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MORNING EDITION PRAYAGRAJ Friday, 06 September, 2024 UNIQUE GIFT OF KRIYAYOGA ASHRAM AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE TO GIVE IMPETUS TO WORLD BUILDING AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.

India tightens check to ensure no Chinese parts in defence drones

NEW DELHI: The Indian defence establishment is now working out a stringent mechanism to ensure that military drones being acquired from domestic private sector companies do not have Chinese components in them, even as the Army has called drone manufacturers to showcase their products in a high-altitude area in Ladakh later this month.

An "appropriate methodology", with the requisite technical evaluation parameters, is being formulated to prevent Chinese components and electronics from finding their way into the drones. Various methods are being deliberated upon to strengthen this framework, Army Design Bureau additional director general Major General C S Mann said on Wednesday. This urgent requirement has come to the fore after the defence ministry recently put an order for 200 medium-altitude logistics drones for the Army on hold, asking the manufacturer to



Nurses, patients seek inclusion in task force for med staff safety

As many as 11 of 14 members of NTF are senior doctors even though senior doctors constitute barely 3% of employees of a hospital or medical college. Associations are hopeful that the CJJ will con-

sider their representations when the case comes up for next hearing. "Nurses bring invaluable insights and experiences that are essential in crafting effective and inclusive safety regulation. prove it had not used Chinese components. The drones were primarily meant for deployment along the northern borders with China. The MoD's department of defence production has also asked industry bodies Ficci, CII and ASSOCHAM to "sensitise and caution" their member companies from procuring Chinese

components for drones and other related equipment. Amid the military confrontation with China in eastern Ladakh, which is into its fifth year now, the armed forces have gone in for the procurement of a wide array of drones. These range from nano, mini and micro kamikaze, logistics,

armed swarms and fighter-size Males (medium-altitude, long-endurance) and HALE (high-altitude, long-endurance) UAVs. Maj General Mann said the Army will host the 'Him-Drone-A-Thon' for domestic companies to showcase their "drone solutions for high-altitude areas" at Wari La, near Leh.

'New med texts fail to save rights of disabled, LGBTQ+'

NEW DELHI: Two international organisations that work for disability inclusion in medical education and for transgender health, respectively, have threatened to complain to the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) seeking temporary suspension of the National Medical Commission's (NMC) recognition by the world body for violation of existing laws to protect the rights of persons with disabilities.

There were 5 hijackers in the plane. We were all scared and didn't have any idea about our whereabouts. We were given nothing to eat, except a small apple on a day," she added. Recollecting

'Don't know why controversy, Bhola, Shankar names factual': IC-814 passenger on Netflix row

NEW DELHI: Amid row over Netflix series regarding the names used to portray the hijackers of IC-814 flight in 1999, a passenger relived her experience and said that Bhola and Shankar were the real names. "I don't know why people are making a controversy around the series. The series is based on a real event and the names of the hijackers -- Bhola and Shankar -- used in the series are also factual," Pooja Kataria, who was on the flight when it got hijacked, said.

Reliving her horror, Kataria recalled, "We were returning from Nepal when the aeroplane got hijacked. 1x1 polls There were 176 passengers on the flight. Just half an hour after the flight took off, it was hijacked."

how the hijackers celebrated her birthday on the flight, Kataria said, "One of the hijackers who was



Centre moves SC, accuses Mamata gov't of hindering CISF security

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Tuesday filed an application in the Supreme Court regarding the deployment of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel at the RG Kar Medical College in Kolkata where a doctor was brutally raped and murdered on August 9, accusing the West Bengal government of not cooperating in providing logistical support to the security team. The application highlighted significant challenges faced by the

CISF personnel, including inadequate accommodation, lack of security equipment, and insufficient transportation, which the Centre said was hindering their ability to perform their duties effectively. In its application, the Centre sought a directive for the West Bengal government to fully cooperate with the CISF and comply with a previous Supreme Court order dated August 20. It added that the Bengal government's

called Burger celebrated my birthday on the hijacked plane and also gifted me his shawl on that day."

Unnao survivor faces eviction as rent stops

NEW DELHI: The survivor in the 2017 Unnao rape case, who had moved to the capital a few years ago, is on the verge of losing her accommodation because since July, the Delhi government has not paid rent. This amount is reimbursed by the Uttar Pradesh government. The 23-year-old survivor, who is married and seven-months pregnant with her second child, says her landlord has been threatening to cut off power, and evict her. The woman was gang-raped on June 4, 2017, in Unnao when she was 16. On Dec 16, 2019, former BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar was convicted of the crime and on Dec 20, sentenced to life imprisonment. He was also found guilty in the case of her father's death in judicial custody. Unnao survivor faces eviction as rent stops. Citing police inaction in the rape case and her father being arrested on false charges, the survivor had attempted to immolate herself.

Less visible & shorter shifts: MHA-appointed panel to review airport security suggests major changes

NEW DELHI: Security at Indian airports is all set to move to the next level by becoming less obtrusive and more high-tech. Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel could be relieved from checking ticket details & matching them with photo I cards at terminal entry to allow passenger access — something that can be done by private agency guards — so that the former can focus completely on keeping airports secure. And the exhaustive upto eight-hour shifts that most personnel perform at airports could be reduced to ensure a fully alert watch. Govt sources say the Union home ministry had some time back set up a committee under recently retired IPS officer M A Ganapathy, an expert in aviation security, to study the existing security setup at airports and recommend changes. They add the committee has submitted its recommendations to the Govt which, if accepted and implemented, will lead to less visible but more effective security at airports. At present uniformed personnel in large numbers are deployed at terminals. The panel is learnt to have sought a mix of uniformed and plain clothes security personnel as that would reduce the unease among general public and at the same time enhance security. Airport security, the report is learnt to have stressed, must be inconspicuously foolproof. Govt sources say the committee is not in favour with continuing the long duration (upto eight-hour) shifts of security personnel as that leads to fatigue and less alertness, apart from negatively impacting their health. It has recommended shorter periods of duty to ensure more alert personnel who are the first responders in any crisis and have to hold fort till backup reaches the location. The committee has also recommended sufficient deployment of personnel.

Delhi breathes easy: Weeklong rainfall cleans up city's air, Nazafgarh clocks 25 on AQI

NEW DELHI: The recent spells of rain has brought much-needed relief to Delhi and its neighboring cities, leading to a noticeable improvement in air quality. Nazafgarh recorded an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 25, a rarity in a city that usually struggles with high pollution levels. This reading can be considered almost heavenly for the capital. As per the latest data, as of 8am on



Thursday, Delhi's overall AQI stood at 76, which falls under the 'satisfactory' category. The Central Pollution Control Board also reported promising figures from various parts of the city, with Ashok Vihar registering an AQI of 49, Patparganj 54, Chandni Chowk 56, and Punjabi Bagh 58. However, the Anand Vihar area continued to experience air quality chal-

enges, with its AQI measured at 102, placing it in the "moderate" category. AQI Noida AQI According to the Central Pollution Control Board, the AQI in Noida was recorded as follows: Sector 125 at 65, Sector 62 at 54, and Sector 1 at 51. Gurgaon AQI The AQI in Gurugram's Sector 51 was 85, while Teri Gram recorded an AQI of 51.

Shivaji statue collapse: Tipped off by his wife, cops arrest sculptor of statue

KALYAN: The 39-year-old artist and ex-JJ School of Art alumnus, who was booked for the collapse of the Chhatrapati Shivaji statue, has been finally arrested following attempts by family and friends to persuade him to surrender to the authorities. Teams of Sindhudurg and Thane police were trying to locate the sculptor, Jaydeep Apte, a Kalyan resident with a workshop close to his house. Police sources



said Apte's last known destination was when he and a friend left for Malvan 10 days back to visit the site where the statue was erected. Apte was arrested on Wednesday outside his house. He was coming back to meet his fami-

ly. According to police, Apte had contacted his wife and informed her that he was returning home. She shared this information with the police.

Apte's family refused to speak to but according to police sources they were worried and wanted him to return home and cooperate in the probe. The police have now left for Malvan along with the sculptor to carry forward the probe.

Traffic violations frustrate Union mantri: 'Can't keep on increasing fines'

NEW DELHI: Expressing frustration at rampant violation of traffic rules despite steep hike in fines, Union road transport minister Nitin Gadkari on Wednesday wondered how many times or by how much can govt increase penalties to deter violators. He said there is also a need to induce behavioural change in road users. "We are using technology (ITS) for enforcement of traffic rules. We have increased fines for violations, but it's not yielding results because people are not taking them seriously. How much fine can we increase? It's a problem. This can be addressed only by changing human



behaviour with the involvement and cooperation of social and educational organisations," Gadkari said while addressing the World Safety conference. The govt amended the Motor Vehicle Act in 2019 with provisions of high fines and penalties expecting this would prove as a

deterrent. But these measures proved inadequate with violation of traffic and transport rules rising and the number of road crash fatalities actually increasing by around 6% from nearly 1.59 lakh in 2019 to 1.68 lakh in 2022. The minister said enforcement alone cannot bring down

crashes and fatalities, without focussing on changing road users behaviour by educating people and convincing them to follow road safety rules. On the rising number of two-wheeler riders' deaths due to riders not wearing helmets, he said he is looking at urging vehicle manufacturers.

