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

Team India becomes T20 World Cup 2024 champions; Kohli bids adieu to T20Is

NEW DELHI:

India broke their 11-year drought for a global title by clinching the T20 World Cup against South Africa in a thrilling final. The match culminated in a nail-biting seven-run victory, propelled by Virat Kohli's commanding 76 runs and Rohit Sharma's astute leadership as captain.

Kohli, who was pivotal throughout the tournament, earned the match award for his crucial innings. Following the game, where emotions ran high, Kohli announced his retirement from the format, marking the end of an era. Despite initial reserve, he eventually expressed deep emotion, reflecting on his decision.

"It's time for the next generation to step up. This decision was imminent, win or lose," Kohli stated. Meanwhile, Hardik Pandya, facing per-



sonal challenges and criticism during the IPL season, was visibly moved. His teammate and Mumbai Indians captain Rohit Sharma offered solace with a touching gesture, underscoring the team's unity and support. Rohit Sharma himself appeared drained yet fulfilled, emotions evident in his tearful eyes. His wife, Ritika, watched from the stands, mirroring the intense sentiment among fans and players alike.

"It's hard to put into words what we've endured over the past few years... There's been a lot behind the

scenes," Rohit remarked, reflecting on their journey to victory.

South Africa's Heinrich Klaasen's blistering 52 off 27 balls posed a challenge, but India, led by Rohit Sharma, rallied with resilience. In a tense final over, Hardik Pandya successfully defended 16 runs amid immense pressure, securing India's triumph as South Africa concluded their innings at 169-8, falling short of India's 176-7.

The victory marked a poignant farewell to head coach Rahul Dravid. Kohli's pivotal innings and Axar

Patel's valuable 47 off 31 balls set the highest T20 World Cup final total ever.

Throughout the match's high stakes, India's pace bowlers made early breakthroughs, while Klaasen's onslaught momentarily shifted momentum. Rohit Sharma's strategic decisions, including Axar Patel's critical role, proved decisive in India's eventual triumph.

Suryakumar Yadav's pivotal relay catch off Pandya's bowling in the final over encapsulated India's determination and collective effort under pressure.

Soldiers swept away during river-crossing drill at night

NEW DELHI:

Five Army soldiers drowned when their tank got stuck after a flash flood in Shyok river in the Daulat Beg Oldie (DBO) region of eastern Ladakh, which is near the Line of Actual Control with China, late on Friday night.

The Russian-origin T-72 main-battle tank, which had a crew of one junior commissioned officer (JCO) and four jawans, was 'de-inducting' from a military exercise when the mishap occurred while fording the river near Saser Brangsa due to "a sudden increase in the water level" around midnight. Rescue teams, including combat engineers in boats, rushed to the location. But the soldiers could not be saved due to the strong current in the river. All bodies were later recovered," an officer said. The 52 Armoured Regiment soldiers who died were identified as MRK Reddy (JCO), Subhan Khan, Bhupendra Negi,



AIADMK's stern warning to those in touch with Sasikala

CHENNAI: The AIADMK on Monday warned of disciplinary action against those in the party if they interacted with ousted party leader V K Sasikala, even as it expelled 17 members including party spokesman V Pugazhendhi. Most of those expelled were said to have spoken to ousted former

Ekeidaung Teibam & Sadarboronia Nagaraju. Soldiers swept away during river-crossing drill at night. The night exercise, which included river crossing drill, was taking place amid continuing military confrontation with China in eastern

interim general secretary V K Sasikala. The AIADMK legislators' meeting, held at the party headquarters here, which passed the unanimous resolution warning of stern action, also elected party coordinator O Panneerselvam as deputy leader of the opposition in the assembly.

Ladakh, which is into its fifth year now. Border Roads Organisation, incidentally, is in the final stages of completing a new alternate 130-km road from Sasoma in Nubra Valley through Saser Brangsa to DBO outpost.

Journalist's death in UP: Priyanka says state government 'nurturing jungle raj'

NEW DELHI:

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Monday hit out at the Uttar Pradesh government over the death of a journalist, who had recently run a story on the liquor mafia and was killed in what police said was a road accident. The Congress general secretary accused the Yogi Adityanath dispensation of "nurturing jungle raj".

The 42-year-old news channel reporter, Sulabh Srivastava, died as his motorcycle rammed a pole near a brick kiln in Sukhpal Nagar under the Kotwali police station area of Pratapgarh on , police said.

Bhojshala complex in MP during ASI survey

MHOW: As many as 1,710 relics, including 39 broken idols, were found during the 98-day high-court-ordered survey carried out by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to establish the 'true nature' of disputed Bhojshala/Kamal Maula Mosque complex in MP's Dhar district.

The idols include those of Vagdevi (Saraswati), Mahishasur Mardini, Ganesh, Krishna, Mahadev, Brahma and Hanuman, say sources. The Muslim side doubts these findings, wondering "where they came from". The multi-disciplinary scientific survey concluded on Thursday, and ASI is expected to submit its report on the findings before the court on July 4. Highly placed sources said ASI might seek a second extension to 'dig deeper into the structure and surrounding areas'.

Hindus believe Bhojshala was a temple to Goddess Vagdevi (Saraswati), while Muslims say it has always been a mosque. The Hindu Front for Justice moved Indore bench of high court, seeking an ASI survey, which was granted in March this year. Representatives from both Hindu and Muslim sides were allowed to accompany ASI experts during the survey every day. On June 27, the last day of the survey, ASI found at least seven structures during excavation in the northern side of Bhojshala, said HFJ representative Gopal Sharma. "One of them was the broken idol of a goddess, and the rest are broken pieces of a pillar. Only the neck and face of the idol were found," he added.

ASI roped in Geological Survey of India and used ground-penetrating radars to examine the area in and around the Bhojshala complex. HFJ's Ashish Goyal told, "ASI has declared end of excavation, stating that all the work related to it has been completed and they don't find need for any further excavation."

"All the relics found so far have been cleaned, numbered and many have been sent for carbon dating.

Debate over norms for ad self-certification reaches Parliament

NEW DELHI: Unease over the recent norms requiring self certification of advertisements, which kicked in earlier this month, has reached Parliament. On Friday, Rajya Sabha member Kartikeya Sharma flagged the issue in the Upper House, expressing concern over the unintended consequences of the Supreme Court-mandated initiative. "Recent directive requiring self-declara-



tion certificates for all advertisements (print, digital and electronic) aims to safeguard consumer interests and uphold advertisement integrity. However, this directive has introduced

several operational challenges. There remains significant ambiguity, especially regarding non-claim advertisements published by small media houses for SMEs. These advertisers may

struggle to comply due to the technical nature of the process and limited resources," he said, talking about a new challenge for media in giving authentic information to people, which has become crucial amid a flood of disinformation. He said handling of govt and public sector under this directive remained unclear. "Media houses face difficulties.

LJP implodes as uncle Paras isolates Chirag Paswan

NEW DELHI: In a surprise turn of events, Chirag Paswan, the president of Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) founded by his father late Ram Vilas Paswan, was on Monday unceremoniously unseated as the leader of the party in Lok Sabha. Chirag, who took over the mantle of the party in 2020 after the death of Ram Vilas Paswan, stood completely isolated at the top with-



in his party. Five of the six members of Parliament of the LJP revolted against Chirag in an overnight coup and elected

Pashupati Kumar Paras, his uncle, as the new leader of the

party in Pashupati Kumar Paras ousts Chirag Paswan as LJP leader in Lok Sabha: Key developments Besides Pashupati Paras, the rebel group includes Chirag's cousin Prince Raj, Chandan Singh, Veena Devi and Mehboob Ali Kaiser. The group has already met Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to inform him about the changes in the party.

No help for Indian helps when 'dream' foreign job turns into a nightmare

NEW DELHI:

Anjali from Ulhasnagar in Thane has quite a few stamps on her passport. Having worked in Dubai, Hong Kong and Muscat (where she was employed by a 'sheikh') as a domestic worker, she reels off the dos and don'ts. "Do not give your phone to your employer. Remember, they need you more than you need them. Ensure that you are allowed to speak to your family every day. Clients will say they have spent lakhs on your visa, so they have a right to take away your passport but don't fall for that. Don't go for a lower salary, and don't fall for scammy agents,"



says the 35-year-old, who has drawn a salary of up to Rs 45,000 a month abroad and wants to go to London for her next job. Not everyone is as savvy. While the money is more than what they would get in India for a similar job, it's still nothing compared to what a local would be paid. Before that comes the hurdle of getting there. Many of them take loans to pay greedy agents who don't give them the proper paperwork.

Without that, they are held hostage by employers who take their passports and withhold salaries. As the recent Hinduja case in which four members of the family were convicted for exploiting domestic staff at their luxury villa in Geneva showed, even wealthy NRI tycoons can behave that way and not just a sheikh in the Gulf. Besides other charges like confiscation of passports, low salaries and

long hours, the lead prosecutor pointed out that the family's annual spend on their pet dog surpassed the salary they offered their house-help. In the Hinduja case, the domestic workers took a rare step and fought back against exploitation, but the case highlights a larger problem - that of India's lack of protective mechanisms for domestic workers at home and abroad. India has not ratified the ILO Domestic Workers Convention No 189, which requires signatory governments to protect the rights of domestic workers. "India should negotiate stronger bilateral labour agreements.

Three children killed in wall collapse in Greater Noida

NEW DELHI: Three children were killed and five others were injured when an under-construction wall and roof collapsed on them in Greater Noida on Friday evening, according to DCP Suniti. The children were playing near the construction site. Emergency services quickly responded to the scene, and the injured children were rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment. Authorities have launched an investigation to determine the cause of the collapse and to ensure that safety regulations were followed at the construction site. More details awaited.

Xi invokes Panchsheel as key to end today's global conflicts

Vatika Times BEIJING/DELHI:

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Friday highlighted the relevance of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, which gained traction with the Non-Aligned Movement, to end the present-day conflicts and sought to expand influence in the Global South amid its tussle with the West. Xi, 71, invoked the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, termed as Panchsheel by India, at a conference in Beijing to mark its 70th anniversary and also sought to juxtapose them with his new concept of Global Security Initiative envisaging a shared future for mankind. The Panchsheel pointers were first formally enunciated in the Agreement on Trade

and Intercourse between the Tibet region of China and India signed on April 29, 1954, according to the MEA. No Indian official was reported to have participated in the conference on Friday. The invitees included former Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa and several politician and officials from various countries that have close ties with China. The five principles formed part of the legacy of the then PM Jawaharlal Nehru and his Chinese counterpart Zhou Enlai in their unsuccessful quest to find a solution to the vexed boundary issue. "The Five Principles answered the call of the times, and its initiation was an inevitable historic development.

