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

Shaken Hasina flees, Army in charge

DHAKA: Bangladesh's embattled PM Sheikh Hasina (76) on Monday resigned and fled the country following more than a month of deadly demonstrations that began as protests against job quotas swelled into a movement precipitating the end of her 15-year rule.

A source close to her told AFP her security team, gauging the mood on the ground, asked her to leave her residence and the country immediately and she didn't get any time to pack up or record a farewell speech.

Bangladesh army stepped in to fill the power vacuum, ending one uncertain chapter and opening another in the nation's restive history.

Sajeeb Wazed Joy, Hasina's son and her ex-official adviser, said she wouldn't make a political comeback and that she left the country for her own safety on her family's insis-



Bangladesh protest: Challenges Hasina's departure poses for India

Sheikh Hasina's resignation as PM and departure from Bangladesh creates a plethora of uncertainties for India. Over one-and-a-half decade, she was New Delhi's staunchest ally. India-Bangladesh ties during this period reached unprecedented levels. From cross-border trade and transit arrangements to security cooperation and people-to-people exchanges, bilateral relations experienced a golden period. =Who is Bangladesh's army chief

Waker-Uz-Zaman who took charge after Sheikh Hasina's ouster? But Hasina's ouster puts all of those gains under a cloud. The protests that forced her from office also had an anti-India flavour since Hasina and New Delhi were perceived to be joined at the hip. Given this context, these are five challenges India could face in its Bangladesh policy in the near future: Nature of interim govt: Bangladesh army chief Waker-uz-Zaman.

tence. 366 killed in 36 days of crisis As news of Hasina's

departure spread, volatile crowds took to the streets here, some clambering on her father and Bangladesh founder Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's statue and smashing it with hammers in a lasting image underscoring the fickleness of history. Many went on a ransacking and looting spree in her residence. A mob vandalised Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre in Dhanmondi. Four Hindu temples also suffered "minor" damage.

In an address to the nation, army chief General Waqar-uz-Zaman said an interim govt would be formed and he had met members of most political parties. "I'm taking all responsibility (of the country)," he said. At night, President Mohd Shahabuddin ordered the release of prisoners as well as jailed ex-PM and key opposition figure Khaleda Zia of BNP.

Government set to table Waqf Act Amendment Bill in this session

NEW DELHI: The Bill to amend Waqf Act is likely to be introduced in Parliament during current session, sources said, adding it has been discussed with alliance partners. This comes against the backdrop of continuous demands and representations made by common Muslims to make the regulation of Waqf properties more transparent, said Union parliamentary affairs minister Kiren Rijiju on Monday.

Rijiju, however, did not share details of the Bill. Endorsing the proposed amendments and emphasising their potential benefits for both the Waqf system and the broader community, BJP's Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, said, "It's good for both - Waqf and 'waqt (time)'. On reports that Centre is likely to bring a Bill to curb



SC refuses to stay Calcutta HC order quashing expansion of OBC list

NEW DELHI: Supreme Court on Monday refused to stay Calcutta high court's May 22 judgment quashing inclusion of 77 communities, 75 of them Muslims, in West Bengal's OBC list and sought details of surveys determining their social and educational backwardness and under-representation in govt jobs requiring their inclusion in the OBC list. While agreeing to examine the validity of the HC judgment, a bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices

J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra asked advocate Astha Sharma, representing West Bengal govt, to file an affidavit within a week detailing the process followed to include 77 communities in the OBC list through various executive orders between 2010 and 2012. "The state shall clarify the nature of survey, if any, carried out to determine social and backwardness of the communities included in the OBC list as well the survey to find out their inadequate.

"unfettered" powers of Waqf Boards over assets, Naqvi said, "It's needed to take out Waqf system from the 'touch me

not' thinking. Neither it's good for country nor for the community to impose a communal mentality over inclusive reform.

Lakshya Sen, skeet shooters fall short of historic medals at Paris Olympics

NEW DELHI: It turned out to be a gloomy day for India at the Paris Olympics with a series of near misses in badminton, shooting, and wrestling. Lakshya Sen missed a bronze medal in badminton while Maheshwari Chauhan and Anant Jeet Singh Naruka fell short in the skeet mixed team event in shooting. Wrestler Nisha Dahiya too was left in tears after an injury dashed her hopes in the women's freestyle category. Sen, aiming to be India's first male shuttler to win an Olympic medal, faced a tough matchup against Malaysia's world no.7 Lee Zii Jia in the bronze playoff. Despite a strong start, Sen was unable to maintain his lead and lost the match 21-13, 16-21, 11-21 in a 71-minute contest.

DGGI sends show-cause notice to crypto exchange



AHMEDABAD: The Ahmedabad zonal unit of the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) has issued a show-cause notice to a major cryptocurrency exchange, demanding Goods and Services Tax (GST) payment of Rs 722 crore. This marks the first time the DGGI has issued such a notice to a cryptocurrency firm, setting a precedent in India's efforts to regulate the rapidly growing virtual currency market. Sources confirmed that the notice was issued to the firm for collecting fees from Indian customers trading in virtual digital assets (VDAs) on their platform, categorized under online information database access or retrieval (OIDAR) services. Earlier this year, the cryptocurrency firm had received approval from India's financial intelligence unit (FIU) to register as a virtual asset service provider (VASP). However, the company was slapped with a Rs 18 crore penalty from the FIU last month for non-compliance with anti-money laundering (AML) regulations. Despite being a major player in the global cryptocurrency market, with a sizeable market share and operations in multiple countries, the company had not registered under the Indian GST framework. This oversight has now brought it under the scrutiny of Indian tax authorities. "The company reportedly earned at least Rs 4,000 crore from transaction fees charged to Indian customers. The company has a user base of 90 million users globally, including a substantial number of customers from India too. Detailed investigation revealed that the earnings of these fees were credited to the account of a group company based abroad.

India's Gaganyatri reaches US for space station training

New Delhi IAF Group Captain and Isro's astronaut candidate Shubhanshu Shukla, who has been selected as India's Gaganyatri for the International Space Station (ISS) mission in partnership with Nasa and US space agency Axiom, has reached the US to take part in a specialised training session for his maiden space trip. Axiom



Space announced on Monday that it is partnering with India (through Isro), Poland (with European Space Agency's support) and Hungary to send three national astronauts to the space station on Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-

mission specialist Slawosz Uznanski of ESA/Poland, and mission specialist Tibor Kapu of Hungary. Welcoming Shukla and other crew, Axiom Space said X: "Welcome to Houston #Ax4! This week the crew... will begin training with their commander AstroPeggy." The Ax-4 crewmembers begin training with Axiom Space, NASA and SpaceX.

Centre: Landslides tied to Kerala governments' neglect



NEW DELHI: Blaming successive Kerala govts for their neglect of environmental factors that led to the Wayanad disaster, environment minister Bhupender Yadav on Monday said the state govt did not pay attention to "expansion of illegal human habitation and mining" in ecologically fragile areas, and kept allowing such activities over the years which led to the devastating landslides on July 30. "Such activities

were allowed in the past 10 years without keeping in view soil topography, rock conditions, mountain slope, vegetation structure and overall geomorphology of the ecologically fragile region," Yadav said. Records

show Kerala govt gave approval to as many as nine projects, including four of mining, in the state during the past three years (2022-24) whereas environment ministry permitted one project - construction of twin tunnel between Anakkampoyil Kalladi-Meppadi in Kozhikode and Wayanad districts - during the period. On the ministry's approval, Yadav said the lone project was approved in-principle (stage-I) and construction.

China, ISI orchestrated trouble to install a regime inimical to India: Intel officials

NEW DELHI: Intelligence establishment sees the hand of Pakistan's external intelligence agency, ISI and its Chinese patron in escalating the protests and subversion that forced Sheikh Hasina to flee the country. Information reaching here point to the not-so-subtle hand of Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS), the student wing of headline Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh which is known for its anti-India stance, in inflaming the streets, and turning protest over quotas into a determined effort to replace Hasina with a regime that is friendly to Pakistan and China and hospitable for the anti-India terror groups which



would work out of Bangladesh before the crack down ordered by the ousted Awami League govt. The intelligence inputs alluded to meticulous planning undertaken by ICS members several months prior, aimed at instigating widespread violence across the nation. "The ISI-backed Jamaat-e-Islami had received substantial financial backing earlier this year to

destabilise the Sheikh Hasina govt. A significant portion of this funding is believed to have originated from Chinese entities operating in Pakistan," an official disclosed. Although Hasina tried to keep China in good humour, she was sensitive also to India's interests-an even-handedness which was not to China's pleasing. Interestingly, many leading figures of the

Saviour PR points out at wife's name on hockey stick after India's nail-biting win

Playing his last international tournament, goalkeeper PR Sreejesh stood rock solid at the post, making saves after saves in the shoot-out, steering India into the semis. India will play the winner of the quarterfinal match between Germany and Spain. in the semis. Watch: Saviour PR Sreejesh points out at wife's name on hockey stick after India's nail-biting win India goalkeeper PR Sreejesh (Photo credit: Screengrab from video posted on X) **NEW DELHI:** Veteran custodian PR Sreejesh emerged hero as India pulled off a nail-biting 4-2 win in the shoot-out against Great Britain on Sunday at the Paris Olympics.

GST on health & life insurance fetched Rs 21,000 crore in 3 years

NEW DELHI: Amid growing demand for a cut, if not removal, of GST on health and life insurance, government on Monday told Parliament that the levy fetched it Rs 21,256 crore during the last three financial years, with Rs 8,263 being collected during 2023-24. Responding to a Parliament question, junior minister for finance Pankaj Chaudhary said another Rs 3,274 crore was received as GST from reissuance of health policies during last three years. The GST Council had fixed 18% rate when the new regime kicked in from July 2017. According to the formula, the Centre collects 9% GST with a matching collection by states. From the Centre's kitty, 41% is shared with the states in line with the devolution formula. To a question on whether there is a

demand from the industry for withdrawal of service tax, Chaudhary said "representations have been received requesting for exemption or reduction in the rate of GST on life insurance and health insurance". GST rates and exemptions are prescribed on the recommendations of the GST Council, which is a constitutional body comprising representatives from both the Centre and the States/UTs, he added. The minister said that certain insurance schemes catering to poor sections of the society and differently abled, such as Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana, Universal Health Insurance Scheme, Jan Arogya Bima Policy and Niramaya Health Insurance Scheme are exempt from GST. Following Nitin Gadkari's to do away with GST on health and life products.