Now, AI Delhi-Birmingham flight diverts to Russia



NEW DELHI: An Air India flight had to yet again divert to Russia. Luckily this time, the same aircraft was able to take off from there for its destination and an alternate plane did not need to be sent from India, unlike the last two times in just over a year. The most recent diversion took place on Wednesday when AI 113 operating from Delhi to Birmingham landed in Moscow. The Boeing 787 (VT-ANP) was there for about five hours and then took off for Birmingham. It safely reached its destination with a seven-hour delay. Comments have been sought from AI and are awaited.

'Civilization is on the line': Elon Musk on why Trump should win US elections



Tesla CEO Elon Musk has emphasized the need for Donald Trump to win the US elections to preserve freedom and meritocracy. Following an assassination attempt on Trump, Musk compared him to Theodore Roosevelt and criticized Kamala Harris. He also contributed financially to a super PAC supporting Trump's campaign, showcasing his growing political influence. "Civilization is on the line": Elon Musk on why Trump should win US elections Tesla CEO Elon Musk on Thursday reiterated his endorsement of Republican nominee Donald Trump and asserted that the former President must secure vic-

tory in the US elections because "civilization is on the line." In response to a post commending his ability to synthesize complex information, Musk pointed out the importance of Trump's win for preserving freedom and meritocracy in America. "I have never been materially active in politics before, but this time I think civilization as we know it is on the line," he wrote in a post on X. "If we want to preserve freedom and a meritocracy in America, then Trump must win," he added. Following an assassination attempt on the former President, Elon Musk fully backed Trump, comparing his toughness to that of Theodore Roosevelt.

Protest against NPS/UPS, demanding OPS

Prayagraj: On the call of Ateva, the fundamental right of social security, teachers and employees, today for the fourth day, teachers and employees wore black bands on their arms, working in the national interest, protesting against NPS/UPS and demanding OPS. State of Ateva Organization Minister Shri Ashok Kanojia, while addressing the people at Aadya Prasad Inter College, said that teachers and officers and employees should gear up for a big movement under the leadership of National President of ATEWA/NMOPS Vijay Kumar Bandhu by increasing the number of members as much as possible. To get the old pension which is the social security of the teachers and employees, one



has to accept nothing less than the old pension. The above information was given by Ravi Shankar Mishra, employee leader, district media in-charge of Ateva. 96 hours of Ateva Sushil Kumar Mishra, teacher and president of SRN Hospital, KK Pandey, while supporting Ateva's National Executive IT Cell member and District President Jitendra Kumar Jeetu for tying the black ribbon, said that the health department employees are with Ateva in every movement. Anubhan Singh of Krishak Inter College, Devi Prasad of Gomti Inter College, Suresh Pashi from Brijmandal Inter College, Lal Mani Yadav of Lavkush Inter College, Upendra Verma of Moti Lal Inter College, Anjali Singh of Phulpur, Preeti Brij, Shivaji Inter College. Ashok Patel, Ateva District Minister RK Yadav, Treasurer Narendra Kumar, Phoolchand Yadav from PWD, Rajendra Kumar Kesharwani, Ram Sufal Verma, Sanjeet Yadav, Suryaprakash Srivastava, Ram Achal Pal, Dharamraj Yadav, Vijay Bharat, Shambhu Nath, Rajendra Prasad etc. This movement was successful under the leadership.

P N Gadgil Jewellers Ltd IPO on Sept 10

Varanasi: P N Gadgil Jewellers Limited (the "Company") proposes to open its initial public offering ("Offer") on Tuesday, September 10, 2024. Bid/Offer Closing Date will be Thursday, September 12, 2024. Anchor Investor Bidding Date is one Working Day prior to Bid/Offer Opening Date, that is, Monday, September 09, 2024. The Price Band of the Offer has been fixed from ₹456 per Equity Share to ₹480 per Equity Share. Bids can be made for a minimum of 31 Equity Shares and in multiples of 31 Equity Shares thereafter. The Company's initial public offering comprises a fresh issue of equity shares of face value of ₹10 each aggregating up to ₹8,500 million and an offer for sale of equity shares of face value of ₹10 each aggregating up to ₹2,500 million. The total offer size comprises of equity shares of face value of ₹10 each aggregating up to ₹11,000 million. The offer for sale comprises of equity shares of face value of ₹10 each aggregating up to ₹2,500 million by SVG Business Trust (Promoter Selling Shareholder). The funds raised through the IPO are proposed to be utilized for: (i) the funding of expenditure towards setting-up of 12 new stores in Maharashtra; (ii) repayment or pre-payment, in full or part, of certain borrowings availed by the Company; and (iii) general corporate purposes.

DAM Capital Advisors files DRHP with SEBI

Varanasi: DAM Capital Advisors Limited has filed its Draft Red Herring Prospectus ("DRHP") with capital market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI"). DAM Capital is the fastest growing investment bank in India by revenue CAGR from Fiscals 2022 to 2024 with the highest profit margin in Fiscal 2024, among its peers. It also was one of the leading investment banks in India with a market share of 12.1% based on the number of IPOs and QIPs in Fiscal 2024. DAM Capital provides a wide range of financial solutions in areas of (i) investment banking comprising equity capital markets ("ECM"), mergers and acquisitions ("M&A"), private equity ("PE"), and structured finance advisory; and (ii) institutional equities comprising broking and research. The company's initial public offering comprises an offer for sale of up to 32.06 million shares by the investor selling shareholders - Multiples Alternate Asset Management, RBL Bank, Easyaccess Financial Services and Narotam Sekhsaria. Promoter Dharmesh Anil Mehta, is also selling a small part of his stake. NuVama Wealth Management Limited is the Book Running Lead Manager to the IPO.

Become member of BJP to protect Indian culture and Hindutva

BJP launches digital membership campaign

Prayagraj: BJP Digital Membership Campaign 2024 was launched by BJP Prayagraj Metropolitan at Meerapur Sabzi Mandi intersection. On this occasion, the chief guest of the program, former Cabinet Minister Narendra Kumar Singh Gaur said that Bharatiya Janata Party is the only party which is moral. It is a party based on values for which the country is first and this party is not just for politics but it has been a unique example of service to the nation and society. Our history has been of sacrifice and penance. He told the people present that you Indians are for the nation and society. On this occasion related to Janata Party, outgoing regional president and district in-charge Mahesh Chandra Srivastava, Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani and Metropolitan President Rajendra Mishra said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Bharatiya Janata Party became the largest party in the world and 140 crore people of the country. He said that Bharatiya Janata Party has exposed in front of the public the parties doing appeasement

politics for their vote bank in this country. He said that Bharatiya Janata Party is taking forward Indian culture which is visible all over the world today.

to protect Indian culture and Hindutva, become a member of Bharatiya Janata Party and answer the traitors sitting inside and outside the country. District

Dnyaneshwar Shukla, Ram Ji graced the occasion. Kesarwani, Girjesh Mishra, Brijesh Mishra, Shashank Shekhar Pandey, Shashi Varshney, Raju Pathak,



He said that Bharatiya Janata Party had done what his wife did and there is no difference in doing it. We had promised to build Ram Temple and fulfilled it. We had promised to remove Article 370 and fulfilled it and have resolved to make the country a developed nation. He will also complete it and said that to pro-

media in-charge Rajesh Kesarwani said that hundreds of people participated on this occasion. Took membership of BJP by dialing 8800 002024 through mobile. Program coordinator former councilor Giri Shankar Prabhakar welcomed the guests. Pramod Jaiswal conducted the program and thanked Rajesh Kesarwani.

Rajesh Kesarwani, Vivek Mishra, Gopal Ji Malviya, Councilor Kiran Jaiswal, Vijay Vaishya, Sunita Chopra Sahil Arora Rudra Sen Jaiswal Mayank Yadav, Ritesh Mishra Ranvijay Singh, Vijayalakshmi, Gaya Prasad Nishad, Chandan Shukla, Abhishek Singh, Vivek Gaur, etc. were hundreds of workers.

World's largest party BJP: Mahesh Chandra Srivastava

Prayagraj: Metropolitan in-charge in a press conference held at the party office in Civil Line regarding the BJP membership campaign which formally started in Prayagraj metropolitan on Thursday. Mahesh Chandra Srivastava said that the youth power of the country should come forward in the new construction of the country. There is a need for educated youth with good values in politics, hence the youth should come forward to take membership of the organization. He said that while other parties are engaged in serving familyism and personal interests, for BJP the nation comes first.

