

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Title Code - UPENG04488

NATIONAL ENGLISH DAILY

MORNING EDITION PRAYAGRAJ

Tuesday 08 October, 2024

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

Maldives pivots back toward India to ease China debt squeeze

NEW DELHI

The president of the Maldives swept into power a year ago on a campaign to push India out of the island nation's affairs and draw closer to China. Now, as a debt crisis looms and earlier Chinese loans come due, he is in New Delhi looking to mend some fences. Mohamed Muizzu arrived in New Delhi on Sunday on his first state visit, with the country's financial crisis likely to be a key feature of discussions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government. Prior to his visit, Muizzu has softened his rhetoric notably, saying he's never opposed India and New Delhi knows the financial strain his nation is under and was willing to help. Read more: 'Will never hurt India's security interests', says Muizzu That's a contrast to a year ago when he took office, pushing for the withdrawal of Indian troops from the Maldives and promising new big-ticket projects backed by China. His



Debt obligations will grow to \$557 million in 2025

Fitch Ratings estimates the country's total external debt obligations will grow to \$557 million in 2025, and exceed \$1 billion by 2026. The island nation's foreign reserves stood at just \$437 million as of the end of August, sufficient to cover only around one-and-a-half months of imports. Maldives FX reserves A default event was looking more likely, according to Fitch, while the International Monetary Fund has

also warned of a potential debt crisis. "This is a growing concern and the debts are piling up," said Aditya Gowdara Shivamurthy, an associate fellow at the Observer Research Foundation, a New Delhi-based think tank. "They've been able to repay until now. What will happen next is something we will have to see." Muizzu met with India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Sunday and is due to meet with

campaign thrust the Maldives to the center of the rivalry between the two powers, which

have been vying for influence over the Indian Ocean nation known for pristine beaches and its strategic location straddling global shipping routes. Both countries — and others — have poured hundreds of millions of dollars worth of loans into the Maldives in recent years, saddling the tourism-dependent nation amid a protracted economic slowdown, a drought of foreign reserves and a slow return of visitors. The country's debt is estimated at 110% of gross domestic product, and risks are growing it may fail to make payments on its sukuk. If that were to happen, it would be the world's first default of an Islamic bond. Read more: Maldives president Muizzu arrives in India for first bilateral meet. What's at stake India gave the Maldives a \$50 million lifeline last month to help it avoid that outcome, but that was likely only a short-term fix given additional looming payments.

After Jaishankar rules out bilateral talks during SCO summit, Pakistan follows suit

NEW DELHI:

Pakistan on Monday ruled out the possibility of bilateral talks with India on the sidelines of the upcoming SCO summit, following India's refusal earlier. Last Friday, India confirmed that foreign minister S Jaishankar would lead a delegation to Pakistan for the summit in Islamabad. Responding to a question on Jaishankar's visit and India-Pakistan relations, the spokesperson said that Pakistan had "officially received notification" about the visit and is prepared to welcome all participating members. Further on the question of bilateral talks, the spokesperson cited Jaishankar's refusal and assured to toe the same line. "Regarding your question about bilateral meetings, I would like you to refer to the remarks made by the Indian minister for external affairs on 5th of October, in which he maintained that his visit was meant for a multilateral event and



CBI rules out gangrape, says Sanjay Roy sole accused in its chargesheet

NEW DELHI: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has filed its first chargesheet in the RG Kar Hospital case, accusing Sanjay Roy of the rape and murder of a postgraduate trainee doctor. The chargesheet, presented in a Sialdah court in West Bengal, identifies Sanjay Roy as

the sole accused, ruling out the possibility of gang rape. The CBI has interrogated nearly 100 witnesses and conducted 12 polygraph tests in its investigation. Sanjay Roy, who was arrested by the Kolkata Police on August 10, a day after the incident, maintains that he is being framed.

not for discussing Pakistan-India relations. These remarks are self-explanatory," she said. The last time an Indian external affairs minister visited Pakistan was when Sushma Swaraj in

December 2015 travelled for a forum on the Afghanistan issue. However, Jaishankar's upcoming visit is looked at as a significant move by New Delhi, given the strained bilateral relations between the two countries.

'Taps, sofas & beds missing': BJP accuses Tejawshi of 'stealing' from dy CM house

NEW DELHI: Rashtriya Janata Dal on Monday refuted the Bharatiya Janata Party's claim that Bihar's former deputy chief minister Tejawshi Yadav had stolen furniture including taps, sofas, and beds from the government bungalow and said that these are false allegations. Earlier today, Bihar BJP Media in-charge Danish Iqbal launched a scathing attack on Tejawshi Yadav's 'upbringing and mentality', accusing that Yadav and his men stole the furniture, including bed and sofas, wash basins and water taps, from the government bungalow at 5 Deshratna Road in Patna before vacating it. Responding to the BJP's allegations, RJD MP Sudhakar Singh said, "The government should release a list of the things that were given.

'Alarming level': Taliban 'schools' Pakistan on dealing with discontent



NEW DELHI: The Taliban-led ministry of foreign affairs in Afghanistan has voiced its 'concern' regarding the "alarming" situation unfolding in Pakistan and warned that the growing tensions between government supporters and opposition forces threaten regional stability. The ministry said it was actively 'monitoring' developments in Pakistan, adding that the best way to meet the people's legitimate demands is through "negotiation and understanding".

In a statement, the foreign ministry said: "In the neighboring country of Pakistan, the tension between the supporters of the government and the political opponents has reached an alarming level, which may continue to have a negative impact on the entire region. The best way to meet the legitimate demands of the people is through negotiation and understanding. Recent events have proven that the refusal to negotiate complicates the issue." Afghanistan foreign ministry spokesperson Abdul Qahar Balkhi took to his X account and wrote: "In the neighbouring country of Pakistan, the tension between the supporters of the government and the political opponents has reached an alarming level, which may continue to have a negative impact on the entire region." He also said that they hoped that the Pakistani government and influential institutions will deal reasonably and pragmatically with the growing discontent. The Pakistan Tehreek-I-Insaaf (PTI), the party of former Prime Minister Imran Khan, has been organising protests against the government, in Islamabad and Lahore. The PTI called for nationwide protests.

Owaisi hits out at RSS chief's call for 'Hindu unity'; BJP reacts with 'anti-India' jibe

NEW DELHI: AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi on Monday reacted to RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's call for 'Hindus to unite for their security,' alleging that it is Prime Minister Modi and his ideological mentor who pose a real danger to Hindus, Muslims, and others in the country. However, shortly after his remark, Union minister Giriraj Singh came to the defence of the



RSS chief and PM a "Hindu nation". "We have resided here since time immemorial, even though the appellation Hindu emerged later". Further, the RSS chief pitched that the Hindu society must unite for its security by eradicat-

ing language, caste, and regional differences. Miffed at the RSS chief's remark, the AIMIM supremo reacted by asserting that neither Hindus or Muslims face any danger in the country. "The danger to Muslims, Hindus, Dalits, Adivasis, Sikhs, Christians is from Narendra Modi and Mohan Bhagwat," he said addressing a public meeting at Nizamabad in Telangana.

Footage shows Israeli forces entering southern Lebanon



As Israel commemorates the first anniversary of the Hamas attack on October 7, 2023, the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) said that a third division has entered southern Lebanon. The 91st Division has commenced targeted operations against Hezbollah militants, who are attacked Israeli civilians, the military said in a statement. The IDF also released a video showing soldiers crossing into Southern Lebanon.

The IDF reported that the 91st Division began its operations on Sunday, focusing on precise and limited activities within southern Lebanon. This deployment follows nearly a year of military engagement in both the northern front and the Gaza Strip. Over the past two weeks, reserve brigades

have been activated to enhance readiness. "After almost a year of operational activity in the northern arena and in the Gaza Strip, over the past two weeks, reserve brigades have been called up to train and improve readiness," the statement said. Since the beginning of the war the 91st Division has engaged in numerous offensive and defensive operations aimed at degrading Hezbollah's capabilities.

J&K and Haryana assembly election result 2024: Congress eyes comeback in Haryana

NEW DELHI: The stage is set for the results of the 2024 assembly elections in Haryana and Jammu & Kashmir, which will mark the first major electoral outcome following the recent Lok Sabha elections. The counting of votes will begin at 8am on October 8. The postal ballots will be counted first, followed by electronic voting machine (EVM) votes. As political parties await the outcome with bated breath, all eyes will be on the pollsters whose exit poll predictions would be tested with the actual results. The results are likely to reflect broader political sentiments as parties gear up for upcoming electoral battles in Maharashtra,



Jharkhand and Delhi. High-stakes J&K election: Congress-NC, PDP, BJP in pitched battle Election to the 90-seat J&K assembly is particularly historic as it is the first since the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019, which altered the region's political landscape significantly. Exit polls indicate a competitive race between the Congress-National Conference (NC) alliance and the BJP,

with predictions suggesting that the alliance may secure around 43 seats, still 3 seats short of a majority of 46. The BJP, on the other hand, is expected to win 27 seats, while the PDP and other parties are predicted to win 7 and 13 seats, respectively. The BJP's performance will be closely scrutinised as it seeks to establish itself further in the region after previously forming a coalition

government with the People's Democratic Party (PDP). The first assembly election in Jammu and Kashmir since 2014 was conducted in three phases, with 24 seats voting in the first phase, 26 in the second, and 40 in the third. The fate of 873 candidates, competing for a seat in the 90-member house, has been sealed and will be revealed by Tuesday evening.

Coach Class: Tim Walz and a teachable moment in US

WASHINGTON: Presented as a regular guy, a workaday dad, a teacher and a coach from the time he came into national limelight, Minnesota governor Tim Walz accepted the Democratic vice-presidential nomination on Wednesday at the party convention with an address highlighted by a memorable teachable moment. Walz was speaking about reproductive rights being infringed on by Republicans and the difficulties infertile couples face.

