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

Shinde's the 'real' Sena: Speaker; but doesn't disqualify any MLA

● He said Sunil Prabhu (of Uddhav group) had ceased to be the party's legal whip on June 21



MUMBAI: While not disqualifying any legislator from rival factions of Shiv Sena led by CM Eknath Shinde and Uddhav Thackeray, Maharashtra assembly speaker Rahul Narwekar, in his verdict in Sena MLAs' case, held on Wednesday that Shinde's faction was "the real Shiv Sena". Narwekar dismissed all 34 disqualification petitions filed before him against 54 Sena legislators - 40 of Shinde group and 14 of Thackeray camp. The verdict comes as another big setback for Team Uddhav, though it has the consolation of knowing its MLAs will stay, and means Shinde emerges

stronger with government led by him looking stable. Narwekar said he relied on three major things to reach his conclusion: Shiv Sena's constitution, party's leadership structure, and its legislative majority. Supreme Court had in May asked Narwekar to decide on pleas for disqualification and, among other things, determine prima facie which was the party. Maharashtra's Sena vs Sena crisis: CM Eknath Shinde wins big after speaker Rahul Narwekar's verdict Speaker Narwekar went into detail into Sena's constitution,

saying the 1999 document submitted to the EC was a valid one and that the Thackeray group's contention that the amended constitution of 2018 should be relied on was not acceptable. Narwekar held June 21, 2022 as the date when rival Sena factions emerged and were brought on record before the Speaker's office on June 22. He said no organisational elections were held in 2013 and 2018. Narwekar said Uddhav (who was CM in the MVA government) had no power to remove Shinde following a mutiny in Sena ranks in June

2022. Uddhav's faction had claimed that the paksha pramukh's decision was synonymous with the party's will and in case of any rift in the leadership structure, the decision of the 'paksha pramukh' constituted the will of the party. Narwekar said, "Shiv Sena's constitution doesn't have a post called 'paksha pramukh' and he doesn't have absolute power, this power rests with the 'rashtriya karyakarini' (national executive). The 'paksha pramukh' has no absolute power and this power has to be exercised in consultation with the national executive." Narwekar said the Shinde faction had an overwhelming majority of 37 of 55 MLAs when rival camps emerged on June 21. He said Sunil Prabhu (of Uddhav group) had ceased to be the party's legal whip on June 21 and had no authority to call a meeting of the party.

Justify 'minority' status if council is non-Muslim in nature: SC

NEW DELHI: More than a century-old Aligarh Muslim University's roller-coaster ride in courts over its claim to being a 'minority institution' ran into a serious hurdle as Supreme Court on Wednesday asked it to justify the minority character of its administration when the varsity's 180-member governing council had just 37 Muslim members. A bench of CJ D Y Chandrachud and Justices Sanjiv Khanna, Surya Kant, J B Pardiwala, Dipankar Datta, Manoj Misra



and Satish Sharma drew AMU counsel Rajeev Dhavan's attention to the composition of AMU's governing council, termed as the 'Court of the University' under the AMU Act, and asked whether non-Muslim nature of administration would undercut

its claim for minority educational institution (MEI) status. Under Article 30(1) of the Constitution, all religious and linguistic minority communities have the right to "establish and administer educational institutions of their choice". After Dhavan

had elaborated on Muslims coming together to establish Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental (MAO) College which culminated in AMU in 1920, the question about satisfying the second test - administration - came up. The CJ asked, "Expressly by statute, there is a requirement of 37 of 180 members being ordinarily Muslims. Will that impact the requirement that a minority institution must be administered by the minority community?"

Yogi govt gears up to make Ayodhya the 'cleanest city' by deploying 800 Safai Mitras

Ayodhya In line with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's vision to establish Ayodhya as the cleanest city, the Uttar Pradesh Government has decided to deploy 800 Safai Mitras in the city in view of the increasing

traffic of devotees ahead of Makar Sankranti and consecration ceremony. The Ayodhya Municipal Corporation has started preparations in view of the rising number of devotees taking a dip in the holy ghats of Sarayu on Makar

Sankranti and the large crowd expected after the consecration ceremony on January 22. In this regard, the tendering process has been started by Ayodhya Municipal Corporation, which will be completed soon. Through this tendering process, an

agency will be selected to oversee the deployment of 800 safai mitras and monitor their works. The Ayodhya Corporation team will collaborate with the selected agency to ensure the completion of all sanitation processes.

6 of family die of asphyxiation after sleeping with coal brazier

BIJNOR: Four members of the family of a truck driver, along with two of their young relatives, died of toxic fumes emitted from a coal brazier kept inside the room they were sleeping in, while another of their relatives remains critical. The incident took place at Amroha's Dhakka Mod village on Monday night but came to light late on Tuesday. While the truck driver, identified as Mohd Raeesuddin, was not home at the time of the incident, his wife Husn Jahan (40) and three children - daughter Sonam (19), sons Zaid (16) and Mahir (12) - were there in the room along with Riyasat, Husn Jahan's hearing- and speech-impaired brother, who had come to visit the family along with his daughter Mahak (13) and niece Kashish (8). Both children also perished in the incident, while Riyasat's condition is said to be critical.

"At first, I thought they did not come out of their house because of the cold. But in the evening, when I looked through the window, I saw them lying unconscious. I broke open the door and informed the police," their relative Gabruddin, who lives in the same village, said.

'Sincerely apologise': Tour operators in the Maldives seek normalisation of ties with India

NEW DELHI: With the popularity of 'Boycott Maldives' trend showing no signs of abating, the island nation's top travel and tour operator body extended a "sincere apology" for the hurt caused by the derogatory remarks by some of Male's top leaders against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and India. Seeking rapprochement of relations with India to avert a "potential adverse impact" on tourism that is the lifeblood of the archipelago, the Maldives Association of Travel Agents and Tour Operators (MATATO) appealed to the CEO of an online travel plat-

Congress will not attend Mandir inauguration, calls it 'BJP-RSS event'

NEW DELHI: The Congress on Wednesday announced that it will not attend the Ram Mandir inauguration in Ayodhya on January 22. The grand old party called the grand temple inauguration a BJP-RSS event. "Religion is a personal matter but the RSS and the BJP have made Ayodhya temple a political project," the party said in a statement. The Congress alleged that the inauguration of



incomplete temple in Ayodhya by leaders of the BJP, RSS was obviously brought forward for electoral gains. "While abiding by the 2019 Supreme Court judgment and honouring the sentiments of

millions who revere Lord Ram, Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi and Adhir have respectfully declined the invitation to what it clearly an RSS/BJP event," reads the statement released by the Congress. Several

Congress leaders have accused the BJP of politicising the religious event in a bid to take credit for the inauguration of the Ram Temple. With the BJP going all out to make the Ram Mandir inauguration a memorable event, most of the opposition parties have been caught in a Catch-22 situation over participating in the ceremony. With the Lok Sabha elections months away.

Indians make up highest number of international students plagiarising UCAS forms

LONDON: The number of students caught plagiarising personal statements on their undergraduate applications to British universities has doubled in the past two years, with the highest number outside the UK coming from India. There were 7,300 applications flagged for plagiarism in 2023 and 3,559 flagged in 2021; 765 of the 7,300 in



2023 were submitted by applicants from India, a spokesperson for Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) said. The country of origin where plagiarism of

personal statements is highest, outside the UK, is India, followed by Nigeria, Romania and China, according to UCAS. Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU) of Greenwich and City University had the highest number of applicants flagged for plagiarism. UCAS chief executive (interim) Sander Kristel said: "The per-

sonal statement is exactly that; personal. Applicants need to advocate for themselves, in their own words...UCAS' fraud and verification service reviews each personal statement for similarities, and where it detects a similarity this is flagged. We have made it very clear that generating all or a large part of your personal statement.

22 students got Rs 1cr+ offers in Ph-1, says IIT-B placement cell

MUMBAI: The placement office of the Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay (IIT-B) has issued a corrigendum stating that the data on crore-plus offers was erroneously mentioned as 85 in its earlier press note. IIT-B has now clarified that in phase one, 22 students bagged Rs 1 crore-plus annual pay packages in the first phase of placements, of which three were domestic and 19 international. In the first phase, which ended on December 20, a total of 63 students accepted international offers from Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, the, Singapore and Hong Kong. Despite global and economic uncertainties, IIT-B saw a total of 1,340 offers being made till December 20, which resulted in 1,188 students getting placed.

India's influence threat to sovereignty': Maldivian president Mohamed Muizzu says while cosyng up to China

NEW DELHI: In wild pursuit of his 'India out' campaign, Maldivian president Mohamed Muizzu on Wednesday signed around 20 key agreements with China and agreed to elevate bilateral ties to a Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership. Muizzu, who is regarded as a pro-Beijing leader, is visiting China amid a row with India after some Maldivian ministers posted derogatory remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, leading to a spate of cancellations of reservations by Indian tourists, who constitute the largest number of visitors to the tourism-dependent island nation. **Send more tourists to**

Maldives: Muizzu tells China Muizzu reached Beijing on Tuesday night after staying in the Chinese city of Fujian for two days where he appealed to China to "intensify" efforts to send more tourists to his country. "China was our number one market for tourism pre-Covid, and it is my request that we intensify efforts for China to regain this position," he said. Chinese president Xi Jinping said he backed increasing the number of direct flights between the two countries, in a potential boon for the Maldives' travel and tourism sector, which constituted 79% of economic growth in 2022, according to the Asian Development Bank.

Modi gallery in PM Sangrahalaya likely to open on January 16

NEW DELHI: A special gallery cataloguing the life and achievements of Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his 10 year tenure as prime minister is likely to be opened to public on January 16, one day after the likely visit of President Droupadi Murmu - her first - to the Pradhan Mantri Museum and Library. The Modi gallery, work on which began towards the end



of 2022, showcases how the PM's early life and career as

Gujarat chief minister shaped his leadership and vision at the national level. Replete with state-of-the-art technological interventions, the gallery, divided into 8-9 segments, also focuses on Modi's communication style, sympathy for the down trodden, his commitment to women empowerment in the environment and the security and defence sectors.