Kashmir has flourished since its special status revoked: Minister Nandi

Ensuring socioeconomic progress and cultural regeneration

Prayagraj: Nandgopal Gupta Nandi, Cabinet Minister of Uttar Pradesh, called the repeal of Article 370 a "transformative decision," claiming that it ushered in a new age of empowerment for underprivileged groups and boosted grassroots democracy in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. He stated that the choice made on August 5, 2019 propelled the region's young toward socioeconomic progress and cultural regeneration. Minister Nandi who zeroed in on Kashmir as wedding destination for his son, said, "Generally dates are just a part of the pages of history, but with some dates the society and the nation take a new turn. The date of abolition of Article 370, August 5, 2019, is the most epoch-making and unprecedented date of independent India. Today, it seems as if heaven on earth is taking shape from books on the ground of reality.

Kashmir, once gripped by terror, is today becoming a carrier of tourism and progress. Today it is also in sync with the mainstream and development journey of the nation. Today, Kashmir has become famous and established as the most beautiful and attractive place in the world for organizing cultural and wedding programs. Inspired by the Honorable Prime Minister's call for destination weddings within the country, I also selected this picturesque venue as the wedding venue of my son. While sharing my experiences with all of you, I can only say that today's Kashmir is unique, wonderful and unimaginable. 'Wed in India' is a golden opportunity to save happy memories with your loved ones on our soil. This is the fulfillment of the unwavering resolve of the Honorable Prime Minister and the illustrious Home Minister. Heartiest congratulations for the completion of five years of realization of the national dream and for Kashmir to touch new heights."

54 pc parents have no answer to children's questions: Survey

Varanasi: Children are curious by nature and parents always try to find the right answer to satisfy their curiosity. This was revealed in a recent survey conducted by Amazon Alexa's Kantar among more than 7500 parents in six cities in June 2024. The survey revealed that about 54 percent of the parents surveyed often feel that they do not have an immediate answer to children's questions. Also, 52 percent of the respondents said that if they do not know, they try to find the right answer immediately. It is worth noting that 44 percent of the parents surveyed admitted to giving fabricated answers on the spot.

Dilip R.S., Country Manager, Alexa, Amazon India. "Children are naturally curious and ask ques-

tions that range from random questions to those that are beyond their usual range of knowledge or unconventional for their age, and are always looking for answers about the world around them. It's important for parents to answer their questions in a way that is informative, easy to understand, creative and age-appropriate," said Alexa CEO and CEO. Today, around the world, families with young children ask Alexa 25 million questions each month - proof that Alexa is now a way for parents to access and learn. We're focused on improving the Alexa experience for families with young children by adding relevant skills that help them learn new things every day while having fun.

SDM Soraon visited Shringverpurdham, gave strict instructions

Shringverpurdham: On Monday, SDM Soraon Ganesh Kanojia reached Shriramghat in Shringverpurdham and gave strict instructions to the subordinate officers to make strict arrangements for the convenience of Kanwariyas and devotees for the Sawan Fair and ordered for cleanliness within 24 hours. SDM Soraon got furious after seeing the filth spread in Shringverpurdham, the toilets being operated in the clothing store and the inconvenience spread on the banks of Ganga. Seeing the insensitivity of the block officers, the SDM organized a class. In Shringverpurdham, he was reprimanded when not even one employee out of ten was found

on the banks of Ganga. The employees who were cleaning were also found working in place of other employees. ADO Panchayat was ordered to fix the system within 24 hours. Instructions have also been given to deduct the salary of the ADO Panchayat if the system is not rectified within 24 hours. Shringverpurdham Teerth Kshetra Trust President Arun Dwivedi demanded from SDM Soraon to make arrangements for barricading, provision of toilets, cleanliness of toilets and to move ten feet posts back from Ganga Ghat. Along with this, there was a demand for opening the lock of the toilet built by the Tourism Department and cleaning the old toilet. Im-



mediately SDM Soraon instructed the pilgrim priests to remove the posts. Along with this, the posts were also removed by the employees. BDOs were

asked to follow the process of imposing tax for cleanliness and other arrangements on the banks of Ganga. BDO Leeladhar Shukla said that demand

has been made several times through correspondence with departmental officers and DPRO for permanent appointment of employees. But no action has

been taken yet. Chairman of Shringverpurdham Teerth Kshetra Trust has been asked to look after the arrangements of Sawan fair. SDM Soraon Ganesh Kanojia said that Sawan fair is going on. It is difficult to organize the fair without coordination between the rural and government administration. There is a need for mutual coordination and fraternity among the villagers. While discussing the development works, Shringverpurdham Teerth Kshetra Trust President Arun Dwivedi has been asked to provide cooperation with his team in the Sawan fair. He told Arun Dwivedi that the cooperation of your team is necessary, so that the Sawan fair can be organised.

A year wiser, a year sharper-- SJC hosts birthday celebration for Rev. Fr. Lawrence Fernandes

Prayagraj: "If you think positively, sound becomes music, movement becomes dance, smile becomes laughter, mind becomes meditation, and life becomes a celebration." - Anonymous. Birthdays are the most awaited days in one's life, and for someone as important and revered as a priest who is known by many, how would this day live up to its name? Well, it would, by everyone showing their goodwill and acknowledging the gift of that august personage.

To celebrate the 74th birthday of Rev. Fr. Lawrence Fernandes, the Diocesan Educational Officer of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Prayagraj, a special programme was held on 5th August, 2024 at the famed Hogan Hall, St. Joseph's College, Prayagraj. The event kicked off with the Mistress of the ceremony, Mrs. Ancy Thomas, welcoming Rev. Fr. Lawrence Fernandes, being escorted by the Principal, Rev. Fr. Walter D'Silva, the Headmaster, Rev. Fr. Melwin Pais, the Middle-School Administrator, Rev. Fr. Gladwin Fernandes, the Additional Administrator, Mr. A. McGowan, and the Senior Staff Coordinator,

Mr. J. Dube.

No auspicious event can be held without the Almighty's choicest blessings, and thus, the Bible reading and a special prayer was done by Mrs. Daisy Daniel. The temptation of a sweet cake kept in front of our eyes is unparallel to any another, and so, the cake cutting ceremony took



place with the gathering clapping away in joy. A birthday song was also sung by the gathering.

The Principal, Rev. Fr. Walter D'Silva, then presented a bouquet to Rev. Fr. Lawrence Fernandes, after which a bouquet each was presented by the Headmaster, Rev. Fr. Melwin Pais, the Middle-School Administrator, Mr. A. McGowan, and the Senior Staff Coordinator, Mr. J. Dube respectively. A song wishing Rev. Fr. Lawrence Fernandes many happy returns of the day

and praying for his future endeavours was sung by the teachers of the Primary section.

It was then time for the Principal Rev. Fr. Walter D'Silva to address the gathering. He praised the indefatigable Manager of St. Joseph's College, Prayagraj, Rev. Fr. Lawrence Fernandes for his quiet un-

eral Orientation programmes for both principals and teachers are to his credit as is the ongoing process of compiling a huge digital library, despite any setbacks life had brought his way. After the Principal's speech, the teachers of the senior section sang a special song.

Filled with happiness and appreciation for the wonderful presentation, Rev. Fr. Lawrence Fernandes, addressed the audience. His ingenious and witty statements, brought smiles aplenty to all the staff, who were totally absorbed in the profundity of his words. He urged everyone to remember the mantra that faith in God will help one dispel all fears. A God-fearing person is always guided by the Almighty to create a positive vibe everywhere, he or she goes. He thanked Rev. Fr. Walter D'Silva for a beautifully organised birthday celebration. Along with Rev. Fr. Lawrence Fernandes, Ms. N. Aslam and Mrs. R. Gandhi also celebrated their birthday. After Rev. Fr. Melwin Pais recited the Grace before the Fellowship meal, books written by Rev. Fr. Lawrence Fernandes were handed out to all the assembled staff.

Forced to commit suicide over possession of residential lease

Prayagraj: The lease holders are landless agricultural laborers belonging to Scheduled Caste. Among the lease holders, Indranath son of Kumbhraj, Krishnakant son of Shambhu Nath, Dudhnath son of Chhotku, Shyamlal son of Janaki Prasad, Shyamkali wife of Bhuvan, Om Prakash son of Maladhar, Hari Nandan son of Kumbh Raj, Mahendra Kumar son of Babul and Sheshman son of Phoolchandra were given the said accommodation in number 24. All nine lease holders will get 0.011 hectare respectively. That is, one each Viswa and Bajrang Lal son of Ishwardin, Rakam Lal son of Kishori Lal, Lalla Prasad son of Tersu Ram, Brijlal son of Dukhi Ram, Mahendra Kumar son of Gayadeen, Vidyadhar son of Bhagwandin and Kamlesh son of Siyaram, all the above mentioned seven people were placed in Araj No. 301 respectively. 0.011 hectare. That is, each Vishwa and Deviprasad son of Jamuna Prasad, Ram Abhilash son of Siyaram and Hiralal son of Lodhai Ram were given 0.011 hectare respectively in Araj number 579. That is, the residential lease of each Vishwa

was done on 30.05.2003 in Gram Sabha Badha Police Station Kaundhiyara, Tehsil Karchana but possession was not filed on the spot. The former village head wanted to construct a water tank on the leased land, but due to opposition from the lease holders, the water tank was not built. The lease holder gave more than half a dozen applications to the District Magistrate and Deputy District Magistrate Karchana to get possession of the said leased land, but these officials did not even listen to him because the lease holder is a destitute, helpless poor Scheduled Caste. Just four months ago, Deputy District Magistrate Karchana took cognizance of the application given for taking possession of the lease, but due to the anti-Dalit attitude of regional lawmaker Vivekanand Tiwari, he has not yet given his report to Deputy District Magistrate Karchana.

Presently, a dustbin has been constructed on the leased land of the said residential lease holder, anti-Dalit village head Amar Nath Jaiswal, on the leased land of lease holder Bajrang Lal and at present the land of the remaining lease holders is vacant on the spot.

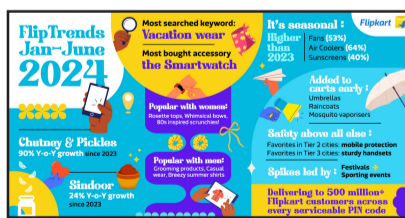
Flipkart Unveils #FlipTrends 2024

Gorkhapur: In the run up to this year's festive season, Flipkart presents its H1 edition (January to June 2024) of the much-awaited #FlipTrends Report, which presents an interesting analysis of the shopping habits of 500 million+ registered Flipkart users.

Speaking about the H1 2024 FlipTrends report, Ravi Vijayaraghavan, Senior Vice President - Analytics and Data Science at Flipkart, said, "Consumers today are more discerning and mindful of their choices, gravitating towards seasonal and personalized preferences. At Flipkart, we are delighted to present our FlipTrends H1 2024 report which not only reflects interesting shopping trends but also showcases growth opportunities for e-commerce at large. Our commitment to customer-centricity remains unwavering as we strive to anticipate and fulfill the evolving demands of our diverse customer base. As we move into the festive spirit of things, our focus remains on fostering trust, convenience, and affordability, ensuring that

Flipkart remains the ultimate destination for customers evolving shopping needs."

