. Aloe Vera is often used to support digestion, promote a healthy immune system, and maintain overall well-being. It can be consumed as a drink or used topically. 2. Nutritional Supplements: FLP India provides various nutritional supplements designed to support overall health and vitality. These supplements may include essential vitamins, minerals, antioxidants, and herbal extracts that can help maintain a



healthy lifestyle. 3. Weight Management Products: If your father is interested in weight management or maintaining a healthy weight, FLP India offers products that may assist in achieving those goals. These could include meal replacement shakes, protein supplements, and dietary fiber products. 4. Skincare Products: FLP India offers a range of skincare products infused with natural ingredients like Aloe Vera, botanical extracts, and antioxidants. These products can help nourish and rejuvenate the skin, potentially promoting a

healthy complexion. Some of the other products that you can gift to your father from FLP India are - Aloe MSM Gel, Agri+, Immu Blend, Vitolize, Forever Bee Pollen, Vitolize, iVision, Forever Bhiringraj Hair Oil and Desire by Forever. One can go to the official FLP India website or contact their Forever Business Owners to explore the available product options, obtain specific product details, and ensure you make a well-informed choice based on your father's individual needs and preferences.

Experience the Ultimate in Wedding Luxury at the FDCI Manifest Wedding Weekend

New Delhi : The Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI) and RPSG Lifestyle Media are ecstatic to jointly announce the FDCI Manifest Wedding Weekend, which will take place at the Taj Palace, New Delhi, on August 3rd and 4th, 2024. An ultra-luxurious showcase of the best in couture, trends and jewellery, the FDCI Manifest Wedding Weekend will consist of a bespoke curatorial of India's top couturiers, jewellers and ancillary service providers to give to-be brides, grooms and their families a one-stop experience under one roof. It will also mark the launch of RPSG Lifestyle Media's wedding vertical, Manifest, that will consist of a magazine, digital engagements, online experiences, and more. The group



already publishes celebrity magazine HELLO! India, and is soon to launch Indian editions of Esquire and The Hollywood Reporter. The event will kick off on the day after FDCI's annual Hyundai India Couture Week, which is a highly anticipated event on the city's cultural and fashion calendar. The FDCI Manifest Wedding Weekend aims at presenting the newest wedding trends by face-to-face interactions between patrons and the designers themselves. The selec-

tion of those showcasing their creations will be curated by FDCI and the editorial team of Manifest, ensuring a rich experience for those attending. Given the personal nature of interactions involved with creative professionals, the event will be access-regulated, and patrons will be encouraged to attend by prior appointment and invitation only. Reflecting on the event's significance, FDCI Chairman Sunil Sethi shared, "The overwhelming response to our inaugural FDCI Wedding

Weekend set a high standard. This year, we aim to elevate the shopping experience even more. Print and digital media together form a comprehensive and creative promotional strategy, reaching diverse audiences and driving consumer interest. By uniting coveted couturiers, jewellers, and wedding professionals, we continue to tap into the booming Indian wedding and luxury fashion market, making this event the premier platform for acquiring festive couture, red-carpet creations, and exquisite jewellery." Avarna Jain, Chairperson of RPSG Lifestyle Media, added, "We are delighted to launch our first homegrown brand at this exclusive event in association with the Fashion Design Council of India.

Met museum head talks art of repatriation and relevance

Vatika Times

It's not easy running one of the world's largest museums with more than 1.5 million works spanning 5,000 years. And certainly not easy amidst heightened scrutiny over looted objects and mounting pressure for repatriation. Max Hollein—who took charge of the Metropolitan Museum of Art (Met), New York as director in 2018 and CEO last July—knows this all too well. Fresh from signing an MoU with India's Ministry of Culture, being "blown away" by the Sanchi Stupa, Jantar Mantar and the Kanheri Caves and ahead of delivering a lecture at the CSMVS on Friday, Hollein remained composed as he sat down for a chat about policing its art and artefacts with a problematic past recent restitutions and keeping the museum relevant in an age of sensory overload. What kind of collaborations do you foresee with the signing of the MoU with India's culture ministry. It marks a continuatio.