Along with residential townships, various industrial clusters should be developed: Yogi

Bareilly

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Wednesday, inspected the Ramayana Vatika in the Ramganga Nagar Yohana being developed by the Bareilly Development Authority. During the visit, he unveiled a 9-foot statue of Lord Hanuman. Additionally, he laid the foundation stone of the Greater Bareilly Housing Scheme of the authority and assessed the ongoing projects. During the review, CM Yogi appreciated the work of the authority and directed the officials to develop various industrial clusters, medicity and knowledge parks, in addition to residential townships. The government's goal is to generate employment opportunities for small entrepreneurs and individuals associated with the service sector. CM Yogi directed the authority to ensure the quality of construc-



tion and development works, emphasizing that the schemes should be completed within the stipulated timeframe. He also instructed that, while developing new housing schemes, careful consideration should be given to ensuring that the schemes generate sufficient employment opportunities. CM Yogi distributed checks to five landowners. The Greater Bareilly Residential Scheme, covering an area of approximately 600 acres, is being developed by the Bareilly Development Authority under the Chief Minister Urban Expansion/New City

Promotion Scheme. Under this scheme, an amount of Rs 1377 crore will be distributed as compensation to the farmers. The total cost of the project including development works will be Rs 2200 crore. Under the scheme, an amount of more than Rs 635 crore has been distributed so far as compensation to the farmers. CM Yogi distributed checks to five landowners. Bareilly players receive the gift of an indoor stadium. CM Yogi gifted the indoor stadium to the players of Bareilly. The stadium, constructed under the Smart City project at a cost of Rs 10.23 crore, fulfills a

long-awaited need of the players. The indoor stadium is equipped to host events such as gymnastics, volleyball, basketball, and badminton. During the inauguration, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath played badminton. Notably, he invited Finance Minister Suresh Khanna to join him, and both enjoyed playing on the badminton court. World-class educational institutions and knowledge parks are proposed under the Chief Minister Urban Expansion/New Cities Promotion Scheme, proposals include the establishment of Medicity and Knowledge Park for the development of world-class educational and health facilities. Additionally, a Cyber City has been proposed to attract software companies. The scheme outlines that all zonal roads are planned to be 45 meters wide.

MEDI ASSIST HEALTHCARE SERVICES LIMITED INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING OPENS ON MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 2024

Gurugram: MEDI ASSIST HEALTHCARE SERVICES LIMITED (the "Company"), shall open its initial public offering of Equity Shares on Monday, January 15, 2024. The Anchor Investor Bidding Date is Friday, January 12, 2024. The Offer will open on Monday, January 15, 2024 for subscription and will close on Wednesday, January 17, 2024. The Price Band of the Offer has been fixed at ₹ 397 to ₹ 418 per Equity Share. Bids can be made for a minimum of 35 Equity Shares and in multiples of 35 Equity Shares thereafter. The Offer comprises of up to 2,539,092 Equity Shares by Dr. Vikram Jit Singh Chhatwal; Up to 12,468,592 Equity Shares by Medimatter Health Management Private Limited (and collectively with Dr. Vikram Jit Singh Chhatwal, the "Promoter Selling Shareholders"); Up to 6,606,084 Equity



Shares by Bessemer Health Capital LLC (the "Promoter Group Selling Shareholder"); Up to 6,275,706 Equity Shares by Investcorp Private Equity Fund I (the "Investor Selling Shareholder"); Up to 26,382 Equity Shares by Vivek Pandit, up to 22,613 Equity Shares by Rahul M Khanna, up to 17,337 Equity Shares by Shankar Rao Palepu (jointly with Palepu Neena Rao), up to 17,337 Equity Shares by Pramod Manohar Ahuja (jointly with Jyoti Ahuja), up to 17,337 Equity Shares by Keshav Sanghi (jointly with Vinita Keshav Sanghi), up to 13,568 Equity Shares by A m i t k u m a r

Gajendrakumar Patni (jointly with Ruchi Amitkumar Patni), up to 13,568 Equity Shares by Arihant Patni, up to 5,276 Equity Shares by Jyoti Ahuja (jointly with Pramod Manohar Ahuja) and up to 5,276 Equity Shares by Ranjan Surajprakash Sanghi (jointly with Jayashree Sanghi) (Collectively, the "Other Selling Shareholders") The Equity Shares each offered through the Red Herring Prospectus dated January 9, 2024 (the "RHP") are proposed to be listed on the stock exchanges being BSE Limited (the "BSE") and National Stock Exchange of India Limited (the "NSE"), and together with the BSE,

the "Stock Exchanges"). For the purposes of the Offer, BSE is the Designated Stock Exchange. The Offer is being made in terms of Rule 19(2)(b) of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957, as amended, (the "SCRR") read with Regulation 31 of the SEBI ICDR Regulations. The Offer is being made through the Book Building Process, in compliance with Regulation 6(1) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations, where not more than 50% of the Offer shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Qualified Institutional Buyers ("QIBs") (the "QIB Category"), provided that the Company, Promoter Selling Shareholders and Promoter Group Selling Shareholder in consultation with the BRLMs, may allocate up to 60% of the QIB Category to Anchor Investors, on a discretionary basis (the "Anchor

Congress boycott of January 22 event not unexpected: BJP

NEW DELHI: BJP Wednesday said Congress had lost its mind the way "Ravana lost his in Treta Yuga" and claimed people would respond to its "boycott" of the 'pran pratishtha' by boycotting it in the Lok Sabha polls. "First, they misguided on the existence of Shri Ram, then created hurdles in the construction of Ram temple and now they have refused the invitation for the 'pran pratishtha' ceremony. Insult Sanatan Dharma, this is the identity of Congress," Union minister Piyush Goyal said. I&B minister Anurag Thakur said Congress had always talked about destroying Sanatan Dharma through its allies. "It is this Congress that has spread the false theory of Hindu terrorism. If today they have boycotted Ram Lalla, then the people will boycott them in Lok Sabha polls." Union minister Smriti Irani added, "Congress party's anti-Lord Ram face is before the nation. Declining the invitation reflects their anti-Sanatan mindset."

Clear stand on Chinese manjha sale: HC to FB

NAGPUR: The Nagpur bench of Bombay HC Wednesday set a Friday deadline for Facebook to clear its stand on steps it would take to prohibit advertising and sale of Chinese manjha on its platform, reports Vaibhav Ganjapure. The bench's oral directive came after the social media giant's counsel, who joined the hearing through video-conferencing from Delhi, told the court its operations had shifted to Meta and that it was just an intermediary.

Navy receives first drone made in India

HYDERABAD: Navy on Wednesday received the first medium altitude long endurance (MALE) drone made in India by Adani Defence & Aerospace (ADA) in collaboration with Israeli firm Elbit. Named Drishti 10 Starliner, the UAV was handed over by ADA at a flag-off ceremony led by the chief of naval staff, Admiral R Hari Kumar, at the Adani Aerospace Park, reports Swati Bharadwaj.

HC raps judge for passing order on matter pending before another court

KOLKATA: A division bench of Calcutta high court on Wednesday termed Justice Amrita Sinha's January 3 order directing the Enforcement Directorate to collect voice samples of cash-for-jobs accused Sujay Krishna Bhadra a "dangerous trend in the judicial structure". Justices Soumen Sen and Uday Kumar held that Justice Sinha didn't take the "right approach" by passing



an order on a matter that was pending adjudication in the court of Justice Tirthankar Ghosh. While declining to interfere in Justice Sinha's directive to the

central agency, the bench put the onus on Justice Ghosh to take the final decision on the judicial process pertaining to Bhadra's voice samples. Bhadra had challenged

the directive, arguing that the single-judge bench "failed to appreciate that a criminal revisional application... (is) sub judice before a coordinate bench". The division bench said ED officials should have apprised Justice Sinha of the status of the case pending in Justice Ghosh's court and approached the latter if they could not get Bhadra's voice samples.

Abhishek Banerjee moves SC seeking to 'gag' Calcutta HC judge

KOLKATA: Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee on Wednesday moved the Supreme Court, urging it to "restrain" Calcutta high court Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay from making "politically motivated" statements in sub-judice cases that could influence central investigating agencies like CBI and ED. Banerjee pleaded that the SC set up a special HC bench to hear the ongoing cases, to which he had



been linked, "uninfluenced by the remarks" made by Justice Gangopadhyay and Justice Amrita Sinha. Banerjee's petition, which runs into 70 pages, further urged the apex court to pass appropriate directives to the Calcutta HC Chief Justice to act

against Justice Gangopadhyay for "his continuous politically motivated interviews" in ongoing cases that "not only belies the principles of judicial propriety and restraint" but also "prejudices" the petitioner's rights. The Trinamool MP appealed that the SC direct the HC Chief Justice to rein in all HC judges "from making adverse comments about any sub-judice case or the parties involved in it".

CEO likely planned son's murder, empty cough syrup bottles found in room: Cops

NEW DELHI: The Goa police suspect that the alleged murder of a four-year-old by his own mother, Suchana Seth, was likely pre-meditated after they found empty bottles of cough syrup in a room where the CEO of a start-up was staying. The bottles suggest that Seth might have



given a heavy dose of the medicine to her son before smothering him to death, a police official said on

Wednesday. According to the post-mortem, the child was smothered to death by either a

cloth or pillow. Seth, allegedly killed her son in the apartment at Candolim in Goa and stuffed the body in a bag before taking it to neighbouring Karnataka in a taxi, police said. She was arrested from Chitradurga in Karnataka on Monday night and brought to Goa on Tuesday.

After 13 yrs, accused in Kerala professor's hand chopping in NIA net

NEW DELHI/KANNUR: The NIA Wednesday arrested the main accused, absconding for 13 years, in the 2010 Kerala professor palm-chopping case wherein the academician was attacked in front of his family for alleged blasphemy. Savad, a PFI sympathiser who was on the run for the last 13 years and carried a reward of Rs 10 lakh, was arrested from Mattannur in Kannur. The accused had cut off the palm of TJ Joseph for allegedly ridiculing Prophet Mohammed in a Malayalam question paper prepared for the internal exams of B.Com students at Newman College, Thodupuzha in Idukki district. "Savad was identified as the main accused in the infamous



2010 case of attempted murder of TJ Joseph by chopping off his palm.

He was chargesheeted on January 2011, one of the earliest such incidents in India reflecting the ideology of violent extremism being pursued

by Popular Front of India," a NIA spokesperson said. Reacting to the development, Joseph said he was not concerned much with the arrest of the accused as he still believes the "masterminds" behind the attack were in hiding. "The probe has not reached them. It indicates our legal system has not grown to that extent," Joseph told mediapersons outside his residence in Thodupuzha. The professor said his interest in the matter was only as that of any other individual. "As I have said in the past, it does not give back what has been lost. Therefore, it does not bring justice to the victim," he added. PTI

ED summons Farooq for questioning in money laundering case

NEW DELHI: National Conference president and former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Farooq Abdullah has been summoned by the Enforcement Directorate for questioning in a money laundering case, according to officials. Farooq Abdullah has been questioned by the ED in the past reportedly in connection with a case of alleged financial irregularities in the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA). Farooq Abdullah, who is an MP from Srinagar Lok Sabha seat, was charged by the ED in the case in 2022. The case relates to siphoning off the funds of the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association by way of transfer to various personal bank accounts of unrelated parties, including those of JKCA office bearers.