'Vacation wear' was one of the most searched keywords in the first half of 2024, especially during summer. Women embraced feminine fluidity, defying singular trends by opting for whimsical bows, rosette tops, chic bandeau tops,



dresses, comfortable mules, 80s inspired scrunchies, and a palette bursting with gelato pastels. Men opted for casual wear like round-neck t-shirts, open-knit and textured shirts, zipper polos, and parachute trousers. Other top choices included comfort clothing, resort wear such as printed co-ord sets and breezy summer shirts. Additionally, men's grooming products saw a significant increase compared to 2023.

Women's western wear and women's ethnic wear

were top choices in Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata and New Delhi; while women's sarees were at the top of the fashion charts in cities like Agartala, Bhagalpur, Medinipur, Muzaffarpur and Puri.

How has India been beating the heat? In the midst of sweltering temperatures, consumers are prioritizing freshness and comfort. Fans have surged in demand by 53% on Flipkart from last year, reflecting the quest for cooling solutions. Sunscreen purchases have also increased by 40%, clearly reflecting how people are prioritizing sun protection. Air coolers, another key essential for beating the heat, have witnessed a significant 64% increase in demand compared to the previous year. Cities like Bangalore, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Gorakhpur, Hyderabad, Kolkata and New Delhi have shown a higher demand for personal care essentials such as hair oil, face wash, shampoo, and deodorants, emphasizing consumer focus on staying cool and refreshed.

Ashis Giri appointed officiating director of NCZCC

Prayagraj: North Central Regional Cultural Centre, Prayagraj, outgoing director Prof. Suresh Sharma was given an emotional farewell. As director, Prof. Suresh Sharma was appointed on August 5, 2021. He successfully completed his three-year tenure. Pro. In place of Sharma, Ashis Giri, (Director), working at Eastern Regional Cultural Centre, has been made the Director-in-charge of NCZCC. He assumed charge on

Monday. Ashis Giri has obtained a master's degree in Mass Communication and Journalism from Calcutta University. He is a disciple of Guru Dinendra Chaudhary and has been awarded the A Grade Folk Artist from All India Radio. He worked for many years as a Program Officer with All India Radio, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the Government of India. He has worked as a writer, poet, drama writer



and has received the National Award four times as the Best Director of Radio Play by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India. He has written more than 30 publications researching on the folk culture, folk music, folk theater and rural arts of Bengal as well as novels, collections of short stories and books of poems. He received Jibanand Award, Sahitya Kala and Samaj Samman, Kavi Nityanand Award, Acharya Prafull Chandra Award, Shilpayan Samman, Srijani Samman and other prestigious honors.

POCO Launches M6 Plus 5G and Buds X1

Varanasi: POCO, a brand synonymous with rapid growth in India's consumer tech space, today introduced the POCO M6 Plus 5G, a compelling addition to its M-series lineup. Building upon the success of the M6 Pro, the M6 Plus 5G features a premium glass with ring flash design, a 108MP camera with 3X in-sensor zoom, and the Snapdragon 4 Gen2 AE processor. POCO also introduced the Buds X1, equipped with 40dB Hybrid Active Noise Cancellation and customizable audio settings for a personalized listening experience. The launch promises to surpass expectations of discerning and tech savvy Gen Zs who are constantly looking out for an elevated experience that combines power and style.

Himanshu Tandon, Country Head of POCO India, shared his excitement about the launch and said, "At POCO, our mission is to make high-performance and premium experiences available to everyone. The M-series



has consistently challenged expectations, and the M6 Plus 5G continues this tradition, fully reflecting our vision. The M6 Plus 5G and Buds X1 are crafted for those who seek top-notch performance and style without breaking the bank. We believe these products will revolutionize the market, setting new standards for features in this category." POCO's approach has been centered around inspiring and challenging the younger generation, particularly Gen Zs to deliver unrivaled experiences through its unique design philosophy and product features. The brand has successfully disrupted industry norms exceeding expectations and setting new standards for excellence at unbeatable price propositions. With the introduction of the POCO M6 Plus 5G and Buds X1, POCO remains dedicated to providing exceptional value in the ever-evolving budget smartphone segment, reinforcing its commitment to innovation and customer satisfaction.

ABVP submits memo to address teacher recruitment irregularities and student demands

Demands rollback of 10% annual hostel fee increase

Prayagraj: The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) Allahabad University unit today submitted a memorandum calling for fairness and transparency in the university's teacher recruitment process. The ABVP workers gheraoed the Dean of Student Welfare's office and the FRC office, protesting against the decision to increase hostel fees by 10% annually and highlighting concerns over favoritism in teacher recruitment.

In the memorandum, the ABVP criticized the involvement of the Vice Chancellor and retired Professor

Manmohan Krishna in allegedly helping their close associates secure positions within the university. The ABVP deemed this influence as highly condemnable and demanded an immediate end to such practices.

ABVP's memorandum included three main demands: reversing the decision to increase hostel fees by 10% annually, ensuring scholarships for students securing more than 60% marks, and addressing corruption in the allocation of the Poor Student Fund. They also expressed concern over the

university's handling of the interview process for the Vice Chancellor's close as-



sociate, current registrar of Rajju Bhaiya University Avinash Kumar Srivastava,

and an associate of retired professor Manmohan Krishna and assistant professor at Shyama Prasad Mukherjee College.

Alok Tripathi, President of the ABVP Allahabad University Unit, stated, "It is highly unfortunate that the Vice Chancellor and retired Professor Manmohan Krishna have influenced the teacher recruitment process to favor their associates. One of the selected teachers was previously an Assistant Professor at Ramjas College, Delhi University, and was selected under the EWS quota. Additionally, two candidates

were selected without attending the interview. This clearly indicates corruption in the recruitment process."

Ayushman Chauhan, Secretary of the ABVP Allahabad University Unit, added, "The ABVP strongly opposes the Executive Council's decision to increase hostel fees by 10% annually and the mismanagement of the Poor Boys' Fund. We demand that the university administration address these issues within 48 hours and take immediate corrective action, failing which the ABVP will be compelled to launch a vigorous agitation."

Shashi kant Tripathi takes over as Chief Public Relations Officer of North Central Rly

Prayagraj: Shashi kant Tripathi, an Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS) officer of 2009 Civil Services batch, took over as Chief Public Relations Officer of North Central Railway. Earlier, Shri Tripathi was looking after the responsibility of Senior Divisional Commercial Manager (Goods)/Prayagraj. He took over this charge from the outgoing Chief Public Relations Officer Shri Himanshu Shekhar Upadhyay, who has been transferred to Northern Railway.

Shri Shashi kant Tripathi is originally from Chitrakoot and has done his graduation from Allahabad University and post graduation from JNU Delhi. Shri Shashi kant Tripathi is a dynamic officer

and has worked on many important posts in Northern Railway and North Central Railway. Shri Shashi kant Tripathi started his railway service as Assistant Divisional Operations Manager in Ferozpur Division of Northern Railway in 2012.

Shri Tripathi over NCR worked as Deputy Chief Operations Manager/FOIS/North Central Railway/Headquarters, Senior Divisional Operations Manager/Goods in Agra Division, Senior Divisional Operations Manager and Senior Divisional Commercial Manager in Jhansi Division. Shri Shashi kant Tripathi was awarded the 2021 National Award for his excellent work towards mobility and loading of sand, flyash and millet goods in Jhansi Division.



28 get selection in placement drive organized at SHUATS

Prayagraj: A placement drive was organized at Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Science (SHUATS), Prayagraj in which 28 students recruited by two companies Academor Edutech and VNR Seeds Pvt Ltd

Director Career Planning and Placement Prof. Dr. Ashok Tripathi shared that after several rounds of interviews in the placement drive organized by the companies, a total of 28 students got success in the final result. 22 students of B.Sc. Agriculture, B.Tech

Agriculture, B.Tech Biotech, B.Tech CSE, B.Tech Mechanical Engg., B.Tech Food Tech., MBA Agribusiness, M.Sc. Agriculture, M.Sc. Forensic Science got job in Academor Edutech. Similarly, six students of B.Sc. Agriculture, B.Sc. Horticulture, M.Sc. Horticulture, M.Sc. Seed Science were selected by VNR Seeds Pvt Ltd. Selected students gave credit of their success to the academic environment of the University and the quality education provided by the faculty members.

Nautanki Mahotsav kicking off with 'Abhigyan Shakuntalam'

Prayagraj: A 7-day Celebration Nautanki Mahotsav is being organized by Swarga Rangmandal, a leading organization continuously striving for the progressive development of folk arts in Prayagraj, from 6th August to 12th August in the auditorium of the North Central Region Cultural Centre, in which the great poet Kalidas' performance will be performed on the first day. The drama presentation of the classic composition 'Abhigyan Shakuntalam' will be staged under the direction of Atul Yaduvanshi in the auditorium of North Central Region Cultural Center on Tuesday from 6 pm onwards.

Article 370 was a stain on Maa Bharati's forehead: BJP

Prayagraj: A seminar was organized by BJP Muthiganj Mandal in Munshi Ram Prasad's Bagiya Narayan Vatika on the fifth anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370 and the fourth anniversary of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Bhoomi Pujan. On this occasion, the keynote speaker of the seminar, BJP spokesperson Rajesh Kesarwani addressed the workers. Said that Article

Abdullah for the unity and integrity of the country and mother Sacrifices were made for Bharti and further said that for 70 years of independence, Congress promoted terrorism and separatism inside Kashmir through Article 370 and conspired to separate Kashmir from India, but 5 years ago today, the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi Under the leadership, Article 370 was



370 was a stain on the forehead of Mother India and was the biggest ulcer on the unity and integrity of the country and the sin of separating Kashmir from India was committed by the Congress for its poor political vote bank. The Nehru government in the same country.

The unity and integrity of the country was ruined by implementing two constitutions, two signs, two heads, due to which Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee protested against Article 370 against Nehru and Sheikh

demolished and the two marks, two heads, two legislations running inside Kashmir were abolished and the terrorists and separatist leaders have been sent behind the bars and said that With the abolition of Article 370, a new era of development and peace has begun in Jammu and Kashmir and unprecedented social and economic development is taking place. Jammu and Kashmir, which was once called a terrorist hotspot, is today coming out of the shadow of terror and becoming a tourism hotspot.