LKP Securities Ltd. Earnings for Q4FY24, PAT Jumps 249% QoQ

CHANDIGARH: LKP Securities Ltd. (BSE: 540192), a leading financial services provider, has reported stellar earnings for Q4FY24 and FY24. For the quarter ended 31 March, 2024 (consolidated), the revenue from operations was reported at Rs. 3278 Lakhs, an increase of 34.20% QoQ. EBITDA jumped 76.63% QoQ, from Rs. 1405 Lakhs (Q3FY24) to Rs. 1831 Lakhs (Q4FY24). PAT grew 249% QoQ, from Rs. 159.44 Lakhs (Q3FY24) to Rs. 556.57 Lakhs (Q4FY24). For the year ended 31 March, 2024 (consolidated), the revenue from operations was reported at Rs. 9735 Lakhs, an increase of 23.32% YoY. EBITDA jumped 37.17% YoY, from Rs. 3177 Lakhs (FY23) to Rs. 4358 Lakhs (FY24). PAT grew 155% YoY, from Rs. 372 Lakhs (FY23) to Rs. 950 Lakhs (FY24). LKP Securities, a distinguished financial services provider since

LKP Securities remains committed to pioneering advancements in the financial landscape. As the market evolves, the company continuously refines its services and offerings in order to remain competitive.

1948, stands firm on the belief that trust, investment, and growth are the cornerstone principles of successful wealth creation. Dedicated to the prosperity of its clients, it offers tailored investment solutions designed to advance clients toward their financial goals, whether novices or veterans. By integrating cutting-edge technologies and investing in ongoing research and development, LKP Securities remains committed to pioneering advancements in the financial landscape. As the market evolves, the company continuously refines its services and offerings in order to

remain competitive. LKP Securities' mission is to become the leading financial services provider you can trust and rely on. The firm aims to provide its clients with innovative investment solutions that are backed by exceptional customer service, state-of-the-art technology, and meticulous research. LKP Securities empowers its clients to achieve their financial aspirations through a culture of integrity, transparency, and collaboration. Dedicated to excellence, its team empowers clients and communities to achieve positive impact.

GRM Overseas Secures Maiden Government Order to Supply Premium Basmati Rice to Oman

CHANDIGARH: GRM Overseas Limited (GRM) has received its first order from the Ministry of Agricultural, Fisheries Wealth & Water Resources, Sultanate of Oman, to supply 4,500 MT of Premium basmati rice. The order is worth Indian Rupees 465 million. The Govt. entities in MENA region opens a significant target market for GRM Overseas with approx total size of 7,00,000 MT+ import of Basmati Rice. MENA region is the largest importer of Basmati Rice, having a lion's share ~78% of the total exports from India in FY23, while Europe contributes 6.9% and USA+ Canada contribute 6.6% (FY23). GRM Overseas has positioned itself strategically, as 95% of its export business is to the MENA region and has established itself as among the top 5 Basmati Rice exporters in MENA region. Managing Director Mr. Atul Garg further added, "We are thrilled to have received this maiden order from the Sultanate of Oman, one of the

largest consumers of Indian basmati rice. This signifies Oman's recognition of the quality of our basmati rice and its growing demand in the country. We see this order as a gateway to regular business opportunities in the Middle East, the largest consumer region of basmati rice. We look forward to further strengthening our presence in this region and diversifying our business." From humble inception in 1974 to redefining itself in the form of GRM, the Company has travelled a long way since then. Initially set up as a rice processing and trading house, it is growing to become a consumer staples organisation. During the initial years, GRM exported rice to the Middle East, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Gradually expanding its reach, GRM has developed a market for its rice in 42 countries, thereby achieving the title of the 3rd leading Rice Exporter in India. GRM has three rice processing units with an overall annual production

capacity of 4,40,800 MT-based out of Panipat (Haryana), Naultha (Haryana) and Gandhidham (Gujarat). Additionally, the Company has a warehousing facility of 1.75 Lakhs sq ft space adjacent to the Gandhidham plant facilitating speedy shipments from Kandla and Mundra ports. GRM sells products under its brands, namely "IOX", "Himalaya River" & "Tanoush," and also sells through private label arrangements under customers' brands. GRM has endeavoured to reach consumers directly with its brands and products in recent years. By placing its products on the shelves of several major retailers in India and abroad, GRM has ensured that the end consumer always has easy access to their high-quality products. The Company aims to deliver the best quality products to customers with stringent and proactive quality control procedures in place, according to international requirements.

CAPSULES

Government is looking at rolling out a fresh multi-billion-dollar

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.