Festivals enhance harmony with love and brotherhood: Ashwini Kumar

Organization of meeting ceremony by Loharu Bar

Vatika Times

Loharu: Festivals and festivals increase harmony with love and brotherhood in the society and we should forget all the festivals and celebrate them with love and unity, forgetting mutual animosity. ADJ and Principal Judge Family Court Ashwini Kumar said this while addressing the advocates present at the meeting organized by Loharu Bar Association on the occasion of Lohri and Makar Sankranti festival on Wednesday. The meeting ceremony was organized under the chairmanship of Surendra Chaudhary of the Bar. ACJ Jitendra Singh also participated on this occasion. Addressing the advocates, the judge said that the lawyers of Loharu Bar have always worked cooperatively to provide justice to the common people, the cooperation and loving spirit of the lawyers here is an example. He said that Makar Sankranti festival is a festival of happiness and along with the tradition of celebrating the elders, this festival also inspires respect for the elders. In such a situation, the members of the Bar should also put aside their grievances on this festival and work together in solidarity to provide justice to the common people. Pradhan Surendra Chaudhary said that festivals and events provide happiness to every class and if festivals are celebrated collectively as a get-together, it strengthens the feeling of brotherhood and cooperation. On this occasion, former president of Bar Association Loharu, Sanjay Bisalwas, Secretary Ravi Yadav, Sunil Sheoran, Daya Singh Dhillon, Mahesh Sheoran, Vikas Sheoran, Dharmendra Baudalia, Sandeep Budhera, Sombir Sheoran, Manoj Baddu, Sunil Mann, Kuldeep Mann, Rajesh Sheoran, Many advocates including Neeraj Ranwa, Rasuk Sheoran, Subhash Chandra, Vivek, Ashok Yadav, Ramnarayan Sheoran, Vinita Sheoran were present.



The auction took place at the Aayakar Bhavan in south Mumbai

NEW DELHI: Dawood Ibrahim's childhood house and three other properties owned by his family in Maharashtra's Ratnagiri went under the hammer.

The properties were registered under the name of Dawood Ibrahim's mother, Amina Bi. The auction was organised under the Safema act, officials said. The auction took place at the Aayakar Bhavan in south Mumbai. Only two of the four listed properties, which received four and three bidders, respectively, attracted successful bids, with a single person emerging as the successful bidder for both. There were no bids for the other two properties.



An agricultural land with the reserve price of Rs 15,440 was auctioned for Rs 2.01 crore, the highest bid at the auction. A total of four bidders came for this

property. Another agricultural land fetched the highest bid of Rs 3.28 lakh against the reserve price of Rs 1,56,270, officials said. The name of the successful bidder

was not disclosed. According to a participant the winning bidder was a Delhi-based lawyer. Earlier in 2017 and in 2020, over 17 properties belonging to the

underworld don were auctioned off by Safema. Dawood, a key accused in 1993 Mumbai Mumbake village before moving to Mumbai in 1983.

DCGI has also asked the drug controller cum licensing authorities

Delhi: "DCGI has also asked the drug controller cum licensing authorities to direct all blood centres to adhere to the revised guidelines for recovery of processing charges. When a person donates blood, it is not transfused into a patient directly. The donated blood, referred to as whole blood, is processed in centrifuges to separate it into transfusable components. This includes red cells, platelets and plasma. The exercise is referred to as blood processing and a cost is incurred on this. Centre released a

guideline in 2022 stating that private blood banks cannot charge more than Rs 1,550 for processing whole blood. Processing charges for packed red cells, fresh frozen plasma, and platelet concentrate all of which are required for transfusion in patients have been capped at Rs 1,550, Rs 400, Rs 400 respectively for private labs.

In government-run blood centres, the cost of processing whole blood and packed red cells have been capped at Rs 1,100. The Drugs Controller General of India banned all charges

on blood units, except supply and processing costs. DCGI has sent out a letter stating this to drug controller cum licensing authorities in all states and Union territories. Referring to the meeting of Drugs Consultative Committee held in September last year, DCGI wrote, "It was recommended with respect of agenda No. 18 of ATR point 3, for overcharging of blood, it was opined that blood is not for sale, it is only for supply and only processing cost may be charged by a blood centre.

"Cold day" to "severe cold day" conditions are likely to continue

NEW DELHI: Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) on said that, "cold day" to "severe cold day" conditions are likely to continue over some parts of Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi and Rajasthan for next two more days and significantly decrease thereafter. According to the latest forecast from the India Meteorological Department (IMD), dense to very dense fog is expected to persist over Northwest India for the next two days, gradually diminishing afterward. In their daily bulletin, the IMD reported minimum temperatures ranging from 6 to 10 degrees Celsius across significant regions. These areas include most parts of Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, West Rajasthan, and select portions of East Rajasthan and West Uttar Pradesh. This information provides valuable insights into the prevailing weather conditions, aiding residents and authorities in making informed decisions

based on the forecasted temperatures. "These are above normal by 3-5°C over many parts of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and some parts of Haryana, Delhi, Chhattisgarh, Odisha. These are below normal by 2-4 degree Celsius in some parts of West Rajasthan. Today, the lowest minimum temperature of 2.8 degree Celsius reported at Bikaner (West Rajasthan)," said the IMD. The IMD also forecasts the persistence of dense to very dense fog conditions during the night and morning in certain areas and isolated pockets across Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, and East Rajasthan until January 7. Additionally, dense fog is expected in isolated pockets for the following 24 hours after that period. "Dense to very dense fog conditions are very likely to prevail for a few hours in morning in isolated pockets over West Uttar Pradesh.

MCD finalising road network plans for three illegal colonies

Diva Delhi. The MCD town planning department has published the map plans proposing road widening in these colonies for seeking public feedback. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) is in the process of finalising the road network plans for three unauthorised colonies in the Capital. These road network plans, will be the first step in regularising the approximately 1,800 unauthorised colonies in Delhi. A senior municipal official said that draft plans for the regularisation of the three colonies — Khirki Extension in south Delhi, East Azad Nagar in east Delhi, and Saroop Nagar Extension in north Delhi — have been prepared with the help of School of Planning and Architecture. The plan broadly proposes a road widening exercise in these colonies under three categories of road — 6m, 9m, and 12m.



One Delhi brings Delhi Metro and DTC closer together

Delhi: The software provides integrated bus and metro route planning in addition to ticketing. "The One Delhi smartphone app will create a detailed itinerary that smoothly integrates both forms of transportation based on your chosen starting point and destination. According to a DMRC spokesman, "This feature eliminates the need to switch between multiple apps or consult different sources for bus and metro schedules." The official went on to say that the integration of DMRC's ticketing services into the app is a big step forward in the city's development of a more integrated and effective urban transportation system. Passengers may now buy tickets for DTC and Delhi Metro buses using the same app. The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has connected the One Delhi mobile app of the Delhi government with its ticketing systems. Anuj Dayal, principal executive director, corporate communications, DMRC, stated that "the integration of issuing QR tickets for Metro and DTC buses through One Delhi app will add one more channel for issuing Delhi Metro tickets and will facilitate commuters to use one single app for booking both metro and bus tickets." He continued by saying that this strategic alliance will provide travelers with a one-stop shop for all of their transit needs, making riding the Delhi Metro even more convenient.

RWA scheme for tax rebate to kick off

Delhi: Aimed at benefiting all registered RWAs and group housing societies, MCD is set to launch a redesigned Sahnbhagita Scheme. The registration process for the scheme will continue until March 31. The benefits of the scheme include the allocation of 10% of the total property tax collected from an area towards incentive to RWAs or group housing societies, provided at least 90% of the residents are property tax compliant. Further, an additional 5% of the total property tax collected will be allocated towards wet waste disposal Incentive if the residents contribute to 100% waste segregation at source, 100% composting, recycling of dry waste, and handling over the remaining dry waste to authorised agencies, said an official. MCD has requested RWAs, group housing, and education organised across all 12 zones of MCD on the day of launch.

180 Delhi villages at Raj Niwas to discuss the problems that they face

Delhi. The LG's orders came after he held consultations with over 500 villagers from 180 Delhi villages at Raj Niwas to discuss the problems that they face. Lieutenant governor (LG) VK Saxena directed all district magistrates in Delhi to spend the night at villages in the Capital to get a first-hand account of the problems faced

"Taking forward PM Narendra Modi's call to take 'Govt at doorstep'"

by the residents there. Saxena said his directions are in line with

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call to take the government to the doorsteps of people. "Taking forward PM Narendra Modi's call to take "Govt at doorstep", instructed DMs of Delhi to spend nights in all the villages to understand their issues better and expressed my willingness to do the same.

After 40 years, rhinos return to sanctuaries in Assam

GUWAHATI: After 40 years, rhinos have returned to stay at Laokhowa and Burachapori wildlife sanctuaries of greater Kaziranga, Assam, following a massive eviction through which 1,282 hectares of forest and government land were cleared of illegal settlements last year.

Until 1983, Laokhowa - Burachapori in Nagaon district had 45-50 rhinos. While poachers killed a few, the surviving rhinos left for Orang National Park on the north bank of the Brahmaputra following encroachment and human settlements over the last

several decades. Laokhowa-Burachapori Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS) and the first addition to Burachapori WLS - total 309.20sqkm - has witnessed the return of two rhinos to the landscape after almost a gap of 40 years and they have made the landscape their home since November last year, officials said. While many rhinos were killed, the degradation of grassland habitat amid anthropogenic pressure wiped out the animals from here. "Happy to share that after 40 years our iconic Rhinos have returned to Laokhowa and Burachapori.

Celebrated SAHBHAGITA DIWAS on 06th January at MCD, Community Hall

New Delhi Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Assessment & Collection Department, Najafgarh Zone, Sector-9, Dwarka, New Delhi celebrated SAHBHAGITA DIWAS on 06th January 2024 at MCD, Community Hall, Sector-23, Dwarka, New Delhi since the month of January-2024 is being celebrated as Sahnbhagita Month.

Smt. Kamaljeet Sehrawat, Councilor Dwarka-B Ward was the Chief Guest. She appealed the residents of Dwarka to enroll their respective Group Housing Societies and Residents Welfare Associations on MCD



portal and take the advantage of the Scheme. Large number of Dwarka residents including representatives of various Group Housing Societies and Residents Welfare

Associations attended the meeting. Sh. Ajay Kumar, Joint Assessor & Collector, Najafgarh Zone, MCD briefed the attendees about salient features of Sahnbhagita Scheme

including its launching and registration through online Portal <https://mcdonline.nic.in/citizen/dmcd/web/citizen/info> and requested for Geo-tagging of their properties.

Pollution Control Committee are vacant

Delhi: About 32% of posts at Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) are vacant. Those occupied have nearly 50% contractual staff. These details were shared by the agency in response to an RTI query filed by an environmental activist. DPCC, which implements pollution-related norms, has 344 approved posts, of which 234 are filled. Of these, 111 are regular employees and 122 contractual. The agency has no data on total staff recruited since 2014, revealed the RTI query.

Over whether any letter was sent to Delhi government to increase the staff of DPCC or to fill up the vacancies, DPCC replied that the "matter is under process" for Group A employees. For the Group B employees, the letter has been sent to Delhi

Over whether any letter was sent to Delhi government to increase the staff of DPCC or to fill up the vacancies, DPCC replied that the "matter is under process" for Group A employees

Subordinate Services Selection Board. A residents' forum named URJA had shared a report stating that the agency was virtually absent in one of the hotspots of Delhi for implementation of the summer action plan despite several anomalies on the ground. According to the report, in Wazirpur, a large number of people did not see anti-smog guns in their area, many large construction sites did not display the registration certificate in public domain and no teams were seen monitoring open burning. "Delhi has been suffering from pollution for the last so many years, but surprisingly, no concrete efforts are being taken to control the same. DPCC has been facing a staff crunch for a long time now and it is impacting pollution control measures across the city," claimed Amit Gupta, who filed the RTI query. Officials of DPCC did not respond despite several attempts.