KP.Trust Prez felicitates veteran RP Bhatnagar, recalls his contribution to All India Cricket

Prayagraj: Dr. Sushil Sinha, President, K. P. Trust, presenting a bouquet and memento to R. P. Bhatnagar for his unique contribution in cricket at the function of Alumni Meet 2024 of CMP Degree College, Allahabad, held at New Auditorium of CMP Degree College, Prayagraj.

RP Bhatnagar is a true sportsman from the core of his heart and even today at the age of 83, he lives his life sportingly. RP Bhatnagar, is one of that generation, which has now almost vanishing. It is a pleasure to listen him about the bygone cricketing years and various untouched areas of Cricket in Allahabad (Prayagraj). His contribution to the cause of cricket

is enormous, however, a small attempt is made to summarise his cricketing career: Captain of K.P. Inter College Cricket Team in the year 1959-60, Captain of C.M.P. Degree College Cricket Team in the year 1960-61. Represented Allahabad University Cricket Team in the year 1961-62 & 1962-63. Joined A.G.U.P on 23rd July 1963. Played cricket for A.G.U.P team and also captained the side. Captain of the Allahabad District Cricket Team in the year 1964-65.

Represented U.P. Ranji Trophy Team in the year 1964-65. Appointed by U.P.C.A.

as 'Selector' U.P. Ranji Trophy, from the year 1998 to 2003. Organised as a

General Secretary, 'All India Lal Bahadur Shastri Cricket Tournament' from year 1977 to 1995 at Madan Mohan

match at Madan Mohan Malviya Stadium, Allahabad, on 26th February, 1984, in which Pakistan

cricket captain Imran Khan, played and Mansoor Ali Khan, Nawab of Pataudi, did the umpiring along with Test Umpire, Swarup Kishan for one hour, after that All India Panel Umpire

T.D. Mukherji, took the charge of umpiring from Nawab of Pataudi. Organized the

prestigious 'All India Justice S.N. Dwivedi Cricket Tournament' regularly, from the year 2006-2007 to 2019-2020 at Madan Mohan Malviya Stadium, Allahabad, in which the leading teams of our country, had participated.

Associated as elected member of the Executive Committee, from playing units with Allahabad Cricket Association from the year 1970-71. He was Co-ordinator, of Allahabad Cricket Association from 1985. As Co-ordinator, Allahabad Cricket

Association, organised 'U.P. vs. Vidarbha Ranji Trophy' match in the year 1997, at Madan Mohan Malviya Stadium, Allahabad. Organised 'Vijay Merchant, U-16 Board Trophy' cricket matches at Madan Mohan Malviya Stadium, Allahabad. After retirement on 30.06.2001 from A.G.U.P., joined

Allahabad High Court as Lawyer. As Lawyer, organised 'Chief Justice S.K. Verma Cricket Tournament', played at High Court between 'Chief Justice XI & Senior Advocates XI'. He was also invited by 'All India Radio' (AIR), Allahabad. At present, he is the 'Director' of Allahabad Cricket Association, Allahabad and giving his services to Cricket.



Eight day Cultural Extravaganza kicking off at NCZCC today

Prayagraj: Eight day Cultural Extravaganza scheduled to take place from August 6 to 13, 2024 at NCZCC Auditorium in Prayagraj. This Festival aims to present the Indian Theatre 'Nautanki' which is a vibrant tradition since times immemorial. Their presentations have also drawn huge crowds in city and across the country. Swarg Repertory aims at Protecting, Preserving & Promoting the Rich Traditional Folk Arts of India and send the message across 'PROTECT OUR ARTS FORMS, BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE'

On 6th August, 2024 Swarg Repertory will present 'Abhigyan Shakuntalam' at NCZCC Auditorium at 6:00 PM. It is originally written in Sanskrit by Great Mahakavi Kalidasa Ji and has been adapted in Indian Theatre style by Rajkumar Srivastava Ji. It has been Conceptualized, Designed & Directed by

Eminent Artist, Researcher & Director - Atul Yaduvanshi. On 7th August, 2024 Swarg Repertory will present 'Boodhi Kaaki' at NCZCC Auditorium at 6:00 PM. It is originally written by Munshi Premchand Ji and has been adapted in Indian Theatre style by Rajkumar Srivastava Ji. It has been Conceptualized, Designed & Directed by Eminent Artist, Researcher & Director - Atul Yaduvanshi. On 8th August, 2024 Swarg Repertory will present 'Bahurooplya' at NCZCC Auditorium at 6:00 PM. It is an Indian Folk Tale and has been adapted in Indian Theatre style by Rajkumar Srivastava Ji. It has been Conceptualized, Designed & Directed by Eminent Artist, Researcher & Director - Atul Yaduvanshi.

On 9th August, 2024 Swarg Repertory will present 'Taare Tare Na Lekh' at NCZCC Auditorium at 6:00 PM. It is a popular Folk Tale and

has been adapted in Indian Theatre style by Rajkumar Srivastava Ji & Ram Singh Yadav Ji. It has been Conceptualized, Designed & Directed by Eminent Artist, Researcher & Director - Atul Yaduvanshi.

On 10th August, 2024 Swarg Repertory will present 'Panch Parmeshwar' at NCZCC Auditorium at 6:00 PM. It is originally written by Munshi Premchand Ji and has been adapted in Indian Theatre style by Rajkumar Srivastava Ji. It has been Conceptualized, Designed & Directed by Eminent Artist, Researcher & Director - Atul Yaduvanshi.

On 11th August, 2024 Swarg Repertory will present 'Kafan' at NCZCC Auditorium at 6:00 PM. It is originally written by Munshi Premchand Ji and has been adapted in Indian Theatre style by Rajkumar Srivastava Ji. It has been Conceptualized, Designed & Directed by Eminent Artist, Researcher & Director - Atul Yaduvanshi.

On 12th August, 2024 Swarg Repertory will present 'Daastan-E-Laila Majnu' at NCZCC Auditorium at 6:00 PM. It is based on a Famous Love Story and has been adapted in Indian Theatre style by Rajkumar Srivastava Ji. It has been Conceptualized, Designed & Directed by Eminent Artist, Researcher & Director - Atul Yaduvanshi.

On 13th August, 2024 a National Seminar on the topic 'Contribution of Folk Arts in the Development of the Nation' will be anized at NCZCC Auditorium at 3:00 PM. This seminar will be presided by Dr. Pushkar Misra, Director Ramapur Raza Library & Museum, (Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India) & Keynote Speaker shall be Eminent Litterateur Dr Jyotish Joshi Ji. Other Eminent Directors, Writers and Art Critics will address the Seminar.

Bahariya firing case: Cross FIR filed in dispute over shop possession

Prayagraj: Police registered a cross case in the firing incident in Bahariya for occupying the market and arrested one accused and sent him to jail. The Tata Safari vehicle used in the incident has also been recovered. On Tuesday a clash broke out between District Panchayat member Abhishek Yadav from Mauima and former District Panchayat member Shashikant Yadav resident of Gamrahata, along with his supporters, over capturing the market near Bahariya Bazaar Dhamour turn. Mulayam Yadav, resident of Saripatti, Shashikant side, died due to firing, while BDC member Jitendra Yadav, resident of Abhaipur, got injured after being shot in the thigh. In this case, on the complaint of deceased Mulayam Yadav's father Ramayadav, District Panchayat member Abhishek Yadav and his brother. 10 including Veer Sen Yadav and uncle Gajraj

Yadav a case was registered against the people under various sections including murder. Police named Gajraj Yadav and Rahul Yadav, Sunil Kumar, Mukesh Kumar Yadav, Raghavendra Singh, Rizwan and were sent to jail. On Saturday, on the complaint of Ajay Kumar Maurya, resident of Mohammadpur Sarain-Ali village of Mauima, the police arrested former District Panchayat member Gamrahta resident Shashikant Yadav, land mafia resident of Sikandra of Bahria police station and history-sheeter Pratyaksha Dwivedi alias Golu Dubey (against whom several criminal cases have been registered in Bahria). A case has been registered against 8 and 9 unknown persons, including a close aide of the police station incharge (who is also the District Magistrate) for firing with intent to kill, vandalizing vehicles and assault, under various sections.

Rotary Prayagraj Platinum celebrated its Founder's Day

Prayagraj: Rotary Prayagraj Platinum celebrated its Founder's Day with much fanfare at Hotel Galaxy located in Civil Lines. President Shashank Jain said that this is the fourth foundation day of the club. On this day in the year 2021, Rotary Club of Prayagraj Platinum was established and on this day the club received the charter from Rotary International. Foundation Day is celebrated as Charters Night. Media in-charge Manish Garg informed that the program was conducted by Dr. Prateek Pandey. First, Secretary Sumit Aggarwal, President Shashank Jain and Treas-

urer Vikalp Aggarwal took the stage. At the beginning of the meeting, the Chairman and Secretary were given collars. After the national anthem and lighting of the lamp, Charter President Ritesh Singh welcomed and felicitated the doctors of Center for Sight and the charter and current members and guests of Platinum. President Shashank Jain, while addressing the gathering, gave information about the establishment of the club and the projects and programs done during his tenure and to be held in the future. Rotarian Apoorva urged the President to honor all the founder members. Rotarian Dr. Imran

Ahmed handed over the file of the Board of Directors to the board members. Rotarians Ekta Talwar and Sadhana Kataly administered the oath of office and



club membership to new members Swati Kesarwani, Neha Bhatnagar, and Vishnu Kesarwani.

The club's monthly magazine 'Muskaan' was unveiled by President

Shashank Jain, Rotarian Dr Rishi Sahay, Dr Sharad Jain and magazine co-editor Manish Garg. 'Proud to be Rotarian' memento presented by Rotarian Sanjay

Singh in the club monthly magazine 'Muskaan' for the cooperation given by the members. The two suggestions sent by President Shashank Jain to Rotary International were wel-

comed by all, in which the suggestions given regarding reducing RI fees and membership retention were appreciated by the District Governor and the entire District 3120. Former President Piyush Ranjan Aggarwal and former Divisional President Satpal Gulati thanked Rotarians Sanjay Talwar, Sandeep Jain, Shashank Jain and Deepak Gupta by wearing PHF pins for the grant given for the Paul Harris Degree in Rotary Foundation in the session 2023-24 and Congratulated. Rotarian Ajay Kumar Sharma was awarded citation for organizing 'Mann Ki Baat' program and Rotarian Pramod Bansal was awarded

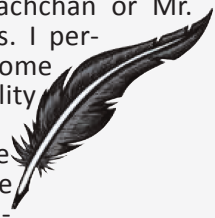
citation for providing cloth bags on International Plastic Bag Free Day. Rotarian Prameya Mittal and Rotarian Parul Aggarwal were honored for maximum attendance in the club's projects and programs. Rotarian Sandeep Kataly presented leadership awards to past presidents, secretaries and treasurers. Media in-charge Manish Garg honored the media friends present. Rotarian Deepak Gupta collected money from members for the Sunshine Relief Fund. Secretary Sumit Aggarwal made the secretarial announcement and in the end club trainer Sanjay Talwar thanked everyone.