One tree planted in name of mother: Rajendra Mishra

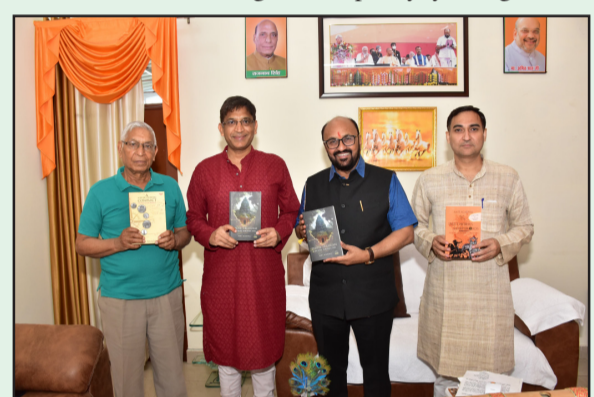
Prayagraj: At the Bharatiya Janata Party office in Civil Line, BJP Metropolitan President Rajendra Mishra distributed saplings in the name of Mother Tree to all the



divisional officials and workers and said that every worker should do everything possible to protect the environment. Take a pledge to plant a tree in your mother's name and protect it. District spokesperson Rajesh Kesarwani said that the workers will be given vine, tamarind, mango, guava, peepal, neem, amla, kaitha, teak, rosewood, teak, pakhar, etc. Trees were distributed and the organization has set a target of planting five trees at each booth. On this occasion, Rajesh Kesarwani, Shiva Tripathi, Ganesh Verma, Rakesh Bharti, Prashant Shukla, and all the officials and workers of the division were present.

Higher Education Minister released book "Temple Treasures: A Journey Through Time"

Prayagraj/Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh Higher Education Minister Yogendra Upadhyay released the book "Temple Treasures: A Journey Through Time" at his ministerial residence in Lucknow on Saturday. Released. On this occasion, Minister Yogendra Upadhyay, congratulat-



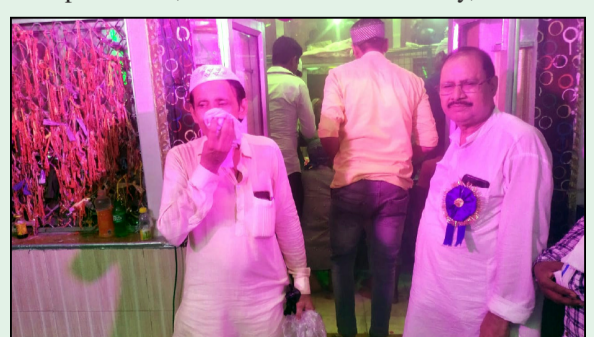
ing the author of the book, Amit Aggarwal, said that this book will provide deep information about the ancient temples of the country and their historical treasures. The Minister said that this book will not only give an insight into the ancient Indian culture and heritage. It will not only become a medium of knowledge but will also make the new generation aware of our rich history and cultural heritage. He expressed confidence that 'Temple Treasures: A Journey Through Time' will prove to be an important resource for researchers, historians and temple lovers. Ramesh Chandra Aggarwal and Dr. Mukul Chaturvedi were present on the occasion of the book release.

Apprentice/Employment Fair organized at Govt ITI

Prayagraj/Lucknow: Apprentice/Employment Fair was organized at Government ITI, Aliganj, Lucknow on Saturday. In this event, the company PepsiCo India Holding Pvt. Ltd., Mathura and Shri Ram Life Insurance, Lucknow participated. Principal Raj Kumar Yadav said that a total of 215 candidates participated in the fair. Training Counseling and Placement Officer M.A. Khan informed that out of these, 117 candidates were selected. Selected candidates were offered regular jobs with a salary of Rs 13,000 to 25,000 per month and other facilities.

Heavy footfalls witnessed during annual urs of Line Shah Baba

Prayagraj: 5 days annual urs of Line Shah Baba is going on full swing and witnessed participation of people from all walks of life. Religious barriers were swept away with people participating with full enthusiasm, which continued on Saturday. Heavy footfalls are being witnessed everyday. They are offering chadars praying for progress of nation's unity and peace. Ex.Spokesman, UPCC Kishore Varshney, Mutwalli



Wasimuddin, organising committee members including Parvej Siddiqui, Congress leader Fuzail Hashmi, Chand Miyan, Tauqir Raja, Salimuddin, Abdul Salam, Mohd. Sajid, Galimuddin, Nijamuddin, Pappu Sonkar & thousands of devotees were present at the celebration.

The five-day Urs is being observed with much enthusiasm and religious fervour. Thousands of people participated in the Urs for which the administration had made elaborate arrangements.

The areas en route to the shrine were decorated. Besides, Mutwalli Wasimuddin had made arrangements for various stalls and cultural events during the Urs days. During Urs various cultural events were organised by different artists coming from across the nation.

Meritorious students of all boards felicitated

Mayor & DM honored meritorious students by giving them tablets, citations and medals

Prayagraj: Meritorious students of merit number 01 to 10, including meritorious children falling under merit number 01 to 05, at the state level of the high school and intermediate examination of the year 2024 conducted by all the boards in the state, will be presented with the Chief Minister in Lucknow. Meritorious children falling under merit number 06 to 10 were honored in their districts. The live telecast of the Chief Minister's meritorious ceremony program took place in the Sangam Auditorium located at the Collectorate in the presence of Mayor Umesh Chandra Ganesh Kesarwani and District Magistrate Navneet Singh Chahal. In the same sequence, a student of Raj Singh Jwala Devi Inter College, Civil Lines Prayagraj, who got fourth position in the state under merit number 01 to 05, was awarded in Lucknow and under merit number 06 to 10, 12 high school students and 14 intermediate students of Prayagraj district got the

fourth position. Students were honoured.

On this occasion, the chief guest, Mayor Umesh Chandra Ganesh Kesarwani, while congratulating all the meritorious children, said that all you meritorious students are the future of our tomorrow. Our India has been the world leader in the world because of its intellectual power. We have led the world not on the strength of the sword but on the strength of the sadhana, sacrifice, knowledge, research and investigation of our sages, scientists and gurus. The Mayor said that my wish is that all you meritorious students who were honored on this occasion should be determined and continuously move towards their goals. You people will definitely get success. Always maintain the concentration with which you have achieved this feat and work four times harder to make your intelligence permanent and take your country to the



top of the horizon of the world. In the felicitation ceremony, District Magistrate Navneet Singh Chahal, while congratulating the meritorious students, said that a lot of hard work is required to achieve excellence in any field. This good achievement that you have achieved at the state level in this difficult competition is a matter of great joy for us, for this we greatly appreciate you. You have definitely implemented the guidance given

by your teachers and parents in your life.

If you continue to work hard with the same dedication and consistency, you will definitely achieve success in engineering, medical, sports or whatever field you choose. District School Inspector, P.N.Singh, in his welcome address, while welcoming the Honorable Mayor and District Magistrate, said that as per the intention of the government, cheating-free and peaceful examina-

tion was conducted in Prayagraj district. By identifying intelligent children in the schools, the students were motivated to establish a place in the merit list through special education, as a result of which a total of 27 students of Prayagraj district secured a place in the merit list of the state and became the best in the district. The name has been established.

The honored students will be given Rs 1 lakh each, provided by the state gov-

ernment, through treasury, in their accounts and a tablet, citation and medal will be given to them by the Mayor, District Magistrate and District School Officer in a program organized at Sangam Auditorium. The program was conducted by Dr. Prabhakar Tripathi. On this occasion, Additional District Magistrate, Finance and Revenue, ACP Shwetabh Pandey, Co-District School Inspector, L.B.Maurya, Dharmendra Kumar Singh, Dr.B.S.Yadav, K.K.Tripathi, Kiran Rai, principals of schools, teachers and parents etc. were present. Ravi Patel, in-charge of board examination, Brijesh Srivastava, sports secretary, Arvind Gautam, Ravindra Kumar Mishra, Mukesh Kumar and other office colleagues made important contributions in making the program a pleasure. District School Inspector, Prayagraj P.N.Singh expressed his gratitude to everyone and announced the conclusion of the program.

Grand fair of Shitala Ashtami organized in abode of Maa Kalyani Devi

Prayagraj: On the occasion of Shitala Ashtami, a grand fair of Shitala Ashtami was held at Atarsuiya, the abode of Mahashakti Peeth Maa Kalyani Devi in

that Mangala Aarti of Maa Kalyani was performed at 5:00 am in the morning and then till 2:00 pm, the mother sisters and devotees coming from far and wide of

was seen from 6:00 in the evening and at 7:30 in the evening, the temple was opened. Bhajan Kirtan was organized by the motherly powers in the campus and



Ashadh Krishna Paksha. On this occasion, mothers dedicated the Basiota food of Saptami fast to Maa Kalyani for the well being of their sons and wished the well being of their sons to Maa Kalyani Devi. President of the temple, Pandit Sushil Kumar Pathak told

ferred prayers to Maa Kalyani for the fulfillment of their wishes. After that, Maha Abhishek of Maa Kalyani for the welfare of the world, Durga Saptashati was recited. Program coordinator Pandit Shyam Ji Pathak said that the grand adornment of Maa Kalyani

Prasad was distributed to the devotees. Pandit Shyam ji Pathak, Anil Pathak, Rajesh Kesarwani, Sudhir Bhardwaj, Dilip Pathak, Ajay Shukla, Deepak were involved in the arrangements of Maa Kalyani's MahaAarti and fair. Shukla, Sonu Mali etc.

PDM to field candidates in UP by-elections

Decision taken in coordination meeting of PDM constituent parties

Prayagraj: A coordination meeting of PDM alliance constituents Apna Dal Kamerawadi, AIMIM and Pragatisheel Manav Samaj Party was held in Prayagraj on Saturday. In which it was decided that candidates would be fielded on all the 10

seats of the UP by-election. In the meeting, Apna Dal Kamerawadi's top leader and MLA Dr. Pallavi Patel said that during the last Lok Sabha elections, PDM alliance was formed for the upcoming 2027 assembly elections. The PDM alliance formed after the start of the process of third phase of Lok Sabha elections had fielded its candidates on 28 seats in a short time. Now with complete preparation and stamina, candidates will be fielded on all the 10 seats of UP by-election. Along with this, PDM will start preparations for the upcoming Panchayat elections and 2027 assembly elections from now.

In the meeting, Apna Kamerawadi's top leader and MLA Dr. Pallavi Patel, Pragatisheel Manav Samaj Party's National President Premchandra Bind, AIMIM State

President Shaukat Ali, Apna Dal Kamerawadi's National Secretary Advocate Dilip Patel, State President Ram Sheela Patel, National Secretary Lal Chand Bind, Mr. Ajay Patel, Pro General Secretary Gagan Prakash Yadav, Umesh Patel, State Presi-



dent Rajesh Patel, Purvanchal President Israr Ahmed, Division President Manik Chand, City President Afsar Mehmood, Pro Vice President Prem Bahadur Bind, Dr. Qureshi, Mohammad Junaid Khan, District Chairman Murad Ali, Arun Patel, Iftikhar Ahmed etc. expressed their views.