Editorial

Why India has most warships sailing in the Arabian Sea

US, allies reiterate call for end to attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebels on ships in the Red Sea. Since November, the Red Sea has been fraught with danger due to Houthi rebel activities. Multiple ship attacks have occurred, compelling many companies to seek alternative routes. The situation escalated when the Houthi rebels declared their intention to target Israel, intensifying concerns for nations heavily reliant on the Red Sea for trade. Among the nations facing the brunt of this crisis is India. A significant portion of its trade with Europe passes through the Red Sea and the disruption has led to a projected \$30 billion fall in exports for the current financial year — a substantial 7 per cent drop. The primary culprit is the exponential rise in shipping costs, soaring from \$500-\$600 to nearly \$2,000 per freight, compounded by war risk insurance costs reaching \$3,000.

In response to the escalating crisis, India has deployed a considerable military presence in the region including warships, surveillance planes, drones and marine commandos. However, despite these efforts, the challenges persist as evidenced by a recent thwarted hijacking attempt near Somalia. To safeguard its commercial interests, India has adopted the strategy of escorting commercial ships in the region. Warships now sail alongside cargo vessels functioning as protective escorts — a testament to the severity of the situation and the lengths to which nations are willing to go to ensure the safe passage of their maritime assets.

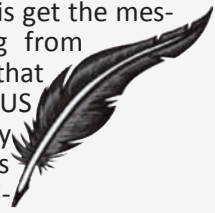
International response

While India has taken proactive measures, the broader international response has been mixed. The US-led coalition appears reluctant to intervene with most US allies hesitant to deploy ships. Even though the US sank a Houthi vessel last month, the Houthi rebels remain undeterred, capitalising on the incidents for political gain. "America will bear the consequences and results of what it has done. And we say that we don't fear anything America does," said member of Houthi Supreme Political Council, Muhammad Ali Al-Houthi. The repercussions extend beyond India, with other nations like Singapore, Sri Lanka and Pakistan joining the US-led coalition to patrol the seas and ensure safe maritime passage. However, the lack of a united front and half-hearted participation from some nations hinders a comprehensive solution to the crisis.

Solutions and challenges

Safeguarding the Red Sea demands concerted efforts either through a substantial international force or, more feasibly, ending the ongoing conflict. However, diplomatic efforts, particularly from the US, seem tepid, relying on threats rather than pursuing a ceasefire.

"We've had 40 countries come together to make clear the what the Houthis are doing has to stop. And we have other countries that have made clear that if it continues, there have to be consequences. So our strong view, our strong preference is that the Houthis get the message that they're receiving from countries around the world that this needs to stop," said US Secretary of State Antony Blinken. As the Red Sea crisis unfolds, the global community must recognise the urgency of the situation.



Decoding India-US ties in the shadow of Khalistan issue

India's strategic importance on the global front has changed rapidly over the last decade. It coincides with the active cultivation of one of the most important geopolitical relationships today — that of the India-US partnership. In an increasingly multilateral world where autocracies such as China and Russia continue to loom large, a partnership between two economically relevant democracies can benefit immensely. Yet, the needle moves much too slowly. While president Barack Obama announced the end of "export control regimes preventing the sale of sensitive technology to India" in 2010, the India-US relationship underwent several upheavals continuing into the tenure of now Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Despite Indian concerns ranging from the American sheltering of terrorists such as David Headley Coleman to the lack of technology transfer in defence deals over the years, the Indian establishment under Prime Minister Modi has seen the revitalization and strengthening of the Quad, along with other strategically important multilateral groupings such as I2U2 (also known as the West Asian Quad), while making the US a significant defence



supplier to the country. That US interest in India is primarily due to its position as a counterweight to China is not a dampening factor. Interestingly, the US has, for ages, cultivated Pakistan as a hedge against India, and continues to pander to a terrorist regime that is also a Chinese partner. That much American rhetoric against the Chinese threat pays lip service to the danger while pursuing other interests is a matter of record. Its unfortunate impact on bilateral relations with India has been that the US has come to be understood as an unreliable partner, but a necessary one. US will continue to work with Quad members for free, open, inclusive Indo-Pacific, says US envoy As India faced Chinese attacks in Galwan during 2020 at the peak of the pandemic lockdown, a cowardly attack by the revanchist power that left 20

Indian soldiers dead due to unilateral attempts at "challenging the status quo" in the region. While it is India that bears the weight of the dragon on its borders, the US paid little heed to what it treated as a regional conflict to be handled bilaterally. As a country that maintains strategic autonomy, India seemed comfortable with the few comments it elicited from the western world. Similarly, the fallout of the hurried withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan, with American weaponry left behind for the various Taliban factions to use and smuggle into India's western neighbourhood, left a mess for India to clean up. For a country that is much too familiar with weapons smuggled into its territory from Afghanistan into Pakistan, and from there the attempts to infiltrate them into India, it was an urgent

task to ensure that Indian citizens and soldiers survived much of the fallout of the American decision. Yet, the US has presented as far from understanding of Indian national interest. Russian oil and defence continue to help India, and no amount of western pressure can change the fact it is the EU that enables Russia, many magnitudes more than India does. India's clear intent of wanting peace, but without provoking greater destruction in the region not only seemed to fall on deaf ears, but was twisted and misinterpreted as being against Ukrainian citizens. It seemed especially galling to see the resurgence of Nazi heroes and insignia being normalised, racist attacks against Indian and African students, all while India sent humanitarian aid to the country while also mounting successful operations to rescue students from all across the Indian subcontinent. In recent years, the lack of support for a prolonged war in the Ukraine, while refusing to bend the knee to American sanctions against Russia will be seen as the turning point at which the American State Department stopped being covert about requiring Indian subservience. Despite many

positive interactions at the G20 Summit hosted by India, the relationship hit choppy waters soon. While instigating attempts at regime change in Bangladesh which would destabilise India's neighbourhood further, US diplomacy has undulated from treating India as a thorn in its side to a bit player and a probable counterweight to Chinese plans. India's impoverished state, coupled with leaders primarily engaging in international speeches and state dinners rather than signing deals or providing aid, was comprehensible to the US. However, as India strengthens economically, any expression of its self-interest is often scrutinized negatively, despite the country's numerous efforts to signal a commitment to global partnership for the greater good. As Eric Garcetti disingenuously revealed an invite to President Joe Biden for India's Republic Day parade in 2024 late last year, India could not invite a different guest until the invite had been accepted or declined officially. After another faux-naif last-minute public declining of said invite by the US, French President Emmanuel Macron was chosen to be the guest of honour.

Chronicle of a Year Foretold: Chinese Checkers, Global Economy

A second major conflict added to the woes of the world in successive years. The war in Gaza fuelled the Asian powder keg after the Ukraine war had singed Europe for much of two years. If 2022 and 2023 were the years of conflicts, 2024 is expected to be the year of outcomes and directions. Around 50 countries are expected to hold elections, reports Thomson Reuters; and three major elections among them decide the direction for the next few years and also offer indications on key outcomes. The election in the US is likely to elect a new President, which in turn will dictate the American initiatives on the China-Taiwan issue. More importantly, this American election also decides

whether the US resurrects its declining influence in the Middle East and Asia, or the period unveils the decline of a long hegemony and signifies the passing of the baton to the next superpower. 'Break new ground', maintain 'fighting spirit': Xi reveals China's push for global power at meeting on foreign policy That takes us to the next question. The US is waning but is China ready to be the next dominant superpower? 2024 may not have all the answers but is likely to have a more definitive opinion on the subject, beyond mere premonition and approximations. How can a direction to the question be established? At the outset, the Chinese economic juggernaut based on infrastruc-

ture growth and exports, has stumbled and slackened. Alongside a declining population and abating manufacturing growth, there are issues of political coercion that have alarmed both businessmen and foreign companies. To add to their worries, Xi Jinping's responses in the last few years have resembled Mao Zedong's policies in the late 1960s — during — when the government targeted foreign entities and local politicians on grounds of suspicion. The politof both political and business adversaries. Xi's crackdown on corporate firms operating in China and strong-arm policies have resulted in a more active business decoupling process of global firms from China.

Social media turmoil underscores India's importance for Maldives; Muizzu's 'India Out' campaign must take a backseat

No matter how hard another president of Maldives is trying to push India away from this archipelago, the truth is that Maldives and India are natural partners

The weekend has proven to be a diplomatically charged one with the exchange of heated conversations between sitting ministers in the Maldives government and a section of X users in India. The controversy grew to such a proportion that the Indian government had to formally raise the issue with the Maldives and in response the Maldivian government had to issue a warning to its ministers to behave appropriately before firing three of them from the job. It all started with an innocuous tweet by @MrSinha_, a Surat-based political commentator in which he claimed that the promotion of Lakshadweep Island by Prime Minister Narendra Modi would hurt the tourism potential of Maldives. He also referred to the country's government as a 'Chinese Puppet'. The tweet went viral immediately and even caught the attention of ministers in the newly-formed government of President Mohamed Muizzu. In response to his tweet, a politician from Maldives, Zahid

Rameez posted a very racist remark about Indians calling their rooms dirty and always full of smell. Rameez is a member of President Muizzu's coalition party, the Progressive Party of Maldives (PPM). Not just this, a sitting minister in Muizzu's cabinet, Mariyam Shiuna in a separate tweet called India's prime minister as a "clown" and "puppet of Israel". Shiuna, who is deputy minister of Youth

Empowerment, Information and Arts in Maldives thereafter went on a blocking spree and blocked every single Indian account that pointed out the disrespect in her remarks. X users also pointed out how another deputy minister Malsha Shareef also mocked the Indian prime minister by posting laughter emojis in reply to his tweets. Such actions of sitting ministers called for diplomatic attention by the Indian government which raised the matter with its Maldivian counterpart. The controversy created due to the actions of Maldivian politicians on social media may be a new one but all is not well between India and Maldives anyway. In September last year, Mohamed Muizzu secured victory in the presidential elections

ousting incumbent Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, a leader whose foreign policy was driven by the core tenet of India First. Unlike Solih under whom India-Maldives relations grew to great heights, Muizzu is someone who came to power through an 'India Out' campaign. One of the strongest reasons for his victory in the presidential election was the backing by Mohamed Yameen, the original proponent of 'India Out' campaign but is languishing in jail these days. Muizzu is now firmly in control and has even sidelined Yameen himself. Last heard Yameen had to float another political party, the People's National Front. Meanwhile, Muizzu for whom 'India Out' was a campaign rhetoric has now started executing it as a government policy as well. At least the early signs are very worrying — his first foreign visit as the president was not to India as is the tradition in Maldives but to Turkiye, a country which is increasingly taking interest in the Indian subcontinent and is clearly not close to only Pakistan anymore. President Muizzu is currently on a five-day state visit to China thus further strengthening speculations that his foreign policy.