Editorial

Personality rights have gained importance

"A few celebrities may choose not to pursue legal action due to various reasons such as the perceived insignificance of unauthorised use, the costs involved in litigation, or a desire to avoid negative publicity," says Shoeb Masodi, Partner, M&P IP PROTECTORS. Personality rights, as the name implies, pertain to the rights associated with the personality of a well-known individual, primarily applicable to celebrities whose names, images or voices are prone to misuse for profit. The concept dictates that only the owner or creator of these attributes has the right to derive monetary benefits from them. Personality rights have gained importance alongside the right to privacy given the kind of fame celebrities enjoy today. In 1995, the Supreme Court recognised a person's right to control the commercial use of one's identity in the R Rajagopal vs. State of Tamil Nadu case, commonly known as the Auto Shankar case. In 2015, the Madras High Court intervened to protect actor Rajinikanth's personality rights, halting the release of the movie Main Hoon Rajinikanth. The filmmakers had utilised the actor's name and style without his express permission, with the title itself serving as a clear indication of its connection to Rajinikanth. In yet another case involving actor Amitabh Bachchan, the Delhi High Court in November 2022 restrained the use of the actor's name, image, voice, or any of his characteristics without his consent. It is crucial to note that in intellectual property right cases, it's often impractical to name all infringing parties, leading affected parties to seek blanket injunctions or ban orders, known as 'John Doe' orders. Originating from the UK, John Doe orders are passed by a court against unknown defendants and the world at large. In September 2023, the Delhi High Court ruled in favour of actor Anil Kapoor in a case filed by him to protect his image and personality from misuse by third parties. Kapoor had petitioned the court, stating that several parties were using aspects of his personality.

, including popular terms from his dialogues. , like 'Jhakaas', 'Lakhan', 'Mr. India', 'Majnu Bhai', and 'Nayak', without his permission. The court was also informed that third parties were unfairly benefiting commercially from the sale of merchandise featuring his pictures and voice for ringtones. Most alarming was the online circulation of fake pornographic images and videos of the actor with other actresses. Notably, in its order, the Delhi High Court stated that satirical writing and genuine criticism would be safeguarded and not construed as violations of personality rights. While the word 'Jhakaas' can be used by people, they cannot exploit it commercially in the manner Anil Kapoor does. Similarly, it can be used for satire, criticism or parody, but not for monetary gains. In the Jackie Shroff case as well, the court declined to order the removal of a video titled 'Jackie Shroff is Savage, Jackie Shroff Thug Life', posted on a YouTube channel named 'Thugesh'. The court deemed the video a form of artistic expression and said imposing restrictions would have significant consequences. In the Anil Kapoor case, the court established the protection of personality rights in the realm of AI and deepfakes. However, this hasn't deterred the illegal use of celebrities' personal attributes for financial gains. Regarding the existing laws, advocate Naik says: "I feel the current laws and the jurisprudence that we got from the Delhi High Court in matters of Mr. Bachchan or Mr. Kapoor are good references. I personally feel the time has come for us to protect personality rights. like the one provided by the Copyright Act." However, the challenge lies in taking tangible action.



Modi government's stance towards fiscal policy

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's presentation of the interim budget on 1 February and the Union budget on 23 July, the main event was the Lok Sabha election that brought the BJP-led NDA back to power but with a reduced majority. The impact of this sole event is evident in the differences between the two budgets, which not only inform us about the shift in the Narendra Modi government's stance towards fiscal policy but also tells us how the ruling party is reading the election results and what it intends to do about them. Here is how the two budgets compare in terms of allocation and what they reveal are the government's priority areas. There are only a few changes in expenditure allocations, and most of them can be linked to the areas that the finance minister emphasised in her budget speech. The biggest change is in the budgeted transfers to the states. For 'special' and other 'need-based assistance' for which budget provision is not made, the Centre earmarked only Rs 4,000 crore in the interim budget; but in the Union budget, this has been raised to Rs 20,000 crore. The other is zero interest loans for capital expenditure for 50 years, which basically makes them a grant. For this, the government has allocat-



ed Rs 1,50,000 crore in the Union budget, up from Rs 1,30,000 crore in the interim budget. These as well as the emphasis on certain states in the finance minister's speech reflect the realities of coalition politics. The Modi government wants more freedom of action in making transfers to the states. Another difference is in the allocation for the price stabilisation fund (PSF) scheme, which will be used for "maintaining buffer stock of pulses, onions and potatoes and making sufficient availability of said commodities in the market so as to cool down the prices as and when required". From no expenditure made in the last two years and no allocation in the interim budget, the government has moved to allocating Rs 10,000 crore to this fund, the biggest so far. Perhaps the government is expecting some of these commodities to see high

inflation and is willing to absorb some losses to bring down the prices. The finance minister's speech emphasised employment and skilling, with new allocations. About Rs 10,000 crore has been allocated for a new Employment Generation Scheme. Sitharaman announced three schemes. The first is a subsidy of up to Rs 15,000 to people entering the workforce in the formal sector, which would be given as a direct benefit transfer in three instalments. The second is to incentivise additional employment in the manufacturing sector, linked to the employment of first-time employees, by providing an incentive directly both to the employee and the employer with respect to their EPFO contribution in the first four years of employment. The third scheme provides reimbursement to employers up to Rs 3,000 per month for two

years towards their EPFO contribution for each additional employee. is Rs 2000 crore for a new internship programme to be implemented by the department of consumer affairs. The government has also allocated Rs 1,000 crore for a new ITI upgradation scheme. The other areas of priority mentioned in the budget speech are productivity and resilience in agriculture, inclusive human resource development and social justice, manufacturing and services, urban development, energy security, infrastructure, innovation, research and development, and next-generation reforms. These have either not translated into any change in allocation (perhaps because the allocation in the interim budget was deemed adequate) or have led to relatively small changes. Under the priority area of energy security, the government has allocated Rs 6,250 crore for PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, which was launched earlier this year. For urban development, there is an additional allocation of Rs 4,000 crore for housing under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban). While the first area that Sitharaman had emphasised in her budget speech was agriculture, the only major change in allocation towards this sector is Rs

4,700 crore for the Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Yojana, under which remunerative prices are supposed to be provided to farmers. Further, while the government has continued the emphasis on infrastructure expenditure, the only major change in allocation from the interim budget is an additional allocation of Rs 6,000 crore for road works. Overall, most of the allocations in the Union budget are same as those in the interim budget. The only major deviations are in additional allocations for special assistance to states, which will likely be used for states ruled by BJP allies at the Centre, an acknowledgement of the need to do more for employment creation, and in an allocation for price stabilisation. Since the Union budget envisages additional expenditure of Rs 54,744 crore over the expenditure budgeted in the interim budget, most of the additional allocations to the purposes and schemes discussed above did not require a reduction in allocations in other areas. Since the 2024 Lok Sabha election results were contrary to the government's expectations, there was a chance that the government may opt for major changes in allocation. However, the overall thrust of the expenditure strategy remains the same.

Snatching Mamata's OBC Pie for Muslims, Starving Vote-Bank Politics

By cancelling all Other Backward Classes (OBC) certificates issued by the West Bengal government after 2010, the Calcutta High Court has struck at the darkest instincts of appeasement of not just the Mamata Banerjee government but of Indian polity in general. Remember, the Left was still in power in 2010 in Bengal, when the legislation was created. Nakedly soliciting Muslim votes by misusing the OBC quota is not unique to West Bengal. Karnataka and many other states have been brazenly doing it. Taking advantage of the ambiguity in the Constitution in defining 'Backward Classes' and bending the guarantee under Article 15.1 that the State

shall not discriminate on the basis of religion, race, caste, or gender, Muslims were brought under the OBC quota by the PV Narasimha Rao government. The Sachar Committee report was used as groundwork for the abomination. The Rao government was in overcompensation mode since the fall of the Babri masjid, bringing in a slew of constitutional blunders like the Places of Worship Act, the suicidal new Waqf Act, and the OBC lollipop for Muslims. All this not only robbed the share of the genuinely backward, but also brazenly incentivised conversions to Islam and demographic change, placing Bharat's destiny on a doomed path. Why should Muslims, the 200-million strong sec-

ond largest religious group in India with a global Ummah of nearly two billion, eat into the share of OBCs? That is precisely what the Calcutta High Court ruling questions by cancelling all OBC certificates issued during the tenure of the Trinamool Congress administration led by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee since 2011. The Bench struck down many parts of the West Bengal Backward Classes (Other than Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) (Reservation of Vacancies in Services and Posts) Act, 2012. But the most remarkable part of the judgment by the division bench of Justice Tapabrata Chakraborty and Justice Rajasekhar Mantha was the blunt wording.

State govts' spending on freebies harming India's growth story

The situation is the same in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Bihar, and Jharkhand. Meanwhile, the central government is not in favour of states taking more loans because it is against the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act 2003. The states in debt due to expenditure on freebie schemes are unable to spend on the necessary responsibilities. Industries in Punjab are incurring high electricity bills because the AAP government is giving free electricity to nearly 60 lakh people. Infrastructure development in the state is getting badly affected too. Punjab, once the state with the highest per capita income in the country, has slipped to the 19th position. Other debt-ridden states are suffering a similar fate. In its 2024 election manifesto, Congress has announced Rs 1 lakh as an unconditional cash transfer to the poor every year as part of its Mahalaxmi Scheme. If the party comes to power, the implementation of such a scheme can be frightening. It's notable that as of 31 March 2023, the total debt on the governments (central and state) in India (including the guarantees given by them) was Rs 231.7 lakh crores, which was 85.1 per cent of GDP at current prices. Out of this, the total debt of the central government is equal to 57.1 per cent of the GDP and the rest is of

the state governments (nearly 28 per cent of GDP). According to the FRBM Act, the target debt-GSDP (gross state domestic product) ratio, in any state, should not exceed 20 per cent. But as per the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), in many of the states of the country, this ratio is much more than the targeted one. It reached 48.98 per cent in Punjab, 42.37 per cent in Rajasthan, 37.39 per cent in West Bengal, 36.73 per cent in Bihar, 35.30 per cent in Andhra Pradesh, 31.53 per cent in Madhya Pradesh, 27.80 per cent in Telangana, 27.27 per cent in Tamil Nadu, and 26.47 per cent in Chhattisgarh in 2020-21. If the debt on state government enterprises and the guarantees given by the state governments are also added, then by 2020-21, the debt to GSDP ratio in Rajasthan would be 54.94 per cent and in Punjab, it would be 58.21 per cent. In Andhra Pradesh also it has been estimated. at 53.77 per cent; it is 47.89 per cent in Telangana and 47.13 per cent in Madhya Pradesh. In West Bengal and Bihar, it's 40.35 per cent and 40.51 per cent, and in Tamil Nadu, 39.94 per cent. It is noteworthy that in Punjab, 45.5 per cent of the total tax revenue is being spent on free schemes and in Andhra Pradesh, expenditure on freebies is 30.3 per cent of total tax revenue. It's unfortunate that the