Modi government is the return of the era which made Mother India the golden bird of the world. The met-

campaign is being conducted. One can become a member of the party through a missed call on 8800002024.



ropolitan in-charge said that BJP is the only party which follows ideology. While presenting the blueprint, he said that 2024 is the organization year of BJP for which membership cam-

The campaign was launched on September 2 with the participation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. From 5 pm on 2 September to 3 pm on September 3, 10 lakh people had taken

membership of the organization. The campaign was started by party officials and public representatives in all the districts of the state from 4-5 September. There are to be 200 members at each booth. Metropolitan President Rajendra Mishra presided. District spokesperson Rajesh Kesarwani conducted the proceedings while the vote of thanks was given by media in-charge Vivek Mishra. On this occasion, Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani, Sanjay Srivastava, Shailesh Pandey, Deep Dwivedi, Kuldeep Mishra, Rakesh Bharti, Prashant Shukla, Shiva Tripathi, Vivek Gaur, Sanjay Singh, Anand Dubey, etc. were present.

Councilor Rudrasen Jaiswal declared Prez of Ancient Shri Dadhikando Committee Kydganj

Prayagraj: Meeting of Ancient Shri Dadhikando Committee Shankar Lal Bhargava Marg Keetganj Shri Panchayati very indifferent It was held in the courtyard of the Akhara in which the chief patron of the committee, Mahant Kothri Shri Shivanand Maharaj ji, with the unanimous consent of all the respected members of the committee, declared the outgoing chairman of the committee Pran Vijay Singh as the patron, councilor Rudrasen Jaiswal ji as the chairman of the committee. Media in-charge Rajesh Kesarwani declared Told that apart from this,



Kiran Jaiswal, Rajesh Kesarwani, Vivek Aggarwal, Pramod Jaiswal, Dilip Kesarwani, Raghavendra Mishra, Manoj Mishra, etc. people of the area congratulated all the newly appointed officials.

Satendra Tiwari Lal Bhai and Ankush Sharma were made General Secretaries and Dinesh Jaiswal was made Treasurer and Durgesh Sahu, Beauty Srivastava, Ratan Srivastava Satish Jaiswal were declared Vice Presidents and other officials will remain on their posts as before. On this occasion, the Committee

Rajesh Tiwari accorded grand welcome by Congmen

Prayagraj: On his first arrival in Prayagraj after becoming National Secretary of All India National Congress Committee and in-charge of Prayagraj Zone, Rajesh Tiwari in HRO Public School, Durjanpur Jhuni, under the leadership of Metropolitan President Prayagraj Pradeep Mishra Anshuman ji, met city officials, workers. A grand welcome was given by thousands of supporters and also 10 ward presidents and booth committees of Jhuni under Municipal Corporation Prayagraj included in 256 Phulpur Legislative Assembly were reviewed and necessary guidelines were given for the preparation of Phulpur Legislative Assembly by-election. Conduct of the program Diwakar Bhartiya presided over the welcome ceremony. Pradeep Mishra Anshuman ji presided. In his presiding speech, Anshuman ji said that in the last years, under the leadership of Shri Rajesh Tiwari ji, the organization of Prayagraj Zone became stronger and the party got success in the Lok Sabha elections. Once again, under your able leadership, the organization of Prayagraj Zone will strengthen the party by performing its tasks strongly and will repeat history by achieving success in the Phulpur Assembly by-election and also by winning the General Assembly elections of Uttar Pradesh in 2027 and will be successful in forming their government. Prominent in this welcome ceremony were Manish Mishra, Ujjwal Shukla, Brijendra Mishra, Rajesh Rakesh, Devi Pandey, Diwakar Bhartiya, Lallan Patel, Vinay Pandey, Istiaq Ahmed, Vinay Dubey, Ramesh Yadav, Aleem Hashmi, Dilip Patel, Pushpendra Bhartiya, Saurabh Srivastava, Mehboob Raine, Jitendra Bhartiya, Sujit Bhartiya, Photo Devi, Ghulam Khwaja, Ramesh Harijan, Shweta Srivastava, Pratima Tripathi etc. were prominently present.



Law students celebrated Teacher's Day AU

Prayagraj: Teacher's Day was celebrated grandly by the students of five year law course of Allahabad University. Faculty Dean Adesh Kumar, Law Five Year Course



Co-ordinator Sonal Shankar and other teachers were present on the occasion.

Prakash Utsav of Shri Guru Granth Sahib celebrated with pomp and show

Prayagraj: Sardar Harjinder Singh, who was elected as the Chief Sevadar of Shri Guru Singh Sabha, celebrated the Prakash Utsav of Shri Guru Granth Sahib with pomp and show

On Wednesday, the first Prakash Utsav of Dhan-Dhan Sahib Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji Maharaj Ji was celebrated with much pomp and devotion at Gurudwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha Prayagraj. In which the Diwan was decorated from 8:00 pm to 10:30 pm. The



devotees who came to the Gurudwara had darshan of Guru Sahib and received the blessings of Guru Maharaj. After Guru Ka Langar continued without any discrimination, thousands of people attended the langar.

After the langar, with the unanimous consent of the Sangat, Sardar Harjinder Singh, son of Late S. Joginder Singh Ji was elected as the Chief Sevadar of Gurudwara Shri Guru Singh Sabha Prayagraj. All the Sangat

Modern thinking of children seen in model exhibition: Bhagwati Singh

UP Board Secretary inaugurated exhibition, AD Basic awarded children

Prayagraj: Mahakumbh of Excellence Innovation and Creativity Fair was organized today on Teacher's Day at Gurukul Montessori School located in Phaphamau. This educational fair was inaugurated by UP Board Secretary Bhagwati Singh, Founder of Gurukul Montessori School, former DIG Kripashankar Singh, Director Devidra Kumar Singh, Deputy Director Ritesh Vikram Singh, Principal Mrs. Amita Mishra and Junior Wing Principal

Mrs. Alka Aggarwal. On the occasion of Teacher's Day, many scientific and creative models were installed by the children in the Mahakumbh of Excellence Innovation and Creativity Fair. In this, a glimpse of rural India to modern India was seen in the exhibition. UP Board Secretary Bhagwati Singh visited every stall of the exhibition set up by the children and saw the models prepared by them and talked to them and got information about them. He also praised the models pre-

pared by the children on the occasion of Teacher's Day.



UP Board Secretary Bhagwati Singh has greeted teachers on the occasion of Teacher's Day. He has said

that Kumbh is a symbol of perfection and in this cre-

stalled, which is showcasing his ability and hard work. He has said that just as children used to learn by being with their gurus in Gurukul, in the same way these children are also learning by doing from their gurus. On the occasion of Teacher's Day, he stressed on strengthening the relationship between teachers and children. He said that the children have prepared many models based on the knowledge given by the teachers. This is also a way of showing re-

spect and honor of children towards teachers on the occasion of Teacher's Day. He has said that this is the importance of education and teacher also. Additional Director of Education (Basic) of Uttar Pradesh Prayagraj Kamta Ram Pal awarded the winning children of the model exhibition. During this, the Principal of Jagat Taran Golden Jubilee, Mrs. Sushmita Kanungo and others were present. Program coordinator Dr. Vandana Singh expressed gratitude to the guests.

Head of Mirpur Sardar Ranjit Singh Khurana, Sardar Baljit Singh, Naman Jot Singh Royal, Sardar Romit Singh, Sardar Maninder Singh Chadda, Sardar Taranjit Singh, Manager of Khalsa Girls Inter College and other teachers. In which Sardar Paramjit Singh Sachdeva, Harjinder Kaur, Ravinder Kaur, Harvinder Kaur, Sardarni Satyendra Kaur, Sardarni Prabhjot Kaur and other Sangat were also present in the Darbar Hall.

Dance, skit organised on Teacher's Day at Ford School

Prayagraj: Teacher's Day was celebrated with great pomp by the students of Ford School and College situated at Qazipur Naini on Thursday. On this special occasion, the students honoured the chief guest, the school's



manager and Director Development of SHUATS, Prof. Dr. Ritu Prakash Dubey, Principal Mrs. Rajni Singh, Assistant Development Officer Dr. Anjani Saxena and their teachers by giving them bouquets and the students also gave beautiful colourful presentations, which included Poem Paath, dance and akrit. The importance of the teacher was described in all the presentations, the message of which was that the place of the Guru is the highest. School manager Dr. Prof. Ritu Prakash Dubey said that while maintaining the dignity of the teachers, become a skilled and successful person in the future and cooperate in the building of the society and the nation. After which she congratulated all the teachers for their hard work and efficient guidance.