B'anniv of Prof. Prashant Chandra Mahalanobis celebrated as National Statistics Day

Prayagraj: Department of Statistics, Allahabad University today on 29.06.2024, the father of Indian Statistics, Prof. National Statistics Day was organized in collaboration with the regional NSSO office to commemorate the birth anniversary of Prashant Chandra Mahalanobis. In the program, Prof. of Mathematics Department of Faculty of Science, P.K. Singh as Chairman, with internationally renowned former Head of the Department of Statistics, Prof. Anoop Chaturvedi was present as the chief guest. NSSO Regional Office Director Prasun Verma, Deputy Di-

rector Anuj Singh and Chairman of Statistics Department Dr. P.S. were present on the stage. Pundir



was present. In his speech, the Chief Guest explained in simple words the importance of decision making using data. Explaining the importance of decision mak-

ing in modern disciplines like AI etc., Prof. Chaturvedi presented the possibilities of mathematics and statis-

tics before the participants. Pro. P.K. Singh expressed his views on making statistical knowledge more mature through mathematical studies. In the program,

former NSSO officers and employees shared their experiences and inspired the students to connect statistics with the society as much as possible. On this occasion, Head of the Department, Dr. Pundir called upon NSSO to share their problems with the students and conduct a survey with the participation of the students so that the subject can be made helpful in policy making for solving social problems directly through new research. In the quiz program organized on this occasion, the winners were also awarded by Director, Prason Verma.

Bansal Wire Industries Ltd IPO to open on July 3

Varanasi: The Company proposes to utilise net proceeds from fresh issue of Equity Shares towards (a) Repayment or prepayment of all or a portion of certain outstanding borrowings availed by our Company estimated to ₹4526.83 million; (b) Investment in our Subsidiary for repayment or prepayment of all or a portion of certain of its out-

standing borrowings estimated to ₹937.08 million; (c) Funding the working capital requirements of our Company estimated to ₹600 million and General corporate purposes. (The "Object of Issue") This Issue of Equity Shares are being issued through the red herring prospectus of the Company dated June 27, 2024 filed with Registrar of Compa-

nies, Delhi and Haryana at New Delhi (the "RHP") and are proposed to be listed on the BSE Limited ("BSE") and the National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("NSE"). This Issue is being made in terms of Rule 19(2)(b) of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957, as amended ("SCRR"), read with Regulation 31 of the SEBI ICDR

Regulations. The Issue is being made through the Book Building Process in terms of Regulation 6(1) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations, wherein in terms of Regulation 32(1) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations, not more than 50% of the Issue shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Qualified Institutional Buyers ("QIBs", and such portion.

Arrest of miscreant who stole luggage and mobile phones of passengers

Prayagraj: Under the guidance of Principal Chief Security Commissioner/RSP Prayagraj and under the direction of Senior Divisional Security Commissioner RRB/RPR/



Prayagraj and under the efficient leadership of Post Commander/RPR Prayagraj, Railway Protection Force Post Prayagraj and GRP Police Station Prayagraj for prevention of theft of goods and arrest of criminals involved in theft. In a joint operation conducted on 29.06.2024, one vicious accused was arrested near platform 01 Delhi End Junction Board of Railway Station Prayagraj along with 02 mobile phones stolen from passengers.

Under operation "Vigilant"

English liquor seized from Rajdhani Express

Prayagraj: Under the guidance of A.N.Sinha, Inspector General cum Principal Chief Security Commissioner/RPSB, Prayagraj. Under the direction of Vijay Prakash Pandit, Senior Divisional Security Commissioner/RPF, Prayagraj and under the able leadership of Shiv Kumar Singh, Post Commander/RPF Post Prayagraj, train no. in 12424 Rajdhani Express - A total of 31 English liquor bottles of different brands worth approximately Rs 30000/- were recovered from two trolley bags lying unclaimed. The recovered liquor was handed over to Excise Inspector Rajmani Prasad on 29.06.24 for further action.

Ashok Kumar Verma takes addl charge as new GM NCR

Prayagraj: A senior officer of Indian Railway Stores Service, Ashok Kumar Verma, has assumed additional charge as general manager of North Central Railway. Earlier, he was appointed as general manager Central Organisation for Railway Electrification, (CORE) Prayagraj, on January 5, 2024. The new NCR General Manager is a 1987 batch officer and has served Indian Railways in various capacities.

He has vast experience in general administration. Verma has served as principal chief material manager in North Western Railway, as divisional railway manager of Bengaluru Division of South Western Railway and additional divisional railway manager of Jhansi Division. He has previously also served as executive director Railway Stores in

Railway Board, senior PRO of NCR Amit Malaviya said. Ashok Kumar Verma holds a degree in Civil Engineering from Motilal Nehru National Institute of



Technology, Prayagraj and an MBA degree from IIM-Kolkata. He has done his Diploma in Public Procurement (Public Procurement in Multilateral Agencies funded Projects) from In-

dian Railway Institute of Logistics and Material Management and PG Diploma in Alternate Dispute Resolution Mechanism from National Academy of

Legal Studies and Research University. He has vast experience in finance and public procurement, the official said.

After formally taking over charge on Saturday,

Verma held a meeting with all the principal heads of departments. All the divisional railway managers (DRMs) also joined the meeting through video conferencing. While addressing the meeting, Verma outlined his priorities. He said punctuality and safety are the most important parameters in railway functioning. All the safety rules and precautions should be followed time and again.

Verma further added that worksite safety and safety of staff is of paramount importance. He also emphasised the need to check preparations for the ensuing monsoon. While speaking about staff issues, he instructed that officers and supervisors should remain accessible to staff to resolve their concerns and all issues be dealt with in due timeframe. He also said

that the grievance redressal mechanism 'RailMadad' is an effective tool to resolve passenger grievances and it should be utilised properly. During the meeting, the general manager reviewed the station redevelopment work being undertaken over the zone. After viewing the detailed powerpoint presentation about the projects, Verma said proper planning be made while executing these projects. He said the work must be planned to keep in mind safety, passenger convenience and operational needs of the future.

He also said that all the work should be done after due consultation and to fulfill customer aspirations. At the start of the meeting AGMAK Sinha, welcomed the new GM by presenting a bouquet. All officers also introduced themselves.

MAHAKUMBH-2025 PREPARATIONS 53 police stations to get emergency medical rooms

Prayagraj: At least 53 police stations in Prayagraj and adjoining districts will have medical rooms for emergency treatment of cops and visitors during the Mahakumbh-2025 religious fair. A budget of Rs. 14.35 crore has been allocated for constructing medical rooms at 28 police stations in Fatehpur, Kaushambi, Pratapgarh, Bhadohi, Mirzapur, Chitrakoot and Jaunpur districts. Approval for constructing medical rooms at 25 selected police stations in Prayagraj and other districts is still pending. Police officials stated that these medical rooms will be equipped with medical staff and facilities for primary treatment during emergencies. They are being set up in preparation for the upcoming Mahakumbh, during which policemen from outside districts will be assigned Mela duties. These medical rooms will provide essential treatment to police personnel and pilgrims in case of emergencies.

The first phase will see medical rooms constructed at 28 police stations, including Manikpur, Kunda, and Hathigawa in Pratapgarh; Kokhraj and Saini in Kaushambi; Lalganj, Vindhyachal, Chilh,

and Dramandganj in Mirzapur; Barsati, Sujanganj, Khuthan, Pawara, Machhlishehar, Sikrara, Badlapur, and Meeraganj in Jaunpur; and Barghar, Raipura, and Mau in Chitrakoot; as well as Unch, Aurai, and Gopiganj in Bhadohi; and Malwa, Kalyanpur, Khaga, Thariaon, and Aung in Fatehpur district. ADG Zone Bhanu Bhaskar confirmed a budget of Rs. 14.35 crore has been approved for constructing these medical rooms. Proposals for constructing medical rooms at remaining police stations like Karwai, Pahadi, and Rajapur in Chitrakoot; Kotwali in Pratapgarh and Fatehpur; Nawabganj, Mauaima, Soraon, Puramufti, Civil Lines, Manda, Koron, Meja, Industrial Area, Naini, Karchhana, Kaundhiyara, Bara, Handia, Ghoorpur, Utraon, Sarai Inayat, Jhansi, Phulpur, and Shankargarh in Prayagraj district are awaiting approval. Additionally, transit accommodation is being constructed at some police stations and the Fourth Battalion PAC in Prayagraj and adjoining districts, each with a capacity of 112 persons. These transit hostels will house policemen arriving for Mela duties.

CM Grid Scheme: Eight roads of Sangam city to be made smart in Phase-1

Prayagraj: The Prayagraj Municipal Corporation (PMC) has identified eight roads of the city to make them smart under the first phase of the 'Chief Minister Grid Scheme'. As many as 34 roads of Sangam city are expected to be covered under this initiative. Under the project, the identified roads will get proper dividers along with footpaths for pedestrians on both sides and greenery on the roadside or divider, which will be maintained by the PMC. These roads to be transformed under the first phase of the scheme are located in Dhumanganj, Pritam Nagar, Khulabad and Tagore Town localities, said PMC officials. Under the Chief Minister Grid scheme, the roads which are 10 metres or more wide have been selected for the project, they shared.

The exercise of road selection was going on for the last one year. Now the Prayagraj Municipal Corporation has finally issued a tender at the national level for road construction. PMC chief engineer

Satish Kumar said that while making the selected roads grand, full attention will be paid to the guidelines set by the government. Prayagraj Municipal Corporation officials claim that the roads of CM Grid will become more useful and beautiful than the smart roads already built so far in Prayagraj.

The roads that will be made smart in the first phase of the scheme include the roads from Dharamveer statue in Transport Nagar to Port Station ahead of RTO intersection, from Dhumanganj police station to Abubakarpur turning in Pritam Nagar, from Kendranchal Gate to ARK Tower in Pritam Nagar, from Judges colony to Machhli Mandi trisection in Lukerganj, and from Machhli Mandi trisection to Dhanshyamnagar Colony in Lukarganj. Other stretches are from Gol Park intersection to Power House, from KP Inter College in Tagore Town to Jawahar Lal Nehru Road and from Kriti Scanning Centre in Tagore Town to Liddle Road behind CMP Degree College.

Over 2400 poor girls in Prayagraj to get married with govt help

Prayagraj: Marriages of for over 2400 couples will be solemnised with the support of social welfare department in Prayagraj this year. With the Lok Sabha elections over, the work of speeding up the implementation of state government welfare schemes has started in earnest. After almost three months of the new financial year, the social welfare department has been given the target of solemnising mass marriages for 2024-25.