JJP candidate Pala Ram Saini is getting public support from every section

Kaithal: As soon as JJP declared prominent social worker and senior JJP leader Pala Ram Saini as its candidate from Kurukshetra Lok Sabha constituency, the process of getting immense public support from people of 36 communities has started and a huge number of people are coming every day. People from every section are congratulating Pala Ram Saini on becoming the candidate and are also declaring their wholehearted support in the elections. It is important to mention here that



the impression of selfless service being done continuously by Pala Ram Saini for many years in the field of education, sports as well as social welfare is also ingrained in the hearts of the people and the public itself broke the record by supporting Pala Ram Saini. She is

appealing for votes to win the elections. While talking in his office today, JJP candidate Pala Ram Saini expressed gratitude to JJP National President Dr. Ajay Singh Chautala, former Deputy CM Dushyant Chautala, State Principal General Secretary Digvijay

Chautala for making him the candidate from Kurukshetra Lok Sabha constituency and said that by JJP With the record breaking development works done in public interest and the blessings of the public, we will win the elections with record breaking votes. The public interest is completely safe in JJP only. Pala Ram Saini said that he believes in doing rather than saying and his aim from the beginning has been to take everyone along and do joint development work.

High court upheld a single-judge bench's order dismissing a plea

INDORE: A division bench of Madhya Pradesh high court on Friday upheld a single-judge bench's order dismissing a plea by Congress' Moti Singh Patel for his candidature to be accepted as the party nominee for Lok Sabha elections after official candidate Akshay Kanti Bam pulled out of the poll race at the last minute. The Indore bench, comprising Justice SA Dharmadhikari and Justice Gajendra Singh, said Patel's application was "bereft of merit and substance".

Patel had approached the division bench after a single-judge bench of Justice Vivek Rusia on April 30 turned down his plea to overturn the rejection of his nomination by district election officer and to be allotted the Congress 'hand' symbol to contest polls. Indore votes in the fourth phase on May 13. Patel's candidature was rejected during scrutiny on April 25. Bam's papers were cleared as the 'approved Congress candidate', but he suddenly pulled out on April 29, the last day for

withdrawal of nominations. It left Congress without a candidate in Indore for the first time ever. Patel's counsel Vibhor Khandelwal contended before the division bench that the returning officer may have been right in rejecting Patel's nomination on April 26 since at that time he was not the approved Congress candidate and his form was not signed by 10 proposers. But in view of the proviso to subsection (5) of Section 36 of the Act, the returning officer ought to have given a day's time to Patel to get signatures of 10 proposers and examine the nomination form the next day, he said. Since Bam withdrew his candidature, Patel's form should be scrutinised and accepted so that he can contest the election, Khandelwal contended. Election Commission counsel Mini Ravindran submitted that the writ petition itself is not maintainable, arguing that Supreme Court had earlier held that any interference by high courts entertaining petitions.

CAs appraised with DRISHTI roadmap of their apex body ICAI

Chandigarh CA Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal, the newly elected National President of The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), a nationwide apex body of CAs, while outlining the objectives ICAI with the Govt of India's vision to achieve the status of a developed nation by the year 2027 announced its strategic roadmap - 'DRISHTI' for 2024-49. CA Agarwal, the 72nd national president after assuming charge reached Chandigarh for the first time along with his team was addressing the CA fraternity of Chandigarh tricity during a seminar organized at Hotel Hyatt Regency on Saturday. Nearly 200 CA members participated in this seminar hosted by ICAI Chandigarh Branch and appraised the



strategic aspects of the newly formed Central Council of ICAI.

Earlier, in his welcome address, CA Abhishek Singh Chauhan, Chairman, ICAI Chandigarh Branch expressed hope that the DRISHTI roadmap of the Central Council will prove beneficial not only in the national interest but also in establishing new dimensions in the CA profession. Chauhan laid demands to the National President for the interests of local CA members and students. At present, nearly 3500 CAs are

practicing under the aegis of Chandigarh branch, while about ten thousand CA students from Upper North students are being associated which are gradually increasing annually. To meet their demands, Chauhan put forth the demand for a Center of Excellence to which CA Agarwal assured that it would be discussed in detail. There had been no convocation for the Upper North students of ICAI Chandigarh since a long time and hence they have to approach Delhi for their degree.