Nutrition week celebrated in SHUATS

Prayagraj: Nutrition week was celebrated in the Food and Nutrition Department of SHUATS, Ethelind College of Community Science under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Ritu Prakash Dubey in which various types of competitions were organized. Dean Prof. (Dr.) Anshu while en-



couraging the students shared about the benefits of a balanced diet, good nutrition, and an active lifestyle to improve overall health. In this week-long program, students participated in diet counseling, food craft, poster slogan competitions. On the last day, all the students participating in the competition were encouraged by giving them certificates and prizes. Faculty members like Dr. Virginia Paul, Dr. Neeru Bala, Dr. Anisha Verma, Dr. Alka Gupta, Dr. Neha Mishra, Dr. Nida Shamim and Lalita Yadav contributed to make the program successful. The program was successfully conducted by Dr. Neda Shamim and Lalita Yadav.

Teachers are nation builder of society

Prayagraj: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, to honor the teachers of Saraswati Vidya Mandir Higher Secondary School, Shastri Nagar Sadiyapur, the school administrator R.N. Mehrotra, patron Dr. Anil Kalra and social worker Mohan Tandon Bhaiya and District President of Jewelers Association Dinesh Singh honored him by presenting Angavastram.



First of all, the program was started by offering flowers on the portrait of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. Chief guest Dr. Anil Kumar Kalra, in his address, described teachers as nation builders of the society and compared them to potters, just as potters create shapes according to themselves. Similarly, teachers also develop students. Principal Dinesh Kumar Dubey congratulated on Teacher's Day by throwing light on the life of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. The program was conducted by students Deeksha and Sonakshi.

Appointment of Sardar Harjinder Singh as Chief Sevdar hailed

Prayagraj: The meeting of District Mahila Vyapar Mandal was held at the registered office under the chairmanship of District President Avantika Tandon, in which yesterday, on the first Prakash Parv of Guru Ganth Sahib Ji in Gurdwara Shri Guru Singh Sabha, Sardar Harjinder Singh Jolly (Vicky Ji) was unanimously elected as the Chief of Gurdwara Shri Guru Singh Sabha Khuldabad. Happiness was expressed on be-

ing appointed Sevdar and it was hoped that Sardar Harjinder Singh would serve the Sikh community like his father Late Joginder Singh ji, he will do it with full heart, words and deeds. All the officials of the District Mahila Vyapar Mandal were present in the meeting and unanimously expressed immense happiness over the appointment of Sardar Harjinder Singh as the Chief Sevdar of Gurudwara Guru Singh Sabha, Khuldabad.

UDYOG SAMAGAM

Union Minister Piyush Goyal awarded Nandi representing UP in event

Prayagraj: On Thursday, Uttar Pradesh was declared the top achiever in the field of business and citizen-centric reforms in the industry conference organized by the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Government of India, in the country's capital Delhi. Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi, Industrial Development Minister of Uttar Pradesh, representing the Uttar Pradesh Government in the function, received the Top Achiever State Award from the hands of Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal. Minister Nandi, while representing Uttar Pradesh in the industry conference, informed about the industrial development and progress of Uttar Pradesh, a state of limitless possibilities. He also made some proposals for the all-round development of Uttar Pradesh. Minister Nandi said that due to the tireless

efforts of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, strong law and order, better industrial policy and development-oriented schemes, business in Uttar Pradesh is moving towards becoming the growth engine of the country. And there has been a lot of change in the citizen-centric reform sector. The result of this change is that today Uttar Pradesh has become the top achiever state in the field of business and citizen-centric reforms. Minister Nandi mentioned the huge investment potential in Uttar Pradesh and the steps taken by the state government to promote business activities. He highlighted the efforts being made by the government for industrial development and employment generation in the state. Also, he reiterated the commitment of the state government on better policies and infrastructure development to attract investors to the

state. Minister Nandi said that under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the industrial

environment of Uttar Pradesh has improved. A radical change has taken place. Uttar Pradesh is a leader in investment, establishment of industries and employment generation through investment. Favorable policies, accountable practices and priority to protect investors' interests have attracted investors on

in the industrial development journey of Uttar Pradesh, we have received encouragement and support from the Government of India at every step and this is the reason that today Uttar Pradesh is able to realize its best possibilities. In the meeting, Minister Nandi presented some important proposals related to

the industrial prosperity of Uttar Pradesh before Union Minister Piyush Goyal. Minister Nandi said that according to the budget for the year 2024-25, the grant to Uttar Pradesh should be increased by Rs 10,000 crore by the Government of India under long-term interest-free loan under the 'Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment'. Minister Nandi demanded allocation of funds for the development of industrial infrastructure in the SIR area under the Construction Act recently approved by the Uttar Pradesh government to develop Special Investment Regions (SIRs) in all the four geographical areas of the state. Minister Nandi said that Agra and Prayagraj have been selected in the year 2024 under the National Industrial Development Corridor Programme. The Government of India is requested to include one city each from Bundelkhand and

Madhyanchal region of Uttar Pradesh under this scheme. The Government of India is giving special priority to the development of semiconductor and display eco system in India under the 'India Semi Conductor Mission'. Due to the financial assistance and other incentives provided by the Government of India, major companies in this sector are eager to set up units in India. It is requested to the Government of India that Uttar Pradesh is a major semiconductor hub of the country. Therefore, top and reputed companies of this sector should be encouraged to invest in Uttar Pradesh. Minister Nandi said that the Uttar Pradesh government under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is committed to make its best contribution towards fulfilling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resolve of creating a five trillion dollar economy.



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Employees sacked during term of ex-Bishop Peter Baldev not receiving justice

Prayagraj: The employees who were expelled from schools during the tenure of former Bishop Peter Baldev of Diocese of Lucknow (CNI) have not yet received justice. In this sequence, on Thursday, Employees Union President Sunil Kumar Verma took a meeting at Royal Hotel located in Civil Lines. Presiding over the meeting, Verma said that the employees and teachers who were fired during the tenure of former Bishop Peter Baldev have not yet received justice, while the case of some employees is pending in the High Court. He also informed that recently, while hearing the petition of Bishop Johnson Girls College Accountant Mudit Mohan Srivastava versus UP State and others, the former management was

strongly reprimanded and given the last chance to file their reply. The next hearing on the petition is to be held on September 12. Two other petitions are also in the final stage in the High Court along with two cases in the Labour Court.

Verma said that accountant Mudit Mohan Srivastava was fired from the job under pressure by former Bishop Peter Baldev and his associate Pintu Tiwari, after which the employee lodged a complaint on the IGRS portal which was investigated by the District Magistrate, in response to which, the school management said that the case of Mudit Mohan Srivastava and other 14 teachers is pending in the High Court and the appointment is to be done on the orders of the Bishop of

Lucknow, the appointment will be made as soon as the order comes. In the High Court, the plaintiff's senior advocate Ch. Niaz Ahmed Khan argued that the 14 fired teachers had filed a petition in the year 2021 in which the plaintiff was not involved. The plaintiff filed a petition in the High Court regarding his outstanding salary and appointment in the year 2022. The school management has misled the investigation by lying to the administration.

Verma said that the other 14 teachers were appointed by former Bishop Peter Baldev but the petition for outstanding salaries is still pending in the High Court. He has demanded from the current Chairman Bishop Morris Edgar Dan that the fired employees should be reinstated at the earliest.

While conducting the meeting, Mudit Mohan Srivastava while throwing light on Teacher's Day said that he served his country in many capacities but above all he was a great teacher from whom we all learned a lot and will continue to teach as our President. It is India's unique prerogative to have a great philosopher, a great educationist and a great humanist. In the meeting, Seema Gupta Sarju Prasad Amit Samuel, Jaswant Daniel, Deepak Wasle, Rambali, Abhishek Lawrence, Ashutosh Srivastava, Poundrick Singh, Advocate Jitendra Singh, Advocate Irfan Raza Khan, senior advocate Sanjay Pathak, advocate Arif Iqbal Kamlesh Singh Sahu Vikas Gupta etc. were included. Vote of thanks was given by Jiten Singh.

Dr. V Eusebius emphasizes significant impact instructors have in influencing students' lives

Prayagraj: Teachers' Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm on Thursday, at Girls' High School and College. The school's atmosphere was filled with joy and vibrant energy as students organized a special event to honour their

of students. In her address, she highlighted the crucial role teachers play in shaping students' lives and encouraged the students to show respect and gratitude towards their educators. She also commended the entire staff for their excep-



teachers. The celebration was organized by students from classes 11 and 12. The students then poured forth their affection and gratitude by putting up a colourful programme filled with performances, including singing, instrumental music, dances, and skits. The students worked diligently to create an engaging and festive environment. Additionally, several games were organized for the teachers to bring out their playful side.

ditional contributions to the school's success. The celebration infused a renewed sense of hope and joy among the teachers, allowing them to celebrate their journey as educators. It served as a poignant reminder of their vital role and the profound impact they have on their students' lives. It was a memorable occasion marked by joy, appreciation, and gratitude. The students' efforts and the Principal's acknowledgment uplifted the teachers' spirits and reinforced the importance of their role in the educational community.