This time the department will get 2,484 poor girls of Prayagraj district married. This target is among the highest given to the department for the district in recent years barring the last two years, as per district officials of the state social welfare department. In the

last financial year (2023-24), 2,734 marriages were to be conducted, but due to some problems the target could not be achieved and the department could solemnise 1,898 marriages only while in financial year 2022-23 also the department could perform only 2,406 marriages only against the set target of 2,734. This time the department has started preparations to meet and even surpass the set target, they maintain.

"After getting the target of mass marriages, applications have been sought from all tehsils of the district. We will conduct all the marriages in a phased manner and with complete transparency," informed Prayga Pandey, district social welfare officer,

Prayagraj.

This time the applications received for mass marriages will also be thoroughly probed. Till now, applications received at tehsil level were accepted. After the controversy over the marriage scheme being misused by including ineligible beneficiaries in certain districts in past years, now a nodal officer will be appointed in all districts, including Prayagraj, who will scrutinise and recheck details given in all the applications. The applications will also be matched online. Officials claim that not a single eligible person will be left out, but efforts will be made to ensure that the government scheme is not misused at all.

In the Ballia event held

at Maniyar Inter College on January 25, 2024 around 537 marriages took place, of which irregularities were found in 240 marriages. So far 16 people have been arrested for fraud and forgery in arranging the marriages, while five government employees of various departments, including the social welfare department, have also been suspended.

The state government started the mass wedding scheme 'Mukhyamantri Samuhik Vivah Yojana' in October 2017 to promote communal and social harmony. Under this scheme wedding programmes are conducted according to the rituals being practiced in various communities and religions. Another objective of the scheme is to do away

with extravagance in wedding ceremonies. Families of all communities having an annual income of Rs. 2 lakh from all sources are covered under this scheme.

Under this scheme, re-marriage of widows, abandoned and divorced women are also performed. An assistance amount of Rs. 35,000 is transferred to the woman's account and Rs. 10,000 is spent on the material required for the marriage ceremony like clothes, toe rings, anklets and utensils while Rs. 6,000 is spent per couple on food, pandal, furniture, drinking water, lighting and other necessary arrangements. Thus a total amount of Rs. 51,000 is provisioned per marriage. Registration of the marriage too is done on the spot.

Bhamashahji's life is inspiration for all: Nandi

Prayagraj: Uttar Pradesh Government's Industrial Development Minister Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi today paid tribute to philanthropist Bhamashah ji, dedicated to the service of the motherland, on his birth anniversary at his official residence at 6 Kalidas Marg. Minister Nandi said that whenever the bravery, might and bravery of Mahavir Maharana Pratap ji are discussed, then it is necessary to discuss the sacrifice, dedication and patriotism of the great philanthropist Bhamashah ji. From the clutches of external invaders and cruel terrorists. Respected Bhamashah ji's contribution in the story of the unforgettable struggle to liberate Mother India will be remembered for ages! The feeling and determination to sacrifice everything for the motherland has been an inspiration for generations! This is the basic philosophy and ideal of Indian culture! Salute to the sacred memory of revered Bhamashah ji, an inspiration to the entire Indian public and especially the Vaishya and business community and a respected man of Indian history, on his birth anniversary!

Minister Nandi said that Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has declared Bhamashah Jayanti as Business Welfare Day. Whenever there is a disaster in the state and the country, businessmen come forward and help the government. The expenditure was spent for the welfare of the country and society. The business community has always worked for the welfare of the society. Be it flood, earthquake or any disaster or the Covid period, the business community has always moved forward and discharged its responsibilities. Bhamashah ji's life is a lesson for everyone. Is a source of inspiration for all. The way he donated all his capital and everything for the country and society is exemplary.



Indranil appointed Goalkeeper Coach 3rd National Futsal Club Championship

Prayagraj: Golazo Football Club Pune has appointed Indranil Ghosh as the goalkeeper coach for the 3rd National Futsal Club Championship organized by All India Football Federation (AIFF) to be played from 27th June to 7th July at Swarnim Sports University, Gujarat.

This information was given to Northern Football Academy coach Indranil Ghosh in a letter written by Golazo Football Club President Rituraj Salunke via email. Indranil recently the Head Coach of the Uttar Pradesh U-17 state football team, which emerged as runner-up in the PEFI National Football Championship. Earlier also he worked in



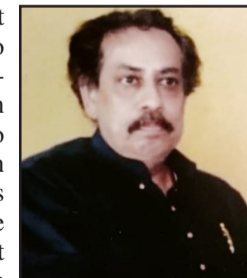
Dr. Shailesh Verma, CAV Inter College Manager Hanuman Upadhyay, Ajit, football coach Sanjay Bhattacharya, Sunil Nigam, Sushil Kumar congratulated him.

many national football competitions in Himachal Pradesh, Lakshadweep as well as Allahabad University, Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology Uttar Pradesh, has also been a coach of Prayagraj Mandal.

Indranil was also the Goalkeeper Coach of the Tripura team in the Santosh Trophy Senior Men's and Women's National Competition. On this achievement of Indranil, Vishnu Bhagwan Public School Director Abhishek Tiwari, Principal Dinesh Kumar Srivastava, Mahila Mandal (President) Reena Sahu, Vandana Nishad, Poonam Nishad, Radha Nishad, Meenakshi Nishad, Resham Singh, Jyoti Prajapati, Sheela Verma, Aanchal Ruia, Krishna Ruia Mahima Mehrotra without Saraswat Sunita Sahu, Anita Gupta, Richa Gupta, Supriti Gupta I Meena Sahu, Prabodh Manas, Ramlal Garg etc.

Hallmarking should be implemented uniformly across nation: Dinesh Singh

Prayagraj: Jewelers Association District President Dinesh Singh has written a letter to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman demanding implementation of uniform hallmarking in the entire country. Besides, a demand has also been raised for simplification in its rules. In the letter sent to the Finance Minister, he has put forward some important demands in the upcoming budget. He said that gold import should be allowed only through IIBX in the entire country. To export in the country, a channel should



be created only through IITBX under the single window system. He also demanded to provide income tax exemption to consumers on investments made under Sarwan Gold Bond. At the same time, GST should be removed while purchasing old gold, so that the common consumer does not suffer any loss. By removing all types of taxes, a system of one country one tax should be considered, i.e. bank transaction tax system should be implemented so that time is saved from tax compliance. The savings can be used to expand the business.

Health checkup done for Lord Jagannathji

Prayagraj: Under the auspices of Shri Jagannath Ji Mahotsav Committee Trust, the health checkup of Lord Jagannath Ji suffering from fever was done at the rest house Arya Bhawan Zero Road. Rath Yatra co-ordinator Rajesh Kesarwani said that Dr. Pushpendra Sharma duly examined Lord Jagannath Ji. While checking the health of Jagannath ji, blood pressure, heart beat and temperature of fever were measured. After that, according to the doctor, Trust Minister Gagan Das Gupta offered moong

pakoda in the morning and medicinal decoction Prasad in the evening. And on this occasion, the devotees performed symbolic aarti wishing for health benefits. On this occasion city Kotwal Rohit Tiwari, Gagan Gupta, Rajesh Kesarwani, Poonam Gupta Mahila Mandal (President) Reena Sahu, Vandana Nishad, Poonam Nishad, Radha Nishad, Meenakshi Nishad, Resham Singh, Jyoti Prajapati, Sheela Verma, Aanchal Ruia, Krishna Ruia Mahima Mehrotra without Saraswat Sunita Sahu, Anita Gupta, Richa Gupta, Supriti Gupta I Meena Sahu, Prabodh Manas, Ramlal Garg etc.



LDTA Secretary lodged complaint against unknown people At Muthiganj police station against illegal occupation of Christian missionary property

Prayagraj: A complaint was lodged at Muthiganj police station on Friday by LDTA Secretary Rockwell Amar Moses regarding illegal occupation of plot no. 30 in Jamuna Mission Christian Compound, Muthiganj. He told that the said plot number was given on lease to Shiril Elias where a building was constructed, after his death his wife and son lived in it. Recently Ravi Elias also died and the ownership of the property automatically passed to the Lucknow Diocesan Trust Association (LDTA) and the institution locked the property. It is alleged that on Friday some un-

known people entered the property, broke the lock installed by the institution and took possession of the property. Talking to the media, the organization's secretary Rockwell Amar Moses said that he has received information about illegal occupation of property by Vipin Pandey, who calls himself an advocate, and some of his associates. However, Secretary Rockwell Amar Moses has demanded action against the unknown in Muthiganj police station and has also demanded removal of possession of the said property and locking of the institution, regarding which the police is now investigating.

71 pc candidates appeared in MUV's B.Ed entrance exam

Prayagraj: Uttar Pradesh Rajarshi Tandon Open University, Prayagraj's B.Ed and B.Ed Special Education entrance examination for the session 2024-25 will be held on Saturday in 13 examinations of 10 districts of the state. It was conducted peacefully at the centre. Professor PK Stalin, coordinator of the entrance examination

organizing and conducting committee, said that 71 pc candidates appeared in the B.Ed and B.Ed special education entrance examination. 4043 candidates had applied for the B.Ed entrance examination. Out of which 1182 remained absent, whereas in B.Ed Special Education, 2000 candidates from across the country had applied. In

which 569 candidates remained absent. The entrance examination was conducted from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. For the successful conduct of the entrance examination, observers and core committees were deployed at all the centers on the instructions of Vice Chancellor Professor Satyakam. Under whose supervision the examination was conducted with

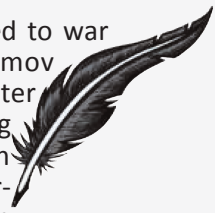
transparency at all the centres. Professor Stalin said that keeping in mind the convenience of the candidates, the entrance examination was conducted in Agra, Ayodhya, Bareilly, Gorakhpur, Jhansi, Kanpur, Lucknow, Meerut, Varanasi and Prayagraj of the state. Candidates took the examination at the examination center in the

Central Library located at the Government Inter College and Saraswati Campus of the University in Prayagraj. The help desk established in the university kept taking information from all the examination centers of the state regarding the safe conduct of the examination. Coordinator Professor Stalin said that the entrance exam result will be declared soon.