5 nominated MLAs could be key in J&K, LG to name them



NEW DELHI: As most exit polls have indicated a hung House in Jammu and Kashmir, all eyes are now on the five members who will be nominated to J&K assembly by the lieutenant governor. Crucially, they will be nominated before the first sitting of the House and can vote, just like elected members, in a test of majority. The nominations will take the strength of the House to 95 and raise the majority mark to 48, a

figure that none of the contenders are likely to reach on their own, going by exit polls. Given that the LG is a nominee of the Centre, National Conference (NC) and Congress fear he may utilise the provision to help BJP in case of a divided verdict, and have claimed that the LG can exercise powers only on the aid and advice of the chief minister. The assertion has been disputed by BJP, which argues that the law unambiguously

Personality development is done through Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad - Ajay Arya

Chitrakoot: The district training camp of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad Kanpur province was held at Saraswati Shishu Mandir. Kanpur province's provincial vice president Ajay Arya and Banda division's department organization minister Shivam Pandey were present as guests. In the training camp, the workers were made aware of the methodology, worker development and function through the sessions. ABVP Kanpur Province's Provincial Vice President Ajay Arya said that personality development can be done through Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad. Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad has been working with the aim of rebuilding the country since its inception. Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad works with the ideas of Swami Vivekananda. Banda Department's Department Organiza-



tion Minister Shivam told about the working method of the Vidyarthi Parishad that the basic working method of any organization is the method through which the organization is expanded. The Vidyarthi Parishad is working in educational institutions across the country through its working method. ABVP Chitrakoot's District Organization Minister Ram Ji told that the Vidyarthi Parishad is working in the campus through its function. The Vidyarthi Parishad organizes programs like Pratibha Samman to honor talents. Along with this, the Vidyarthi Parishad is working in the entire society through its various activities and dimensions. Service work is being done through SFS, work for environmental protection through SFD, work of providing platform to talents through National Art Forum, work is being done to inculcate the spirit of sports in students through Khelo India and to promote them through competitions.

Shraddha Bhakti, cleanliness and greenery is the worship of Mother Nature - Reshma Shrivastava

Varanasi. The holy festival of Shraddha and Bhakti, Sharadiya Navratri is being celebrated with great pomp and show in the district. The general public is celebrating this great festival with great enthusiasm by dedicating it to the nine goddesses who are the form of Shakti. On this great festival of Shraddha Bhakti, the member of the Forest and Environment Committee, Mrs. Reshma Shrivastava, has appealed to the general public from her residence Pandeypur Nai Basti Varanasi, saying that along with the worship of the Goddess, we should keep the environment clean and also plant trees wherever possible. This will be our true devotion towards nature and Adishakti Devi. She further said that we are determined to develop the forest and environment along with all the workers. Mainly senior BJP leader Satya Prakash Srivastava, social worker Vidisha Singh, Aditi Srivastava, Akshita Srivastava, Brijbalala Seth, Archana Srivastava, Bhavana Pandey, Nisha Dixit, Diksha Srivastava, Rekha Srivastava, Shanti Srivastava, Anjali Srivastava, Rinki Srivastava, Anchal Maurya, Aditi Verma etc. were present in the program.



Children participating in the 35th sports competition at Madan Mohan Malviya Stadium and girl students dancing in a cultural program.

Maharshi Patanjali Vidya Mandir Celebrates Dussehra and Durga Puja with Grand Festivities

Prayagraj: Maharshi Patanjali Vidya Mandir, a leading educational institution in the city, hosted a vibrant Dussehra and Durga Puja celebration on October 07, 2024. The event was marked by cultural performances, religious rituals, and blessings from esteemed dignitaries.

The festivities commenced with a warm welcome by the presenter. The lamp lighting ceremony was done amidst the chanting of auspicious hymns by student Adhiraj of Class 1. Young Kesri Nandan from Class 5 captivated the audience with his recitation of the Kawach Path.

The cultural extravaganza continued with a delightful dance performance on song "Dhak Baja Kashor Baja" by Arushi of Class 1 & "Durga Ae Lo" by the energetic students of Class 2. The atmosphere was fur-



ther enhanced by the soulful rendition of "Devi Stuti" by the school's talented teacher, Anshul Malviya Ma'am.

Mrs. Mrig Nainy Arya, the esteemed senior coordinator, appreciated the

students and staff for the wonderful & successful completion of the programme. The honorary Principal Ma'am concluded the event by encouraging & inspiring the students to read & analyse more about

the rich cultural heritage of India.

The celebration was a testament to the school's commitment to preserving cultural traditions and fostering a sense of community among its students and staff.

Investigation campaign against overloading caused panic

Chitrakoot: On the instructions of District Magistrate Shivsharanappa GN, a large scale intensive checking campaign was conducted in the district. In the campaign that was conducted for four days, action was taken against a total of 32 overloaded vehicles. Out of which 21 vehicles were seized and a fine of Rs 15 lakh was imposed.

Under the leadership of District Mineral Officer Sudhakar Singh, vehicles were checked at Khoh, Bhartikuup, Shivrampur, Pahadi and near Rajapur bridge, Rajapur Kamasin road. During this, a total of 32 vehicles were caught, out of which 21 vehicles

were parked in police stations under police custody until further orders of the District Magistrate.

The District Mineral Officer stopped the overloaded vehicles carrying boulders and gravel and asked for documents. All the drivers failed to show the papers. Apart from this, some vehicles did not even have number plates. During this, the District Mineral Officer called the mine inspector Mantu Kumar Singh and got 21 vehicles seized in different police stations under the investigation area. A total fine of Rs 15 lakh was imposed on the vehicles caught during the investigation.



City President held a meeting with the committees and directed

Koraon, Prayagraj: Chairman Omprakash Keshari held a meeting with all the Durga Puja, tableau and temple committees at the Nagar Panchayat office on Monday. Regarding temporary taxi stands and loose animals, the Chairman said that everyone should be aware about these and work to stop them from 9 pm to 7 am so that the programs are not disrupted. During this, people like Manish Kumar Gupta, Sachin Keshari, Rajkumar Keshari, Manish, Nishant Keshari, Sanjay Singh, Rakesh Rai, Khemraj, Dheeraj Kumar, Sumit Pandey etc. were present from all the committees.

Chief Minister prayed to Mother Triveni to make the upcoming Mahakumbh a success

Prayagraj: Many of the various works being done in view of Mahakumbh 2025 were inspected today by Honorable Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Yogi Adityanath. The Honorable Chief Minister first reached Sangam Nose and performed Sangam Puja with complete Vedic mantras and prayed to Maa Triveni with a view to make the upcoming Mahakumbh a success. Thereafter, he inspected the works of Akshayavat Corridor being funded by the Smart City Project and being carried out under the supervision of Army officers. He saw the work being done at the main gate of Akshayavat Corridor and got information about when the remaining work would be completed and other

related information, on which the concerned officer told that all the work would be completed by 31st October. He also inspected the work of the corridor under construction at Lete Hanumanji Temple and took information related to when the remaining work will be completed. It was informed by the concerned officer that due to rain and flood, some works had started late but all the works would be completed within time with full quality. The Chief Minister went to Lete Hanumanji temple and performed aarti and puja. While doing on-site

inspection of the construction works being done in the Bhardwaj

information regarding how much work is still remaining as per the pert chart,



Ashram corridor which is being built with a view to enhancing the grandeur of Maharshi Bhardwaj Muni Ashram premises, the Chief Minister took

on which the concerned officer has decided to proceed with the work. On being informed about the progress of the project, the Chief Minister directed

to complete all the remaining works at the earliest while ensuring quality by increasing additional manpower. In the same sequence, he also inspected the work under construction of IERT Railway Flyover and after construction, got information related to how this flyover will be helpful in solving the traffic problems of Kumbh and the district. He asked the concerned officers to ensure that there is no shortage of workers, especially in view of the upcoming festivals. The Chief Minister met Shankaracharya Vasudevanand Saraswati at his ashram in Alopi Bagh and discussed with him various aspects of Kumbh.

Airtel Business partners with Fortinet, launches 'Airtel Secure Internet' - a next-gen, secure connectivity solution for enterprises

* Airtel Secure Internet leverages new-age cybersecurity solutions from Fortinet to guard enterprises against a wide range of existing and emerging threats
* The solution is specially designed to ensure end-to-end security on Airtel's super-fast, pan-India Internet Lease Line (ILL) network

Prayagraj: Airtel Business, the B2B arm of Bharti Airtel ("Airtel"), one of India's leading telecommunications service providers, has leveraged new-age cybersecurity solutions from Fortinet, a global cybersecurity leader driving the convergence of networking and security, to launch 'Airtel Secure Internet' - a new-age internet security solution offering a robust and fully-managed defence against cyber threats.

The unique solution is designed specifically to enhance security over Internet Lease Line (ILL) circuits, combining Airtel's trusted internet connectivity with Fortinet's next-generation firewall. It offers comprehensive, end-to-end protection through Airtel's state-of-the-art Security Operations Centre (SOC) and Fortinet's Security Orchestration, Automation and Response (SOAR) platform, ensuring robust management and defence against cyber

threats. Sharat Sinha, CEO - Airtel Business said, "Cybersecurity is becoming increasingly complex and many organisations lack the resources to manage it effectively. We have been pioneers in offering inclusive Cyber Secured ILL in the Indian market. With the launch of yet another innovative security solution - 'Airtel Secure Internet' - we offer a comprehensive, future-proof solution that strengthens enterprises' security without the burden of high capex."

Vivek Srivastava, Country Manager, India & SAARC, Fortinet, added, "As cybersecurity challenges continue to escalate, many organisations are seeking expert support to manage and mitigate threats effectively. Our collaboration with Airtel Business to offer 'Secure Internet' provides a cost-effective solution, delivering 24x7 security event moni-

toring and detection to identify and respond to potential threats in real-time. By leveraging SOC-as-a-Service model, organisations can reduce their total cost of ownership, bridge the cybersecurity skills gap and gain greater visibility into their complex environments ensuring comprehensive protection in today's digital landscape."

'Airtel Secure Internet' will address the ever-increasing cybersecurity challenges faced by businesses, especially small and medium enterprises (SMEs) including limited expertise, fragmented support and high capital expenditure (capex) for security equipment. Many enterprises also lack basic protection and the expertise to manage security across multiple locations while maintaining technology investments, leaving them exposed to internet-based attacks. Enterprises can also opt for Airtel's next-gen iSOC, which is a state-of-the-art cyber defense cen-

tre, offering a large portfolio of security services. The 'Airtel Secure Internet' service model is designed to protect against technology obsolescence, ensuring businesses remain future-proof while reducing capex expenses. The service allows for seamless upgrades or downgrades as needed, ensuring businesses always stay ahead of emerging security challenges. Airtel's SOC utilises advanced orchestration tools with AI and ML algorithms to automate threat mitigation, providing robust, proactive defence. With Airtel Secure Internet, businesses benefit from Airtel's pan-India connectivity to link all their locations - headquarters, regional offices, data centres and remote sites. Bundling Fortinet's Next Generation Firewall ensures holistic security, while Airtel's intelligent Security Operations Centre iSOC manages the entire setup with its certified and trained resources, delivering continuous protection and peace of mind.