How India could leapfrog economically with general AI

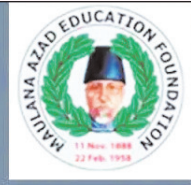
Digital India under the visionary Prime Minister Narendra Modi faces a new challenge as to how to create public-private partnership to harness the immense power of Generative Artificial Intelligence to bring about transformative changes in all aspects of Indian life. The Indian government has identified AI as an important strategic technology and has launched the National AI Strategy as well as other initiatives to promote AI adoption. Areas, where AI is finding applications in India, include healthcare, agricul-

ture, education, smart cities, financial services, defence, transportation, and energy. Big tech companies, startups, government organisations and industry are notable players adopting AI. The shortage of AI talent is a big challenge. The Indian government has launched programs like YUVAI (Responsible AI for Youth) to train more students and workers in AI skills. Indian tech universities and companies are also expanding their AI programs and certifications. It would take some time before India catches up

with leading AI nations like the US and China in research output and availability of large datasets. But, the government and private sector are working to boost dataset availability across sectors. Adoption and growth of AI applications are still relatively low compared to global counterparts but are increasing quickly across leading industries. Crucial problems are lack of infrastructure, paucity of talent, business culture open to change, and customer trust, problems which are not unique to India. Nonetheless, AI in

India is a booming landscape with immense potential. The field is experiencing a surge of growth and enthusiasm, with several factors contributing to its current status. Bengaluru is home to the highest number of GenAI startups in India at present. EY report estimates that GenAI could boost India's GDP by \$359-438 billion by 2030, representing a 5.9-7.2 per cent increase with a potential to add \$1.2-1.5 trillion cumulatively over seven years. Sectors like business services, finance, healthcare, and education are poised.

Nearly 2,000 beneficiaries of now-cancelled Maulana Azad fellowship await stipend, hike



MAULANA AZAD SCHOLARSHIP

Delhi: It's been three months since Nazia Israr, a PhD scholar at the University of Kashmir, Srinagar, last got her stipend under the Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) scheme. A Junior Research Fellow who got her fellowship in February 2022, Israr is also awaiting a hike in the stipend for the last six months.

But neither the stipend nor the hike is forthcoming, and the financial strain is impacting her research work on development studies. "We have got the funds till September.

Since then, we have neither received the

According to research fellows, close to 1,900 beneficiaries in 27 universities across India are awaiting stipends for the last three months and a revision of fellowship amount for the last six months

fellowship amount nor heard from the Ministry (of Minority Affairs) about the hike. It's extremely difficult to carry out our research due to a shortage of money. We have to pay rent and also travel for research," the Baramulla resident. She isn't the only one. According to research

fellows, close to 1,900 beneficiaries in 27 universities across India are awaiting stipends for the last three months and a revision of fellowship amount for the last six months. The MANF fellows claim that while researchers and doctoral students covered under fellowship from other ministries such as education, tribal affairs, and social justice and empowerment are getting the increased stipend following a Department of Science and Technology (DST) order in June 2023, they are yet to hear about the proposed increase.

CBSE mandates schools to file SQAA focusing on curriculum

Delhi: The CBSE schools have been directed to file the annual self-assessment under the School Quality Assessment and Assurance Framework (SQAAF) which was introduced in March 2023. This will be the first year for the schools to apply for the SQAA 2023-24 to evaluate the quality enhancement processes on parameters set under SQAAF. The schools were expected to submit the SQAA report between April 1 and December 31, 2023, the deadline was extended to March 31, 2024, as only 40% of schools submitted the assessment report. Speaking to Education

Times, Pragya Singh, director, school assessment, CBSE, says, "To maintain the standard of education, the schools are being assessed on curriculum, pedagogy and assessment, which carries 40% weightage. Standards have been prepared in different areas of school functioning like curriculum, pedagogy, assessment, infrastructure, inclusive practices, human resources, management and governance, leadership, and beneficiary satisfaction against which the schools can assess for quality interventions."

Schools have participated in the self-assessment in seven

domains through specific performance indicators (as given under the standards). The CBSE has made it mandatory for all its affiliated schools that are applying for fresh affiliation/switch over/upgrade/extension of schools from the session 2023-24 onwards to submit self-assessment under SQAAF vide circular no 14 available on SARAS Portal. "Schools whose extension is not due may also undertake self-assessment as mentioned in SQAAF portal. The department will also review the infrastructure of a few randomly selected schools," says Singh.

Delhi Nursery Admissions 2024: First List to Be Released On January 12

Delhi: Private schools in Delhi are set to release the first list of candidates selected for admission to nursery, kindergarten (KG), and Class 1 on January 12 for the academic year 2024-25. Schools began disclosing the final grades given to each candidate last

Friday as part of the admissions process, which began on November 23. For 25 per cent of the seats at private schools allotted to the economically disadvantaged segment (EWS), the Department of Education (DoE) will supervise the cen-

tralised online admissions process. According to officials, schools will conduct a draw of lots before determining the final list in situations where two or more students have similar scores. The deadline for the admissions process is set for March 8.

CAPSULES

CUET PG 2024 Registration, Application Form, Eligibility & Fee, Last Date

Delhi: CUET PG 2024 is to be held to determine students' efficiency in getting admission into Central universities for PG courses. The NTA released CUET PG 2024 exam dates from March 11 to 28, 2024. The due date for registration is January 24, 2024; it commenced on December 26, 2023. The Central University Entrance Test (Postgraduate) is an all-Indian entrance exam for postgraduate programs in Central and participating universities. The National Testing Agency, NTA, announced on December 26, 2023, the opening of registration for CUET PG 2024. The official CUET PG website, pgcuet.samarth.ac.in, is where candidates can submit their applications. Applications must be submitted by January 24, 2024. January 27, 2023, will mark the start of the rectification window, which ends on January 29, 2023.

Aishwarya Rai, Amitabh, Aaradhya Turn Cheerleaders for Abhishek's Kabaddi Team

Delhi: During a recent match, Aishwarya Rai, Amitabh Bachchan, and Aaradhya Bachchan turned cheerleader for Abhishek Bachchan and his kabaddi team, Jaipur Pink Panthers. Aishwarya, Amitabh, and Aaradhya attended the kabaddi match in Mumbai's Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Indoor Stadium. They were seated in the stands with Abhishek and sported Jaipur Pink Panthers jerseys. Jaipur Pink Panthers was competing against U Mumba.

How UK's new visa rules will impact Indian students, workers & their dependents

● " In 2022, around 55,000 Indian students were studying in the UK, according to Indian foreign ministry statistics

Delhi: The UK has introduced new student visa rules that prevent international students from bringing their parents, partners or children with them starting 1 January, unless they are pursuing a PhD or postgraduate research courses. Under the dependent visa, international students, barring undergraduates, could bring their family members, including spouses and children, to

Around 55,000 Indian students were studying in the UK, according to Indian foreign ministry statistics

the UK. The new restrictions will impact international students at the postgraduate level and in non-research courses. The UK has been a favoured destination for Indian students seeking higher education abroad, shows Bureau of Immigration data.

In 2022, around

55,000 Indian students were studying in the UK, according to Indian foreign ministry statistics. UK Home Office data showed that 1,42,848 sponsored study visas were issued to Indians in the year ending June 2023 — a 54 percent rise from the year ending June 2022. Of the 5,00,000 sponsored UK study-related visas issued in June 2023, almost 1,54,000 were granted to students' dependents. Indians accounted for almost a third of sponsored UK study visas during this time, according to the UK Home Office. The new rules also require that those pursuing PhDs must have studied for at least 24 months before switching to a work visa, such as a skilled worker visa.

Science centres to come up at 2 govt ..

Delhi: Delhi government has decided to set up science centres at two state-run schools with exhibits and interactive models on virtual reality, immersive experience, augmented reality, holographic projections and astronomy apart from physics, chemistry, biology and mathematics. The science centres will be located in schools at Vasant Vihar and Karol Bagh. The aim of Directorate of Education (DoE) is to equip such educational facilities that provide



an effective method to students to learn science by way of leveraging interactive display of models and exhibits that demystify the modern world of technology and innovations," said an official. Officials said DoE

will soon identify experienced agencies to design the rooms and open areas and the exhibits and interactive models at the science centres. While technical specifications of all models and exhibits will be

framed by the agency concerned, the final approval will have to come from the education department. The total cost of the project is likely to be about Rs 3 crore. The aim of Directorate of Education (DoE) is to equip such educational facilities that provide an effective method to students to learn science by way of leveraging interactive display of models and exhibits that demystify the modern world of technology and innovations," said an official.

85 IIT-Bombay students get Rs 1cr-plus

Delhi: Many as 85 IIT Bombay students have bagged cool crore-plus annual pay packages in the first phase of placements. Most of the higher salaries on the IIT-B campus during this year's placement season seem to have come from the research and development space, the average annual salary for which stood at Rs 36.9 lakh, up from the previous year's Rs 32.25 lakh. In contrast, the finance sector that is hogged by algo trading firms saw a drop of 22% in average yearly compensation to Rs 32.4 lakh from Rs 41.7 lakh last year. Other sectors, including IT, software and consulting, saw a marginal rise in the overall average pay in the first phase of campus placements. "Our students have put in a lot of effort to match up to the requirements of the



companies. Many firms conducted interviews online which is not very easy to crack. Offers have been staggering and are coming in small waves. International recruitment is slow as the geopolitical scenario is not favourable and this is an election year in India, so many companies are just adopting a wait-and-watch policy," said a placement officer.

In the first phase that ended on December 20, a total of 63 students accepted international offers. Most of the international offers have

come from Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, Netherlands, Singapore and Hong Kong. Despite global and economic uncertainties, IIT-B saw a total of 1,340 offers being made till December 20, which resulted in 1,188 students getting placed. This included seven students placed in PSUs as well as 297 PPOs via internships, of which 258 were accepted.

The number of offers received overall, though, were lower than last year's phase one of placements.

The medical college canteen offers only nutritious meal options

Delhi: All AIIMS, PGIMER, JIPMER, and other Institutes of National Importance (INIs) have received advice from the Center to make sure that their college canteens offer healthier options in place of high-fat, high-sugar beverages and other items associated with non-communicable diseases. The government has recommended whole grains, millets, and fresh produce as better substitutes. "Even small steps can have a huge impact on the nation's and society's health," Dr. Atul Goel, director general of health services (DGHS), wrote to medical colleges. According to Dr. Goel's letter, non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are thought to be responsible for approximately 63% of all deaths in the nation. Cardiovascular illnesses accounted for the highest percentage of NCD deaths (27%), followed by malignancies (9%), diabetes (3%) and other disor-

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ders (13%). "Unhealthy diets, fast food (such as burgers, pizzas etc) and sugary beverages contribute enormously to the ever-increasing NCD burden," according to the DGHS. A similar letter advocating for a prohibition on alcohol use at medical conferences was sent by

the DGHS to all medical groups the previous year. The letter explained the connections between alcohol consumption and a number of illnesses and injuries, such as cancer, hemorrhagic strokes, and liver cirrhosis.