Editorial

Russia, too, has been astonishingly

The move is being seen as an effort to reduce the unsustainable and soaring costs of the war in Ukraine. It also challenges the narrative that the Russian economy is unaffected by the sanctions in the long-standing war. For 2024 alone, Putin has allocated \$117 billion for the special military operation against Ukraine. His war economy runs feverishly in an overheated mode. Most international estimates state that 7.5 per cent of Russia's GDP is directed to the military-industrial complex although Kremlin's official estimates claim it is 6.7 percent. It is a rare submission of a rising-cost problem from Putin, who had preferred to continue with his hunting-holidaying excursions pal Shoigu despite repeated allegations of systemic corruption and inefficiency against him for years. These allegations became the order of the day when mercenary group Wagner, led by Yevgeny Prigozhin, was brought to deliver victory in the infamous battle for Bakhmut in 2023. Putin's slighting of Prigozhin's outright allegations against Shoigu and Chief of General Staff Valery Gerasimov led to the incredible Wagner mutiny against the two generals, which ended up with Prigozhin's death in uncanny circumstances. It, however, unleashed an investigation into rampant corruption inside Russia's military leadership, of which Prigozhin had become the most notorious victim. Russia-watchers had an inkling of Shoigu's exit after Prigozhin and his aides were made to bid adieu into the flannel skies, and many corrupt links started to get exposed in the Ministry of Defence. The inkling became stronger as Shoigu's deputies, including Timur Ivanov, got arrested on corruption charges last month. Soon, two other deputy defence ministers allegedly backdated their resignations before 9 May, or the Soviet Victory Day. The Russian army was supposed to make an impressive win in Chasiv Yar on the eastern front but had to make do with American tanks captured at a small village called Berdychi when Ukrainians retreated, running out of ammunition to fire. All has certainly not been going as planned. The latest reshuffling in key defence and security offices has been Putin's biggest shake-up in the past 15 years. There are two reasons for this. One is ensuring economic efficiency at a time when the stakes are very high for Russia and Putin. And two, Shoigu's leadership has not been able to yield the anticipated results in the Ukraine war. His current appointment is a step-down with little direct authority. Getting an economist like Belousov in the key position of a defence minister also shows that Putin is preparing for the longer haul. It is a solemn reiteration that the Ukraine war has indeed been reduced to a grinding war of attrition, with both sides lacking the capabilities to end it anytime soon. Europe's combined strategies to support Kyiv militarily won't come to fruition until mid-2025. American aid and the conditionalities attached are likely to help Ukraine stay afloat, but not gain a decisive edge. That said, in exploiting the window of opportunity that had remained open for the last six months as Ukraine was outgunned and outnumbered with a lack of troops and ammunition. Despite the high intensity, war-economy mode with the reported 7.5 per cent of GDP directed to war effort, the Shoigu-Gerasimov duo could have done better than landing villages along with Avdiivka on the eastern front. Russia could have certainly conquered more than half a dozen.



Nitish was foisted as the chair of the alliance

The BJP aims to match the Congress's performance in 1984 when it won over 400 seats. However, it's important to remember that those 400 seats came as a harvest of the sympathy wave in the favour of the party following the assassination of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. What differentiates the BJP in 2024 from the Congress in 1984 is that it has delivered on its ideological agenda. This has solidified the commitment of its cadre, leading to an expanded poll machinery. This could work both ways. If there is an undercurrent, it would bring bonus points and if there is voter indifference, the per-

formance should not fall below, as they say in commerce, the reserve price. Though some point out that Kharge and not Nitish was foisted as the chair of the alliance, given his track record, the Bihar chief minister's opposition to the BJP was always suspect. The second move by the Congress has been to channelise the strength of the alliance partners to keep itself afloat. To this end, the Congress is contesting only 328 seats this time, significantly fewer than the 421 it contested in the 2019 polls. This number would have been 330, but one candidate's nomination papers

were rejected in Surat, and another withdrew in Indore. This means that the Congress in INDIA has created an alliance base that is much wider than that of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA). This also means that the party has shrunk from the position of a dominant partner to a senior partner with some other members of the bloc like the Trinamool Congress in West Bengal and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Punjab not even entertaining an alliance. Those in charge of forging alliances for the Congress claim that this time the grouping is much more pragmatic than in 2019. Uttar Pradesh is a case in

point. In 2019, the Congress went into the polls alone, with no major allies. Facing both the BJP and the SP-BSP alliance, it contested 67 of the state's 80 seats but could win only one: Sonia Gandhi in Raebareli. This time, in alliance with the Samajwadi Party, it is contesting just 17 seats, down by 50. People close to poll planning point out that it has been done to conserve the party resources for more realistic contests. Similarly, in West Bengal, from contesting 40 seats in 2019, the Congress is taking on just 14 seats this time, giving the remaining Ones to its alliance partner, the Left.

Chief Minister Adityanath has not only benefited the people of Uttar Pradesh

In 2014, when Modi wave was running in the whole country, no one would have thought that a BJP leader would come in this way and by creating his own identity away from the allegations of corruption that are usually leveled on leaders, he would become famous among the people like Prime Minister Narendra Modi and became so famous that people started seeing him as the next Prime Minister. But when the five-time MP from Gorakhpur parliamentary seat, Mahant of Gorakhnath Bhaam Math and former MP, became the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, which has the highest number of Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha seats in the country, in 2017 at the age of 45, his reputation definitely changed, the reason for which is his clean image and saintly nature. It is usually said that no other face can become big in front of a big face, but Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has earned his stature through his work, law and order and his impeccable image that when it comes to the public, no one else can be compared to him in the party in the state. Actually, Chief Minister Adityanath is not only famous for his impeccable image, he is also famous for taking action



against the wrongdoers and working in the interest of the common people.

He is the first Chief Minister of the country, who, apart from being famous as a saint after becoming the Chief Minister, has also become famous as Kulchner Baba. He has also received the title of the most popular Chief Minister of the country. Chief Minister Adityanath has not only benefited the people of Uttar Pradesh, but has done excellent work under many development schemes on behalf of the Uttar Pradesh government. And not only is his support base the strongest in Uttar Pradesh, but he is the main face of all the MLAs and ministers in his government, due to which he is able to take decisions in his government unopposed. He not only gave free hand to the police to deal with the criminals to

end the lawlessness in Uttar Pradesh, but also by ordering bullock carts to break the chains of those who grab property illegally, he created the image of a good Chief Minister in the minds of those people who eat simple food. Even today he finds immense joy in serving cows and used to sing Hindu Hriday Samrat. He is known as the image of Ram R Ram Rajya.

Apart from this, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has done major reforms in the pilgrimage places of Uttar Pradesh and has also given the names of places changed in the modern times to their historical names.

The old name of Allahabad Sangam was Prayagraj. It has got its own identity. The biggest Kumbh Mela of the country has been held in Prayagraj for centuries, but no one till the time of the state paid attention to its

development and improvement.

But after becoming the Chief Minister, Yogi Adityanath first got the Pracharagran renovated and the Prayagraj is worth seeing. Similarly, he has also developed many other places. Eastern Uttar Pradesh was once suffering in terms of development, now international level roads have been built there. Apart from this, his government has made efforts to provide water to every village. Now in Uttar Pradesh, whether it is the election of the Prime Minister, Assembly or Lok Sabha, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has a big and strong influence in the elections, on the basis of which BJP gets a good number of seats in every election. Actually, I am getting all this because many people are not aware of the stature of Chief Minister Aditya and his clean political record or it can be said that they are taking Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath lightly. Yesterday, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, after coming out of jail, held a press conference and said that as soon as Modi becomes the PM, he will finish Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Arvind Kejriwal said that PM Modi does not want to fight this election for the country or the party,

he wants to fight only for one person Amit Shah. He said that he will remove Yogi Adityanath from power next time. Sources say that after Arvind Kejriwal's statement of removing Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the game of checkmate and checkmate started in the coin division, and it also revealed who all are in the race for the post of Prime Minister in BJP. According to the number of supporters and impeccable record, Yogi Adityanath is the youngest leader in India who has the capability to become the Prime Minister after Modi.

But due to past experience and the decision of the Central Government to ignore the decisions of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in the formation of the cabinet, rumours spread that the Gujarat lobby does not like Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. But now the supporters of Uttar Pradesh are angry with the Chief Minister of Delhi saying this and due to this the Gujarat lobby has started doing something and Chief Minister Yogi has intensified his strategy by drawing his Laxman Rekha.

And there are such political experts that if Gujarat Chief Minister does not help, then BJP will be able to get only 30-40 seats in Uttar Pradesh.

Why Delhi-Tehran deal on Chabahar Port is good news for India's Shia Muslims

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Its timing, amid the chaos in West Asia disrupting important trade routes, makes it even more significant. Furthermore, beyond these tangible benefits, India's diplomatic success shines through the forging of successful ties with conflicted powers. Its diplomatic success is evident in its ability to foster friendly relations with Israel while extending support to Palestine. Simultaneously, New Delhi adeptly navigates deepening ties with the United States and successfully negotiates with Iran, showcasing its diplomatic prowess. Meanwhile, our long-standing partnerships with countries such as Saudi Arabia, Russia, and Japan continue to flourish. India's leader-

ship roles in the G20 forum and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) highlight that its diplomacy is actually working. After extensive negotiations, India and Iran have finally sealed a historic 10-year bilateral agreement for the operation of the strategically located Chabahar Port on the Gulf country's eastern coast. While India initially engaged in short-term agreements with Iran starting in 2016, the newly inked deal marks a significant milestone. With its presence in Chabahar, India aims to circumvent reliance on Pakistan's ports in Karachi and Gwadar, facilitating smoother access to landlocked Afghanistan and other Central Asian nations via Iran.

This deal has a lot of economic significance for India. Despite the nation's preoccupation with the ongoing Lok Sabha election, the Narendra Modi government's decisive action, including the special permission reportedly obtained from the Election Commission of India (ECI) to dispatch a central minister to Iran, underscores the paramount importance of this deal for the nation's strategic interests and economic future. In geopolitical dynamics, this deal is a major achievement for India and a testament to Modi's personal diplomacy.