Doctors say that parents should safeguard their children by following the proper immunisation

Gurgaon : This World Immunisation Week (24th-30th April) marks the 50th anniversary of the World Health Organization's Expanded Program on Immunisation (EPI). This milestone commemorates the legacy of global immunisation efforts and serves as a reminder of the countless lives saved and communities protected through vaccination over the past five decades. In India, the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) has been successful in expanding immunisation coverage to more than 90% children. Although coverage in the first year is high, drop-out rates after 1st birthday increase. A significant number of children in the country remain partially vaccinated. Vaccination plays a critical role in safeguarding children between the ages of 1-2 against multiple diseases. Vaccination averted 37 million childhood deaths in lower and middle-income countries between 2000 and 2019[i]. The Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP) recommends

But they need to understand the importance of completing the full immunization schedule. By staying informed and partnering with doctors, we can continue working towards ensuring every child receives the routine vaccination for a healthy

seven vaccinations* for children of this age group, first and second dose of varicella and hepatitis A, second dose of meningitis# and MMR, booster doses of PCV and DTP Hib IPV, and annual dose of flu. Dr Sanjay Wazir, Medical Director (Neonatology and Paediatrics) at Motherhood Hospital, Gurgaon says, "Parents today are well versed that vaccination is a protective shield for their child. But they need to understand the importance of completing the full immunization schedule. By staying informed and partnering with doctors, we can continue working towards ensuring every child receives the routine vaccination for a healthy and happy future. This

World Immunization Week, I urge parents to continue dialogue with their doctors to make informed decisions about their children's health." Dr Mahaveer Prasad Jain, Senior Pediatric Consultant, Vardhman Medicare Centre, Gurgaon says, "Protecting kids aged 1-5 through vaccination is fundamental to their health. Vaccinations saves lives and prevents needless suffering I encourage parents to discuss immunization with their doctor. Don't skip any doses; each protects against serious illnesses and helps prevent outbreaks in the community. Let's ensure our children stay healthy with complete immunization."

Surprise over the last-minute withdrawal

Former LS speaker Sumitra Mahajan expressed surprise over the last-minute withdrawal of nomination by Congress candidate from Indore, Akshay Kanti Bam, calling it unfair and unethical. Voters had the right to decide in a democratic set-up, she asserted. Bam had pulled out of the poll race on April 29, the last date for withdrawal of nominations, and joined BJP within hours, leaving Congress stunned. "People are calling me and asking me, 'what has happened Tai?'" Mahajan told Saturday. "This should not have happened. There was no need for this, as BJP's victory in Indore was a foregone conclusion," Mahajan said, hinting that she believed BJP was behind Bam's move. Indore is a saffron stronghold and Mahajan, now 81, represented the constituency eight consecutive times since 1989.

Government should start new rules to combat fraudulent e-commerce reviews



Delhi: Consumer affairs secretary Nidhi Khare said the Union government will use an Indian Standards code to combat fake customer reviews and inflated ratings on e-commerce platforms, a global issue, as online shoppers complain more on the national consumer helpline. Online shoppers are heavily influenced by customer reviews and ratings. E-commerce sellers manipulate ratings and add paid reviews to encourage sales. "The presence of fake reviews online jeopardizes the trust-

worthiness and credibility of shopping platforms and can cause consumers to make wrong purchase decisions," said Khare, who led a stakeholders' meeting with Amazon and Flipkart executives. Mordor Intelligence estimates that India's e-commerce market would expand from \$112.93 billion in 2024 to \$299.01 billion in 2029, a 21.5% CAGR. The new standard (IS 19000:2022) assigns reviewers and administrators particular duties. New regulations compel organizations to identify

review authors in certain ways. E-commerce grievances on the national consumer helpline increased from 95,270 in 2018 (22% of all grievances) to 4,44,034 in 2023 (43% of total grievances). E-commerce platforms in India must create a documented code of practice and share it with management and workers. Khare said they must show how they will follow this constitution and the guiding principles. Amazon and other platforms have acknowledged the issue globally.

Sebi proposes tighter SME listing requirements over misuse worries

Delhi: Sebi and stock exchanges aim to tighten standards for SMEs seeking public listings, according to Reuters. Concerns over exploitation of a 2012 platform to help small firms access financing markets prompted this change. According to sources in the report, the planned modifications might boost the minimum amount of public offerings to Rs 30 crore to Rs 50 crore (\$3.59 million to \$5.99 million).