Principal Dr. Ravi Bhushan honoured on Teacher's Day

Prayagraj: On the occasion of Teacher's Day, on 5 September 24, a district level Teacher's Day honor ceremony was organized in the office of District School Inspector Prayagraj. In conjunction with the District School Inspector, Prayagraj, as a part of honoring the good board examination results of government schools, Dr. Ravi Bhushan, Principal of Government Higher Secondary School, Gohri, Prayagraj, was honored with the keynote address of the program on the occasion of Teacher's Day on the school's board examination result of 2024 being 100 percent. Joint Education Director Divyakant Shukla honored the guest by covering him with a shawl, giving him a symbol and certificate. He said that the Principal is the pivot of the school and with his continuous efforts, the future of the students can be bright. When the Principal works with



a team spirit, the results are better. District School Inspector Prayagraj P.N. Singh said in his statement that Dr. Ravi Bhushan is a hard-working Principal whose hard work and dedication has kept the Government Higher Secondary School Gohri Prayagraj in the category of excellent performing schools of the state. Principal Dr. Ravi Bhushan is committed to improving the results of the school. Credit was given to the teachers while working with team spirit under the school's board examination result of 2024 being 100 percent. Joint Education Director Divyakant Shukla honored the guest by covering him with a shawl, giving him a symbol and certificate. He said that the Principal is the pivot of the school and with his continuous efforts, the future of the students can be bright. When the Principal works with

direction. In the program, principals and headmistresses of all the government secondary schools of Prayagraj district along with co-district school inspector Lal Babu Maurya, Ajay Pratap Singh were present. And Ajay Giri etc. were present. The program was conducted by Dr. Prabhakar Tripathi.

Next hearing of Krishna Janmabhoomi dispute case on Sept 23

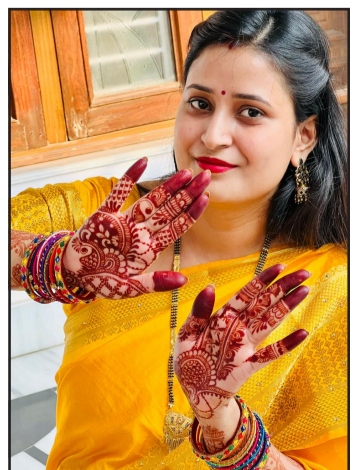
Prayagraj: The hearing of the Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi dispute case was held in the court of Justice Mayank Jain of Allahabad High Court. During the debate, the advocates of the temple side and Shahi Eid Gah presented their side on behalf of the temple side. Supreme Court advocate Reena N Singh informed the court about the mosque side not giving the copy of the written statement, which was supported by many advocates of the temple side. Taking cognizance of this, the court directed the mosque side to smoothly give the copy to the temple side's advocates so that there is no disruption in the work of the court. Apart from this, Advocate Reena N Singh said that in their suit number seven,



an ex-parte order has been passed against the Muslim side, for the restoration of which the Muslim side applied before the court. Apart from this, the counsel for plaintiffs no. 2 to 5 in suit no. 7 filed an application to make himself the main plaintiff and next friend of Bhagwan in place of Kaushal Kishore Thakur, the main plaintiff and next friend of Bhagwan in suit no. 7, whose case no. 7's advocate Rana Pratap Singh protested and sought time from the court to file his reply. The next hearing will be on September 23. During this time, Advocate Akshay Raghuvanshi, Advocate Saurabh Somvanshi, Advocate Ajay Vishwakarma etc. were present in the court.

Hands covered with love-coloured mehndi with lover's name engraved

Prayagraj: Teej, the fast of married women, will be celebrated today. There was excitement in the markets regarding Teej. Special crowd was seen especially at the shops of makeup and women's cosmetics. The market was busy with the women's festival Hariyali Teej. There was a huge purchase of sarees from the shops of the city. Apart from this, there was a crowd of women in the mall also. Along with sarees, there was a lot of purchasing of sticks and worship materials on Thursday during Hariyali Teej fast. Apart from the shops of puja items, shops of donated items and baskets were seen decorated on the footpath. Women purchased as per their capacity. Due to Teej, women from rural areas also reached the city for shopping. On Teej, Gopurvashree and Upasana, residents of Pritam Nagar, got henna applied in their husband's name. Fruit shops were seen decorated in the market for Hariyali Teej and Chauthchandra. Women also purchased jewelry as per their capacity.



Editorial

Minorities in Bangladesh had been ardent Hasina supporters

The said is merely the grotesque manifestation of a so-called liberal's innate tendency to submit to the Islamist violence in the name of secularism. These people have chosen to be blind to the deliberate othering of minorities in Islamic states, and Bangladesh is no exception. They don't care to see that Hindu population in Bangladesh has dwindled to a third from 22 per cent in 1952 to less than 8 per cent today. Such is the scale of Hindu decimation in Bangladesh that "30 years from now, no Hindus will be left in Bangladesh should the current rate of exodus continue", Dr Abul Barkat, a Dhaka University professor, was quoted as saying by Deep Halder and Avishek Biswas in their 2023 book, *Being Hindu in Bangladesh*. If the current situation in Bangladesh is alarmingly grim, the Hindu reaction in Bharat is hardly reassuring. As in the past, there has been a sense of disconnect, if not disinterest, for what is happening to minorities on the other side of the border. What most of these people fail to comprehend is that while they see no connection with their coreligionists in Bangladesh, the Islamists never fail to miss this civilisational/religious link. But then, why just blame the Left-'liberals' when, in the deeper analysis, this has long been a failing of Hindu society, whether in Bharat or outside? Nasrin explains this Hindu psyche well in *Lajja*. In the scene, Suronjon is caught in an argument with a boy named Khaled, who calls him names like "son of a pig" and "bastard". Suronjoy gives him back in equal measure. Nasrin writes further:

Khaled: 'Offspring of a dog!'

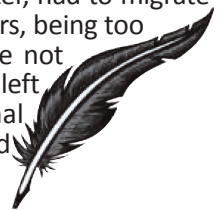
Suronjon: 'You are the son of the dog.'

Khaled: 'Hindu!'

Suronjon: 'You are a Hindu!'

Suronjon thought that 'Hindu' too was a swear word. For quite a few years, he had thought that Hindu was a pejorative, mocking term. It was only when he grew up a bit that he understood that there was a community of people called Hindus and he belonged to that community. After some time, he began to believe that he belonged to the human race and a community called Bengali. The Bengali community had not been created by any religion. He wanted to believe that it was non-communal and inclusive. Towards the end of the novel, Suronjon's make-believe world shatters as he pleads to his father to migrate to Bharat because "here (in Bangladesh) Muslims are killing Hindus". Nasrin enacts the drama poignantly: 'You are calling yourself a Hindu?' asked Sudhamoy excitedly. He wanted to jump out of bed. 'We might be atheists and humanists,' said Suronjon, restraining his father, 'but people call us Hindus. They call us infidels.' In the end, Sudhamoy relents and the Datta family prepares to "go away" to Bharat.

This is the story of Hindus in Bangladesh. Their tragedy is three-fold. First, they were convinced to stay put in Pakistan and Bangladesh by their own leaders led by Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru. As for the Hindus of Bangladesh, they faced double jeopardy: Most Hindus who stayed back in Bangladesh after Partition belonged to the outcaste community of Namasudras. Before Independence, these people were politically very active and had a charismatic leader in Jogendranath Mandal who believed in the façade of Dalit-Muslim unity. Mandal convinced his people not to migrate to Bharat. But when most of the upper caste Hindu migrated from Bangladesh (then East Pakistan), these Dalits came in direct confrontation with Islamists. With their departure, the very raison d'être of Dalit-Muslim alliance was gone. Things became so bad that Mandal, who was Pakistan's first law minister, had to migrate to Bharat in 1950. His followers, being too poor and downtrodden, were not that lucky. Second, Hindus left behind — like the fictional Sudhmoy of *Lajja* — convinced themselves.



Hindu temples are being desecrated, business establishment and houses destroyed, torched

Bangladesh is in the throes of Islamist pogrom against minority Hindus, and our liberals are busy obfuscating reality. Members of the army clear an entrance of the Ganabhaban, the Bangladeshi prime minister's residence, a day after the resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in Dhaka on August 6, 2024. Reuters. What started as a students'-led 'liberation movement' in Bangladesh leading to Sheikh Hasina's ouster is in danger of losing its legitimacy before the eyes of the world as it appears to have been co-opted, appro-

priated and hijacked by Islamist fundamentalists who have utilised the ensuing chaos, turbulence, lawlessness and the lack of any governing authority to launch a genocidal campaign against the minority Hindu population. Ever since the Bangladesh prime minister was forced to flee, resulting in a power vacuum in the eighth-most populous country in the world, images, videos and accounts are streaming in of atrocities against the Hindu minority in Bangladesh, whose numbers have dangerously depleted over decades almost

to the point of extinction. The circumstances are so dire that even India's external affairs minister mentioned the issue during his statement in both Houses of the Parliament. S Jaishankar told the Parliament that attacks on police, including police stations and government installations are being carried out, "properties of individuals associated with the regime were torched across the country. What was particularly worrying was that minorities, their businesses and temples also came under attack at multiple locations. The full extent of this

is still not clear." He said India is "monitoring the situation with regard to the status of the minorities." Given MEA's proclivity for dry understatements, one can be reasonably certain that the situation is alarming. Led by radical Islamist groups such as the banned Jamaat-e-Islami and its various front organisations and entities, an ethnic cleansing of Hindus is under way across the length and breadth of the country. Hindu temples are being desecrated, business establishment and houses destroyed, torched.