Mayor (Ganesh Kesarwani) inspected Ramdal Marg of Bairahana

PRAYAGRAJ: Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani inspected the Dussehra Chowki/Ramdal Marg of Bairahana on Monday in view of the Dussehra festival. During the inspection, potholes were found at various places on the Bairahana Mela Marg, tracks were

found damaged. Some points of street lighting on the Ramdal Marg were found extinguished. Pits have been dug at various places on the road for laying underground electrical wiring, sewer lids on the road were found higher than the road. Mayor ordered to fill and patch the potholes to-night itself. A pile of mud was found under the bridge and debris was found near Savitri Park, which the Mayor immediately called JCB and started removing. Apart from this, a lot of dirt and debris was found in the street next to the Hanuman

temple, on which the Mayor warned the concerned sanitation leader Mangleshwar Verma and ordered immediate cleaning. Mayor instructed all the concerned officers present that all arrangements should be made before the fair like previous years. Cleaning work in both shifts in all Chowki/Ramdal routes, patch repair, repair of open drains, supply of adequate drinking water, spraying of lime and pesticides, catching of stray animals, pruning of trees and proper road lighting/temporary lighting should be arranged. No laxity should be shown in this. Akash Sonkar councilor and Chhedi Gupta former councilor, Zonal Officer Sanjay Manngai, Sangh Bhushan Executive Engineer Jalkal, Uttam Verma, Environmental Engineer and Ram Saxena Junior Engineer etc. were present during the inspection.

Seminar organized under the joint aegis of Divisional Transport Officer and Allahabad Tempo Taxi, E Rickshaw Union, Traffic Police Department

Prayagraj: Under the joint aegis of Divisional Transport Officer and Allahabad Tempo Taxi, E-Rickshaw Union Traffic Police Department, a seminar was organized at Natraj Hotel located in the Railway Station, which was conducted by Raghunath Dwivedi, Vice President of Allahabad Tempo Taxi Union. Presided over by RTO Ramsagar, Prayagraj's PTO Ranveer Singh Chauhan said that it is the important responsibility of



fare only. Drive only pollution-free vehicles in the city for the right reasons. Union Vice President Raghunath Dwivedi said today on health. On behalf of the rickshaw pullers and tempo drivers of entire Prayagraj, we solemnly declare to you that we will pronounce the name plate correctly on our vehicles and will also put our mobile number sticker on the front. So that the coming passengers do not face any inconvenience, in the end Ram Sagar thanked the guests and urged the rickshaw and tempo drivers to fix their vehicles from now on for the grand Kumbh that is going to be held in January 2025. Only pollution-free vehicles should be run inside the Kumbh Mela so that the entire Kumbh is a clean, grand and beautiful Kumbh and the coming passengers get the message that the drivers behaved well and also took us to the destination. In this meeting, Ramakant Rawat Bablu Jaiswal Amik Khan Riku Rai Nadeem Sonu Santosh Kumar Deepak Kumar and Pandit Bichhi Jaiswal etc. were present.

Victim applicant still pleading for justice but to no avail

PRAYAGRAJ: First party-- House owner is Krishna Devi Srivastava wife of late Ramesh Chandra Srivastava house no. 392 Shahganj Prayagraj while the Second party is Rama Shankar Malviya son of late Udit Narayan Malviya address 122/132 Chowk Ganga Das Prayagraj. First party owner Smt. Krishna Devi Srivastava said that she has a shop in the building situated there. Rama Shankar had given the shop on rent to Smt. Krishna Devi Srivastava. After the death



Devotees worshipping Maa Khema Mai located at Rani Mandi on the fifth day of Navratri.

of Krishna's husband, Krishna Devi had asked him to vacate the shop many times but Rama Shankar always used to procrastinate. On Monday, when the applicant's son asked Rama Shankar to vacate the shop, he agreed and also made a written undertaking on his own, but after some time he himself started throwing his belongings and said that he will file a case against everyone. The applicant has all the evidence, he can show it when the time comes.

No other community can be prevented from conducting its religious event because of festival: High Court

PRAYAGRAJ: Allahabad High Court has said that no other community can be stopped from organizing religious events because of the festival of Navratri. The court has cancelled the order of the City Magistrate Bareilly in which he had refused to give permission to the followers of "Saqlain Mian" to



celebrate Urs on 8 and 9 October. The court said that the petitioners want to celebrate Urs within the 20 acre college campus. They have clearly said that they will not take out a procession. The court said that the court cannot give permission to anyone to celebrate the festival, it is the work of the administration. Therefore, the case is being sent back with the intention that the City Magistrate should hear the petitioner and take written assurance from him and pass a logical order. This order has been given by the division bench of Justice Saumitra Dayal Singh and Justice Vipin Chandra Dixit while disposing of the petition of Astana-e-Aaliya Saklainiya Sharafatiya and others. It is known that Hazrat Shah Sharafat Ali's grandson Hazrat Shah Mohammad Saqlain Mian died on 20 October 2023 in Bareilly. He is considered a Sufi scholar. He has many followers in the area around Bareilly. According to the religious practice prevalent among the Sufis, his first Urs is to be celebrated on 08 and 09 October 2024.

City Magistrate Bareilly refused to give permission to celebrate Urs saying that if permission is given to celebrate Urs then a large number of people will gather and a new tradition will start. Navratri festival is starting from 03 October 2024. Several Durga Puja pandals will be set up in different parts of the city. Ramlila will also be staged at various places. If permission is given to celebrate Urs, "Chadaron ka Julus" will be taken out with loud music. Last month, there was a clash between the followers of Aala Hazrat Dargah and Sharafat Mian Dargah over the route to be adopted for the procession. Many organizations have objected. In such a situation, instructions have been issued by the administration not to give any such permission, which may lead to the establishment of new religious practices.

The court said that the City Magistrate, Bareilly has made a mistake in reading the application as a demand to establish a new religious practice. Apart from this, the court also said that the Sufis cannot be deprived of the right to conduct religious events only on the ground that Urs is being organized during Navratri. The court said that the petitioner assured that he will not take out the "Chadaron ka Jhoolus" on public roads, paths etc. An order has been given regarding Keshav's apprehension. To this effect, he is ready to file his written undertaking before the City Magistrate. The court said that the impugned order was passed in haste without proper prima facie consideration, hence it is cancelled.

The court ordered the City Magistrate to pass a new reasoned order after hearing the petitioner's side.

Attacks on Dalits are happening daily in BJP rule : Indrajit Saroj

BJP is bent on misusing power on the strength of PDA
Former minister had come for Phulpur by-election in Prayagraj, Said- workers are full of enthusiasm

Prayagraj: Dalits are being attacked daily in the BJP government. Atrocities on backward, Dalits, minorities, women are not stopping, rather there is a flood of such incidents every day. Recently, the murder of four people of the same family in Amethi is a recent example of the negligence of the police and administration.

The above things were said by SP's National General Secretary and former minister Indrajit Saroj while addressing the party's zone, sector and booth level workers in a meeting held today regarding Phulpur by-election. The former minister said that BJP is frightened by the results of the last Lok Sabha elections due to the unity and strength of PDA. Harassing SP supporters by misusing power has become a common thing. He also advised



to intensify door to door public contact campaign to win the by-election at any cost.

In the meeting, MLC Dr Mansingh Yadav said that workers are the backbone of the party. Along with telling the public about the party's policies and deci-

sions taken for public interest by the previous SP governments, they will also have to be made aware of the anti-people activities of the BJP government.

Prominently present in the meeting were former minister Indrajit Saroj, MLC Dr Mansingh Yadav, Dis-

trict President Anil Yadav, former MLA Muftaba Siddiqui, Mansoor Alam, Dan Bahadur Madhur, Shakeel Ahmed, Bhola Yadav, Pankaj Patel, Ramakant, Ram Avadh Pal, Ram Sumer Pal, Raju Pasi, Eram Rabbani, Sushma Pasi, Prem Chandra Kushwaha etc.

Body of youth found near railway track in Prayagraj: missing since last night, family members suspect murder

PRAYAGRAJ: The body of a 22-year-old youth was found near the side of the railway line under Jhansi police station here on Monday. Suraj Verma, a resident of Jhansi, left for home from an electronic shop on Sunday night but did not reach home. The body of the youth was found on Monday morning. After this, on receiving information about a body being found on the side of the railway line on Jhansi-Varanasi route, the family reached there and identified it. The family members of the deceased alleged that Suraj was murdered and his body was thrown here. Suraj often used to party with friends at night. In such a situation, friends are being questioned. Along with this, investigation is also going on on the love angle. Suraj Verma, son of Shripat Verma, a resident of Nayaka village of Jhansi police station area of Gangapar, used to work at a relative's shop in Jhansi market.

He used to go home from the shop at 9.30 pm. On Sunday night also he left for home at 9.30 pm. However, he did not reach home at night. It often happened that he used to go home late at night and sleep. In the morning, when the family members saw that Suraj had not come, they launched a manhunt. While the family was searching, they got information that a dead body was found near the railway track on the Varanasi highway in Jhansi. When the family reached there, he was identified as Suraj. The GRP Inspector Bhimsen Singh that on getting information GRP sleuths reached the spot and took the body in its custody and sent it for post-mortem. Although it is being said that the body was found near the railway track, but the injury is not like a train accident, he added. However, it will be clear only after the post mortem report comes. The family suspects that Suraj was called there and killed. The family has not suspected anyone. It is being said that Suraj used to talk to a girl often. The GRP said that investigation is being done.

Railways set to operate 6556 special Trains during Durga Puja, Diwali and Chhath Puja

PRAYAGRAJ: Indian Railways is set to operate 6556 special trains to facilitate smooth travel for passengers during Durga Puja, Diwali and Chhath Puja from October 1 to November 30 this year as on 6 October 2024. According to Railway officials, special trains are run every year during festivals and this year, the number of trains has been significantly increased to accommodate the surge in travelers. It is noteworthy that during Durga Puja, Diwali and Chhath festivals, millions of passengers travel across the

country. To provide them with a smooth and comfortable journey, Indian Railways has prepared to run these special trains again this year. Over the next two months, these special trains will ensure passengers reach their destinations seamlessly.

Last year, Indian Railways ran an impressive total of 4429 festival special trains, ensuring a comfortable travel experience for millions of passengers.

Every year, a large number of people from all over the

country travel to Uttar Pradesh and Bihar for Durga Puja, Diwali and Chhath Puja. These festivals are not only of religious significance for the people of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar but also provide an important opportunity to reunite with their families. Due to the heavy rush of passengers during the festive season, most trains see their tickets go on the waiting list two to three months in advance. To address this, Indian Railways is once again operating special trains during the festival season this year.