In response to stakeholder engagements, these new regulations are due later this year. There's no minimum issue size, but corporations listing on this



market must have Rs 25 crore in post-issue capital. One source told Reuters that a minimum offer size will ensure that genuine enterprises can access financial markets, protecting investor interests. During the fiscal year ending March 2024, more SMEs went public due to India's

strong equities markets. On PRIME Database, 205 companies raised Rs 60 billion through public offerings, up from 125 firms raising Rs 2200 crore the year before. Companies with yearly turnovers between Rs 5 crore and Rs 250 crore are Indian SMEs.

Air India, Vistara try to resolve staff issues before merger

Delhi: As the Vistara merger process begins, Air India hopes to resolve employee fitment difficulties. The Vistara-Air India integration committee has identified certain occupations that will be duplicated following the merger. Vistara has 6,500

employees and Air India 17,000. At a recent town hall meeting, employees were notified that the merger may eliminate some positions. The Tata Group will upskill some employees and place others in other group entities to avoid job losses. Prior to the

merger, Air India employed consultants to design the new structure. Some Air India staff would be kept, while others may join Air India Express. Some employees worry about their career advancement and seniority in the new framework.

CAPSULES

Joe Biden dramatically raises US tariffs on Chinese EVs and chips

Delhi: US President Joe Biden lambasted Beijing for "cheating" as he raised tariffs on Chinese products such as electric vehicles and semiconductors. Beijing strongly opposed the sanctions as Biden sought to appear tough on trade ahead of a rematch with Republican Donald Trump in November's US



presidential election. "We're not going to let China flood our market, making it impossible for American automakers to compete fairly," Biden declared in the White House Rose Garden. He said, "We're never going to allow China to unfairly control the market for these cars," before ordering duties. Trump's tariffs have been frequently criticized by Biden. He's been using similar tactics to win over blue-collar voters in swing Rust Belt states. The White House stated EV tariffs will treble to 100% this year and semiconductor duties will rise from 25% to 50% by next year. The sanctions targeted \$18 billion in Chinese imports, including batteries, vital minerals, and medical supplies. Biden said China has substantially supported critical sectors, forcing corporations to produce more than the world can consume and flooding the market with unfairly priced commodities. The president's announcement followed a review of tariffs imposed by then-president Trump on \$300 billion in Chinese imports. The Biden administration maintained tariffs.

Order mandating SpiceJet to pay Sun Group's Kalanithi Maran 270 crore overturned by Court

Delhi: Judge ordered SpiceJet to refund over 1270 crore to Sun Group promoter Kalanithi Maran, but a Division Bench of the Delhi High Court overturned it. SpiceJet and CMD Ajay Singh appealed the single-judge's ruling to a Division Bench of Justices Yashwant Varma and Ravinder Dudeja. Appeals are allowed. The July 31, 2023 order is vacated "By the Court. The Division Bench denied SpiceJet's request to postpone the single-judge ruling upholding an arbitral tribunal award ordering the airline to reimburse over 270 cases. The issue between Maran and SpiceJet began in



January 2015 when Ajay Singh bought SpiceJet from him. Maran reportedly gave Singh his 58.46% airline ownership. According to the contract,

Maran would receive redeemable warrants for his airline promotion investments. Maran was entitled to 18 crore warrants and 26% SpiceJet shares. No con-

vertible warrants or preference shares were issued to Maran, and he received no money. Maran sought roughly 1,323 crore in damages. Arbitration was ordered by the Delhi High Court. The arbitral tribunal ordered SpiceJet to return Maran 1270 crore in July 2018. The tribunal also ordered the airline to pay 12% interest on warrant payments and 18% on Maran awards if they are late. The tribunal also found no breach of Maran, SpiceJet, and Ajay Singh's share sale and purchase agreement. Thus, Maran's shareholding return and damages claims were denied.

Government e-commerce platform accepting unicorns

Delhi: Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), a UPI-like alternative to e-commerce heavyweights, is onboarding unicorns like Makemytrip, Policybazaar, Cars24, and Zerodha to build traction. While ONDC was created to support small businesses like kirana stores and democratize online shopping, the government believes large players will give consumers more choice and boost demand in smaller towns and cities. The goal is to assist consumers and



businesses without platform fees. "It gained popularity in the last two years. Five lakh sellers—70% small and medium—have joined. ONDC processed 72 million transactions in April." Rajesh Kumar Singh, industry and internal trade secretary, told reporters. Singh

expects all types of players to join, when asked if big startups would overwhelm smaller ones. "The intent is noble, let us see how it works and to what extent we can actually crack some of the issues you raised in terms of market concentration," said.