India cannot afford to look the other way from its internal development

India's relationship with its neighbours have always been that of an affluent elder sibling whom the others love to hate. Among them Pakistan is probably the most straightforward as it is mostly hostile with little shade of grey. However, it is most complex in the case of Bangladesh whose birth India had mid-wifed but the kid sister refuses to acknowledge. That Bangladesh is encircled on three sides by India with a highly nebulous and porous border adds an additional layer. Its religious composition and obvious affinity to the Islamic world is a further dimension. Shared water resources demand a high level of cooperation.

Thus, in short, unlike other countries India cannot afford to look the other way from its internal developments. We are joined at the hips by an umbilical cord as it were. Thus successive governments have been carefully watching local developments in Bangladesh since its creation. However, a few questions arise after the August 5 denouement. Should India have been so heavily invested in Sheikh Hasina even when it was apparent that she was losing international support and ground was slipping from beneath her feet at home? Going with Sheikh Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh National Party (BNP) was not an option given her strong anti-India position and leanings towards radical Islamic elements. But could India not have cultivated other moderate politicians or silently promote potential successors to Sheikh Hasina within Awami League? It is



probably easier to find an answer to the first question. The very weaknesses and challenges that Sheikh Hasina faced made her dependent on India. She knew that no other country would stand by her the way India has over the years irrespective of which regime it was in Delhi. For India, there could not be a better bet than Hasina against its detractors notwithstanding her occasional flirtation with China for pure commercial expediency. More importantly, if India had to tackle cross border infiltration of 'Jihadi' assets only Hasina would help because she was afflicted by the same malaise. On this score India reciprocated by handing over to Sheikh Hasina many who were on the look out notice in Bangladesh including the killer of her father. With so much at stake India — especially the Modi government — which has been committed more than any government before it to tackling the menace of infiltration — could not afford to antagonise Sheikh Hasina by cultivating alternate leadership in her home. What it could have done, per-

haps, is work harder to convince Hasina to take a less rigid line to bring in the moderate elements from the opposition into her fold rather than go for a steamroller approach. Here, perhaps, there was an uncanny meeting of minds between the Modi-Shah and Hasina and over-confidence in a hardline strategy. Everyone would remember the not so veiled threats from the United States establishment to hand over the administration to an interim government for overseeing the elections or face consequences. She ignored the warnings and pressed on with the elections that her opposition boycotted to return with a walkover victory. One would assume she had the tacit support of India in her decision. Could India have prevailed on her to follow the US suggestion and would that have taken the heat off her will remain a matter of conjecture. It is also common knowledge that the United States was not entirely averse to the idea of a regime change in India though it could not have openly called for one. The counter-factual

question that is bound to arise, therefore, is whether the current events have escalated so dramatically had Narendra Modi returned with a larger majority even if not his dream number of "400 paar"?

Here it is not difficult to resist the temptation of a flashback of August 15, 1975 when Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was brutally assassinated on a day when Indira Gandhi was unfurling the Indian Tricolour at the ramparts of the Red Fort on the occasion of Indian Independence Day. Less than two months ago she had declared an Emergency in the country fearing a popular uprising and put opposition leaders behind bars and muzzled the media. There was no love lost between her and the United States — who were unhappy with her dismembering its vassal state Pakistan in 1971 creating Bangladesh and installing Sheikh Mujib as the prime minister. At that time Indira was firmly ensconced with the Soviet Union, which had used its veto power in the United Nations Security Council during the India Pakistan War in

1971. Is it possible that Indira was apprehending a similar destabilisation of the country and political overthrow? Finally she did have to relinquish power albeit through elections — which some believe she may have been nudged to call by a friend or foe. Though she returned to power after a hiatus it was not the same Mrs Gandhi one knew post 1971 and prior to 1975. It is ironic that some of her own have been seen to be supping with players of the same club in recent times. Bangladesh like many nations of its ilk is unfortunately fated to go through turbulent times but the implications of its descent to anarchy would have serious implications for India. Fortunately, political parties across the aisle realise the risks and unequivocally pledged their support to the government, who on its part have taken the opposition into confidence. But once the current crisis blows over some may not be beyond fishing Hilsa in the turbulent waters of the Padma river. Their visceral hatred for Narendra Modi has always been in public and they have found it difficult, or even necessary, to conceal their voyeuristic glee fantasising the prospects of a similar uprising in India and with a similar endgame. This is going to be a challenge that the Narendra Modi government would have to navigate with diplomatic deftness. India has always been a playground of big powers. Now the world is no longer bipolar but it is not multipolar or a Quad as yet. At best it is tri-polar. Seen to be leaning towards.

Tarun Tahiliani was too busy dressing Bollywood

Team India's outfits for the Paris Olympics 2024 opening ceremony on 26 July were unveiled last week. And, the fashion gods are weeping. I am disappointed with Tarun Tahiliani, couturier to the stars. There's not a single detail I can appreciate in the designs. We're headed to the Olympics, not a school Independence Day programme. And I'm not the only one who thinks this way. On social media, people are calling out the outfits for their tackiness. India's sports women will wear saris, while the male athletes have a kurta bundi set—both displaying the Tricolour. But there's a way to wear patriotism with style, and this is not it. And, as if the designs were not enough to digest, I have a hard time believing that they were crafted by Tahiliani. Tarun Tahiliani is the fashion magician who dressed up Indian stars and even Kim Kardashian, for Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant's wedding festivities. Is this the best

he could do for the Indian athletes? It seems like the designer poured all his time and effort into dressing celebrities and then hastily threw together the athletes' outfits as an afterthought. Honestly, this is worse than the bare minimum effort some men put into relationships. The men's kurta set is made from lightweight moss cotton, while the women's sari is viscose crepe paired with a high-neck blouse. "They are going to be wearing it for three hours. At 40 degrees Celsius, how to make them look good? So, we focused on cottons," Tahiliani told *The Hindu*. His lack of effort is evident in his statement—weather forecasts put the temperature in Paris at a high of 25 degrees Celsius and a low of 15 degrees Celsius on the day of the ceremony. Regardless, I'm all in for creating attire that's breezy, lightweight, and weather-appropriate. But it doesn't mean making our athletes look like they've escaped from a circus.

Iran is the main protagonist in the anticipated strike

The night of July 30 may have changed the West Asian region forever. On this fateful night, three strikes across three capitals in the region led to two key assassinations. Hamas political chief Ismail Haniyeh, who was in Tehran for the inauguration of Iran's newly elected president Masoud Pezeshkian, was assassinated in a targeted strike at his residence in a closely guarded area of Tehran. In Beirut, a precision airstrike took out senior Hezbollah military commander Fuad Shukur, who Israel had blamed for the missile attack in the occupied Golan Heights on July 27, which led to the death of 12 Israeli citizens. Elsewhere, in Baghdad, a missile attack by US forces targeted a base south of the city used by Iran-backed Iraqi Popular Mobilisation Forces (PMF), killing four members of the group. A day later, on 1 August, Israel claimed it had also eliminated Hamas military chief Mohammed Deif in an airstrike carried out in Khan Younis city in Gaza on July 13. Earlier, on July 20, Israeli fighter aircraft had targeted the port city of Hodeidah in Yemen, which is controlled by the Houthis, setting a

major oil storage dump on fire and killing six people. With Israel being blamed for all the strikes, the Gaza war, which has been oscillating between hopes of a ceasefire and continuing death and destruction, may have just crossed a critical threshold. It may no longer be possible to keep the conflict isolated to Gaza. This is especially relevant in view of Iran's announcement, after a brief military spat with Israel in April this year, that "the era of strategic patience is over" and that any Israeli assaults will be met with a "direct" response. Following the assassinations, the response was led by none other than Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who was firm and clear about seeking revenge. The leader of Hezbollah, Hassan Nasrallah, also vowed severe retaliation against Israel. A strike by Iran and its allies thus seems inevitable; it is only a question of 'when' and 'how'. As the region awaits the inevitable, it may be relevant to examine the military capabilities of each side to better understand how such strikes could unfold. **Military capabilities** Iran is the main protagonist in the anticipated

strike. For years, it has relied on its proxies in the region to wage war on its behalf, but this time, it is likely to undertake a direct strike. As Iran and Israel are separated by almost 1,800 km, a ground war or "boots on the ground" is unlikely. Therefore, military power projection will be through stand-off weapon systems like drones and missiles. Regarding airpower, Iran has a poorly equipped and ageing fleet. Its air force comprises an array of aircraft, ranging from US-made F-4s, F-5s, and F-7s, along with Russian Sukhoi and MiG-29s. Most estimates suggest a total of 330–350 aircraft. Although Iran has been asking Russia to supply Sukhoi-35 fighter jets, this is unlikely to materialise soon.