Editorial

The Architectural Marvel of Gaganyaan

In the pantheon of India's space exploration endeavours, Mission Gaganyaan stands out as a bold and ambitious project. It signifies India's resolve to join the league of nations capable of sending humans to space and safely returning them to Earth. This mission is not merely a testament to India's growing prowess in space technology but also a beacon of its scientific spirit and quest for cosmic knowledge.

Like Carl Sagan said, we, on Earth, are living amidst a shooting gallery of comets and asteroids. The need for humanity to become a multi-planetary being is not a luxury but a necessity.

The Architectural Marvel of Gaganyaan

Mission Gaganyaan is an intricate tapestry of cutting-edge technology and innovation, designed to propel India into the elite club of countries with human spaceflight capabilities. The mission's architecture is a triad of crucial components: the Crew Module (CM), the Service Module (SM), and the launch vehicle, GSLV-Mk III.

The Crew Module is the heart of Gaganyaan, designed to house the Vyomnauts, providing them with life support and safety throughout the mission. It is a fortress of human ingenuity, equipped with advanced systems to ensure the crew's well-being in the void of space. The Service Module, attached to the Crew Module, is the powerhouse of the mission, equipped with propulsion, power, and life support systems. It ensures that the Crew Module has the necessary resources for survival and mission success. The GSLV-Mk III, India's most potent rocket, serves as the chariot for Gaganyaan. It is tasked with the monumental responsibility of propelling the spacecraft beyond the clutches of Earth's gravity into orbit.

The Chosen Protectors of India's Space Dreams

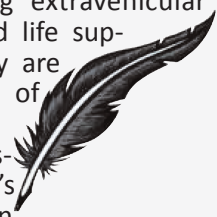
The selection of the crew, an elite group of Indian Air Force (IAF) pilots, is a narrative of unparalleled rigour and meticulousness. The process was not merely about selecting India's finest pilots but about finding individuals who embody resilience, intellect, and the indomitable spirit of exploration. The chosen Vyomnauts, after a stringent selection process involving medical evaluations, psychological assessments, and rigorous physical tests, are Group Captains Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, Angad Pratap, Ajit Krishnan, and Wing Commander Shubhanshu Shukla. These individuals represent the zenith of professionalism and dedication, poised to be the torchbearers of India's manned spaceflight.

Training for the Unknown

The training regimen for these Vyomnauts is as comprehensive as it is intense, designed to prepare them for every conceivable challenge of space travel. From acclimatising to the micro-gravity environment to handling the unforeseen contingencies of space, the training covers every spectrum of the mission. They undergo extensive sessions in specialised facilities like the Human Centrifuge and parabolic flights to adapt to the physiological demands of space travel. Simulators and virtual reality setups provide them with a taste of the space environment, honing their skills in spacecraft operation and emergency procedures. Moreover, their training extends beyond the confines of Earth.

Collaborations with international space agencies provide them with exposure to advanced training modules, including extravehicular activity (EVA) and advanced life support systems, ensuring they are well-versed in the nuances of human spaceflight.

Gaganyaan is more than a mission; it's a statement of India's burgeoning capabilities in space technology and its unwavering.



Why India is right to exclude Muslims from the Citizenship Amendment Act

The Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) is a tiny window of legislation at the intersection of a subcontinent's dark-crimson history, tumultuous geopolitics and upwardly spiralling aspirations. For Islamists and their intrepid western 'liberal' allies, this window is where simplistic, anti-India propaganda converges. For the religious minorities who have faced unrelenting discrimination, murders, rapes, conversions, and land grab in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh, it is a enough of an opening to climb into sunshine. One cannot imagine what implementation of CAA will do in border states like West Bengal, Rajasthan, Punjab and Kashmir. Pockets of a mute, invisible, exploited and vulnerable population will come alive. Horrors like the one in Bengal's Sandeshkhali — in which many of the victims of rape, murder and land grab by TMC goons like Sheikh Shahjahan were Hindu refugees driven away from Bangladesh — will meet with swift and fierce resistance. If India had the CAA rules in 1979, there would be no Marichjhapi massacre. The then Left Front government and CPM cadre in Bengal presided over the killing of nearly 1,700 persecuted Dalit Hindu



refugees who had fled Bangladesh to settle in West Bengal. They were butchered across 100 islands in the Sunderbans delta. Even their drinking water wells were poisoned. The stock, uninformed attack against the CAA is that it is anti-Muslim. Why should citizenship applications of only persecuted Hindus, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, and Parsis from these three Islamist countries be expedited? Why shouldn't persecuted Muslims like Shias and Ahmediyyas of Pakistan not be included in CAA? There are six good reasons why India is justified and wise not to include Muslims from these three nations. First, CAA is a nar-

row-window legislation to protect persecuted 'religious' minorities, not 'sects'. Muslims from these countries can still apply under the old Citizenship Act. Former Pakistani singer Adnan Sami got Indian citizenship and is a much loved and respected figure in India today. The US has a similar narrow-window legislation called the Lautenberg-Specter Amendments which give preferential shelter to persecuted minorities from Russia and Iran. Second, the historical premise of CAA is the Liaquat-Nehru pact that was signed after Partition in 1950 to safeguard minorities in the divided subcontinent. India kept its

population has grown by over 5 per cent in seven decades. But Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh didn't keep their word. Percentage of religious minorities have dwindled to single digits in Pakistan and Bangladesh, and close to zero in Afghanistan. Third, now-hounded Islamic sects like Shias and Ahmediyyas were at the forefront of the movement to create Pakistan. India is not obligated to protect them from one another now. Fourth, India has the right to defend itself against demographic and cultural takeover. It has already lost several body parts in the course of

the 1,000-year demographic war unleashed against it by colonisation and Islamic invasions. It has seen large tracts of its territory, especially along the border. It must not accommodate further demographic usurpation. Fifth, India should learn what not to do from the western model of 'liberalism' which the Left and far-Left have long hijacked. In the name of 'multiculturalism' and 'cultural enrichment', Left-leaning parties in the West have facilitated unbridled immigration to grow their vote bank. It has gaslighted white populations to drop all survival instincts against demographic takeover. This model makes 'liberal democracies' ripe for takeover by parasites and the very enemies of democracy. And sixth, India has nothing to prove by being magnanimous vis-a-vis Pakistan, Bangladesh or Afghanistan. All are right now failed or struggling states while India is the fastest rising global economic and military power. India neither needs their validation nor needs to belittle them for liberal brownie points. The CAA is absolutely fine and effective as it stands. It is the first step to making Bharat the natural home for the persecuted people of all Indic religions.

Modi's India is ensuring it doesn't end up on the losing side this time

Many centuries ago when the world at large didn't have much clue about statecraft and strategy, Kautilya had advised Chandragupta Maurya, his disciple, that the country with which his kingdom would share an immediate border will always be its enemy. But the enemy's enemy will be a friend and hence all strategic calculation must be undertaken keeping this basic premise in mind. It seems India was following this exact logic when a set of very interesting images from Afghanistan splashed across the media this week. An Indian delegation led by JP Singh, joint secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, met Taliban's foreign minister Amir Khan Muttaqi in Kabul. The Indian delegation also met former President Hamid Karzai,

officials of the UN Assistance Mission to Afghanistan as well as some people from the business community. This was the second such public engagement between India and Taliban after the latter returned to power in 2021. The first public engagement took place in 2022 when at that time also, Joint Secretary Singh met Taliban's foreign minister Muttaqi. In the last three years since Taliban has come back to rule the country by establishing the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, India's diplomatic engagement with the new rulers has been on a very firm footing. Time and again, India's foreign policy establishment has invoked civilisational ties and the role of history to justify maintaining strong ties with Kabul. Not without Prime

Minister Narendra Modi urging Taliban to form an inclusive government in the country. Although, India has not accorded diplomatic recognition to the state set up by Taliban yet but it has continued to engage the various stakeholders in Afghanistan including Taliban itself. A major part of this engagement is focused on humanitarian aid to people of Afghanistan which is being coordinated by a technical team posted by India since June 2022. As a part of this aid, India had provided Afghanistan with food-grains to tide over an unprecedented food shortage, medical aid that also included Covid-19 vaccines besides continued support for more than 500 projects in critical sectors such as power, water supply, road.

Why The Economist's analysis of North-South economic schism is frivolous rather than factual

On leap year's leap day, an analysis that can't be leapt. With two articles titled "To see India's Future, go south" and "India's north-south divide", The Economist argues that India's economic rise is over-reliant on South India and Prime Minister Narendra Modi is trading ideological aims for national unity. Similar arguments have been utilised by a parliamentarian from a major political party to demand a separate nation. This party had organised a movement in New Delhi in February, demanding 'Our Tax Money, Give it to us.' It is being portrayed that the ruling party in the Centre stands for an illiterate, underdeveloped, Hindi-speaking North India, while the opposition stands for a developed, inclusive, and Hindi-opposing South India. This portrayal oversimplifies the complexities of Indian politics and regional dynamics, necessitating clarification to challenge attempts to undermine India's sovereignty.

First things first. The protests against the alleged divide are not economic but political. The analysis of the economy notably excludes the Western states of Gujarat and Maharashtra, which collectively contribute to almost 24 per cent of India's GDP. However, a strong demand for separatism still doesn't

exist. Among these states, Gujarat has been ruled by the BJP for nearly three decades. The Economist, not for once, mentions these states and their stats. Political leaders of the opposition in the South are leveraging economic injustice to solidify their political positions, often in response to challenges posed by Prime Minister Modi's popularity and his party's strategies. These leaders also support the farmers' protests in North India despite their purported concerns about tax distribution. This raises questions about the sincerity of their motives regarding the North-South economic divide.

A historical perspective may shed light on why West and South India have experienced more economic growth than the North and East. From 1952 to 1993, the Government of India implemented a freight equalization policy that subsidized the transportation of minerals. This policy incentivised the development of manufacturing facilities near the coastline, where transportation of raw materials was more feasible. Although the policy was eventually revoked, its impact persisted as new investments favoured regions with existing infrastructure. The role of migrants in contributing to GST collections in states like Karnataka, Telangana, and Tamil

Nadu is significant. For instance, an IT engineer from Uttar Pradesh settled in Bengaluru contributes to income tax collections, while workers from Bihar purchasing goods in Tamil Nadu contribute to GST revenues. Consider the service they are adding to these states. This commercial activity contributes to state-wise tax collections, which are then redistributed by the union government based on developmental needs. If the argument of using Karnataka's money for UP is made, then the same argument of using Bengaluru's money for Hassan can also be made and similarly, using the billionaire's money to uplift the masses. If the last two would be illogical, then the former would be too. As long as the tax money collected from the developed states goes to underdeveloped states for infrastructure development, security, and education over frivolous subsidies, this distribution is fair. Such distribution will only encourage fresh investment in the underdeveloped regions and the taken-for-granted approach for migrant labourers will be reduced. Naturally, one would prefer to work closer to their hometown, provided enough economic opportunities and other basic amenities. In July 2023, Namma Metro in Bengaluru.