increase in the overall debt due to irresponsible freebies is causing the downgrade of sovereign ratings by international agencies. It has to be understood that whether it is the central or state governments, none has unlimited money to spend. The fiscal space largely depends on the tax-paying capacity of the people of the country. For a long time, our tax-GDP ratio has remained sticky at 17 per cent, out of which the ratio of taxes levied by the central government has remained around 10-11 per cent of the GDP. The total receipt of taxes (net) in the year 2024-25, of central government, has been estimated to be only Rs 26.02 lakh crore. In such a situation, in the total budget of Rs 47.66 lakh crore, after tax receipts of Rs 26.02 lakh crore and non-tax revenue receipts of Rs 4 lakh crore, the remaining fiscal deficit, which is about Rs 16.85 lakh crore, will be filled from borrowing. That is, there is no other way to spend more. Apart from this, it must also be understood that economists are unanimous on the view that more than 75 per cent of the total budget is spent on predetermined items, which include payment of principal and interest on loans raised in the past, salary and pension, defence expenditure, law and order, international relations, maintenance and other necessary expenses.

Things are improved, people appreciate peace, and Pakistani delusions are ended

Most vibrant and passionate politicians, approaching 87. When we revisit Article 370, that passion shines. "They say Kashmiris are now Indians after abrogation. We weren't Indians before?"

Like every chronic geopolitical and emotional crisis, the past shapes the future, so I try to get him to finish the memoir he keeps talking about. Honestly, we need to learn more from him. He rejects the 1987 Rajiv Gandhi election manipulation in his favor. He wonders how Ali Shah Geelani and four others from his side were elected if we

fixed it. Mohammed Yousuf Tarigami, another Kashmiri political veteran, should write a fiery memoir from an unlikely philosophy. He has repeatedly won state assembly elections for the CPI(M). Starting with 1967 six-day war protests for Palestine, he was a left activist. An hour with him will reveal the several attempts on his life, including one that killed nine people in a small gathering. In one of his many incarcerations, the jailer called him to tell he was getting parole without asking. Because his wife died giving birth to their first kid. His second

marriage ended after the death of his father-in-law. Always courageous, the comrade, 77, welcomes the improvements, emphasizing law respect. The government must move on, he adds. From "managing" to "engaging". Wondering what courage is? It must be moral, philosophical, and physical. He will denounce the Left-liberal community for blaming then-governor Jagmohan for instigating and promoting Kashmiri Pandits' exodus. "I never said so and never will. The extremists drove them away, he continues, listing notable Pandits dead in

the worst killings and atrocities. Neelkanth Ganjoo, the sessions judge who executed JKLF's Maqbool Bhat, is forgotten. Tarigami dwells in a fortress like the other leaders. He longingly recounts "how and why I was given this bungalow". There were countless attacks on his life and belongings. This is the story of all Kashmiri public figures. It's even more admirable that they persevere, maintain a political process, and are national treasures. Which job in India is hardest? Most difficult, risky, and thankless? Be governor (now lieutenant-governor).

Max Life's 'Joy of Giving' initiative empowers the future of 200 girl students



Gurugram: Max Life Insurance Co. Ltd. ("Max Life/Company") celebrates community spirit and social commitment by sponsoring the education of 200 girl students for a year under its 'Joy of Giving' initiative. At an event hosted on August 3, 2024, Max Life's leadership, including Sachin Arora, Executive Vice President and Head of Axis Partnership; Udbhav Gupta, Senior Vice President and Head of Protection, Health and Wellness Business; along with the Chief Executive Officer of Max Life Pension Fund Management Limited, Ranbheer Singh Dhariwal, handed over a cheque on behalf of Max Life to Mrs. Sangeeta Sharma, Principal, Government Girls Senior Secondary School, Sector 12, Gurugram. Under the inspiring mission of "One Team, One Goal," different business verticals of Max Life have come together to sponsor the education of 200 girl students for a year. Providing vital support that fosters empowerment and future leadership for these young girls, Max Life's commitment extends beyond just financial support. The company has a history of partnering with grassroots organizations to create sustainable educational opportunities. Through initiatives like building classrooms, restrooms, playgrounds, and essential educational facilities, Max Life ensures a holistic approach to community development. Shailesh Singh, Senior Director & Chief People Officer, Max Life said, "At Max Life, we believe in the transformative power of education, especially for students.

6 in 10 People don't seek medical advice for persistent joint aches and Pain: Study



GURUGRAM : A survey conducted by healthcare provider Pristyn Care has unveiled a critical gap in awareness around bone and joint health among the Indian population. National Bone and Joint Day is celebrated in India every year to raise awareness about the importance of healthy bones and joints. The research found that a staggering 60 per cent of people with persistent joint aches and pain neglect seeking professional medical advice. The study further revealed that only 5 in 10 respondents are aware of bone and joint health issues. These findings highlight a significant disconnect between awareness and action when it comes to bone and joint health. Over one-third of respondents reported a family history of bone and joint-related issues, highlighting the genetic predisposition to these conditions. Additionally, a startling 67% of participants were unfamiliar with bone density tests, a crucial diagnostic tool for early detection of

bone diseases like osteoporosis. Dr. Vaibhav Kapoor, Co-founder of Pristyn Care, emphasized, "Today, as we observe National Bone and Joint Day, the findings of our study highlight a pressing issue in Indian healthcare: a significant lack of awareness about bone and joint health. With 45% of the respondents uninformed about these critical health concerns, there is an urgent need to prioritize public education and awareness initiatives. By providing the necessary tools and knowledge, we can empower Indians to take steps towards better bone and joint health, ultimately improving the overall health and well-being of our nation." Dr. D.K Das, Senior Orthopedic Surgeon and Founder, Cure My Knee commenting on these findings, stated, "The combination of wide-spread joint pain and a significant family history of bone issues indicates a critical need for enhanced preventive healthcare. The fact that 60% of individuals have not consulted a doctor about their symptoms highlights a disconnect that could result in missed diagnoses and untreated conditions. We must bridge this gap to improve early detection and treatment, reducing the incidence of severe bone and joint diseases." The study emphasises the critical need for comprehensive public education campaigns to promote bone and joint health. By increasing awareness of symptoms, risk factors, and available treatment options, it is hoped that more individuals will prioritize their bone health. and seek timely medical care.

Next round of India-Asean trade agreement review talks in November

NEW DELHI: The next round of talks for the ongoing review meeting of the India-Asean free trade agreement in goods will be held in November, an official statement said on Saturday. The third round of the negotiations was concluded on August 1 in Jakarta, Indonesia. Eight sub-committees have been constituted under the India-Asean Free Trade Agreement Joint Committee for undertaking negotiations on different areas related to the review of the pact. "The next meeting of the AITIGA (Asean-India Trade in Goods Agreement) Joint Committee will be held in India from 19-22 November 2024," the Commerce Ministry said. In September 2022, both sides tasked the AITIGA Joint Committee to undertake the review to make the agreement more trade-facilitative and mutually beneficial. During the third round of negotiations in Jakarta, Indonesia, all eight Sub-Sub-Committees dealing with national treatment and market access, rules of origin, standards, technical regulations, customs procedures and trade facilitation held substantive discussions. "The review of AITIGA, signed in 2009, will help create further opportunities for businesses on both sides.

Studies show polluted air increases Type 2 diabetes risk

Delhi: Air pollution may increase Type 2 diabetes risk. Air pollution, especially PM2.5, is known to cause chronic lung ailments, heart attack, stroke, and cancer, but the diabetes argument is gaining ground. Several research from the US, Europe, and China have shown the association, but a new two-city study from India found that even a 10 g/m3 increase in PM2.5 exposure raises blood sugar. Mumbai-based JAPI (Journal of Association of Physicians of India) published an editorial headlined, 'Air



Pollution: A New Cause of Type 2 Diabetes? this month. Diabetes specialist Dr. V Mohan from Chennai wrote, "We now know that PM2.5 is an endocrine disruptor that affects insulin secretion and also leads to insulin resistant." Due to summer, the air quality index has been low in recent weeks, but air pollution is becoming one of urban India's largest problems, killing 20,000 in Mumbai and 50,000 in Delhi annual-

ly. Dr. Mohan and Public Health Foundation of India researchers published the first PM2.5-diabetes study a few months ago. 'BMJ Open Diabetes Research & Care' found links between short-, medium-, and long-term PM2.5 exposure. "A 10 g/m3 increase in monthly average exposure to PM2.5 was associated with a 0.4 mg/dL increase in finger pick blood test and a 0.021 unit increase in HbA1c test," claimed the study. The HbA1c blood test measures blood sugar over three months. The study followed

Indian Ayushman Bharat digital mission to be shown at WHO

Delhi: Official sources said India will promote Ayushman Bharat, public health emergency preparation, and digital health changes at the World Health Assembly in Geneva from May 27. At the annual WHO event, it will display the Arogya Maitri Disaster Management Cube, an indigenous portable hospital with novel features to improve disaster response and medical support. Geneva will host the 77th World Health Assembly (WHA) from May 27 to June 1. The Indian Ministry of Health and Family Welfare delegation



is led by Union Health Secretary Apurva Chandra. Participants from 194 nations will shape the global health ecosystem. This year's WHA theme is "All for Health, Health for All". WHA proceedings are held in Plenary, Committee A, and Committee B. Sources say health ministers/heads of delegation from 194

nations will attend the Health Assembly plenary session. India will chair Committee A, which will tackle universal health coverage, public health emergency preparedness and response, antimicrobial resistance, climate change, sustainable WHO financing, etc. Committee B handles internal and external audit, budget, financing, and the WHO secretariat. At least 14 side events and various strategic roundtables will be held on the sidelines of WHAT to discuss diverse health problems and the global health architecture.