It is Iran's missile technology, however, that is potent and lethal. Iran's array of missiles is the largest and most diverse in the region.

Many are reported to be inherently capable of carrying nuclear payloads. Iran has an arsenal of medium- and long-range ballistic missiles that can be launched from Iran itself, while shorter-range missiles can be fired from Syria, Iraq, and Lebanon.

A day following his 'tankhaiya' arrest, Sukhbir appears before Takht and offers an apology

This time, he submitted a written apology. Along with senior party officials



Delhi : Sukhbir Singh Badal, the president of Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), appeared before the highest temporal seat of Sikhs, one day after being found "tankhaiya" (guilty of religious misconduct) by Akal Takht for the errors made by his party's government from 2007 to 2017. This time, he submitted a written apology. Along with senior party officials, Sukhbir also pushed Takht jathedar

Giani Raghbir Singh to convene a gathering of the Sikh clergy as soon as possible in order to make amends. Former ministers Daljit Singh Cheema, Sharanjit Singh Dhillon, Gulzar Singh Ranike, and

Maheshinder Singh Grewal were among the senior party figures who followed Sukhbir Badal, who is fighting revolt within the party amid electoral setbacks and declining public favor. To turn in his new

letter, Sukhbir initially went to the highest Sikh temporal seat's secretariat. The SAD leaders then paid their respects at the Golden Temple's sanctum sanctorum and Akal Takht.

Plant 36.46 crore saplings: Yogi instructs departments

Delhi : Chief minister Yogi Adityanath asked all ministries to plant more than 36.46 crore saplings under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign by July 20. District-wise targets for the statewide plantation effort at a meeting at his official house. More than 168 crore saplings were planted here in the last six years, including 5.72 crore in 2017-18, 11.77 crore in 2018-19, 22.60 crore in 2019-20, 25.87 crore in 2020-21, 30.53 crore in 2021-22.

Himanta links gender-based crimes in Assam to land grab

Delhi : Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said recent atrocities against women are conducted with the "bigger intention of grabbing land and threatening the identity of the Assamese people". He suggested 'political patronage' for the crimes and said Assamese financial power is eroding. "No society is perfect. Violence against women occurs. Statewide crimes have decreased in the last three years. In recent occurrences, rape has been used to target our territory and civilization "Sarma told a press conference late Saturday night. This pattern has been used in Assam for 30-35 years. That prompted the Assam Agitation. The Assamese are losing financial power.



PM Mudra Yojana benefitting a large number of eligible citizens in UP

Delhi : The Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana is benefitting a large number of people in Uttar Pradesh significantly, owing to Yogi government's efforts to ensure that the central government's schemes reach every eligible citizen in the state. By June 2024, in the financial year 2024-25, over 11 lakh people

have received loans totalling approximately Rs 11,000 crores. These loans have been provided through various banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) operating in the state. To maximize the scheme's impact, the Yogi government is actively coordinating with banks and conducting regular reviews.

They're exploiting it "without naming a community. He stated that offenders get the best counsel in court because the "com-

munity comes out for them", while victims' families don't due to financial restraints and "nobody comes for us".

Chirag re-elected Ram Vilas LJP chief, proposes caste census

Delhi : Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) national executive meeting re-elected union minister Chirag Paswan as president for five years. At the meeting, Paswan remarked, everyone agreed. "In this meeting, the national executive has re-elected me for the next five years," he remarked. Paswan, the Food Processing



Industries Minister, said the conference also discussed Haryana, Jammu Kashmir, and Jharkhand assembly elections. He added the party may run in Jharkhand with

BJP or alone. We have gathered state unit suggestions on whether to run in partnership or alone in states where our organization is strong. Nationally, we are a strong NDA coalition partner and BJP ally. We ran for Shikaripara in the 2014 Jharkhand vidhan sabha elections with the BJP. We may form an alliance or run alone.

Mehbooba not to contest J&K polls, cites assembly's reduced powers

Delhi : Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday said she will not contest the upcoming assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), saying the "reduced" power of the legislative assembly in the union territory would not allow her to fulfil

her party's agenda even if she were to become the chief minister. Mufti's announcement came a day after another former chief minister and National Conference leader Omar Abdullah made a U-turn on his stand of not participating in the polls till J&K was a union territory.

9.3 lakh people in Assam to get their Aadhar cards'

Delhi : **DISPUR:** Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma informed that the centre has directed UIDAI to issue Aadhaar cards to people who gave their biometrics between February 2019 to August 2024. CM Himanta Biswa Sarma,

addressing a press conference, thanked the centre for directing UIDAI, making the lives of 935682 people easier. "The Centre stopped distribution of Aadhaar cards to 935682 people in Assam. They gave Biometric between Feb 2019 and Aug 2024.

There are many of them that have no relation with the NRC." Sarma said. Sarma further informed that the State government has been working for the past two years to ensure the release of the Aadhaar card to the people.

Following KC Tyagi's resignation, Rajiv Ranjan was named the new JD(U)

Delhi : The spokesperson for Janata Dal (United), K C Tyagi, who frequently brought attention to his party's disagreements with ally BJP due to his stance on different topics, has resigned. Rajiv Ranjan Prasad has been named national spokesperson for the JD(U) by its president, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, according to a statement released by the party. Tyagi's resignation was cited as having "personal reasons" for it. The former



member of parliament and socialist leader wrote to Kumar that his involvement in other projects has prevent-

ed him from fulfilling his role as a spokesperson. He claimed to have made the request before. It is thought that many

in his party viewed Tyagi's frequent remarks on the policies of the central government—he is based in Delhi and, because of his experience and articulation, maintains an unusually high profile in the national media for a regional party leader—as detrimental to the BJP-JD(U) relationship. His explanation of how the JD(U) differs from the BJP on a variety of issues, including the Palestine issue, the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, the Uniform Civil Code.

RSS Chief Bhagwat Now Top ASL Protectee Like Modi, Shah

Delhi : In line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union home minister Amit Shah, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has upgraded Rashtriya Swayamsevak (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat's protection to 'advance security liaison (ASL) protectee'. A fortnight ago, Bhagwat, who was previously given Z-plus status by the Central Industrial Security Force, was deemed more secure. Delhi sources said MHA found Bhagwat's security lax in some states, espe-



cially non-BJP ones, requiring a new safety protocol. Several anti-Indian and extremist Islamist groups target him. MHA designated Bhagwat an ASL protectee after receiving concerns from various agencies.

A source said all states and Union Territories were informed of Bhagwat's security protocol upgradation after the reclassification.

Salim Geelani, a former Hurriyat leader, joins the PDP



Delhi : Syed Salim Geelani, a former separatist leader and significant figure in separatist politics, entered mainstream politics and joined the People's Democratic Party (PDP). Up until 2015, Geelani was a member of the Hurriyat Conference. He then founded the National People's Party. Mehbooba Mufti, the former chief minister of J&K, welcomed him into mainstream politics on Sunday in Srinagar. I continued to be involved in the Kashmiri fight for thirty-five years. I'm proud of my history and my affiliation with the PDP. The goals of the people are reflected in the party's manifesto. Youth incarcerated and other issues have previously been taken up by the PDP. We haven't been able to speak up for ourselves for the last five years, but in the PDP, we are able to discuss topics pertaining to Kashmir, elections, and other people's concerns, both political and non-political. People may talk about human rights even here, which is why I chose to join this party," Geelani remarked.

EC moves Srinagar SSP, other senior cops before J&K elections

Delhi : The senior superintendents of police (SSPs) of Srinagar, Baramulla, and Kupwara and the SP of Handwara in poll-bound Jammu & Kashmir were transferred by the Election Commission. The poll commission has ordered the J&K administration to submit IPS officer candidates for Srinagar, Baramulla, Handwara, and Kupwara SSP/SP positions. The commission approved the ministry of home affairs (MHA) recommendation to appoint Nalin Prabhat, IPS J&K DGP, as J&K police DG (operations & security) until Sept. 30 as part of 'administrative tone up'. EC approved another MHA proposal to extend Anantnag deputy commissioner Syed Fakhruddin Hamid's inter-cadre deputation for two years. His original term ended July 8. EC released SSP Srinagar Ashish Mishra, who was moved from J&K to Delhi Police in June 2023 but could not be freed due to administrative issues, on Wednesday.