Agni V with MIRV gets India into global deterrence league

Agni V with MIRV gets India into global deterrence league (File) DRDO conducts first flight test of indigenously developed Agni-5 missile with Multiple Independently Targetable Re-Entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology. PTI

The successfully test-fired Agni-V ballistic missile equipped with Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology vastly extends India's strategic envelop.

range, exceeding 5,000 kilometres. This extended reach significantly alters India's strategic landscape. Traditionally, India's missile arsenal primarily focused on deterring threats from its immediate neighbours. However, the Agni-V's extended range allows India to potentially engage targets across vast distances, encompassing a broader spectrum of potential adversaries. This expanded reach compels any potential aggressor to consider the wider ramifications of a conflict with India. The psycholog-

ical impact of this extended deterrence capability is undeniable. The stakes have just gone up. **MIRV technology: A game changer** The integration of multiple independently targeted re-entry vehicle technology turbocharges India's capability to launch a survivable multiple nuclear attack from a single source. MIRV allows a single missile to carry multiple independently targeted warheads. During the final stages of flight, these warheads separate and manoeuvre towards

pre-designated targets. This capability significantly complicates an enemy's missile defence system. Previously, an enemy could potentially expend a single interceptor missile to neutralise an incoming threat. However, with MIRV technology, the enemy's defence system would need to engage and destroy each independently targeted warhead, exponentially increasing the defensive burden. This complexity significantly enhances the effectiveness of the Agni-V as a deterrent.

Samvad Sahitya Manch organized Sabras Kavya Goshti

Chandigarh: Samvad Sahitya Manch organized Sabras Kavya Goshti in Phase-1 Mohali. Senior and young poets of Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu recited poems.

These were on social issues, relationships, corrupt politics and environment. At the beginning of the program, famous Ghazal singer Somesh Gupta sang Gandhiji's favorite hymn Vaishnav Jan To Tene Kahiye. Samvad Sahitya Manch President Prem Vij and Dr. Vinod Sharma honoured Uma Sharma by giving her a shawl. During this, they also presented the newly published poetry collection Kavya Triveni. Acharyakul, President K.K. Sharda said that Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri



made important contributions in the development of the country. Poetess Dr. Uma Sharma welcomed everyone. At the beginning of the poetry session, poet Prem Vij recited a poem on addiction and said - addiction is a slow poison, be careful, you have to save your home from it. Dr. Uma Sharma presented a ghazal and said - tears come and go from the eyes, still we keep smiling. Siri Ram Arsh, Dr. Uma Sharma, Dr.

Ajit Kanwal Singh Hamdard, Dr. Vinod Sharma, Prem Vij, Dr. Megha Singh, Dr. Sangeeta Sharma Kundra, Usha R. Sharma, Rekha Mittal, Daisy Bedi Juneja, Simarjit Kaur Grewal, Sushil Nagpal, KK Sharda, Somesh Gupta, Shayar Bhatti, Dhillion, Ashok Nadir, Dr. Anish Garg, Chandra Kanta Sharma, Simran, Ripundar Kaur, Guralp Kaur, Raj Vij etc. were present in the poetry session.

Reversing decision, Mayawati reinstates nephew Akash Anand as political heir

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

As MP, BJP's Bidhuri resigned as LoP in Delhi House

Delhi: After his election as the Lok Sabha member for South Delhi, Bharatiya Janata Party leader Ramvir Singh Bidhuri resigned as opposition leader and Delhi assembly member. The development leaves the LoP job open, prompting a contest among BJP MLAs in the Delhi assembly, Delhi assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel

accepted Bidhuri's resignation and notified him. "I resigned as opposition leader and Delhi assembly member to speaker Ram Niwas Goel... Bidhuri thanked the assembly speaker and my fellow legislators for their support during my term. He won the 2020 Badarpur assembly constituency MLA election. The Delhi assem-

bly would have seven BJP MLAs and 61 AAP MLAs after Bidhuri's resignation. AAP MLA Raaj Kumar Anand was dismissed under anti-defection legislation weeks after joining Bahujan Samaj Party, decreasing the party's numbers from 62 to 61. Since the next Delhi assembly elections are in less than seven months.

The Delhi government prohibits parking oversize automobiles in public spaces

Delhi: The transport department has issued a public notice prohibiting overage car parking in all public places, including those outside dwellings. To avoid car owner confusion, the agency defined public space. It noted, "Keep such a vehicle in a private parking space owned by the individual, not in a shared parking space, even if it is part of a residential complex." The statement added that a residential complex's owner-assigned parking space is private property. A senior department official said the notification was sent to prevent overage vehicles from leaving in shared or public locations, which can cause congestion and irritation to other people. He added the department encourages owners of such vehicles to discard or find private parking to comply with requirements. The Delhi government deregistered 5.5 million overage and petrol automobiles over 10 and 15 years old.



It added owners of such vehicles can get a No Objection Certificate (NOC) to take the vehicle out of Delhi within a year of its expiration date, but no NOC will be provided beyond that. The department stated owners can also use the Voluntary car Scrapping Application at any local registered car scrapping plant. The notice stated that the enforcement wing of the transport department, New Delhi Municipal Council, Municipal Corporation of Delhi, and Traffic Police

may impound vehicles parked in public spaces even if a NOC has been issued but the vehicle has not been moved out of Delhi within one month. Guidelines for Handling End-of-Life Vehicles 2024 allow prosecution of offenders. Delhi's Supreme Court prohibited diesel and petrol vehicles over 10 and 15 years old in 2018. It said that violating automobiles would be impounded. A 2014 National Green Tribunal order bans public parking of vehicles over 15 years old.

UAPA tribunal notifies LTTE of show cause

Delhi: An Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) panel has issued a show cause notice to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to adjudicate its five-year ban. According to the Union ministry of home affairs' June 14 show cause notice, justice Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora's Delhi high court tribunal has given LTTE 30 days to respond to "why the organisation should not be declared as unlawful". LTTE has 30 days to object or respond to the show cause notice. The Maha extended the ban on LTTE and stated that the organization is "clandestinely" accumulating funds and spreading propaganda and that its residual leaders are seeking to revive it. The central government believes the LTTE is still threatening national security.

111 of 383 capital villages have PNG pipes: LG Saxena

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

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

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

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

LG authorizes new Bijwasan rly station police station

Delhi: After realigning the Delhi Cantt police station borders, LG VK Saxena sanctioned the formation of a new police station near Bijwasan railway station. Officials say the Delhi Cantt railway station police station oversees 13 railway stations. "After the creation of the new police station at Bijwasan railway station, Palam, Shahbad Mohammadpur and

Bijwasan, having a total length of about 9 kilometres, will come under its jurisdiction," stated a source. The new police station will cater to nearly 1.5 lakh population living in the area," he said. Thane railway station officials allegedly beat a passenger over Rs 10 urinal usage charges. Railways Minister sees Bandel Junction reconstruction plan including pit.

2021 post-poll violence: 'Showing as if there is hostile environment'

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday pulled up the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) seeking transfer of West Bengal post-poll violence cases on the ground that there is a "hostile environment" in the state courts. The top court rapped the central investigation agency's remark, saying not liking a particular state "does not allow them to cast aspersion on the entire state judiciary".

"Mr Raju (additional solicitor general) what kind of grounds are taken in this? That all courts in West Bengal have hostile environment? Blanket averment that courts are illegally granting bail. This is casting aspersions that the entire judiciary is under hostile environment," Justice Abhay Oka was quoted as saying by. Additional solicitor general SV Raju, represent-



● BJP reported six deaths in the alleged backlash, including of a party worker in Kolkata

ing the CBI, said the application was badly drafted and withdrew it. Several incidents of violence were reported at various places after the announcement of the assembly poll results on May 2, 2021. After the incident, the Union home ministry sought a detailed report from the

Bengal government on the "post-election violence targeting opposition political workers in the state" that left 11 people dead by the evening of the result day. BJP reported six deaths in the alleged backlash, including of a party worker in Kolkata who was lynched soon after he posted videos on Facebook narrating how goons killed his pet dogs, and of an elderly woman in North 24-Parganas trying to save her son from a mob. Trinamool said it lost four workers in the wave of alleged political vendett.



EPFO updating claims program to speed up settlement

Delhi: The Ministry of Labour announced that EPFO is revamping its application software with the UAN-based single accounting system for each member and automation of process flow with minimum human intervention to speed up claim settlement. CDAC is advising on the new software. She advocated for social security expansion and innovative living and business activities. The group also reviewed Litigation Management and Audit operational improvements. Sumita Dawra praised EPFO's recent claim settlement automation and claim rejection reductions. These include auto settlement of advances up to one lakh for illness, education, marriage, and housing, which speeds up claim processing. Auto-resolved 25 lakh advance claims. Over 50% of illness claims have been paid automatically. The Labour Ministry reports that many claims are now handled within three days. The chequebook/passbook of bank account upload for KYC Aadhaar-linked accounts of members has been eliminated, eliminating scrutiny in roughly 13 lakh claims in one month. EPFO has also simplified the comments for returning incomplete cases and rejecting ineligible cases for members' understanding. According to EPFO data, auto transfers tripled from two lakh in April 24 to six lakh in May 2024.



The government will purchase 156 light combat helicopters from HAL for 50k-cr

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



istry let HAL bid for 97 light combat aircraft (LCA Mk-1A) to help the IAF overcome a fighter squadrons shortage. The new fighter planes will cost 67,000 crore approximately. HAL has produced 15 limited

series Prachand helicopters for the IAF (10) and army (5), and soon series production will commence. Officials stated HAL will fulfill the 156 helicopter order in five to six years after signing the contract. The

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

Delhi has practically exhausted groundwater

Delhi: While Delhi is facing a water crisis and civic authorities endeavor to boost groundwater availability, the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) reported that yearly recharge and groundwater for extraction had declined. The analysis anticipated Delhi's net annual groundwater recharge in 2023 at 0.38 billion cubic meters (bcm), 0.34 of which was accessible for extraction. Alarmingly, most groundwater has been removed. It means 99.1% of groundwater is



extracted. The 2022 groundwater recharge was 0.41 bcm, with 0.37 bcm available for extrac-

tion and 0.36 bcm pulled out. The analysis showed Delhi's groundwater extraction rising from 98.16% in 2022 to 99.13% in 2023 despite a drop in recharging. While some places have made headway in maintaining safe groundwater levels, Delhi still struggles to properly manage its groundwater resources. With 15% of Delhi's assessment units categorized as "safe" for groundwater levels in 2023, up from 12% in 2022, the CGWB report was pleased.