Microsoft, I4C remove 1,000 cybercriminal Skype accounts



Delhi: The Indian Cyber Coordination Centre (I4C) and Microsoft have blocked over 1,000 Skype accounts linked to intimidation, blackmail, extortion, and 'digital arrests' of citizens by cyber criminals posing as police, CBI, narcotics, RBI, or ED personnel. A MHA statement stated I4C helps prevent SIM cards, mobile devices, and mule accounts used by criminals. Many complaints are being reported on the National Cyber Crime

Reporting Portal (NCRP) about how these fraudsters call potential victims and claim they have sent or are the intended recipient of a parcel containing illegal goods, drugs, fake passports, or other contraband. They may also claim that a loved one is in their custody for a crime or accident. Money is demanded to compromise the "case". Some victims face 'digital arrest' until their demands are granted. Many victims have

lost a lot of money to such thieves. The home ministry stated cross-border crime syndicates run this online economic crime. MHA said it is collaborating with other ministries, agencies, RBI, and other organizations to combat these frauds. I4C assists police in all states and Union Territories in identifying and investigating cases. Citizens should be aware of these frauds and disseminate knowledge. image

Airtel partners with Google Cloud to provide Indian businesses cloud and gen-AI solutions

Delhi: Bharti Airtel and Google Cloud are partnering to offer Indian businesses cloud and generative-AI solutions. The telecom company will use Google Cloud products to accelerate cloud adoption and modernization through the agreement. Airtel will offer cloud-managed services to its corporate customers, including over 2,000 large organizations and a million developing businesses. This partnership targets India's big and rising public cloud services industry, which IDC predicts will be worth \$17.8 billion by 2027.

Bharti Airtel managing director and CEO Gopal Vittal said, "Cloud and AI solutions will drive India's digital transformation. We're excited to collaborate with Google



Cloud to provide safe and scalable cloud solutions for government, companies, and startups. Our collaboration will speed the implementation of generative AI in the country and uncover its potential to solve challenges. Airtel will also use Google Cloud's generative AI to improve its mobile, broadband, and digital TV consumer experiences and internal processes. Airtel will also offer similar services to its Indian and global B2B customers.

According to Google Cloud CEO Thomas Kurian, "Our strategic partnership with Airtel is a major step for accelerating cloud and AI adoption in India. We want to develop disruptive solutions to improve Airtel's customer experience through our relationship." Airtel will train artificial-intelligence and machine-learning solutions on its enormous dataset using the two businesses' strengths—connectivity and AI technology.

IFC provides \$500 million to HDFC Bank so that it can offer microloans to female clients



Delhi: HDFC Bank said that it has received \$500 million from the IFC to support low-income women borrowers through onlending. According to an official release, the largest private sector lender in the nation would provide financing for income production, promoting financial inclusion and socio-economic growth. The microloans will be extended to women registered in the lender's

Sustainable Livelihoods Initiative (SLI) as well as self-help and joint liability groups. Arup

Rakshit, group head of Treasury at HDFC firm, stated that the firm has opted for a longer-term loan facility that will support the bank's endeavors to empower women. According to the statement, banks' wide distribution and cheaper funding costs can be used to provide microloans to women, despite the fact that non-banks now service two thirds of the microfinance market. "Having access to financial services is essential for enhancing the economy and empowering women."

Eight US publications sued OpenAI and Microsoft for copyright infringement

Delhi: OpenAI and Microsoft are being sued by eight US newspapers for "purloining millions" of copyrighted news stories to train its artificial intelligence chatbots. New York federal court received the lawsuit from the Daily News, Chicago Tribune, Denver Post, and others. The MediaNews Group and Tribune Publishing executive editor Frank Pine wrote, "We've spent billions of dollars gathering information and reporting news at our publications, and we can't allow OpenAI and Microsoft to expand the Big Tech playbook of stealing our work to build their own businesses at our expense." The lawsuit also names MediaNews Group's Mercury News, Denver Post, Orange County Register, St. Paul Pioneer-Press, and Tribune Publishing's Orlando Sentinel and South Florida Sun Sentinel. Alden Global Capital owns all publications. Microsoft declined comment. A request for comment from OpenAI was delayed. The New York Times sued OpenAI and Microsoft in December for Copyright infringement in ChatGPT's construction and training. Teams of wealthy lawyers seeking to stop us from publicizing their stories. Lobby groups with unclear funding that debunk climate emergency and other science. Authoritarian regimes that disregard press freedom. Bad actors propagating online falsehoods to subvert democracy. Something powerful is on our side. We got you. The Guardian is funded by Indian readers like you, and our editor selects what we publish. This week is the 31st World Press Freedom Day, a time to reflect on free expression as the foundation of all rights. It's also a chance to assist independent media worldwide. —a healthy democracy needs a free press. We welcome you to join our goal to spread independent, worldwide news.