PG med students to get weekly off, 20 CLs to ensure work-life balance

Divya Delhi: In a major overhaul aimed at ensuring work-life balance of post-graduate (PG) medical students, National Medical Commission (NMC) has decided that all PG students will be eligible for a weekly off and at least 20 days of casual leave per year. The gazette notification issued on January 1, however, did not define "work hours" for resident doctors, which has been a demand of associations across the country. It mentions that doctors have to work for "reasonable working hours" and that they will be provided "reasonable time for rest" in a day. "We have been raising the issue of defining minimum and maximum working hours for a long time. It is sad that this crucial issue hasn't been addressed properly in the new notification," said Aviral Mathur, president of the Federation of Resident Doctors Association (Forda).

Nath corridor roads should be four lanes, and affected temples should be relocated by classical method: Chief Minister

Chief Minister Make a digital tourist map of Nath Circuit for the convenience of tourists. Chief Minister emphasizes adopting indigenous methods in the management of sewage, drainage, and solid waste. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has given instructions to make the roads of the under-construction Nath Corridor in Bareilly four lanes. Furthermore, he emphasized the commercial utilization of the land along the Nath Corridor to boost revenue for both the authority and the municipal corporation. During his tour of Bareilly on Wednesday, the Chief Minister, while assessing the Nath Corridor project at the Circuit House, underscored that no city or district can prosper without embracing its identity. Therefore, giving special importance to

directed the establishment of Vedic libraries in temples, ensuring the availability of Vedic literature in digital format.

Lord Shiva, who is the identity of Bareilly, is crucial. The Chief Minister stated that, after consultations with the people of the temples affected by development work, relocation of additional temples, apart from the original and main temple, should be done with mutual consent using classical methods, drawing inspiration from the practices observed in Varanasi. Temple complexes should be developed on Vedic methods. He said that all the temples should be developed equally on the basis of Vedic architecture. The

Chief Minister said that if additional land is required for the development of Nath Corridor, it should be purchased immediately. The Chief Minister said that the basic facilities required for the devotees in the temple premises, such as parking, drinking water, a passenger shed for rest, modern lighting and sound system, shoe stand, toilets, etc. should be developed as per the architectural style of the temple. Additionally, he instructed the construction of a hall on the ground floor for rituals like Rudrabhishek and Bhandara and a multi-purpose hall on the first floor for holding religious ceremonies. The Chief Minister directed the establishment of Vedic libraries in temples, ensuring the availability of Vedic literature in digital format.

2400 kg bell handed over to Ram Janmabhoomi Tirtha Kshetra Trust

Ayodhya,

The Jalesar residents of Etah handed over a 2400-kilogram bell to the Ram Janmabhoomi Tirtha Kshetra Trust on Wednesday. It is claimed that the sound of this bell, crafted in a single casting, will reach up to 10 kilometres. Additionally, seven more bells, each weighing 51 kilograms, were also presented. Aditya Mittal, Manoj, Rishank, Prashant Mittal and around 500 devotees handed over the bells to the temple Trust's



Secretary, Champat Singh Pankaj, among others at the Vishwa Hindu Karsewakpuram in Parishad, and Rajendra Ayodhya.

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Delhi: Private schools in Delhi are set to release the first list of candidates selected for admission to nursery, kindergarten (KG), and Class 1 on January 12 for the academic year 2024-25. Schools began disclosing the final grades given to each candidate last

Friday as part of the admissions process, which began on November 23. For 25 per cent of the seats at private schools allotted to the economically disadvantaged segment (EWS), the Department of Education (DoE) will supervise the centralised online admissions process. According to officials, schools will conduct a draw of lots before determining the final list in situations where two or more students have similar scores. The deadline for the admissions process is set for March 8.

Enthusiasm grips devotees of Lord Ram from Europe to America ahead of consecration ceremony

Lucknow

Under the guidance of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the preparations for the consecration ceremony on January 22, which initially started in Uttar Pradesh, are now gradually extending to the entire nation and even to foreign countries. The event is fast turning into a global event amid these preparations, capturing the attention of the entire world. Th... [16:08, 10/01/2024] +91 89600 23998: Ramotsav 2024 Yogi govt gears up to make Ayodhya the 'cleanest city' by deploying 800 Safai Mitras. To ensure strict arrangements for cleanliness in Ayodhya from Makar Sankranti to Consecration ceremony, Ayodhya Municipal Corporation initiates the process of deploying Safai Mitras, personnels will be deployed 24x7 in 3 shifts. Safai Mitras will be hired through an agency for a period of 2 months, work period to extend if necessary. Ayodhya, January 10. In line with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's vision to establish Ayodhya as the cleanest city, the Uttar Pradesh Government has decided to deploy 800 Safai Mitras in the city in view of the increasing traffic of devotees ahead of Makar Sankranti and consecration ceremony. The Ayodhya Municipal Corporation has started preparations in view of the rising number of devotees taking a dip in the holy ghats of Sarayu on Makar Sankranti and the large crowd expected after the consecration ceremony on January 22. In this regard, the tendering process has been started by Ayodhya Municipal Corporation, which will be completed soon.

LET'S GO FLY A KITE....

● "But she opened the compartment. She felt something light and papery to the touch, then slowly, carefully pulled out"

It was a week after the funeral. She had buried her hard working accountant husband, who had painstakingly worked from morning till sundown, risen from clerk to bank manager, sent two children to college and jobs abroad with the income, and given her a comfortable life style. It was a week after the funeral, as she rummaged in his cupboard, looking for doc-

uments and files he had meticulously kept, and it was then that she saw the secret compartment. She opened it trembling.... She did not want to know any secret about her husband.... She did not want to find anything that would disturb memories of the solid, dependable, hardworking man he'd been. But she opened the compartment. She felt something light and papery to the touch, then slowly, carefully pulled out, not one, not two but a dozen kites. They were fresh as if just bought from the kite shop down the road, and she wept as she saw them. "One day," he'd told her, "I'll have time to fly kites on the terrace!" "You seem to have

flown them before?" she'd said. "I loved them when little," he'd said, "I loved the feel of the kite in the heavens rising up and reigning like a king!" "Why don't you do so this Sunday?" she'd asked. "Overtime!" he'd said, "But maybe next Sunday or the holiday that comes after that!" She wept as she felt the crisp paper. She wept as the kites spoke a dream of a dead man, who'd wanted the simple pleasure of flying them, up in the sky. Her sons came home the next day. They saw the kites fixed on the sitting room wall, "Ma," they protested, "This is not the time to celebrate, this is a time of mourning!" "Yes," she said.

Science centres to come up at 2 govt ..

Delhi: Delhi government has decided to set up science centres at two state-run schools with exhibits and interactive models on virtual reality, immersive experience, augmented reality, holographic projections and astronomy apart from physics, chemistry, biology and mathematics. The science centres will be located in schools at Vasant Vihar and Karol Bagh. The aim of Directorate of Education (DoE) is to equip such educational facilities that provide

While technical specifications of all models and exhibits will be framed by the agency concerned, the final approval will have to come from the education department

an effective method to students to learn science by way of leveraging interactive display of models and exhibits that demystify the modern world of technology and innovations," said an official. Officials said DoE

will soon identify experienced agencies to design the rooms and open areas and the exhibits and interactive models at the science centres. While technical specifications of all models and exhibits will be

framed by the agency concerned, the final approval will have to come from the education department. The total cost of the project is likely to be about Rs 3 crore. The aim of Directorate of Education (DoE) is to equip such educational facilities that provide an effective method to students to learn science by way of leveraging interactive display of models and exhibits that demystify the modern world of technology and innovations," said an official.

85 students have bagged cool crore-plus annual pay

Delhi: Many as 85 IIT Bombay students have bagged cool crore-plus annual pay packages in the first phase of placements. Most of the higher salaries on the IIT-B campus during this year's placement season seem to have come from the research and development space, the average annual salary for which stood at Rs 36.9 lakh, up from the previous year's Rs 32.25 lakh. In contrast, the finance sector that is hogged by algo trading firms saw a drop of 22% in average yearly compensation to Rs 32.4 lakh from Rs 41.7 lakh last year. Other sectors, including IT, software and consulting, saw a marginal rise in the overall average pay in the first phase of campus placements. "Our students have put in a lot of effort to match up to the requirements of the

In the first phase that ended on December 20, a total of 63 students accepted international offers. Most of the international offers have come from Japan

companies. Many firms conducted interviews online which is not very easy to crack. Offers have been staggering and are coming in small waves. International recruitment is slow as the geopolitical scenario is not favourable and this is an election year in India, so many companies are just adopting a wait-and-watch policy," said a placement officer.

In the first phase that ended on December 20, a total of 63 students accepted international offers. Most of the international offers have

come from Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, Netherlands, Singapore and Hong Kong. Despite global and economic uncertainties, IIT-B saw a total of 1,340 offers being made till December 20, which resulted in 1,188 students getting placed. This included seven students placed in PSUs as well as 297 PPOs via internships, of which 258 were accepted.

The number of offers received overall, though, were lower than last year's phase one of placements.

Yogi govt revives pristine glory of Dashrath Mahal Mahal to remind visitors of Lord Shri Ram's life as a toddler

Ayodhya

The Uttar Pradesh Government headed by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has revived the pristine glory of Dashrath Mahal, which was witness to the childhood of Lord Shri Ram in Treta Yuga. The Mahal will remind people of Lord Shri Ram's footsteps when he was a toddler and childlike activities when he will be enshrined in his divine and majestic temple on January 22. Considering the governments that questioned Lord Ram's existence in the Supreme Court, efforts were made to restore Dashrath Mahal during Akhilesh Yadav's government, but it remained confined to the files. A provision of about Rs 2.4 crore was also made for the renovation of Dashrath Mahal for the first time on March 31, 2013, but, the restoration was continuously postponed for lack of political will, indecision and bureaucratic inefficiencies. However, when Yogi Adityanath became the Chief Minister, he decided

to rejuvenate Dashrath Mahal on February 16, 2021, restoring its ancient splendor and started working on it. As a result, the palace stands today in all its glory. Dashrath Mahal witnessed the incarnation of Lord Ram in the Treta Yuga and is now about to witness the auspicious moment of his return in the Kali Yuga. This is the very Dashrath Mahal that, even during the 500 years of decline, continued to provide evidence of the existence of Lord Ram's temple on the present Ram Janmabhoomi area. After years of neglect, the efforts of the Yogi government has given this temple-like palace a dignified appearance once again. The Yogi government, while implementing the process of restoration and strengthening the facilities at Dashrath Mahal, began the construction and revitalization of the Satsang Bhavan, entrance gate, night shelter, and pilgrim assistance center, giving it a tangible form through an investment of

around Rs 3 crores. During the Samajwadi Party's government, there was a provision of Rs 2.4 crores, but the file kept moving from one table to the other, and the cost kept increasing with no work visible on the ground. Meanwhile, the Yogi government spent around Rs 3 crores to renovate and beautify it. Work on entrance gate and Satsang Bhavan will be finished before Jan 22. Notably, funding was made available for the construction of a night shelter, pilgrim assistance center, entrance gate, and Satsang Bhavan in Dashrath Mahal. The work on the night shelter and pilgrim assistance center has been completed in 2023. The entrance gate is also nearing completion. Initially, only the structural work was completed in the Satsang Bhavan, but now the entire Satsang Bhavan will be ready before January 22. The construction work, including mudwork, leveling, tiling, flooring, windows, and doors.