Omar Abdullah will run from Ganderbal

Delhi : The 32 candidates for the next assembly elections in the Union territory were named by the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference on Tuesday. Ganderbal native Omar Abdullah is prepared to run for office. We have decided to hold a cordial but orderly contest for five seats, while the National Conference will compete for 51 seats, Congress for 32, and other seats. State Congress president Tariq Hameed Karra stated on Monday, "We have left 1 seat for CPI (M) and 1 seat for the Panthers Party, in addition to these 88

seats. The nation as a whole and the INDIA alliance were established to combat those forces attempting to communalize, split, and disintegrate the nation. We finished the negotiations and coordinated in a very friendly environment today. National Conference president Farooq Abdullah declared, "Congress and the National Conference will fight the elections together." Starting on September 18, the UT will hold its first assembly elections following the abrogation of Article 370. The elections will take place in three phases.

No Dalit in Miss India: Rahul Gandhi

"We will undertake a caste census and abolish the 50% reservation cap, which I don't accept. First, we need caste participation data in multiple institutions"



Samvidhan Samman Sammelan, Mr. Gandhi said, "I checked the list of Miss India to see if there would be any Dalit or tribal woman in it, but there were no women from Dalit, tribal or OBC." He complained, "Still the media talks about dance, music, cricket, Bollywood but does not talk about farmers and laborers." He also said Congress would undertake a caste census and eliminate the reserva-

tion restriction of 50% when it wins office. "We will undertake a caste census and abolish the 50% reservation cap, which I don't accept...First, we need caste participation data in multiple institutions. He stated reserve talks are always held but never implemented. Criticizing the Narendra Modi-led Central government's lateral entry ad, "I am guaranteeing you that you will not find any-

one with 90% in lateral entry," Mr. Gandhi said the INDIA alliance wants a caste census because 90% of the population is excluded despite having the talents and talent. He noted that the caste census is crucial to Congress-INDIA policymaking. "BJP leaders believe that the OBC group will be given after the census...We want the list of communities. Caste census is a policy foundation for us.

A caste census is not enough—you must also examine wealth distribution. It's also necessary to measure OBC, Dalit, and worker involvement in bureaucracy, court, and media" said.

Delhi government to investigate petrol dealers' PUC fee rise request



Delhi: The transport department may raise pollution under control certificate (PUC) fees in the national capital. Transport minister Kailash Gahlot listened to Petrol Dealers' Association delegates' requests and ideas, officials said. Gahlot: "The Petrol Dealers Association wants Delhi PUC certificate prices raised. Delhi last raised fees in 2011. Delhi government would thoroughly consider their demands, I guarantee them." Sources said transport officials have proposed a three-to-four-fold fee increase to Gahlot. We would strike a balance to avoid overburdening them. Though dealer maintenance expenses have increased, rates have not been raised in years "explained an official. A senior Delhi government official

claimed pollution test rates were last raised in 2011 and fines for vehicles without PUC certificates have skyrocketed. For pollution testing of petrol and CNG two-wheelers and three-wheelers, Rs 60 is paid, Rs 80 for diesel four-wheelers. A separate 18% GST applies. The city issued 50 lakh pollution test certificates last year. Without a valid PUC, vehicle owners can be imprisoned for six months or fined Rs 10,000 under the Motor Vehicle Act. Central Motor Vehicles Rules 1989 require all

motor vehicles, including BS-I/II/III/IV and CNG/LPG vehicles, to have a valid PUC certificate after one year from registration. For four-wheeler BS-IV-compliant vehicles, the validity is one year and for others, three months.

"We have also got requests from people running the pollution test centres, who said it had become difficult to meet expenses as they had to pay a heavy rent," he said. Delhi PUC certification is real-time and connected with the vehicle registration database.

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



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

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

UAPA tribunal notifies LTTE of show cause

Delhi: An Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) panel has issued a show cause notice to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to adjudicate its five-year ban. According to the Union ministry of home affairs' June 14 show cause notice, justice Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora's Delhi high court tribunal has given LTTE 30 days to respond to "why the organisation should not be declared as unlawful".

LTTE has 30 days to object or respond to the show cause notice. The MHA extended the ban on LTTE and stated that the organization is "clandestinely" accumulating funds and spreading propaganda and that its residual leaders are seeking to revive it. The central government believes the LTTE is still threatening national security.

111 of 383 capital villages have PNG pipes: LG Saxena

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

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

LG opened Qutabgarh's first PNG connection in December 2023. LG's official said this was IGL's first venture in rural Delhi, which was previously limited to urban residential complexes.

Officials claimed Saxena ordered MCD, PWD, DDA, and NDMC to prioritize

PNG pipeline clearances and other formalities within 30 days at a review meeting.

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

Reversing decision, Mayawati reinstates nephew Akash Anand as political heir

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

EPFO updating claims program to speed up settlement

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

LG authorizes new Bijwasan rly station police station

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

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

IMD forecasts monsoon precipitation in some north Indian states

Delhi: The southwest monsoon is accelerating across the nation. The Meteorological Department predicts southwest monsoon advance over the North Arabian Sea, Gujarat state, remaining parts of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Gangetic plains of West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar, and some parts of East Uttar Pradesh in 3-4 days. By July 3, the monsoon will hit northwest India, encompassing Delhi, Punjab, and Haryana. The IMD predicted above-normal rainfall in much of the country except the Western Himalayas and West Rajasthan. Over the next five days, the Weather Department predicts light to moderate rainfall, thunderstorms, lightning, and strong winds over Gangetic coastal parts of West Bengal, Bihar,



Light to moderate rainfall is expected in coastal Andhra Pradesh

Jharkhand, Odisha, Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand, Andaman and Nicobar Islands are anticipated to receive heavy rains from June 24 to 26. From June 24 to 26, Uttarakhand and eastern Uttar Pradesh will have scattered heavy rain. Kerala, coastal areas, southern

interior Karnataka, Konkan-Goa, and Madhya Maharashtra will have heavy rainfall in four to five days, according to the Meteorological Department. Light to moderate rainfall is expected in coastal Andhra Pradesh, R a y a l a s e m a , Telangana., Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, and Karaikal over the next five days. Up to 5 days of heavy rain is expected in West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, and Meghalaya. West Bengal, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh may get heavy rain on June 25 and 26.

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

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



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

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

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

Delhi has practically exhausted groundwater

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

extracted. The 2022 groundwater recharge was 0.41 bcm, with 0.37 bcm available for extraction and 0.36 bcm pulled out. The analysis showed Delhi's groundwater extraction rising from 98.16% in 2022 to 99.13% in 2023 despite a drop in recharging. While some places have made headway in maintaining safe groundwater levels, Delhi still struggles to properly manage its groundwater resources. With 15% of Delhi's assessment units categorized as "safe" for

groundwater levels in 2023, up from 12% in 2022, the CGWB report was pleased. In stark contrast, important groundwater regions increased from 21% of the city in 2022 to 35% in 2023. CGWB assesses groundwater in 34 Delhi tehsils, each an assessment unit. Out of 34 evaluation units, 13 (38%) were 'over-exploited', 12 (35%) were 'critical', four (12%) were semi-critical, and five (15%) were safe'. Improvements since 2022 include an increase in safe zone tehsils from

four to five, a decrease in semi-critical from eight to four, and a reduction in over-exploited areas from 15 to 13. Critical regions expanded from seven tehsils in 2022 to 12 in 2023. To address the groundwater alarm, CGWB recommends mandating rainwater harvesting in water-depleted areas, increasing the use of treated water, and raising awareness through mass awareness campaigns for the public and farmers, water sector training, and school student.

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."

IN just four months, at least 1,068 farmers committed suicide

Delhi: With the government reeling under an enormous debt of Rs 7.9 lakh crore and the state's struggling farmers taking their own lives, Mahayuti government's Rs 11 crore gift for India's T-20 championship squad has drawn criticism from Congress's Vijay Wadettiwar, the head of Maharashtra's opposition. "In just four months, at least 1,068 farmers committed suicide, but they get no assistance." The Maharashtra government gave wealthy cricket players an unjustified gift in order to further its own agenda, according to Wadettiwar. "We should support players but within our means and must give due weightage considering the broader picture," Wadettiwar said. The opposition MVA coalition's unity and preparedness for this year's assembly elections in October and November was reiterated by the Bramhapuri MLA. "Shiv Sena (UBT), the National Congress Party (led by Sharad Pawar), and the other three opposition



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. allies do not plan to run independently. To develop a strong campaign strategy, an MVA

conference is planned for Mumbai, according to Wadettiwar. image.png

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.



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

Lucknow

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

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

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

JTL Industries Ltd. Gets Buy Call from Hem Securities Ltd

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

Along with this, the government is continuously ignoring the

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

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

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

Lucknow

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

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