It marks our first step into managing overseas ports and serves as a strategic move against the emerging

A sign of serious concern

These figures have been in the public domain for the last five years, still, it is amazing that in this country, we have some eminent journalists and political commentators misinterpreting the 2019 election as mostly decided on the basis of Pulwama and Balakot. Coming to the 2024 elections, Lokniti-CSDS released a pre-poll survey in April where the data pointed out that the satisfaction level towards the Modi government has seen a dip of around 8.1 per cent — a sign of serious concern for the BJP. Increasing unemployment (12.2 per cent), price rise (7.6 per cent) and falling income (4.1 per cent) are some of the crucial issues in the survey that matter to voters. The pre-poll survey also points out that there is an increase of around 5 per cent in support for Congress leader Rahul Gandhi — 26.5 per cent — as the next prime minister compared to the 2019 pre-poll survey. Interestingly, there is also a 2 per cent increase in support for Narendra Modi — 47.5 per cent — as the next prime minister. This is despite 10 years of anti-incumbency. Many journalists and political commentators are seen discussing that Ram Mandir in Ayodhya isn't a poll issue. First of all, this isn't an issue for a particular election — Ram Mandir is a sentiment for the Hindus. That said, it's still an issue in this election. According

to the pre-poll survey, for 7.5 per cent of voters, Ram Mandir is an important issue when they vote, with an additional 2.3 per cent of voters separately pointing to Hindutva as an important issue when they vote. Clearly, the BJP's Hindutva agenda remains a significant factor for 9.8 per cent of voters in this election, though a small fraction of them may be anti-Hindutva voters. Unemployment remains the most important issue for voters — 27.3 per cent — when they vote. However, it is wrong to conclude that all voters citing unemployment as an important issue are necessarily anti-BJP voters. If they vote for the Modi-led BJP, liberals and Leftists label them as being "blind" towards basic issues like unemployment and price rise. Interestingly, according to the pre-poll survey, 9.1 per cent of voters cited employment as the most liked work of the Modi government — the second most liked factor after Ram Mandir. This means that there is a section that believes that although unemployment is a burning issue, the Modi government has been working to address it. After unemployment, price rise has been cited by 23.4 per cent of voters as an important factor. However, it's worth noting that despite price rise being an important issue during the 2009 elections, the

Congress-led UPA came to power with an increased number of seats. This is not to deny the disillusionment of voters towards the Modi government on price rise. However, welfare schemes, cited by 18.1 per cent of voters as the biggest change since Modi became prime minister, and infrastructure-related works are likely to aid the government, lessening the impact of this disillusionment and preventing it from converting into votes against the BJP-led NDA. Liberals and Leftists aren't happy with Narendra Modi's election speeches targeting Congress-led Opposition for Muslim appeasement. They argue that this is not a significant issue. While the Congress manifesto does not discuss wealth redistribution, the CSDS-Lokniti pre-poll survey suggests that concerns about policies targeting Muslim communities resonate with some voters. The survey found that 47.3 per cent of voters agreed that Muslims are unnecessarily pampered, compared to 32.2 per cent who disagreed, while 20.4 per cent chose not to respond. Modi's speeches on Muslim appeasement, targeting the Opposition, particularly Congress, aim to address the concerns of these voters, close to 50 per cent of those surveyed, while also appealing to undecided voters.

Paytm shares start flat on bourses after declining 3.74%

NEW DELHI:

Shares of One97 Communication, owner of brand Paytm, were trading flat on BSE and NSE. Shares were trading at 391.00, marking an increase of 0.68% or 2.65 points from its previous close at 09:27 am.

Earlier, shares of Paytm dropped by 3.74% to settle at 380.45 on Thursday, after hitting upper-circuit for four consecutive sessions.

The stock prices, on Wednesday rose to Rs 395.25 and Rs 395.05 on the BSE and NSE, respectively, defying broader market trends.

This surge follows Paytm's recovery from a recent slump, with its stock rebounding more than 21% from last Thursday.

Reports indicate that Enforcement Directorate (ED) found no significant violations of foreign exchange rules in its ongoing investigation into Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL). However, it came



across some lapses in the company's KYC processes and reporting of suspicious transactions. The scrutiny on Paytm has intensified as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) tightens oversight on fintech firms globally. Recent actions by the RBI include directing to cease certain operations of PPBL due to non-compliance issues, affecting One97 Communications despite its 49% stake in the banking entity. The RBI's stricter stance comes as concerns over customer due diligence, data privacy, and systemic risks prompt a reevaluation of oversight mechanisms, primarily

focusing on digital customer identification practices.

In response, the RBI has increased inspections and meetings with fintech companies, aiming to tighten compliance and ensure the integrity of the financial ecosystem.

The evolving regulatory landscape may lead to higher compliance and capital requirements for fintech firms, potentially resulting in sector consolidation. Industry stakeholders like Ashish Fafadia of Blume Ventures believe this scrutiny will foster compliance and support investment in law-abiding companies.

Premature move on monetary policy front could undermine efforts to check inflation: RBI

MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank of India's job to bring down inflation is not over, and any premature move on the policy front could undermine the success achieved so far on the price situation, according to RBI governor Shaktikanta Das. According to the minutes of the February Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting released by the central bank on Thursday, Das had said at this juncture, monetary policy must remain vigilant and "not assume that our job on the inflation front is over". He stressed that the MPC must remain



committed to successfully navigate the "last mile" of disinflation that can be sticky.

Das made the remarks while voting for status quo in the key interest rate earlier this month.

"As markets are front-running central banks in anticipation of policy pivots, any premature move may undermine the success achieved so far," the governor said, as per the minutes.

100% FDI in space sector a game changer: IN-SPACE chairman Pawan

BENGALURU: A day after the union cabinet, in line with the Centre's reforms to open up the space sector, allowed 100% foreign direct investment (FDI) under the automatic route, space regulator and promoter Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre

(IN-SPACE) chairman Pawan Goenka termed it a "game-changing decision that will propel India to new heights in the space sector".

Lauding PM Narendra Modi's vision Goenka said the move will boost participation of non-government entities in space research and man-

ufacturing. "By opening doors for massive investment and global collaboration, this move will transform India's space capabilities," he said.

Elaborating on the impact, Goenka said that this reform comes at an opportune time when the space sector is witnessing massive growth.

CAPSULES

Byju Raveendran, board to skip 'procedurally invalid' extraordinary general meeting

MUMBAI: A day ahead of the extraordinary general meeting (EGM) which a group of Byju's major investors have called to seek removal of Byju Raveendran from position of CEO as well as a reconstitution of the firm's board, Byju's said that Raveendran and the board members will not attend the EGM which it said is "procedurally invalid." Following the resignation of representatives of Prosus, Peak XV Partners and Chan Zuckerberg Initiative from the board of Byju's in June last year, it has been reduced to a family-run entity, comprising Raveendran, his wife and co-founder Gokulnath and his brother Riju Raveendran. "This EGM is procedurally invalid, contractually in contravention of our AOA (Articles of Association) and SHA (Shareholders Agreement), legally on the wrong side of the Companies Act, 2013," a company spokesperson said in a statement on Thursday. Byju's said that with Raveendran and board members deciding to skip the EGM, it will not have the required quorum and cannot proceed to discuss or vote on the agenda. "As custodians of Byju's, it is the responsibility of the founders to respect the established procedures of law and protect the company's integrity," the company added. The EGM is supposed to take place on Friday morning, according to the EGM notice reviewed by investors. Investors claim that they will hold the EGM as per plan but if the resolutions are put to vote, then they will test the law in court, lawyers said.

Indians extremely demanding, but unwilling to pay: Uber CEO

BENGALURU: Uber CEO Dara Khosrowshahi said that Indians are extremely demanding, but unwilling to pay. The Uber top boss was in conversation with Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani in Bengaluru on Thursday at an interactive session on building population scale technology. "India is one of the toughest markets out there. If we can succeed here, we can succeed anywhere," Khosrowshahi said. Uber is also planning to expand to low-cost service segments of two-



and three-wheelers in India. The company will be getting into bus services in some of the geographies. "It is also an extraordinary opportunity for us to expand our services to a wider population. We don't just want to be an upper-middle-class product. We want to be available to everybody."

Khosrowshahi said companies and govts around the world can learn from the scale and ambition of India's digital public infrastructure. He added that as a technology company, Uber views open-source tech stacks with a lot of interest and recognises the opportunities they bring for everyone.

Khosrowshahi said that Uber's approach has changed since the pandemic. As much as the focus is on the customers, he also said there is a growing focus on improving the experience for its drivers. Uber has signed an MoU with the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) to explore an integration with the network to expand the range of mobility offerings on the Uber app. Khosrowshahi said that Uber made \$3 billion in terms of profits during the pandemic.

Bank deposits losing sheen? Why more savers are moving to higher-yielding investment

One of the reasons for the decline in CASA ratios could be the increase in bank fixed deposit rates. Bank deposits losing sheen? Indian banks are facing a significant challenge as the preference of urban savers shifts towards higher-yielding investment options like mutual funds and direct stock ownership. This trend is eroding the banks' biggest strength - access to low-cost current and savings account deposits. The rise of technology and the increasing familiarity with Dalal Street (the Indian stock market) among rural savers are



further intensifying the struggle for deposits in the banking industry. This democratization of technology is fundamentally changing the dynamics of financial savings, to the disadvantage of traditional high-street banks.

As of September 2023, the collective CASA ratio (current and savings account deposits) of all commercial banks in India stands at 40.5%, down from 43.1% in March 2023 and 45.2% in March 2022. This is a decline of nearly 5 per-

centage points in 18 months, according to report. One of the reasons for the decline in CASA ratios could be the increase in bank fixed deposit rates. State Bank of India's CASA ratio dropped to 41.18% as of December 31, 2023, a decline of 330 basis points compared to the previous year. P R Rajagopal, executive director of Bank of India, highlighted the shift in savings patterns, particularly in urban areas. Digitization has provided savers with access to alternative savings products like mutual funds, reducing their reliance.

'India to be small aircraft maker ATR's biggest market in 5 years'

NEW DELHI: Franco-Italian regional aircraft major ATR sees India emerge as its biggest market in the next five years. And as that happens, the turboprop-maker says "it will be foolish not to increase our footprint here" in terms of sourcing of components, pilot training and others. "India currently has 65 ATRs - 45 with IndiGo and 20 with Alliance Air. IndiGo is to get five more. Startup carrier Fly91 (which is being launched by aviation industry veteran Manoj Chacko) will get its first leased ATR anytime now and the second in a week or so," Jean-Pierre Clercin, ATR's head of commercial for Asia Pacific, said. "Indonesia has about 100 ATRs and is currently our biggest mar-



ket. India and Brazil come after that. But the way Indian economy and air travel in the country is booming, within five years India will have the maximum ATRs given the government's focus on regional air transport through ude desh ka aam naagrik (UDAN) scheme," Clercin said. ATR feels India will need 50-150 such planes in the next decade. "That is the official estimation. But given the way India is developing, the actual number could be even higher. Much higher," he said. The turboprop major is

in talks with several Indian airlines for more orders. "The focus here is on regional and ATR is for that. So we are talking to all the airlines in India," he said. Asked if ATR plans to make in India, Clercin said: "We do already have a presence in India. There are some simulators (for pilot training) operated by third parties in India. The footprint depends a lot on the size of the markets, and India is one of the most promising aviation markets globally. We've seen the amazing resilience of the country.

Foreigners pursue every avenue to access hot India bond trade

Overseas investors are showing such keen interest in India assets that they are taking proxy exposure to the country even if they don't have the license or physical presence to trade there. Foreign funds lacking direct access to India's \$1 trillion government debt market are increasing their exposure via instruments such as supranational bonds and swaps ahead of the nation's upcoming inclusion in global bond indexes. There's an "increased engagement from global investors, with momentum picking up this year," said Siddharth Bachawat, head for markets at Barclays Bank India. "In addition to interest from index-tracking managers ahead of the inclusion, discretionary activity from a



wider investor base has also been notable." Indian sovereign bonds have gained prominence after JPMorgan Chase & Co's move to add them to its global debt indexes from June. The number of issuances by sovereign, supranational and agency entities offering investors an exposure to the country rose to a record in 2023, with the value of such offerings reaching \$3.2 billion, a five-year high, data compiled by

Bloomberg show. "There's been a marked increase in the sales of rupee-denominated supranational, sovereign and agency debt," said Wontae Kim, research analyst at Western Asset Management. Investors such as William Blair Investments and M&G Investments are venturing into supranational bonds. Issued by multilateral agencies like the World Bank and denominated in Indian rupees, these

triple-A rated notes give overseas investors exposure to local debt without having to secure a license to operate onshore. "Given India's disinflation trend and improved technical outlook with impending index inclusion, we favor duration in India," said Johnny Chen, fund manager at William Blair in Singapore. Also, buyers don't have to pay 20% withholding tax as these securities are settled offshore, which results in higher yields, according to Claudia Calich, head of emerging-market debt at M&G Investments in London. "Even if the pretax yield on supranational bonds tends to be lower than on India government debt, the yield is higher on an after-tax basis.