PG med students to get weekly off, 20 CLs to ensure work-life balance

Delhi: In a major overhaul aimed at ensuring work-life balance of post-graduate (PG) medical students, National Medical Commission (NMC) has decided that all PG students will be eligible for a weekly off and at least 20 days of casual leave per year. The gazette notification issued on January 1, however, did not define "work hours" for resident doctors, which has been a demand of associations across the country. It mentions that doctors have to work for "reasonable working hours" and that they will be provided "reasonable time for rest" in a day. "We have been raising the issue of defining minimum and maximum working hours for a long time. It is sad that this crucial issue hasn't been addressed properly in the new notification," said Aviral Mathur, president of the Federation of Resident Doctors Association (Forda).

Special Needs (CWSN) categories is not mandatory, refusing to interfere



Delhi: The Delhi High Court has said in an order that Aadhaar number for admission to private schools in the national capital under the Economically Weaker Section (EWS), Disadvantaged Group (DG), Children with Special Needs (CWSN) categories is not mandatory, refusing to interfere with an earlier order. The court said demanding Aadhaar card from students during admission would mean infringing their right to privacy. It was hearing an appeal filed by the Delhi government against the order by a single-judge bench. A bench headed by Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma dismissed the appeal stating that the

● "The issue of obtaining sensitive personal details of a child, as observed in the K S Puttaswamy case (by the Supreme Court), would have the potential of infringing their right to privacy

requirement is prima facie in conflict with the constitutional provisions (under Article 21) pertaining to privacy. "The issue of obtaining sensitive personal details of a child, as observed in the K S Puttaswamy case (by the Supreme Court), would have the potential of infringing their right to privacy under Article 21 of the Constitution of

India," the bench said in an order passed last week. Presenting the Delhi government's view, standing counsel Santosh Kumar Tripathi argued that Aadhaar card serves a practical purpose and is aimed at keeping a check on duplicate applications. He added that the policy was initiated to modernize the admission process for the EWS and DG categories in entry-level classes in private, unaided, recognised schools. It was also argued that mandating an Aadhaar card did not violate a child's right to free and compulsory education, rather it served as a safeguard against fraudulent applications and admissions based on false identities

Over 1,400 Children Of Labourers To Benefit From Atal Awasiya Vidyalayas In UP

● Each of the schools is being built on an area of 10-15 acres with classrooms, recreational areas



Delhi: In a move to benefit the children of labourers, construction workers and those orphaned during the Covid-19 pandemic, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 'Atal Residential Schools' in UP.

The first academic session of the schools has already started with around 80 students which include 40 boys and 40 girls. These students were admitted in

Class 6 based on their merit in divisional-level entrance examination. The cost of setting the Atal Awasiya Vidyalayas is about 1,115 crore. The average cost of construction of one school is nearly 65 crore. The residential schools built under the programme have been designed to accommodate 1,000 students each. Chief Minister saying, "Around 1400 children who lost their parents and guardians in the Covid era are given

admission in 18 schools of the first phase of the Atal Awasiya Vidyalayas. The schools will focus on skill development of the students and promoting Sports. The curriculum at the school is based on the National Education Policy." Each of the schools is being built on an area of 10-15 acres with classrooms, playground, recreational areas, a mini auditorium, hostel complex, mess and residential quarters for staff members.

DoE launches CUET mock test modules

Delhi: To help students of Delhi government schools, the directorate of education (DoE) has prepared a full-fledged module of the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) mock examination. Students can log in from the department's website and practice. The IT branch has prepared the module with

academic support from the Core Academic Unit. Majority of the subjects taught in DOE schools are covered in it. The mock test also includes general test questions. It was inaugurated by DoE director Himanshu Gupta. It took us close to 3-4 months to finish the preparation of the papers. All the lat-

est formats as prescribed by the National Testing Agency (NTA) have been followed "In courses such as commerce and mathematics, where the number of questions has been reduced, the same format has been followed," said a senior teacher who was part of the module preparation.

After Abu Dhabi And Africa's Zanzibar, UK Now Invites IITs

● "The increase in India's industrial reputation and start-up growth ecosystem has attracted the attention of many global universities"

Delhi: After Abu Dhabi and African country Zanzibar, the UK might become the next destination to have the offshore campus of the prestigious Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT). A top British government official recently expressed the country's interest in collaborating with India's premier institutes. Similarly, many universities from the UK are also looking forward to set-

Two of India's top IITs have already entered into agreements with foreign countries for setting up their offshore campuses abroad.

ting up their branch campuses in India and are working out on formulating a final regulatory framework from the University Grants Commission (UGC). The official said that the UK was in a process of clearing the regulatory framework so that universities from their country are able to set up their campuses in India. Steve Smith, the International Education

Champion of the UK government, noted that discussions were ongoing between the governments and authorities of the two countries for setting up campuses of IITs in the UK. Two of India's top IITs have already entered into agreements with foreign countries for setting up their offshore campuses abroad. While IIT Madras is setting up its campus in Tanzania's Zanzibar, IIT Delhi is setting up an offshore campus in Abu Dhabi. The increase in India's industrial reputation and startup growth ecosystem has attracted the attention of many global universities. Many of our IIT graduates have gone on to top jobs and are leading the global markets.

US Issues Record 90,000 Visas To Indian Students

Delhi: The United States has issued a record number of visas to students from India in the months of June, July and August. The US Mission in India announced on X (formerly Twitter) that more than 90,000 visas were issued to the aspirants from India who filed applications to pursue their higher education from the US. In the post on X, the US Mission also said that almost one in four student visas worldwide was issued in India. Greeting the Indian students, the US Mission

The numbers were released as the US Mission was closing its applications for the session. A recent report highlighted an increase in the number of Indian students who are heading abroad for their higher education. The rise is a result of eased application formalities, financial aid and scholarships offered by foreign universities to attract students from India

said, "Congratulations and best wishes to all the students who have chosen the United States to make their higher education goals a reality." The numbers were released as the US

Mission was closing its applications for the session. A recent report highlighted an increase in the number of Indian students who are heading abroad for their higher education. The

rise is a result of eased application formalities, financial aid and scholarships offered by foreign universities to attract students from India. Earlier, France had also expressed its desire and goal to welcome around 30,000 students from India. The country is making efforts to increase the intake of Indian students by 2030. The aim will be achieved by fostering academic excellence, boosting cultural ties and enhancing long lasting friendship between the two countries.

All You Need To Know About Education In Dubai

Delhi: United Arab Emirates is one of the growing economies in the world. The city is expanding in various sectors which is consequently leading to increased job opportunities for students who graduate from there. Few reasons that are making Dubai a preferred destination to study abroad for Indian students. The sectors such as oil and gas, tourism, trade, finance, logistics, manufacturing, and renewable energy are growing at a high pace in Dubai. The recent boost in the economy has resulted in increased job opportunities. Students who wish to pursue their higher education from Dubai will also benefit from improved and increased jobs in these sectors. The country therefore has emerged as a major higher-education destination in recent years. The easy



application process and other flexible government policies further simplify international student recruitment in the United Arab Emirates. The government policy such as the new long-term 'golden visa' for outstanding students rewards top-performing international students. The students who benefit from this policy are given a 10-year residency permit which helps them to begin with their careers soon after graduating in the country. A major attraction of the students or working professionals in Dubai is the Tax free income that they earn.

The employees in the United Arab Emirates enjoy tax free salaries which acts as one of the key selling points for study in Dubai. Pursue affordable degree from UK, US universities Most of the international universities have set up their branches in Dubai. A student can pursue a degree from any recognised university of the US, UK or more by enrolling in its branch located in Dubai. These degrees will be cheaper as compared to studying the same in the respective Countries. Dubai has a smooth visa process wherein the institutions will help in the application process, thus making it much easier. No language problem Over 80% of the population in the country including the locals in Dubai speak in English. This makes it convenient for foreign students.

Reddy government signed an agreement with International Baccalaureate

● The IB syllabus, in vogue in the American schools, will be introduced in the government schools at the foundation level

Delhi: Nearly two and years after a road map was announced to introduce CBSE curriculum, the Jaganmohan Reddy government signed an agreement with International Baccalaureate (IB) to introduce the American education system in government schools. In February 2021, Jagan announced a road map to introduce CBSE curriculum in all the government schools, beginning with Classes 1 to 7 from 2021-22. But, only 1,096 high schools out of about 45,000 government schools had switched to CBSE till last year, with the rest continuing to follow the AP

The over 320 schools — including private, Navodaya, Kendriya Vidyalayas that offer CBSE and ICSE courses — can continue to operate under these central boards. Ahead of the next year's state election, Jagan's present idea comes on the back of initiatives like Jagananna Ammavodi.

State Council of Education Research and Training (SCERT) curriculum. The IB syllabus, in vogue in the American schools, will be introduced in the government schools at the foundation level initially and expanded to the higher classes gradually," Jagan said, after the agreement was signed "IB, which specialises in modern, innovative examination patterns, will vastly improve our students' worldly knowledge and help them grab good opportunities in global universities." The same day, the Andhra Pradesh Cabinet gave its approval for the MoU with IB. "The tangible outcome of this transformation is students who graduate from Class 10th, 12th will receive a joint certifi-

cate of AP board and IB," the document says. While a top education official says the plan is to introduce IB for Class 1 from 2024-25, There are 62,530 schools, including private ones, which are recognised by the Andhra Pradesh government and follow the SCERT curriculum. They have to switch to IB once the state adopts the pattern. The over 320 schools — including private, Navodaya, Kendriya Vidyalayas that offer CBSE and ICSE courses — can continue to operate under these central boards. Ahead of the next year's state election, Jagan's present idea comes on the back of initiatives like Jagananna Ammavodi.

National School of Drama To Set Up New Campus In Tripura

Delhi: The Tripura government has allocated a plot of 2.36 acre to the National School of Drama (NSD) to set up a campus in the state. The campus will be set up at Ranirbazar in West Tripura district, and a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed regarding it, "Following NSD's request, the state government has provided a plot of 2.36 acre. A MoU was signed between the two sides on Tuesday," Subir Roy, NSD Agartala centre's programme coordinator, said. Now, we will do mutation of the land, before starting the work for setting up a full-fledged NSD Centre in Tripura. Presently, the NSD Centre is functioning from Nazrul Kalashetra," he said. At present, the Agartala centre is offering a one-year course in 'Theatre in Education', which will be extended to two years, he added.

CAPSULES

Agra highway horror | Truck goes on rampage on NH-19, rams & drags 20 vehicles; 3 dead, 9 injured

AGRA: Three people died, and six others were left critically injured after a speeding canter rammed into 20 vehicles on Tuesday evening on National Highway 19 connecting Agra to Delhi, police said.