ICICI Prudential Life offers 15% lifetime discount for women and an additional 15% discount for salaried women on its term plan – iProtect Smart

GURGAON/FARIDABAD: ICICI Prudential Life Insurance today announced a lifetime discount of 15% exclusively for women on all the premiums to be paid, for its best-selling term insurance product, iProtect Smart. Additionally, salaried women will be eligible for an extra 15% discount on the first year's premium, empowering them to provide financial security to themselves and their loved ones. iProtect Smart combined with the critical illness benefit, provides cover against 34 critical illnesses including ailments such as breast, ovarian, uterine and cervical cancers. This combination offers benefits of both health and life insurance. Importantly, the critical illness cover amount is paid out on diagnosis, providing the requisite financial resources for seeking immediate medical treatment, without disrupting the family's savings. As per The Lancet estimates, the incidence of cancer diagnosed in the under 50 years adult age group had a higher ratio of women. A single hospitalisation can cost upwards of Rs. 1 lakh in an urban private hospital, hence, it is essential for women to plan availability of financial resources to treat such critical ailments. on this announcement, Mr. Amit Palta, Chief Distribution Officer, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance said, "We recognise the sacrifices women make as caregivers and guardians to ensure the well-being of their families."



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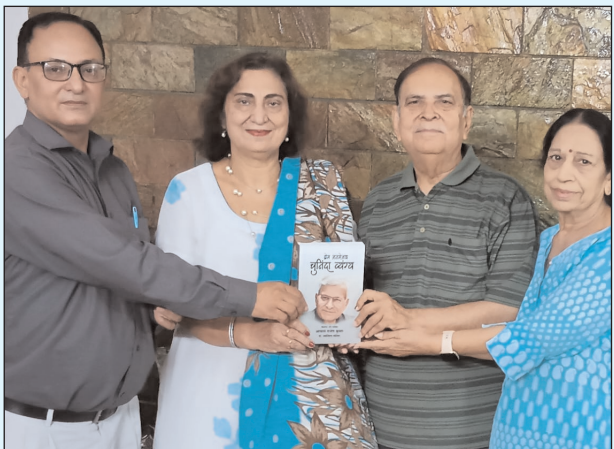


National Eligibility Test to replace PhD entrance exams at JNU

Delhi: JNU will use the National Eligibility Test (NET) score instead of the National Testing Agency (NTA) entrance test for PhD admission starting this academic year. JNU reported that UGC, as part of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, has decided to allow universities/HEIs to use the score of the National Eligibility Test (NET) conducted by UGC and CSIR for Ph.D admission in place of an entrance test. According to this decision, JNU will use NET scores for Ph.D admissions, replacing the NTA entrance test. "Accordingly, JNU has decided to use NET score in place of the entrance test conducted by National Testing Agency (NTA) for admission to Ph.D Programmes in the University from the academic session 2024-25," said the note.

Dr. Sarita Mehta released the book 'Prem Janamejay Chuninda Vyang'

Chandigarh: Dr. Sarita Mehta, a famous poetess and President of Vidyadham, America, released the book 'Prem Janamejay - Chuninda Vyang' written on senior litterateur Prem Janamejay in Sector 37 today. The editors of the book are Acharya Rajesh Kumar and Dr. Lalitya Lalit. It has been published by Swatantra Prakashan Delhi. Senior litterateur Prem Vij, poet and editor Dr. Vinod Sharma and Raj Vij were also present on this occasion. Dr. Sarita Mehta congratulated the editors and said that by publishing the book of selected satires of Prem Janamejay on his 75th birthday, a beautiful gift has been given to the favourite genre of Hindi. Prem Vij said that along with the author Prem



Janamejay, he is an editor and a reputed litterateur. Acharya Rajesh Kumar has published more than 100 books. Dr. Lalitya Lalit has also achieved an important place with 39 books. The owner of Swatantra Prakashan and poet Sushil Swatantra has published the book in a very beautiful manner. Dr. Vinod Sharma said that Janamejay is a walking encyclopaedia of satire. This book will prove helpful for researchers as well.