Indian traditional knowledge and genetic resources are further protected by a new patent agreement

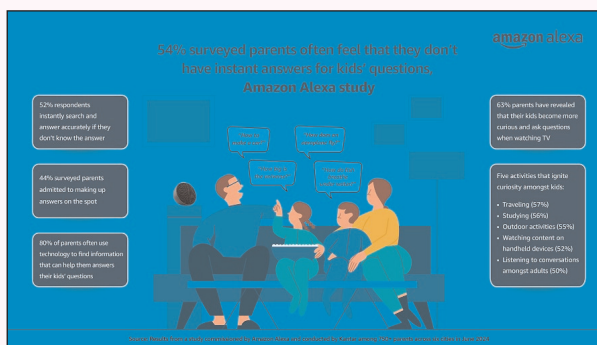
Delhi : A new treaty finalized by members of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) requires patent applicants to reveal the nation of origin or the source of genetic resources if the claimed invention is derived from those materials or related traditional knowledge. One of the main demands of the developing world, led by India, is the treaty that will offer extra protection for Indian genetic resources and traditional knowledge, including yoga, siddhi, and ayurveda. The agreement was finalized by the Geneva-based agency that is in charge of developing regulations pertaining to patents and trademarks. This will force some nations to revise

their domestic laws. Rather than trying to register patents to take advantage of the immense traditional knowledge and genetic resources, India has asked that the world's largest corporations now give credit to these resources. Even while there is protection against misappropriation in India and other nations without disclosure requirements, the disclosure standards will offer protection internationally. Currently, there are disclosure requirements in 35 countries, the majority of which are voluntary and lack the necessary legal framework to be implemented successfully. For the first time, the knowledge and wisdom that have long underpinned

economies, civilizations, and cultures will be recognized by the WIPO treaty on intellectual property, genetic resources, and related traditional knowledge. These resources are now part of the global intellectual property system. "As a source of traditional knowledge and wisdom and a reservoir of biodiversity, India has championed these historic achievements. is a huge victory for India and the nations of the global south," a government official declared. The fact that it took 150 nations and two decades of negotiations to reach an agreement is indicative of the resistance from nations like the US and transnational.

54% surveyed parents often feel that they don't have instant answers for kids' questions, Amazon Alexa study

KARNAL / AMBLALA : Children are inherently curious and parents are always trying to find accurate answers that satiate their curiosity. This was apparent in a recent study commissioned by Amazon Alexa and conducted by Kantar among 750+ parents across six cities in June 2024. The survey reveals that about 54% of surveyed parents often feel that they don't have instant answers for kids' questions. It further indicates that 52% respondents instantly search and answer accurately if they don't know the answer. What's interesting to note is that 44% surveyed parents admitted to making up answers on the spot. Only 3% surveyed parents ignore the ques-



tion or change the topic to stop the kid from asking questions "How to make a car?", "How big is the universe?", "How does an aeroplane fly?", and "How do fish breathe under water?", etc. 37% of the survey pool admitting to asking their kids to go to the other parent with their questions. Deepender Rana, Executive Managing Director - South Asia, Insights Division, Kantar said "Kids these days are more curious than ever and parents

always try their best to satiate their curiosity. While watching TV drives curiosity amongst kids and often leads to them asking more questions about the things they see and hear -majority of surveyed parents prefer screen-free learning for their kids. And this is where voice-first search, whether done by parents or by kids in their presence, proves to be a great screen-free solution to find answers and learn about the world." With numerous voice-first engaging experiences for kids on Alexa smart speakers like Echo Pop and Echo Dot, parents can engage their children with curiosity-driven content, with trust and safety.

Record bank earnings benefit poor, MSME loans

Delhi: Modi said record bank profits in FY24 would enhance credit to the poor, farmers, and MSMEs, celebrating the revival of financial institutions that were plagued by bad loans. Modi posted on X that the banking sector had a remarkable comeback in the last 10 years' with net profit topping Rs 3 lakh crore in FY24. Due to UPA's phone-banking policies, our banks had large NPAs and losses when we took power. The underprivileged were denied bank accounts "Modi remarked. "This improvement in the health of banks will help improve credit availability to our poor, farmers and MSMEs," he said Modi's X comments on the banking sector's FY24 milestone earnings. Public sector banks made a record Rs 1.4 lakh crore in net profit in FY24, up 34% from Rs 1.05 lakh crore. Private banks grew 42% faster, raising their net profit to Rs 1.7 lakh crore from Rs 1.2 lakh crore a year earlier.

Unrecognized schools are instructed to cease operations

Delhi : 163

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



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

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

Delhi:

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

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

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

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



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

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

National Eligibility Test to replace PhD entrance exams at JNU

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

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

According to this decision, JNU will use NET scores for PhD 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.

Centre advises CBSE on biannual board logistics

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



HC lets Stephen's interview minority applicants

Delhi: Delhi High Court allowed Delhi University's St Stephen's College to interview minority students applying for post-graduate courses and to give 15% of the marks to the interview and 85% to the CUET score. The high court said non-minority students would not be interviewed for PG courses in the college and would be admitted based on their CUET score, which is assessed by the National Testing Agency (NTA) for central university admis-



sion. Justice C Hari Shankar said Delhi University (DU) would keep college post-graduate (PG) seat allocations fair. The DU may

evaluate the college's facilities and the number of undergraduate (UG) students in that field of study while allocating PG seats. The

high court said these are guidelines and the DU can use any objective criterion. The court noted that universities had no standard for allocating PG seats and concluded "this is not an acceptable situation". PU regulating panel approves NEP 2020 undergraduate program extensions at associated colleges. Colleges will implement NEP for UG courses in 2024-25. Training programs for college faculty to implement new requirements.

Designers Bharat and Reshma Grover Celebrated for Fashion Excellence in London

New Delhi: At a prestigious event in London, renowned Indian designers Bharat and Reshma Grover were recently honored for their remarkable achievements in the field of fashion. They received a prestigious award from Lord Barrister Ben Brennan, recognizing their outstanding contributions to design, creativity, and innovation. This accolade underscores their dedication and impact in the industry, cele-



brating their creative vision and entrepreneurial spirit that have set new standards and inspired

others in the field. Bharat and Reshma Grover are established names in the fashion world,

having carved out a niche for themselves in a very short span of time. Their influence is so significant that today's fashionistas and style icons eagerly follow in their footsteps. The Grovers are a holistic package, offering much more than just design. They embody an all-pervading sense of style that goes beyond mere fashion. Their creations appeal to a wide cross-section of society, particularly resonating with Generations Y and Z.

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

Delhi: On night, the National Testing Agency (NTA) reported that 56 applicants, including two women, scored 100 in JEE-Main. The qualifying percentile for JEE (Advanced), the entrance test for 23 Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), reached a five-year high. In the JEE (Main) January session, 23 applicants obtained 100 NTA, whereas 33 in April did. The 56 winners include 40 generals, 10 OBC, and six gen-EWS. No SC or ST applicant scored 100 NTA this year. Officials say NTA score is not the same as mark %. "NTA scores are normalised across multi-session papers and based on the relative performance of all one-session exam takers. For each exam session, marks are translated into a 100-to-0 scale "said a sen-



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

undergraduate admissions test for engineering and architecture programs in centrally financed technical institutions to qualify for JEE (Advanced). Around 24,000 seats are available at NITs. The exam was given in 13 languages (Assamese, Bengali, English, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, and Urdu) at 571 centers in 319 cities, including 22 outside India.

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



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

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

many mental health and distance-learning options for students, parents, and families. The US is safe and has many resources to protect students. We may not learn about occurrences until it's too late if they don't seek out, he said. Students accepted to US universities attended a pre-departure orientation program at the American Center in New Delhi.

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

Delhi: In the lead-up to the Twenty20 World Cup, the Uganda Cricket Association appointed Indian former first-class cricket player Abhay Sharma as the men's national team's new coach. Uganda has secured its spot in the competition for the first time, and starting on June 1, 20 teams from the United States and the West Indies will compete together. In a statement posted on its website, the UCA announced Sharma's hiring on a three-year working contract, citing his "wealth of knowledge and expertise to lead the Cricket Cranes into their next chapter of success."

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.

Four Naxalites killed in encounter with security forces in Maharashtra's Gadchiroli

NEW DELHI: Four Naxalites were killed in an encounter with security forces in Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra on Tuesday. The superintendent of police in Gadchiroli, Nilotpal, said that the security teams encountered gunfire from the Naxals during an early morning search operation in the Kolamarka mountains.

"A credible intelligence was received on Monday afternoon that some members of Telangana state committee have crossed Pranhita river from Telangana into Gadchiroli with an aim to carry out subversive activities during the Model code of conduct period of upcoming Lok Sabha elections," Gadchiroli SP said. In response, multiple teams including C60 and CRPF QAT were dispatched from Aheri Sub Police headquarters led by Additional SP Ops Yatish Deshmukh for area searches.



"One of the teams comprising of 4 C60 parties while searching today early morning in Kolamarka mountains 5 km SE of SPS Repanpalli were fired indiscriminately by Naxals, which was retaliated strongly by our C60 teams. After the firing stopped and the area was searched, 4 male naxal dead bodies have been recovered," Gadchiroli SP added. The recovered items included weapons and personal belongings.

Among the deceased were high-ranking Naxal leaders DVCM Vargeesh and DVCM Magtu. The operation also targeted platoon members Kursang Raju and Kudimetta Venkatesh, all of whom carried a combined cash reward of 36 Lakhs as declared by the Maharashtra government, SP said. Following the encounter, search and anti-naxal operations are underway in the region.

Paytm acquires five UPI addresses

Delhi: The parent firm of Paytm, One97 Communications, a prominent fintech business, has partnered with four banks to acquire five UPI handles. State Bank of India (SBI), Yes Bank, Axis Bank, and HDFC Bank are these four banks. An update to the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) website earlier this week indicated that this calculated step guarantees the continuation of UPI transactions for Paytm users. Of these, the well-known and currently in use @paytm is still up and running, so users can carry on with their transactions as usual. In addition, in collaboration with Yes Bank, NPCI has approved the



creation of the closed user group UPI handle @ptyes. The NPCI has also approved two additional handles: @ptsbi (in conjunction with State Bank of India) and @pthdfc (in association with HDFC Bank). These handles won't become active right away, though. Users can utilize the @paytm handle

without any issues, according to a Paytm representative. This event follows the clearance of Paytm's third-party application (TPAP) provider permit by NPCI. SBI, Axis Bank, Yes Bank, and HDFC Bank are collaborating to provide continuous UPI services for Paytm's user base.

Maharashtra specifies role of govt nominees in autonomous colleges' board

MUMBAI: In a govt resolution issued on Monday, for the first time, the state has enlisted the role of government nominees in autonomous colleges in the state. While govt nominees were always there on the board of autonomous colleges, their roles were never explicitly defined.

From attending every meeting of the governing body to ensuring their budget comprehensively reflects all aspects, the nominee is now expected to be the eyes and ears of the government in the truest sense. There are over 70 autonomous colleges affiliated to Mumbai

University alone. A govt nominee is usually an educationist, not below the rank of a professor or a govt officer in the directorate of higher education or the state council of higher education. They are expected to be the link between the institutions and the govt.