Servotech Power Systems Ltd. to Build 12 EV Charging Stations for ANERT, Kerala Govt.

CHANDIGARH:

Servotech Power Systems Ltd. (NSE: SERVOTECH), India's largest EV Charger manufacturer, has secured a substantial contract for installing 12 EV charging stations from the Agency for New and Renewable Energy Research and Technology (ANERT), Department of Power, Govt. of Kerala. Under this contract Servotech has to build 12 electric vehicle (EV) charging stations with 30KW Fast DC EV Chargers at the various locations of Kerala Motor Vehicle Department. This contract involves Servotech supplying, commissioning, and construction of EV charging stations. This pilot project whose execution has already begun will be executed in phases with the 1st phase involving the installation of 4 EV charging stations and the 2nd phase will

involve the installation of 8 EV charging stations. This initiative will prove to be beneficial in facilitating Kerala's shift towards sustainable transportation solutions by substantially improving the state's EV charging network. As the demand for EV mobility grows, there is a corresponding requirement for convenient and accessible charging infrastructure for electric vehicles. These charging stations will enable EV owners to recharge their vehicles conveniently while on the move. Sarika Bhatia, Director of Servotech Power Systems Ltd. said, "We are elated to be working on this pilot project for ANERT.

As a leading EV Charging player who is very actively working towards making India transition towards green transportation, this step brings us closer to achieving our

collective dream of seeing India as an EV-powered nation. We are creating our green footprints, starting from Kerala, we plan to increase our footprints to other states as well. Our efficient hardware and software solutions will ensure dependable EV charging stations, catering to the growing demand for sustainable travel options. This initiative will prove to be essential for facilitating infrastructure development to support the expanding EV customer base and enable its strategic expansion in EV charging infrastructure at places with high charging demand. Servotech Power Systems is an NSE-listed organization that develops tech-enabled EV Charging solutions leveraging their over two decades of experience and expertise in the electronics space.

Mahindra Launches 'THE' SUV: Thar ROXX

HISAR/KAITHAL:

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd., India's leading SUV manufacturer, proudly presents Thar ROXX – 'THE' SUV, a category disruptor set to break norms and redefine the SUV landscape in the country. With a starting price of ₹ 12.99 Lakh, the Thar ROXX embodies the Mahindra boldness and unconventional spirit. Designed and engineered to turn heads and deliver a refined drive and powerful yet safe performance, the Thar ROXX conquers all terrains while offering an array of luxurious features. Built on Mahindra's All-New M_GLYDE platform, the Thar ROXX delivers an exceptionally smooth ride with crisp handling and class leading dynamics. It effortlessly blends Thar's outdoor DNA with modern sophistication, offering a premium SUV experience that caters to those who demand the finest in every aspect of their lives. The Thar ROXX has been rigorously tested in extreme conditions across diverse terrains and altitudes, including the scorching



sand dunes of the Thar desert at +50°C, the high altitudes of Umling La, tricky muddy surfaces in Coorg and the freezing cold of -20°C in Kaza. This extensive testing guarantees that the Thar ROXX is a robust and reliable choice for the Global Indian – people who are Indian at heart but have a global mindset. Mr. Veejay Nakra, President – Automotive Division, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd., said, "The Thar brand has always been a cultural phenomenon, symbolizing freedom and a strong sense of community. Building on this legacy, the Thar ROXX is 'THE' SUV, seamlessly combining head-turning design, a refined drive,

powerful performance, superior off-roading capability, ultimate safety, luxurious space, and advanced technology. With Thar ROXX, we're not just elevating the SUV experience—we're setting our sights on making the Thar brand the No. 1 SUV (>12.5 Lakh segment) by volume within the next 3 to 5 years." Mr. R Velusamy, President, Automotive Technology and Product Development, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd., said, "Thar ROXX represents a new era of refined body-on-frame SUVs, built on our all-new M_GLYDE platform. This cutting-edge platform, enables us to deliver the best of both worlds – blending refined urban.

CAPSULES

A Japanese company is creating battery material with an energy density that is 100 times higher

Delhi: TDK, a multinational electronics business based in Japan, has revealed that it has created a material for solid-state batteries that has an energy density that is roughly 100 times higher than that of traditional ones. The Tokyo-based company claims that a variety of wearable gadgets, including smartwatches, wireless earbuds, hearing aids, and environmental sensors, may make use of their technology. Although the new material is intended to replace current coin cell batteries, it makes use of lithium alloy anodes and an oxide-based solid electrolyte. "Batteries are quite safe since they employ solid electrolyte based on oxides. It stated in a statement that "it is intended for use in wearable devices and other devices that come into direct contact with the human body." "The battery can be applied for replacing coin cell primary batteries in compliance with EU battery regulations, which require them to be replaced by rechargeable batteries, which is expected to contribute to the reduction of environmental impact," it stated. According to the company, the new technology also makes it possible for batteries to be smaller and have a longer operating life.

Voda to sell 10% Indus share for \$1.1bn

Delhi: Vodafone Group will sell 10% of India's Indus Towers for up to \$1.1 billion to service debt, according to a term sheet obtained by Reuters. Last week, Reuters reported that Vodafone was considering selling its 21.5% holding in mobile-tower operator Indus Towers through several group businesses.

GRM Overseas Ltd. Signs Salman Khan as Brand Ambassador

Chandigarh: GRM Overseas Ltd. (BSE: 531449, NSE: GRMVER), a renowned Indian exporter of basmati rice and a key player in the FMCG sector, is thrilled to announce the signing of Bollywood superstar Salman Khan as its brand ambassador for its Basmati Rice and Wheat Flour (Atta). Salman Khan's popularity, among people across GRM's target market geographies and demographics fit perfectly with 10X.

Salman Khan is not just a beloved actor; he is a cultural icon with a massive fan base spanning across India and beyond. His unparalleled popularity, coupled with his relatable and down-to-earth persona, makes him an ideal ambassador

for GRM. His influence extends beyond the silver screen, resonating with audiences across various demographics, from urban centers to rural heartlands in India, and in key export markets like the Middle East. Salman Khan's personality as a fighter and challenger reflects the very essence of GRM's 10X brand. Just as Salman on the screen, is seen facing and overcoming numerous challenges, 10X is a brand that embodies resilience, strength, and the pursuit of excellence. By partnering with Salman Khan, GRM is set to leverage his iconic status to further strengthen its brand presence and connect with millions of consumers globally. His association with

GRM underscores the brand's commitment to quality and excellence, making him the perfect face to represent their mission of delivering the finest products to households everywhere. The company further added, "We are incredibly excited to have Salman Khan join the GRM family," said Atul Garg, Managing Director of GRM. "We found Salman's mass appeal and fanbase to be a perfect match for our 10X brand range of Basmati Rice and 10x Shakti range of Wheat Flour(Atta)" Salman Khan's unparalleled fame and widespread appeal make him a household name across India and beyond. Revered by millions for his charisma and

authenticity, Salman's influence reaches every demographic, creating a deep connection with audiences of all ages. His dedication to health and fitness is widely recognized, further solidifying his status as a role model for those aspiring to lead a healthier lifestyle. By associating with Salman Khan, GRM not only taps into his immense popularity but also reinforces its commitment to delivering premium, nutritious products that resonate with consumers. Salman's iconic status ensures that GRM's message of quality and well-being will reach and inspire a vast audience, making him an ideal ambassador to elevate the brand's presence.

GST Council to change alcohol tax legislation, settle disputes

Delhi: The GST Council is considering amending GST legislation regarding extra neutral alcohol (ENA), a highly pure alcohol used in liquor manufacture but not for direct consumption. These revisions explain that ENA should not be GST-taxable, which could relieve the spirits industry by avoiding dual taxes. In addition to legislative changes, the Council is anticipated to propose a mechanism that would allow central and state tax agencies to stop recovering past tax dues,

helping the spirits industry. This action is part of a larger attempt to settle tax disputes and streamline taxation. The GST Council will discuss officer committee revisions at its meeting in the national capital. According to two Centre-state sources, this committee was charged with drafting legislative revisions to keep ENA outside the GST regime, a decision made at the GST Council's 52nd meeting on October 7 last year. The proposed revisions clarify tax implementa-

tion by excluding ENA from GST under section 9 of the Central and state GST statutes. GST is currently applicable to non-alcoholic goods and services, however ENA is not mentioned. The clarification should reduce the alcoholic beverage industry's tax burden by preventing the same commodity from being taxed under several streams. The Centre would submit CGST and IGST Act revisions in Parliament, while states will alter SGST laws. Since the 2017 indirect tax reform.

Tata AIA introduces Sampoorna Raksha Promise

CHANDIGARH: For many years. However, over time consumers have started to seek more from their insurance plan, beyond efficient claim payment. At Tata AIA, we earnestly strive to address the evolving needs of our consumers. Our new term insurance plan, Sampoorna Raksha Promise caters to specific needs of consumers with innovative features such as instant payment upon claim intimation, inbuilt terminal illness benefits with acceleration of 50% of the base sum assured on the diagnosis and waiver of future premiums. This new solution is an endeavor to help our consumers live a fikar-free (worry free) life, and be taiyaar (prepared) in all situations" Tata AIA Life Insurance, a leading insurer in

India has announced a new term insurance 'Sampoorna Raksha Promise' that comes with innovative features and benefits. Keeping in mind that the family may have to incur urgent expenses on the demise of the key member, it offers instant payout of Rs. 3 lakhs on death claim intimation*. There are times when a consumer may face difficulty in paying the annual premium. Sampoorna Raksha Promise allows the policyholder to defer months in such circumstances. When diagnosed with a terminal illness e.g. cancer, the consumer is paid 50% of the sum assured, even as the future premiums are waived, and policy benefits continue to accrue.

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Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon 2024 #RunForZeroHunger kicked off in style by actor and fitness advocate, Milind Soman

New Delhi: Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon (VDHM) 2024 was kicked off for Vedanta employees and its business partners to support the movement of #RunForZeroHunger at a power packed event, by Vedanta's senior leadership led by Priya Agarwal Hebbbar, Chairperson, Hindustan Zinc Ltd. & Non-Executive Director, Vedanta Ltd.