According to the officials, the canter coming from Mathura first hit a car near Sabzi mandi under the jurisdiction of Sikandra police station. In order to escape, the tanker driver rammed into 20 vehicles and dragged them within 1.5 kilometres busy stretch on the highway passing from the city. A bike was completely burnt, they said. The tanker also broke through the police barrier. Later, the driver was caught by the commuters as he was trying to flee the spot leaving behind the damaged truck. DCP Suraj Rai said, "Police team had laid barricade soon after getting information regarding an uncontrolled canter hitting a vehicle. The driver has been arrested. A total of nine people who got injured were rushed to hospital. Of them, three people have died. Six others are undergoing treatment at the emergency ward of the SN Medical College. The truck driver is suspected of being drunk while driving. The identity of the deceased and those injured is being ascertained."

India nominates three cities for global wetland accreditation

NEW DELHI: India has submitted nominations of three cities - Indore, Bhopal and Udaipur - for Wetland City Accreditation (WCA) under the Ramsar Convention, an intergovernmental treaty that provides a framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. These are the first three Indian cities for which nominations have been submitted for WCA. Globally, 43 cities including 13 from China and six from France are currently accredited under the WCA scheme of the international convention. Accreditation is granted to only those cities which satisfy the six international criteria including proximity of one or more Ramsar sites fully or partly situated within its jurisdiction and taking different exceptional conservation measures to safeguard their urban wetlands. The WCA scheme aims to promote conservation and wise use of urban and peri-urban wetlands as well as sustainable socio-economic benefits for local populations.

"This will also provide an opportunity for cities that value their natural or human-made wetlands to gain international recognition and positive branding opportunities for their efforts in demonstrating strong positive relationships with wetlands," environment minister Bhupender Yadav said in his post on X. "The wetlands situated in and around these (three Indian) cities provide a plethora of benefits to its citizens in terms of flood regulation, livelihood opportunities and recreational and cultural values. Sirpur Wetland (Ramsar site in Indore), Yashwant Sagar (Ramsar site close to Indore), Bhoj Wetland (Ramsar site in Bhopal), and several wetlands/lakes in and around Udaipur are lifelines to these cities," the environment ministry in a statement. The international convention on wetlands, adopted in 1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar, provides a framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources across its 172-member countries including India.

In Kolkata, ex-professors shocked at 'bright' girl Suchana Seth's crime

KOLKATA: Senior academics in Kolkata are reeling in shock after learning that a "bright student" they had taught, who also earned academic laurels, could be involved in killing her own child. Suchana Seth (39), a start-up founder.

Suchana Seth: A Harvard fellow who made it to list of best women

PANAJI: Suchana Seth, the 39-year-old Bengaluru woman arrested on Monday for allegedly murdering her four-year-old son in a North Goa hotel and fleeing by taxi with the child's body in a bag, has a LinkedIn profile peppered with academic accomplishments and glowing career recommendations as a data scientist, AI ethics expert, patent holder and founder of the startup The Mindful AI Lab. uchana's online CV highlights fellowships at Harvard University's Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society, Bengaluru's Raman Research Institute, and Data & Society, where



she was a Mozilla Fellow. Suchana's profile also mentions that she was named in the "100 Brilliant Women In a post last updated in 2020, the website of the Berkman Klein Center credits her with having "built scalable data science solutions for startups and industry research labs" and getting "patents in text mining and natural language processing". "At Berkman, Suchana is

first-class degree in physics from Bhawanipur Education Society College in Kolkata in 2006 and completed her post-graduation, again with first-class marks, at the University of Calcutta in 2008. In 2010, Suchana participated in conferences on statistical physics at IIT Kanpur, according to her profile. "I remember the girl. She was a bright student. She got a fellowship at the Raman institute for research, which was something special. It is not easy for a college student to achieve this feat," a physics professor at Bhawanipur Education Society College said.

'Talk in one voice': Congress president Kharge's appeal a day after JD(U)'s dig at grand old party

NEW DELHI: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has a word of advice for all leaders of the INDIA bloc: "Talk in one voice as there is no point in talking against each other." Kharge's appeal comes a day after Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal (United) took a swipe at the grand old party and said "the Congress is worried about its party while we are concerned about India." Congress allies



have been restless over the delay in finalising the blueprint of opposition's strategy for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. "We are trying to ensure that all parties work together and the unity of our alliance stays intact. I appeal to all leaders to continue working together as we have done till now. We should fight together to teach a lesson to the BJP," Kharge said. In the last few

days, the JD(U) has been openly critical about the role played by the Congress and has also given out stern message to the grand old party on being practical about its demands for seats, especially in states like Bihar where there is a non-Congress and non-BJP governments. The JD(U) has also made it clear that it will not talk to Congress about Lok Sabha seats in Bihar.

PM Modi takes everything personally': Kharge

NEW DELHI: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of taking everything 'personally' since he came to power in 2014 and insisted that India needed to keep a good relationship with its neighbours. Kharge's remarks come amid a row over 'derogatory remarks' made by three Maldivian deputy ministers against the Prime Minister. "After Narendra Modi came to power, he is taking everything personally. At the international level, we should keep a

good relationship with our neighbours. We should act according to time. We cannot change our neighbours," Kharge said. "In the worst situation countries fight, as India had fought against Pakistan for Bangladesh liberation," he added. Kharge went on to attack the Prime Minister for targeting the previous governments and their policies. "Here he (Prime Minister Narendra Modi) hugs someone and calls some other wrong. He passes disparaging comments on the previous policies right from the first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru saying that he did nothing. This is not good," the Congress president said. There has been a wave of anger against Maldives after three of its leaders made derogatory references targeting Prime Minister Modi and India. PM Modi's posts on X promoting tourism in the Lakshadweep islands set off a social media war between Maldivian politicians, government officials and Indian social media users.

26/11 terror attacks mastermind Hafiz Saeed in Pak custody serving 78-year jail term, says UNSC

NEW YORK: The 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks mastermind Hafiz Saeed is in the custody of Pakistan and serving a 78-year imprisonment sentence, the United Nations said in updated information. As a result of his conviction in seven terror financing cases, Saeed has been serving his sentence since February 12, 2020. The Security Council Committee amended a few names in its lists of people and organisations last month that are subject to the travel ban, arms embargo, and asset freeze last month, tar-



geting Da'esh and ISIL. The Date on which the narrative summary about Hafiz Saeed became available on the Committee's website was March 9, 2009, whereas it was updated on December 19, 2023. "Hafiz Muhammad Saeed was listed on 10

December 2008 pursuant to paragraphs 1 and 2 of resolution 1822 (2008) as being associated with Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (QDe.118) and Al Qaida (QDe.004) for "participating in the financing, planning, facilitating, preparing or perpetrating of acts of activities by, in conjunction with, under the name of, on behalf or in support of" both entities." The UN stated as the reason for his listing. "In accordance with paragraph 13 of resolution 1822 (2008) and subsequent related resolutions.

NEW DELHI: Maldivian president Mohamed Muizzu on Tuesday urged China to send more tourists to the island nation amid a massive boycott campaign in India over derogatory remarks made by his ministers against PM Modi. The three ministers were promptly suspended by the Maldivian government, but their remarks triggered backlash across India, which was the top tourist market for the archipelago in 2023. Muizzu, who is seen as pro-Beijing, is cur-

Delhi-NCR's big chill continues, slight relief expected today: What is a 'cold day'



NEW DELHI: The chill deepened in the capital on another sunless day, with the maximum temperature at Safdarjung dipping 4 degrees from the previous day to settle at 13.4 degrees Celsius, making Tuesday the third 'cold day' of the month so far. Significantly, extreme daytime chill was seen uniformly across Delhi and its neighbouring cities, with 'severe cold day' to 'cold day' conditions recorded at all 10 functional city stations and those at Gurgaon, Ghaziabad and Noida. The highest maximum temperature was 14.3 degrees C at Pitampura and the lowest 12.8 degrees C at CDO Ghaziabad.

What is a 'cold day'

'Cold day' is a term for very chilly day conditions, when the maximum temperature stays at least 4.5 notches below normal (6.5 degrees for severe cold day), provided the minimum temperature is under 10 degrees C

The met office has issued a yellow alert for cold day conditions in parts of Delhi with moderate to shallow fog on Wednesday morning.

Cold day conditions to continue for next two more days: IMD

Mercury in Delhi may rise slightly, winds likely to lift fog layer

The maximum at Safdarjung on Tuesday was the second lowest day temperature recorded at the city's base station in two years, after it logged 12.5 degrees C last week. The prolonged cold spell has hit the capital hard as maximum temperatures have remained below normal for 12 consecutive days. On Tuesday, the minimum temperature, however, saw a slight rise. It was recorded at 7.7 degrees C on Tuesday against 5.3 degree C a day earlier. At Lodhi Road, the maximum temperature was recorded at 13.2 degree Celsius, eight notches below normal, making it a severe cold day condition in the area.

Bilkis case: No information yet about surrender of convicts, says Dahod SP

DAHOD: A senior police official in Dahod has said they have not yet received any information about the surrender of 11 convicts in the Bilkis Bano gangrape case after the Supreme Court quashed the Gujarat government's decision to grant them remission. A police force remains deployed in the area where the convicts live to maintain peace, he said. The convicts, however, are "not incommunicado" and

some of them are visiting relatives, Dahod superintendent of police Balram Meena. Bilkis Bano, then 21 years old and five months pregnant, was raped while fleeing after communal riots broke out in the aftermath of the Godhra train burning incident in 2002.

Her three-year-old daughter and six other family members were killed. The Supreme Court on Monday quashed the remission

granted to the 11 convicts while slamming the Gujarat government for abusing its discretion. It ordered all the convicts, who were released prematurely on Independence Day in 2022, back to jail within two weeks.

"Police have not received any information (regarding their surrender), and we have not received the copy of the (Supreme Court) judgment," Meena said.

Maldives president Muizzu's appeal to China amid Indian tourist backlash

NEW DELHI: Maldivian president Mohamed Muizzu on Tuesday urged China to send more tourists to the island nation amid a massive boycott campaign in India over derogatory remarks made by his ministers against PM Modi. The three ministers were promptly suspended by the Maldivian government, but their remarks triggered backlash across India, which was the top tourist market for the archipelago in 2023. Muizzu, who is seen as pro-Beijing, is cur-

rently on a five-day visit to China amid the backlash in India. On the second day of his visit, Muizzu termed China as the island nation's "closest" ally in his address to the Maldives Business Forum in Fujian Province on Tuesday. "China remains one of our closest allies and development partners," he said.

He praised the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) projects launched by Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2014, saying that they "delivered the most significant infrastructure projects wit-

nessed in Maldivian history", according to his speech. He also urged China to bolster the flow of its tourists to the Maldives. "China was our (Maldives') number one market pre-Covid, and it is my request that we intensify efforts for China. To regain this position," according to a readout posted on his official website. The Maldivian media reported that the two countries have signed a \$50 million project to develop an integrated tourism zone in the Indian Ocean island.