Kolhapur-Gaganbawda h'way work to hit trees

Kolhapur: Over 1,250 trees on the Kolhapur-Kale stretch will be felled for the first phase of the ongoing road widening works of the Kolhapur-Gaganbawda national highway (166-B). Many important medicinal and rare trees like terminalia, pinnata, bur-flower, shalmali, jamun, fig, banyan, peepal, baheda will be cut for this activity. The Kolhapur to Gaganbawda route was recently transferred from the Public Works Department (PWD) to the National Highways Authority of India (NHA) for the four-laning of the highway. Large scale passenger traffic from Kolhapur to Konkan-Goa occurs on this route. Shubham Patil, junior engi-



neer of NHA said, "More than 1,250 trees between Shingnapur phata till Kale section of Kolhapur-Gaganbawda NH will be cut in the first phase of road widening works in the district. The forest department has also approved of the same.

The assigned contractor for the works has shortlisted reserved forest land at Bazarbhogaon village where he will be planting saplings. The contract will not complete unless the plantation is done. We will look to it that the trees get planted accordingly."

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A villager from Kale, Sachin Patil said, "It is said that five trees will be planted in place of one tree getting cut during the highway works. But in reality, the authorities plant saplings which does not grow. This road stretch offers a canopy of trees that should be preserved."

Anil Chougale from Nisarg Mitra, an NGO for the environment said, "The banyan trees on this stretch are nearly a 100 years old. Plantation should be done from the seeds of different tree varieties. The social forestry department should consider this on priority. Mass plantation of various Indian native trees should be carried ahead of the monsoon."

Switched to 'patriot' to save democracy: Uddhav

Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar: Amid criticism from opponents, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Monday defended his opening remarks of "patriot" at the Mumbai rally. "Since we have to save democracy and the country, I switched to 'deshbhakt (patriot) and deshpremi (country-loving) brothers and sisters'. As soon as I said this, the BJP got rattled. Modi-bhaks are claiming that my language has changed. I want to ask these bhaks whether they are patriots or not," he said, while addressing a public rally at Basmat in Hingoli district. Thackeray usually starts his addresses with the phrase: "Hindu brothers and sisters". However, on Tuesday, Thackeray had started his speech with "brothers and sisters of my family". Chief minister Eknath Shinde is among those

who have criticized Thackeray over his opening remarks during the Mumbai rally. Terming it a "black day", Shinde questioned why Thackeray omitted the 'Hindu' reference. Targeting BJP over the electoral bond issue, Thackeray said a "big hammer" has dealt a blow to the party, but it is shameful. "The BJP has become a gang that officially uses govt machinery to extort money.

I instead of using the photo of my father (during campaigns), it should use the photos of ED, income-tax and CBI," he said. He also dared BJP to fight elections by removing the "support" of all govt agencies, and then see how people react. "They order inquiries against opponents and claim to be the largest party in

Dissent within Mahayuti over likelihood of ticket for Mandlik

Kolhapur: The likelihood Kolhapur sitting MP Sanjay Mandlik's candidature has caused dissenting voices to emerge within the Mahayuti parties. This time, the local BJP functionaries are opposing Mandlik, who is expected to contest on a Shiv Sena ticket once again.

Sangram Kupekar from Gadhinglaj tehsil, who is a member of BJP state executive council, told his supporters to request local BJP leaders to call deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis, and urge him not to give the ticket to Mandlik again.

Kupekar was with the Shiv Sena (UBT) before joining BJP last year. Speaking to his supporters Kupekar said, "All the local politicians should dial our state leaders. Request them not to let the sitting MP get a ticket once again. Last



time, in 2019, we made a big mistake by supporting him against Dhananjay Mahadik. The sitting MP never visited many of the villages even once after the 2019 polls." Recently, district BJP leaders claimed they have sought one of the two seats — either Kolhapur or Hatkanangle — for BJP in Mahayuti's seat sharing arrangement. They said BJP has never contested from any of these seats before, and if it does contest this time, it would help

expand the party's base. The name of district BJP president Samarjitsinha Ghatge was also doing rounds for some time as a possible Mahayuti candidate against Shahu Chhatrapati Maharaj, who is likely to contest on a Congress ticket. Dhananjay Mahadik, BJP Rajya Sabha MP, told the media: "All Mahayuti parties should refrain from making such statements. The Mahayuti parties have decided to contest the polls together and everyone must think before issuing any statement. There is no need to panic. There is still some time to go for the Kolhapur polls as the voting will take place in May. There is adequate time to think about seat distribution and candidate selection." Mahadik said that as per his knowledge, both seats.

Unlock the Magic with Croma's Summer Campaign 2024 - Spectacular Offers on Air Conditioners, Refrigerators, Room Coolers, and more!

Gurugram: Croma has announced its Summer Campaign, till May 2024. With the onset of summer, the most awaited Summer Sale presents the perfect opportunity for customers to prepare their homes to combat the rising temperatures with the latest gadgets with irresistible deals and ease of payment. Consumers will find 1.5 Ton Split ACs starting at just Rs 1,500 across stores and croma.com. Customers can bring any electronics and take home a new AC. Enjoy the benefits up to INR 45,000 and other benefits on an extensive range of 250+ air conditioners, 300+ refrigerators, room coolers, and fans with attractive exchange and upgrade options, cashback offers, and flexible EMI plans of up to 24

months. The offers include Inverter Split ACs starting from just INR 24,990, providing an affordable way to keep your home cool and comfortable, and also has exchange benefits of up to INR 65,000 on ACs. Room Coolers are available from Rs.4,500 ideal for those looking for cost-effective cooling solutions. For those interested in premium cooling, the LG INV/AC 1.5 Ton 5-star AC, originally priced at INR 91,990, is now available for just INR 53,490, delivering savings up to INR 45,000. Additionally, the Bajaj PMH 18 DLX Room Cooler is now offered starting at INR4,500, making high-quality cooling more accessible, convenient, and affordable. Customers can also take advantage of up to 24 months of Easy EMI on refrigerators, making

it easier than ever to upgrade your kitchen appliances. Croma Own Label offers mega deals on its host of cooling appliances. Get a Croma BLDC Fan complimentary with every Croma Inverter AC for efficient cooling. With a Croma Side-by-Side Refrigerator, get Croma Coffee Maker at no extra cost. Choose a Croma Water Purifier and get a Croma Air Fryer complimentary, for healthier cooking. Buy a Croma Cooler and get a complimentary Croma 750W Mixer Grinder. Additionally, enjoy No Cost EMI for up to 18 months on purchases over INR 5,000. This is a perfect chance to enrich your home with Croma Branded products with advanced technology with ease of payments and complimentary products.

Jaleel to contest from Aurangabad, says Owaisi

Jaleel to contest from Aurangabad, says Owaisi
Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar: Putting an end to speculations of Aurangabad MP Imtiaz Jaleel contesting the Lok Sabha polls from Mumbai, All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) president Asaduddin Owaisi on Monday announced Jaleel's candidature from Aurangabad again. Owaisi took to X and announced that his party's Bihar president Akhtarul Iman would be the party's candidate from Kishanganj (Bihar) and Imtiaz Jaleel would contest from Aurangabad. Owaisi himself will contest from Hyderabad. During a media interaction in Hyderabad, Owaisi said: "In addition to these three candidates, party's state presidents in Maharashtra, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are working on finalising the number of seats to be contested. We will make an official announcement." When contacted, Jaleel said: "I thank the people of my constituency for letting me represent them in Parliament for five years. I did my best to raise the voice of the common people and fought hard against the wrong govt policies. Now, I will again approach people and if they feel I have done good work, then they would definitely stand with me. My initial two years as MP were lost because of Covid. Hope people will give me an opportunity to continue serving them." Jaleel, after winning the MLA elections in 2014, contested and won the LS elections against Shiv Sena's Chandrakant Khaire with a narrow margin in 2019 elections. He had openly expressed desire to contest the upcoming Lok Sabha polls from Mumbai (North Central). Jaleel had cited communal violence on Thane's Mira Road during the Ram temple consecration, followed by civic body's action of demolishing several encroachments.



Rahul Gandhi lying, says Ashok Chavan reacting to 'weeping' claim

MUMBAI: A day after Congress politician Rahul Gandhi's critical remarks, former chief minister Ashok Chavan, now a Rajya Sabha member from BJP, described the comments as baseless and illogical. "Rahul Gandhi did not mention my name. If he is referring to me, then I will describe his remarks as baseless and illogical. Let me make it clear, before joining BJP I did not meet Congress leader Sonia Gandhi in New Delhi. In fact, till the last moment, I was working in the Congress office, working on the seat-sharing formula. What Rahul Gandhi said is a lie. Rahul Gandhi's remarks are factually incorrect. It is just a political stunt in view of the forthcoming Lok Sabha election and to embarrass me," Chavan said. Chavan said that before joining BJP, he resigned from the assembly and, a few hours later, quit the primary membership of the party. Addressing a public meeting at Shivaji Park, Rahul Gandhi said a senior leader from Maharashtra, whom he did not want to name, left Congress and wept in front of his mother, Sonia Gandhi.

Fire safety steps missing, JLN Stadium told not to host events

NEW DELHI: Delhi fire department has written to the administrator of Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium (JLN) to stop using the premises for sporting events and functions due to a lack of fire safety measures. The fire safety certificate of Samrat Hotel in Chanakyapuri has also been cancelled over non-compliance with fire safety regulations. The hotel management, however, said it hasn't received any notice.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

process with the new range of Veet Pure made with natural extracts such as organic aloe vera, rose extracts, and mint extracts. Veet Pure is designed to meet the evolving needs of modern women who seek effective and gentle hair removal solutions. The new product stands out with its gentle yet effective formula, addressing common concerns associated with hair removal creams, such as foul smell. Actress and Brand Ambassador Sara Ali Khan expressed her excitement at the launch, "I have always been an integral part of the Veet family and have witnessed how

it has always catered to the needs of modern women. Hair removal can be such a task, we don't necessarily have the time to indulge in time-consuming salon appointments every time. Veet Pure is a game-changer for women who want an easy and effective hair removal solution that's also gentle on the skin." Speaking on the occasion, Kanika Kalra, Regional Marketing Director, Health, Reckitt South Asia said, "At Reckitt, we aim to deliver the best user experience that addresses consumers' interests, with a sharp focus on constant innovation and excellence.



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

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

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



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

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

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

Lucknow

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

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

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

JTL Industries Ltd. Gets Buy Call from Hem Securities Ltd

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

Along with this, the government is continuously ignoring the

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

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

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

Lucknow

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

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