Celebrated actor and fitness advocate Milind Soman joined the launch to support Vedanta's steadfast dedication to addressing hunger and advancing social development across India, through its umbrella entity for social impact initiatives, Anil



Agarwal Foundation (AAF). The #RunForZeroHunger movement is a commitment to ensure a healthier tomorrow for India. Encouraging employees to participate in the marathon, Priya Agarwal Hebbbar, Chairperson, Hindustan Zinc Ltd, and Non-Executive Director, Vedanta Ltd. said, "Vedanta Delhi

Half Marathon is testament to the commitment and power of communities, and the collective effort of Vedanta employees to nourish the country. In the last two years, for every kilometer run by the team, we have facilitated meals for children - and I am proud to say that till date 7 million meals have been given.

Flipkart will challenge Zepto, Blinkit with fast commerce

Delhi: As India's e-commerce power-house targets rapid commerce, the sector will heat up again. Three sources told Entracker that Flipkart has begun building infrastructure for its rapid commerce play. "In six to eight weeks, Flipkart will launch 10-15 minute delivery in at least a dozen cities," stated an anonymous insider. "It's building up a chain of dark stores across several cities including Bengaluru, Delhi (NCR) and Hyderabad among others." Flipkart's move into rapid commerce comes as experts expect it to cut into India's e-commerce pie soon. A 2022 Redseer analysis estimates the Indian fast commerce market at around \$45 billion. More crucially, Zomato's Blinkit, Swiggy's Instamart, and Zepto have shown investors that rapid

commerce has a future in India in recent years. Zepto received a unicorn round, but Blinkit (previously Grofers) and Swiggy Instamart have scaled up with improved profits for their owners. "Flipkart's latest launches indicate its move into fast commerce. It started same-day delivery in 20 cities a couple of weeks ago and delivered flowers and cakes around Valentine's Day (February 2024)," an e-commerce and rapid commerce analyst told Entracker, asking for anonymity. Flipkart will have a larger library than Zepto, Instamart, and Blinkit, according to sources. "The company will have a sharp focus on FMCG, grocery and daily essentials but it would also push categories such as electronics, fashion," said the aforementioned insider.

Govt. limits tur, chana stock until Sept to curb hoarding

The import of the current harvest of tur from East African countries starting in August 2024

Delhi: The Union Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs said wholesalers, retailers, huge chain shops, millers, and importers will be subject to stock limits. The Removal of Licensing Requirements, Stock Limits, and Movement Restrictions on Specified Foodstuffs Order went into effect. Stock limits for each pulse are 200

tonnes for wholesalers, 5 tonnes for retailers, 5 tonnes at each retail outlet, and 200 tonnes at the depot for big chain retailers; last 3 months of production or 25% of annual installed capacity, whichever is higher, for millers. The measures discourage stockpiling and boost market availability. Importers cannot keep imported merchandise after 45 days after customs clearance. Tur, urad, and chana prices have been constant yet high all year. India imports 15% of its pulses annually to meet demand. Legal companies are required to report stock positions on the

Department of Consumer Affairs portal. "In case the stocks held by them are higher than the prescribed limits then, they shall bring the same to the prescribed stock limits by 12th July 2024," the note added. As Kharif pulses like tur and urad are likely to rise, the government expects tur and chana dal prices to fall. The statement anticipates the import of the current harvest of tur from East African countries starting in August 2024. A new crop of chana in Australia and its import from October 2024 will help keep chana affordable for consumers.

Google cancels Play Store online gaming trial due to lack of rules

Delhi: Google paused its pilot program to list fantasy sports and rummy games on the Google Play Store, but gave India a "grace period". This means Google will not increase Play Store open access for more real-money games as planned in January. Existing Play Store apps will stay there. Google suspended the pilot, which began in July 2018 and was extended in January in India, Brazil, and Mexico, due to a lack of a "central licensing framework" that governs game legality. "Expanding our support of real-money gaming apps in markets without a central licensing

framework has proven more difficult than expected, and we need additional time to get it right for our developer partners and the safety of our users," a spokesman for Google said. The move hurts India's online gaming industry, which is divided over whether games are 'games of skill' or 'games of chance'. Supreme Court cases challenging Tamil Nadu and Karnataka's internet gaming prohibition remain pending. Google said it is developing a framework for permitted applications in this field. "In the meantime, in India, we are extending the grace period of

the pilot program so existing apps offering fantasy sports and rummy games in India can remain on Play Store," the spokesman said. A senior Google executive said on condition of anonymity that the company intends to create a framework, but conversations are ongoing and there is no "specific timeline" for when these apps can be used again.

India's major online gaming companies by revenue—Sports Technologies (Dream11), Gameskraft, and Games24x7—listed their fantasy and rummy apps on Play Store after Google's program.

RBI changes priority sector lending rules

Delhi: RBI has amended its priority sector guidelines to encourage banks to provide modest loans in economically challenged districts with low loan amounts. New rules discourage lending in districts with large average loans. Fresh priority sector loans in districts with low credit availabil-

ity (less than Rs 9,000 per person) would receive 125% additional weight starting in FY25. In districts with substantial credit availability (above Rs 42,000 per person), loans weigh 90%. Except for outlier districts with poor credit availability and excessive loan sizes, all other dis-

tricts will remain 100% important. "RBI has decided to rank districts based on per capita credit flow to the priority sector, and to establish an incentive framework for districts with lower credit flow and a disincentive framework for districts with higher priority.

Parliament group advises the government to suspend EU carbon tax for MSMEs for 3 years

It also encouraged India to work with the EU on deforestation laws

Delhi: A parliamentary panel advises India to request a three-year delay on the EU's carbon tax on engineering MSMEs since domestic manufacturers may not be able to afford it. The report advised prioritizing the development of a comprehensive framework to support and equip MSMEs to combat CBAM (carbon border adjustment mechanism). The EU will impose



CBAM on seven carbon-intensive sectors, including steel, cement, and fertilizer, from January 1, 2026. Engineering goods are subject to this import duty. The department-related parliamentary standing committee on commerce's

report, Comprehensive Strategy to Map Major Products and Countries to Maximize Exports and Minimize Imports, advised the government to work at the highest level with the U.S. and EU to protect the domestic industry from additional tariffs and CBAM. "The Committee exhorts the government to seek the deferment on application of CBAM on MSME sector by at least three years," noted.

It also encouraged India to work with the EU on deforestation laws because domestic coffee companies worry it will hurt exports. About 55% of Indian coffee exports go to the EU.

Google to face South Korean regulator over YouTube bundling allegations

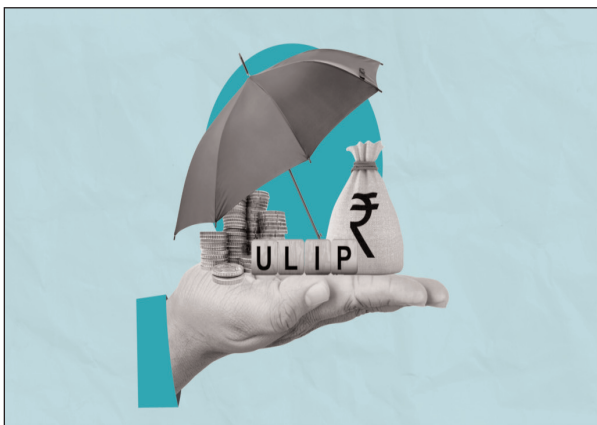
Delhi: To grow and provide drone manufacturing services to the agriculture, mapping, and allied industries, Optiemus Unmanned Systems, a subsidiary of Optiemus Infra, a contract maker of electronics, would invest Rs 140 crore. According to chairman Ashok Gupta, the company is localizing parts and components in order to reach 75% indigenization by the end



of the fiscal year. If interest rates were high right now, would you invest your money in a long-term fixed deposit? "We are set to leverage our expertise in drone technology to offer a cost-effective and efficient solution for agricultural and defence needs," Gupta stated.

Avoid promoting 'Ulips' as investments: Irdai

Delhi: The insurance regulator prohibits promoting Ulips and index-linked plans as investment products. The Irdai mandated tight standards for fund performance ads in a circular. They should show compounded yearly returns for the past five years with a caveat that past success does not guarantee future results. If applicable, benchmark index performance must be stated with fund performance. The circular advised advertisers not to overestimate benefits, selectively offer benefits without constraints, or make derogatory comparisons to competitors or the industry. The laws compel insurers to form an advertisement committee and appoint compliance officers to ensure compli-



ance. These businesses strictly oversee advertisement material and enforce restrictions. The regulator also requires companies to let policyholders pay premiums online or hire a new agent or direct sales staff if the policyholder's agent leaves. A any new policy from the allocated insurance agency or direct sales staff for the same policyholder if the assigned policy is not resurrected or abandoned.

Oyo plans to raise \$125 million at a \$2.5 billion valuation

Delhi: Oyo, a key player in the hospitality industry, is reportedly receiving \$100-125 million in new capital, with a \$2.5 billion market valuation. The international chain of low-cost hotels is finalizing a "fresh fundraising of about \$100 million to \$125 million that slashes its valuation.

Land and luxury commercial buildings may be sold by LIC

Delhi: LIC plans to sell some of its premium commercial buildings and land nationwide to raise \$6-7 billion (50,043-58,384 crore). LIC, India's third-largest landlord, has instructed an internal team to develop a selling plan for its real estate assets nationwide, according to two sources. The process may begin in Mumbai. The article listed LIC's premium assets as the Jeevan Bharti building in Delhi's Connaught Place, the LIC building in Kolkata's Chittaranjan Avenue, and Mumbai's Asiatic Society and Akbarally's buildings. Two sources informed that LIC's real estate assets were valued at a cautious 50,000-



60,000 crore during their latest valuation. "LIC-owned buildings may be revalued for the formal asset sale procedure. LIC buildings may have a market value of at least five times the conservative estimate of 2.5-3 lakh crore, as many have never been sold.

The first insider informed that LIC may incorporate a separate business to keep and monetize real estate assets due to the difficulty of valuing them. He added LIC

owns the State Bank of India building on Mall Road in Mussoorie, Uttarakhand, and two media house offices in New Delhi and Lucknow.

"The insurance company owns numerous marquee buildings. The valuation must be done properly. Only piece-by-piece auctions can determine prices. However, the LIC Act must be amended and laws changed "said the second.

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commerce has a future in India in recent years. Zepto received a unicorn round, but Blinkit (previously Grofers) and Swiggy Instamart have scaled up with improved profits for their owners. "Flipkart's latest launches indicate its move into fast commerce. It started same-day delivery in 20 cities a couple of weeks ago and delivered flowers and cakes around Valentine's Day (February 2024)," an e-commerce analyst told Entracker, asking for anonymity. Flipkart will have a larger library than Zepto, Instamart, and Blinkit, according to sources. "The company will have a sharp focus on FMCG, grocery and daily essentials but it would also push categories such as electronics, fashion," said the afore-said insider.