Pradeep Chaudhary condemned the closure of Aadhar card updating and new making machines in villages

Kaithal: Pradeep Kumar Chaudhary, executive member of Haryana Pradesh Congress Committee and close supporter of former Haryana Chief Minister Chaudhary Bhupendra Singh Hooda, alleged that the decision of the government and administration to suddenly shut down the machines for making and updating Aadhar cards at CSC centers in rural areas for the last several years by issuing a Tughlaqi decree is a completely wrong and anti-people step, which cannot be condemned enough. Pradeep Chaudhary was propagating the policies of Congress in various villages of the constituency under the Congress' Haath Se Haath Jodo Abhiyan. Addressing the villagers, Congress leader Pradeep Chaudhary said that by shutting down the facility of making and updating Aadhar cards, the employment of CSC center operators will be snatched away and they will become unemployed. Due to which the villagers will also have to face a lot of problems. The villagers will have to leave their daily work and come to the city every day,



which will lead to a waste of both time and money. There is a lot of anger among the villagers and CSC operators due to this step of the government and administration. The government should withdraw its arbitrary anti-people order without wasting time, so that the villagers living in the villages do not face any kind of problem. Pradeep Kumar said that when the Aadhar service was started at a CSC center, a setup worth about one lakh rupees was prepared at the center.

GODAVARI BIOREFINERIES LIMITED FILES DRHP WITH SEBI

GURUGRAM : Godavari Biorefineries Limited ("The Company" or "GBL") one of the prominent manufacturers of ethanol based chemicals in India has filed its Draft Red Herring Prospectus ("DRHP") with market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI"). As on March 31, 2024, the Company

has the largest integrated bio-refinery in India in terms of installed capacity and were also the largest manufacturer of MPO (3 Methyl-3 Penten-2-One) worldwide in terms of installed capacity, one of only two manufacturers of natural 1,3 butylene glycol and the only company in India to manufacture bio ethyl acetate according to Frost & Sullivan Report. The Company plans to raise fund through Equity Share Capital of face value ₹ 10 each. The total issue comprises of fresh issue of equity share aggregating up to 3,250 million [325 crore] and offer for sale of up to 6,526,983 Equity Shares. ("Offer For Sale") ["Total Offer Size"] Company plans to utilize the net proceeds from fresh issue towards funding (i) Repayment/pre-payment, in full or in part, of certain outstanding

borrowings availed by the Company amounting to 2,400 million [240 crore] and balance amount towards general corporate purpose. ["Fresh Issue"] The Offer for Sale comprises of up to 4,926,983 Equity Share by Mandala Capital AG Limited [Investor Selling Shareholders], up to 500,000 Equity Shares by Somaiya Agencies Private Limited, up to 2,00,000 Equity Shares by Samir Shantilal Somaiya, up to 200,000 Equity Shares by Lakshmiwadi Mines. and Minerals. Private Limited [Promoter Selling Shareholders], up to 300,000 Equity Shares by Filmedia Communication Private Limited, up to 100,000 Equity Shares by Somaiya Properties and Investments Private Limited [Promoter Group.

International Olympiads 2023-24: SilverZone rewards 5 students from Gurugram

GURUGRAM : Fostering the school talent across globe, SilverZone Foundation, a non-government organisation with its unwavering commitment to promoting educational excellence, rewarded 5 International Olympiads winners from Gurugram at 21st Educational Excellence Award & Student Felicitation Program 2023-24. Among the awarded students, 5 are from Gurugram and a total of 15 students are from Haryana state. SilverZone Foundation has been organising 10 Olympiad competitions for school students including International Olympiad for Mathematics and



and the guest of honour, Mr. Punya Prasun Bajpai, a renowned journalist and news presenter. These luminaries captivated the audience with their insights on current developments in the education system, leaving everyone inspired and enlightened. Mr. Kamal Kishore, Managing Director of SilverZone Foundation, proudly announced the completion of 20 years of organising Olympiad exams. He said, "We at SilverZone

Foundation believe in encouraging talent for excellence in the education sector. We host various International Olympiad for school students to inculcate competitiveness in them and to motivate them to perform to the best of their abilities. Today, I congratulate all the winners for performing extraordinarily in these exams. This annual event celebrates the participants who took up these exams and excelled, as well as the academic community that has partnered with us and supported our mission to enhance participants' academic performance through scientific assessment and evaluation."

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

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