Attach bank accounts of ex-promoters of DHFL: Sebi

NEW DELHI: Markets regulator Sebi has ordered the attachment of bank accounts as well as shares and mutual fund holdings of Dheeraj Wadhawan and Kapil Wadhawan - former promoters of Dewan Housing Finance - to recover dues totalling over Rs 22 lakh. This came after the brothers failed to pay the fine imposed on them by Sebi in July last year in a case concerning the flouting of disclosure norms. The pending dues of Rs 10.6 lakh each from the Wadhawans comprise the initial penalty amount, interest, and recovery cost, it added. In July 2023, the regulator imposed a Rs 10 lakh penalty each on Wadhawans, who were promoters of DHFL, for flouting disclosure norms. Kapil Wadhawan was the chairman & MD, while Dheeraj Wadhawan was a non-executive director.

Tech-savvy 'handlers' manage exam chaos from paper leak to student training

Delhi: Port cargo, the police dog squad, political campaigns, and even spy rings are no longer the only jobs for a "handler". The NEET-UG paper leak conspiracy investigators know how "handlers" function in the shadowy nationwide test business based in Bihar and Jharkhand. "The nine handlers arrested in the NEET-UG case so far - six in Jharkhand and three in Bihar are tech-savvy individuals who played a crucial role in orchestrating the leak of question papers, training examinees who paid for these to memorise the answers, and even escorting them to their respective centres," a top cop said. The six suspects from Jharkhand's Deoghar lived in rented housing as laborers. The task was to provide leaked papers while retaining secrecy and identity. "Once a particular exam got over, they would get to work on identifying the chinks in the system for the next one," he claimed. These handlers sought pretextual connections with coaching centers, schools, and colleges to grow their clientele. They sought out exam officials to bribe for useful information. On the morning of the NEET-UG exam, Bihar Police raided a safe house on a tip-off and found evidence of these



handlers herding roughly 30 applicants into Ram Krishna Nagar on Patna's outskirts. "Examinees memorized leaked question papers all night. Personal automobiles were used to bring them to their exam centers, with all necessary safety precautions." Officer noted. Around 2010, online entrance exam form submission replaced mail-in applications nationwide. Fraudsters and dishonest authorities exploited old system weaknesses. "Before online forms, exam centers assigned roll numbers based on application envelope receipt. A Bihar-based IPS officer said criminals sent many application forms in one envelope using codes like 'bogies' and 'engine' to allude to candidates and their proxies. "This strategy ensured that all these candidates were allocated roll numbers for the same examination centre and hall, facilitating cheating."

NTA held UGC NET June 2024, with almost 9 lakh students

Delhi: The NTA administered the University Grants Commission's National Eligibility Test (UGC NET) 2024 June session. The national autonomous testing agency reported that 11 lakh 21 thousand students registered for the UGC NET 2024 June session, and 9.08 lakh took the exam. The NTA's next big national exam is the UGC NET June 2024 exam after the NEET UG Result fiasco. In its recent notice on successful conduct of UGC NET June 2024, the NTA noted that 11,21,225 candidates took the exam at 1205 Exam Centres in 317 locations nationwide. The National Testing Agency (NTA) administered the UGC-NET June 2024 test to 83 topics in OMR (Pen and Paper) format in two shifts. The announcement further noted that 11,21,225 individuals enrolled for the UGC-NET June 2024 Examination, including 6,35,587 females,



Bihar High Court reverses 65% job, college quota boost

Delhi: The Patna high court struck down Bihar's decision last year to raise caste-based quotas to 65%, ruling that merit could not be sacrificed for reparations. The ruling will have major political and social repercussions. After a caste survey showed that these groups made up 84% of Bihar's population, the state raised the quota for SCs, STs, EBCs, and OBCs in educational institutions and government jobs

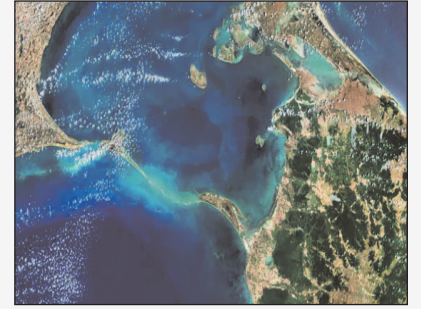
from 50% to 65% last year. The court recognized that backward communities were properly represented in public employment and that the government had done no in-depth investigation or analysis before increasing reservation above the Supreme Court's 1992 Indira Sawhney limit. "We set aside the Bihar Reservation of Vacancies in Posts and Services (for Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes.

4,85,579 males, and 59 Third Gender candidates. This was up from 9,45,872 UGC-NET Exam registrations in December 2023. About 81% of enrolled

CAPSULES

European Space Agency shares high-resolution 'Ram Setu' image

Between Rameswaram Island on India's south-east coast and Mannar Island on Sri Lanka's northwest coast, the Ram Setu runs 48 kilometers. The Ram Setu, or Adam's Bridge, a network of shoals connecting India and Sri Lanka, was recently photographed by the European



Space Agency in great detail. Copernicus Sentinel-2 satellites captured the image. Satellites with an innovative wide-swath high-resolution multispectral imager with 13 spectral bands offer a unique view of land and vegetation. Between Rameswaram Island on India's south-east coast and Mannar Island on Sri Lanka's northwest coast, the Ram Setu runs 48 kilometers. It divides the Indian Ocean's Gulf of Mannar from the Bay of Bengal's Palk Strait. One bridge end is on Mannar Island.

The 130-square-kilometer island is connected to mainland Sri Lanka by a road and railway bridge at its southern end. Pamban Island (Rameswaram Island) is the bridge's other end. The 2-km Pamban Bridge connects India to the island. Pamban on the western tip and Rameswaram 10 kilometers east are the island's principal settlements.

MEA is reducing passport police verification time

Delhi: External affairs minister S Jaishankar said that the ministry is working with state and Union territory police forces to speed up passport applicant police verification to strengthen the passport delivery ecosystem. On Passport Seva Divas, Jaishankar said his ministry is committed to ensuring that passports facilitate international trade and investment and improve worldwide mobility to boost the country's growth. The government opened 440 Post Office Passport Seva Kendras to improve passport services. This complements the 93 Passport Seva Kendras, 533 passport processing centers, and 37 regional passport offices nationwide.



The ministry integrated passport issuance systems in 187 Indian missions abroad. Jaishankar said the government is working with States/UTs police to reduce police verification time to facilitate passport delivery. He added that 9,000 police stations in 25 states and Union territories have implemented the "mPassport Police App,"

which streamlines police verification. "The Passport Seva System has also been integrated successfully with DigiLocker to facilitate paperless documentation," he said. Jaishankar told the Lok Sabha in December 2023 that police verification takes 14 days nationwide. He claimed states and Union territories that have implemented the

mPassport Police App have reduced police verification time to less than five days. A standard passport, without police verification, takes seven to 10 days to issue, whereas a Tatkaal passport takes one to three days, Jaishankar said. "Police verification of applicants' particulars plays an important role in timely passport dispatch," he stated. In his message, Jaishankar said the government is committed to ensuring that passports facilitate international trade and investment, tourism, global mobility, education and skills development, diplomatic ties, security and regulation, and legal identity.

A warning against bogus syllabuses and sample question papers is released by CBSE

Delhi: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) issued a warning alert informing parents and students to be wary of false information pertaining to the curriculum, study guides, and practice exams for the 2024-25 school year. The Board has issued a warning to pupils about the dangers of falling for online scams that spread false information. We've noticed that some websites and online portals are disseminating stale information and unreli-

able updates about curriculum, sample question papers, CBSE resources, and activities. The alert said, "These links and news erroneously assert to offer up-to-date information for the session 2024-25. "In the interest of the public, we wish to emphasize that information from unauthorized sources can be misleading and may cause unnecessary confusion among schools, students, parents, and other stakeholders," it continued. Due to significant discrepancies

between theory and practical scores in a few courses, CBSE has recently instructed schools to assess practical exams appropriately.

In a notification, the CBSE said that, based on data from prior years' results, it had used sophisticated AI techniques to identify significant disparities between theory and practical grades in specific courses among 50% or more students in about 500 CBSE-affiliated schools.

48% of 1,563 grace-marked candidates skip NEET-UG retest

Delhi: The National Testing Agency (NTA) reported that only 813 or 52% of the 1,563 candidates who were initially awarded grace marks in the National Eligibility Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) before they were withdrawn last week took a retest. Affected students who did not retake were allowed to keep their scores without grace marks. Two candidates from Chandigarh did not take the exam, but 219 from 602 in Chhattisgarh, one from Gujarat, 287 from 494 in Haryana, and 234 from 464 in Meghalaya took the retest. NTA released the data after the exam was held at seven centers in five states and one union territory. The 1,563 students' retest was held days after the Centre scrapped their grace marks, taking the first step toward solv-



ing India's premier medical entrance exam's paper leak crisis, which threatens hundreds of thousands of children's futures. Candidates received grace marks for time lost on the May 5 exam. The Centre informed the Supreme Court that 1,563 students' scorecards will be withdrawn and they could take a new exam or keep their scores without grace marks. Thousands of students have protested this year's medical exam, and opposition parties have called for its scrapping and a Supreme Court-moni-

tored probe into paper leaks. Last week, Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan denied paper leak claims and reaffirmed the government's commitment to student interests. The Centre replaced Subodh Kumar Singh as NTA director general with IAS officer Pradeep Singh Kharola. It also organized a seven-member committee to investigate the authority's structure, protocols, and operations after a series of key national exams involving millions of candidates were mishandled.