Inauguration of Intensicon 2024 at Amritdhara Hospital Karnal

Vatika Times

Karnal : Amritdhara Hospital, in collaboration with IMA Karnal and Ujala Cygnus Medicare, proudly inaugurated Intensicon 2024, a prestigious conference dedicated to advancements in critical care medicine. The event, held at Hotel Noormahal, brought together leading healthcare professionals, specialists, and thought leaders in critical care to share knowledge, insights, and the latest innovations in patient management.

The conference was organized under the leadership of Dr. Shamit Gupta, Organizing Chairman, and Dr. Ritesh Lal, Organizing Secretary. They received strong support from Mr. Probal Ghosal, Chairman, Director and co-founder of Ujala Cygnus, Dr. Rohit Sadana, President of IMA Karnal, Dr. Shuchin Bajaj, Founder



Director of Ujala Cygnus, Mr. Prateek Ghosal (Chief of Strategy at Ujala Cygnus), without whose contribution this event wouldn't have been possible. Speaking at the inaugural session, Mr Probal Ghosal Chairman, Director and co-founder of Ujala Cygnus said that Ujala Cygnus has been working towards improving Critical Care Services in Tier2 cities. He emphasised on the need for Intensivists, doctors of other disciplines and specially trained nursing staff to work closely for best results. He reiterated

Ujala Cygnus Group's sustained commitment to continue powering such academic sessions. Mrs. Meenu Malhotra (Unit Head of Amritdhara Hospital) emphasized the hospital's resolve to play the role of a thought-leader in patient care and healthcare services of the region. "At Amritdhara, we continuously strive to deliver the highest standards of healthcare, and we are honored to contribute to such an important platform as Intensicon 2024, which aims to enhance the quality of critical care across the region," she said.

Oberoi Group on 90th anniversary launches

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

hotel operations employees from hotels outside The Oberoi Group in India.

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

and overseas. It is designed to motivate employees to strive for the highest standards of excellence in their roles, embodying Prithvi Raj Singh Oberoi's commitment to setting new benchmarks in luxury and service," it adds. The two scholarships will allow selected individuals to pursue two-year MBA in hospitality at Ecole Hôtelière de Lausanne (EHL), Switzerland. "The recipients will also stay and experience some of the finest hotels in the world on a best practice tour during each of the two years.

OYO's parent business, Oravel Stays, G6 Hospitality from Blackstone Real Estate for \$525 million in cash

Delhi: OYO's parent business, Oravel Stays, will buy G6 Hospitality from Blackstone Real Estate for \$525 million in cash. G6 Hospitality is the largest economy lodging franchisor and owner of Motel 6 and Studio 6. G6 Hospitality LLC operates almost 1,500 Motel 6 and Studio 6 Extended Stay economy hotels in the US and Canada. In the fourth quarter of 2024, the deal should close. Since launching in 2019, IPO-bound Oyo has progressively increased its US presence to over 320 hotels in 35 states, according to a joint statement. The platform added roughly 100 hotels in 2023 and plans to add 250 in 2024. Motel 6's franchise network generates \$1.7 billion in gross room revenues, giving G6 solid cash flow. Oyo plans to strengthen Motel 6 and Studio 6 and generate financial growth by using its full technology suite, worldwide distribution network, and marketing skills. "This acquisition is a milestone for a startup like us to expand internationally. Oyo International CEO Gautam Swaroop said Motel 6's strong brand awareness, financial profile, and network in the US, along with Oyo's entrepreneurial drive, will help the company continue to function as a separate organization. Accor sold its US Economy Hotels segment to Blackstone Real Estate Partners VII for \$1.9 billion in 2012.

"Oyo's innovative approach to hospitality will allow us to enhance our offerings and great value to our guests while maintaining the iconic Motel 6 brand that travelers have trusted for over six decades.

Your favorite Tupperware is bankrupt.

Delhi: After years of declining sales and rising competition, Tupperware Brands Corp filed for bankruptcy. Tupperware, a public company, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy with \$500 million in assets and \$1 billion to \$10 billion in liabilities.

Since 2020, the cookware industry, which dominated food storage for decades, wavered in its viability. The company intended to close its only US operation and lay off over 150 workers in June. Tupperware filed for Delaware bankruptcy after months of

negotiations with lenders about more than \$700 million in loans. Though its creditors gave it some leeway on that debt, the business continued to decline. Earl Tupper created plastic Tupperware in 1946 and patented its flexible airtight seal.

FPIs buy Rs 57k crore stocks in September, flows hit 9-month high

Delhi: Foreign investors have poured Rs 57,359 crore into Indian equities in Sept, making it the highest inflow in nine months, mainly driven by a rate cut by the US Federal Reserve. With this infusion, foreign portfolio investors' (FPIs) investment in equities has surpassed the Rs 1 lakh crore mark in 2024, data with the depositories showed. FPI inflows are likely to remain robust, driven by global interest rate easing and India's strong fundamentals. However, the RBI's decisions, particularly regarding inflation management and liquidity, will be key in sustaining this momentum, Robin Arya, smallcase manager and founder & CEO of research



analyst firm GoalFi, said.

Top Rs 1 lakh crore

According to the data, FPIs made a net investment of Rs 57,359 crore in equities until Sept 27, with one trading session still left this month. This was the highest net inflow since Dec 2023, when FPIs had invested Rs 66,135 crore in equities. Since June, FPIs have

consistently bought equities after withdrawing Rs 34,252 crore in April-May. Overall, FPIs have been net buyers in 2024, except for Jan, April, and May. Several factors have contributed to the recent surge in FPI inflow into Indian equity markets, such as the start of the interest rate cut cycle initiated by the US Fed.

Accenture's hiring drive may push other companies

BENGALURU: Accenture's recent disclosure of their recruitment targets for FY25 has set a positive tone for Indian technology companies who're set to report their Sept quarter earnings next month. "We are hiring primarily in India, as we are hiring more in technology. This also addresses our pyramid structure. We hire all over the world and in technology, which is a big driver for growth as we see for FY25. We will be hiring more in India," Accenture CEO Julie Sweet told analysts in a recent earnings.

Domestic flyers up 5% this year despite higher airfares

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

NEW DELHI: Last month saw almost 1.3 crore passengers flew within the country, 7.3% more

than July 2023, DGCA first seven months of this calendar year have seen 9.2 crore domestic flyers, 4.7% more than Jan-July 2023's 8.8 crore — in spite of higher airfares. Travel industry insiders say domestic airfares are 10-25% higher for the coming festive season.

"This is the lean travel quarter and airlines have come out with sales. But, these sales mostly offer lower fares on

flights that do not see much demand," said Anil Kalsi, VP, Travel Agents Federation of India.

Rise in domestic passengers To be sure, India continues to have a very high-cost operating environment for airlines especially due to jet fuel prices. A weaker rupee adds to the equation as significant part of airlines' costs are dollar-denominated like lease rentals. With two mega.

The Indian Navy selected the latter on technical grounds.

Delhi: After evaluating both Boeing F/A 18 Super Hornet and Rafale M, the Indian Navy selected the latter on technical grounds.

Rafale fighter jets for Indian Navy

India and France are nearing a deal for the acquisition of Rafale Marine fighter jets for Indian aircraft carriers. The Indian Navy



requires 26 fighter jets capable of operating from its aircraft carriers. After several rounds of negotiations, the price offer has been significantly reduced, and the deal will be benchmarked on the 2016 deal for 36 Rafale jets acquired for the Indian Air Force. The acquisition is likely to be discussed during National Security Advisor Ajit Doval's visit to Paris this week, along with an order for three additional Kalvari class submarines to be built in Mumbai.

Sources indicate that, in addition to being compatible with the Air Force fleet, the

naval jets will be outfitted with specialized anti-ship weaponry and long-range fuel tanks for maritime operations. They will also feature the Meteor beyond-visual-range air-to-air missiles, the most advanced in the region.

Rafale deal for Indian Navy

After evaluating both Boeing F/A 18 Super Hornet and Rafale M, the Indian Navy selected the latter on technical grounds. Commercial discussions between India and France have been ongoing for more than a year, with the deal being processed.

Government eyes foreign investment review mechanism

Delhi:

Government is considering setting up a foreign investment regulatory mechanism for post-investment review and monitoring in the country, according to sources. At present, the consideration is at the discussion level only, they added. "It has been observed that all countries do oversight on the FDI (foreign direct investment), which is coming into their country. People suggest that in India also, there should be an oversight mechanism. It's a kind of oversight on money, which is coming up in the country as FDI," one of the sources said. It can help ascertain that the FDI coming into the country is beneficial to the economy and originates from legitimate sources. India is a major destination for foreign direct



given its 1.4 billion market, stable policies, demographic dividend, good investment returns and skilled workforce.

Government has taken a series of measures to attract overseas investments like promoting ease of doing business through simplifying procedures and significantly reducing compliance burden for the industry.

Government has also eased FDI norms in several sectors, such as space, e-commerce, pharma, civil aviation, contract manufacturing, digital media, coal mining, and defence, besides rolling out the production-linked

incentive (PLI) scheme for 14 sectors like electronics and white goods. The official added that the measures to improve ease of doing business, zero tolerance for corruption and the focused effort on emerging sectors like electronics have helped promote 'Make In India' and boost domestic.

and foreign investments in the country. The 'Make in India' initiative was launched on Sept 25, 2014, to facilitate investment, foster innovation, build world-class infrastructure, and make the country a hub for manufacturing, design, and innovation.

Rural income growth to drive demand: RBI report

MUMBAI: According to RBI's State of the Economy Report, aggregate demand conditions are gathering momentum with revival in rural consumption on the back of growing incomes and are expected to reinvigorate the hitherto subdued participation of the private sector in total investment.

According to the report, persistent geopolitical tensions, fears of a potential recession in key economies, and financial market volatility driven by divergent monetary policies are casting a shadow on global economic prospects.

Despite these challenges, inflation has moderated, albeit grudgingly, across countries. "Headline inflation moderated from its spike in June to 3.5% in July, but this was primarily due to the downward statistical pull of base effects," the report said. The outlook for private capital expenditure is positive according to the report.

In the first quarter of 2024-25, the total cost of projects sanctioned or assisted was Rs 1,01,433 crore — higher than the quarterly average of Rs 97,745 crore during 2023-24. Additionally, funds raised through IPOs for capex purposes also increased compared to the previous quarter. Noting that India was the world's largest economy with the highest share of global GDP from 1 to 1,000 AD, the report added that after intermittently falling to second position in the subsequent centuries, India had regained the top spot by 1,700 AD with 24.4% of global GDP, before colonial rule led to a long decline.