In sweeping election-year move, Biden offers citizenship to American spouses

Delhi: In an election year move that contrasts with Republican competitor Donald Trump's promise for mass deportations, President Joe Biden unveiled a broad endeavor to provide hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants married to U.S. citizens a path to citizenship. At a White House event, Biden attacked Trump for splitting migrant families at the U.S.-Mexico border and calling illegal immigrants "poisoning the blood of our country." He's speaking these things out loud, which is hard to believe. Totally absurd, "Biden said. "I'm not into border or immigration politics. I want to fix things." The new Biden program will be open to an estimated 500,000 wives who have lived in the U.S. for at least 10 years as of June 17, officials announced. The program will also include



50,000 U.S.-citizen children under 21. Biden, a Democrat seeking a second term in the Nov. 5 election, promised to reverse Trump's stringent immigration policies. In response to unprecedented migrant arrests at the U.S.-Mexico border, Biden has intensified his approach. The president stopped most migrants crossing the U.S.-Mexico border from requesting asylum earlier this month, echoing a Trump-era asylum restriction and drawing outrage from immigration advocates and Democrats. Biden's planned legalization program for spouses of U.S. citizens might bolster his campaign nar-

rative that he supports a more humanitarian immigration system and contrast him with Trump, who has long opposed both legal and illegal immigration. "The Statue of Liberty is not some relic of American history," he remarked. "It still stands for who we are." The scheme may be challenged in court and ended by a future administration. Texas Governor Greg Abbott, a Republican who has sued Biden over immigration policies, called the new effort "blatantly illegal" and "pandering for votes." The U.S. allows married immigrants who entered legally on visas to become citizens.

At Paavo Nurmi Games, Neeraj Chopra beats Max Dehning easily, easing fitness concerns

Delhi: It's impressive when Neeraj Chopra combines speed, strength, and technique. As India saw at night, his prowess was elegantly displayed at Turku's Paavo Nurmi Stadium. On his third attempt at the Paavo Nurmi Games 2024, Neeraj felt that perfect synergy of speed, strength, and



technique before anyone else as the reigning Olympic and world champions celebrated with a loud cheer and the index finger pointing skyward before the javelin landed. After landing, the LCD indicated 85.97m. That was enough for the Indian athlete to win the World Athletics Continental Tour Gold event. Neeraj led the field with his first javelin throw of 83.63m on his first competitive effort since 15 May. Soon after, local boy Oliver Helander threw 83.96m to lead. Only for Neeraj to repeat. Neeraj shines in huge tournaments and key times, and he answered quickly to the Turku challenge with the largest throw of the day. He failed to exceed that distance in his next two efforts, but it wasn't necessary. Toni Keranen of Finland placed second with an 84.19m throw, while Helander placed third. Neeraj may have thrown harder if challenged, but most of the contestants battled with rhythm that evening. Two-time world champion Anderson Peters of Grenada threw 82.58m, while 2012 London Olympics winner Keshorn Walcott of Trinidad and Tobago threw 81.93m.

The Google, Amazon, Apple lobby opposes India's EU like antitrust legislation



Delhi: A letter shows that a U.S. lobby organization representing Google, Amazon, and Apple has urged India to reconsider its EU-like competition law, warning that data use laws and partner preferential treatment could hike customer costs. In February, a government panel proposed imposing obligations on a few big digital companies in India under a new antitrust law to complement existing regulations whose enforcement the

panel said is "time-consuming." India's "Digital Competition Bill" is modeled after the EU's landmark Digital Markets Act 2022. Big enterprises with a global revenue of over \$30 billion and digital services with at least 10 million local customers will be affected, including some of the world's largest IT corporations. It would ban firms from using user data to promote their own services and remove limits on third-party app downloads.

"Targeted companies are likely to reduce investment in India, pass on increased prices for digital services, and reduce the range of services," warns. The USIBC, which has asked India to reconsider the new law, the Corporate Affairs Ministry, Apple (AAPLO), Amazon (AMZN.O), and Google did not respond to Reuters queries. India's 1.4 billion people and expanding affluent class make it an attractive market for digital companies.

Global tech partner sought by ONGC for Mumbai High

Delhi: To boost output from Mumbai High, the largest oilfield in India that is still producing almost 50 years after it began operations, state-run exploration company ONGC is looking for long-term technical cooperation abroad. On June 1, the firm declared its intention to go public and invited bids from "internationally-proven" technological service providers that could work with it for ten years, with the possibility of a five-year extension, and had a minimum yearly revenue of \$75 billion. Bids end on July 15th. For the first time, ONGC is looking for a technological partner outside. In



order to unlock the "significant" upside in output, the business brass wants to implement best-in-class reservoir management technologies and globally-best operational and management techniques, even though an internal pool of experts has demonstrated their

ability to maintain production over time.

The chosen service provider would conduct an exhaustive analysis of field performance and pinpoint enhancements in reservoirs and wells, encompassing water injection and facilities administration.

Zee Board approves 2,000cr share sale hike

Delhi: The board approved Zee Entertainment Enterprises' Rs 2,000 crore share sale. Zee's merger with Sony Pictures Networks India failed in January. Zee cut costs and increased earnings once the acquisition failed. It also ended a \$1.4 billion Walt



Disney cricket broadcasting pact. The funding may be done in tranch-

es, it noted. The Punit Goenka-led company would use the capital for "future growth opportunities in the evolving media landscape". Zee has requested a \$90 million agreement termination fee from Sony India after the merger plan collapsed following legal fights.

For improved asset liability management, RBI raises the bulk deposit barrier to Rs 3 crore from Rs 2 crore

Delhi: The Reserve Bank of India raised the bulk fixed deposit threshold to Rs 3 crore from Rs 2 crore to improve bank asset liability management. Bulk fixed deposits earn somewhat more than retail term deposits because banks offer varying rates for liquidity management. Retail fixed deposits now include Scheduled Commercial Banks (excluding Regional Rural Banks) and Small Finance Banks single-rupee term deposits up to Rs 2 crore. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das announced the bi-monthly policy to redefine bulk deposits as 'Single Rupee term deposit of Rs 3 crore and above' for SCBs



(excluding RRBs) and SFBs after reviewing the bulk deposit ceiling. Also, Local Area Banks' bulk deposit ceiling should be 'Single Rupee term deposits of Rs 1 crore and above' like RRBs. The review is routine. It was one

crore a few years ago, then two, and now Rs 3 crore to keep up with the times. It may improve asset liability management for banks, helping them classify bulk and retail, "RBI Deputy Governor Swaminathan J told the media. As for fears that it may raise deposit costs, the deputy governor said it depends on the entity. "There may not be a systemic influence, but certain organizations' liability management may have a positive or negative impact. "We don't expect any systemic impact from this change," Swaminathan said. This will simplify business and increase operational flexibility for authorized dealer banks.

TCS launches AI platform to accelerate GenAI adoption

Delhi: Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. (TCS) announced TCS AI WisdomNext to help its clients swiftly adopt new technologies like generative AI (GenAI) at cheap prices. Tech businesses are becoming GenAI-friendly, and this platform follows. The Mumbai-based software exporter was the first Indian IT company to unite AI and cloud operations into AI.Cloud. Instead of having separate teams for each client, the company would supply AI and cloud solutions



under one banner. WisdomNext would bundle different GenAI products and offer clients customized industry blueprints based on the company's experience in various industries. "TCS AI WisdomNext gives enterprises a choice to select the right large language models at an optimal

cost," Ganesan said 100 customers in banking, financial services, retail, consumer goods, travel, manufacturing, life sciences, and healthcare used WisdomNext. Krishna Mohan Reddy, vice-president and deputy head of TCS's AI.Cloud branch, said the platform worked on sales, marketing, code development, and real-time supply chain improvements. TCS CTO Harrick Vin claimed the WisdomNext platform would increase jobs, not replace them.

Sebi alerts PolicyBazaar over the purchase in Dubai

Delhi: PB Fintech, the business behind the insurance-tech platform PolicyBazaar, is under investigation by market regulator Sebi for failing to disclose a \$2 million investment in a company based in Dubai. Yashish Dahiya, the CEO and chair of PB Fintech, has received a show-cause notice from Sebi, the business informed the exchanges. "The SCN pertains to investment of \$2 million by PB Fintech, Dubai on Nov 17, 2022 for 26.7% stake in YKNP Marketing Management (an unrelated party) which was not considered unpublished price sensitive information (UPSI) due to non-material value of the transaction," the business stated. It is made clear that the SCN has no appreciable effect on the company's operations,



Stocks will be credited to your demat account without going via a broker

Delhi: Regulator Sebi has ordered that, starting on October 14, investors will receive the equities they purchased straight to their demat accounts from clearing businesses in an effort to reduce

market risks. At the moment, clearing companies credit equities to brokers who then credit the stocks to the individual investors. Broker assistance in crediting stocks to buyers'.

counsel in order to act appropriately on the SCN in a timely manner."

Indira killer's son lost dad at 6, had no school money.

Delhi: Sarabjit Singh Khalsa, 46, won the Faridkot parliamentary seat as an independent after a difficult political debut. On the revival of Panthic politics in Punjab, Sarabjit Singh, a 1995 matriculant, and self-styled Sikh preacher Amritpal Singh, who is in prison, were voted to LS. These two independent candidates won in the 40th anniversary week of 1984's Operation Bluestar at the Golden Temple, which led to Indira Gandhi's assassination in October and a Sikh massacre in Delhi in November. Sarabjit remembers occasions when his family couldn't afford his school tuition. "My



father didn't care for the family and laid down his life... Sikh community support pulled my family through troubled times and elected my mother and grandfather to Parliament." Sarabjit Singh, who lost three elections, wasn't a viable competitor until Amritpal entered the race. His effort attracted Sikh preachers, ragis, and dhadis, changing Faridkot's stance. His effort soon became a Sikh movement to

settle his father's "debt" for "avenging" 1984's terrorist-flush-out military raid on Harmandir Sahib, the holiest Sikh shrine. "Now that I have won, my priority will be to raise my voice in Parliament to ensure legally there is provision of death penalty for the heinous crime of sacrilege... we will field Panthic candidates in byelections and upcoming SGPC election," stated.

Stock rallies boost Naidu family's wealth by Rs 858 crore in 5 days



Delhi: The rebirth of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and its leader Chandrababu Naidu, who is kingmaker in the coalition government, has also helped his family's Heritage Foods business. His family's wealth has increased by Rs 858 crore in five days as Heritage Foods' share price has risen 64% from Rs 403 on Friday (May 31, 2024) to Rs 662, a 52-week high. The stock gained 82% in less than a month, raising his family's fortune by approximately Rs 989 crore in less than a month. These estimates are based on Naidu's fami-

ly's 35.7% dairy company shareholding. In addition to his wife Nara Bhuvaneshwari, who runs the company as MD, Naidu's son Nara Lokesh owns about 10.8% of the company. Naidu's daughter-in-law Nara Brahmani (0.5%) and grandson Devaansh Nara (0.1%) also own less than 1% of the company. As Heritage Foods' share prices rose by over Rs 298, and Rs 259 a share, the company's market capitalization rose from Rs 3,371 crore on May 13 to Rs 3,738 crore on May 31, a day before the exit polls, to Rs 6,141 crore.

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

Odisha to sponsor Hockey India till 2036

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

NTCA seeks states on relocation of villages from tiger reserves

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Curfew partially lifted in clash-hit Balasore town

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

CAPSULES

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

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