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

PM Modi, Biden to meet at G7, US says will keep raising murder plot at high level

NEW DELHI: PM Narendra Modi is likely to meet US President Joe Biden Friday on the margins of the G7 summit in southern Italy's Puglia region. With Biden headed to Italy, White House said aboard Air Force One there's an "encounter" likely between the 2 leaders as the president expects to see the Indian PM there, while reiterating it will continue to raise the foiled Sikh separatist murder plot at very senior levels with India. This is the first time the leaders will meet after their bilateral talks over dinner at Modi's residence here, on the eve of the G20 summit India hosted last year in September. While a formal bilateral meeting isn't ruled out in Italy, it's possible that the leaders might just have a pull-aside because of scheduling constraints. PM Modi, in fact, will have a hectic bilateral schedule at G7 with meetings already con-



firming with French president Emmanuel Macron, UK PM Rishi Sunak, Japanese PM Fumio Kishida, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Italian PM Giorgia Meloni. Modi is also likely to meet Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. He had met him at the G7 summit in Hiroshima too last year. Zelenskyy had invited Modi for the peace summit in Switzerland, but India never considered participation at the highest level because of efforts to keep Russia out. There was no meeting scheduled with Canadian PM Justin Trudeau till late on Thursday. Speaking to reporters aboard Air Force One, US NSA Jake Sullivan also said that the foiled murder-for-hire plot against Khalistan separatist and US national Gurbatwant Singh Pannun will be "a continuing topic of dialogue between the US and India, including at very senior levels". Diplomatic sources did not rule out the possibility of the issue coming up in the Modi-Biden meeting. Biden had taken up the issue during his meeting with

Modi in September and Sullivan is himself likely to discuss progress, or lack thereof, in the probe India is conducting into the US allegations that an Indian official masterminded the plot during his visit to India next week. While the visit has not been officially announced yet, Sullivan is scheduled to be here on June 18. He's expected to meet his counterpart for a comprehensive review of the initiative on critical and emerging technology (ICET) that Modi and Biden had launched in May 2022. "He (Biden) expects to see Prime Minister Modi here. It's up to the Indians to formally confirm his attendance, but our expectation is that the two of them will have the opportunity to encounter one another. The nature of that encounter is still fluid because so much of the schedule is fluid," said Sullivan.

NTA to issue revised merit list after re-test

NEW DELHI: Cancellation of the NEET-UG scorecards of 1,563 candidates who received grace marks due to loss of time and the re-test for them will impact both the overall merit list and the number of top rankers. According to sources in the National Testing Agency (NTA), after the re-test and its result on June 30, NTA is expected to announce a new all-India merit list. Cancellation of grace marks will reduce the number of top rankers from 67 to 61. Sixty-seven candidates had scored 720 marks, tying as joint toppers. However, their all-India ranks differ due to the tie-break scheme. Six of these top scorers are among the 1,563 candidates who took the exam at a centre in Haryana. Regardless of whether these candidates choose to take the re-test or accept their



Reform UK overtakes PM Sunak's Conservatives in opinion poll

LONDON: In a recent YouGov poll conducted for the Times newspaper, Nigel Farage's Reform UK Party surpassed Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's Conservative Party for the first time, just weeks before Britain's upcoming election on July 4. The survey, which involved 2,211

participants and was carried out from June 12-13, revealed that Reform UK garnered 19% support, a 2% increase from their previous standing, while the Conservatives remained unchanged at 18%. The opposition Labour Party maintained its lead

has refused to halt the counselling but clarified that admission of successful candidates to medical colleges and other institutions will depend on the outcome of petitions seeking cancellation of the May 5 exam.

'Been around long enough to know...': Jos Buttler

NEW DELHI: England captain Jos Buttler responded to the criticism of his team on Thursday, stating that he has been around long enough to understand what people are saying. England revived their T20 World Cup campaign with a record-breaking victory over Oman by eight wickets in Antigua. The reigning champions needed a significant win to improve their net run rate (NRR) as they strived to surpass Scotland and qualify for the second-round Super Eights. England's triumph over Group B was nothing short of spectacular, setting a new record for the largest win in the history of the T20 World Cup when considering the number of balls remaining.

Karnataka minister tries to shield actor in murder case, but fails

BENGALURU: As more details of the Renuka Swamy murder case come to light, police and political circles are abuzz with talk of a state minister's alleged efforts to shield Sandalwood star Darshan, one of the accused, from the long arm of the law. Reacting to reports of the police force coming under pressure in the murder probe, home minister G Parameshwara told mediapersons on Thursday: "No one has tried to influence us. Law will take its own course." Sources said the minister in question was the first person to have been alerted by Darshan's aides when the star was picked up by the police from a Mysuru hotel on Tuesday morning. Fearing that his "celebrity friend" would be charged with murder, the minister made frantic calls to police officers, the state home minister, and even to CM Siddaramaiah's office. When his desperate knockings on behalf of the star didn't elicit a response from any quarter, the minister rushed to meet Parameshwara at the latter's residence in Sadashivanagar. The minister wanted a verbal order issued to Bengaluru police to let Darshan go. However, much to his disappointment, the home minister told him that the law would take its own course and cut short the conversation. By then, news of Darshan's detention was all over television news channels and the police brass made it clear that they were duty-bound to get to the bottom of the case. Meanwhile, other "well-wishers" of the actor, including a BJP MLA, tried to contact senior police officers in an attempt to dilute the charges against the actor. Sources said: "Based on CCTV footage and mobile phone call records, the cops initially decided to make Darshan 'accused No. 1'. However, there was no let-up in political pressure to not project Darshan as the prime accused." In an attempt to ensure they didn't ruffle the feathers of the political lobby, police decided to make Darshan "accused No. 2.

President notifies Speaker's poll amid suspense over NDA's pick

NEW DELHI: President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday issued a notification fixing June 26, two days after the first session of the 18th Lok Sabha is scheduled to commence, for the election of LS Speaker amid growing interest about BJP's likely choice for the office. Incumbent Om Birla won the Lok



Sabha polls from gathered force Kota once again since the formation and speculation of the Modi 3.0 that he might be govt and the PM continued with has retaining his CCS

picks. BJP, with 240 seats, and allies who bring in another 53 should easily win the test. The speculation that TDP, which has 16 MPs, may seek the Speaker's post as the price for extending support has worn thin after it decided not to leverage its numbers for outsize gains in ministry making.

Court tells Yamuna Board to decide on Delhi's plea for more Haryana water

NEW DELHI: Observing that it did not have expertise in deciding water sharing disputes among states, Supreme Court on Thursday asked Delhi govt to approach the Upper Yamuna River Board (UYRB) to seek 150 cusecs more water from Haryana to sort out the crisis in the national capital. Taking note of problems faced by Delhi residents, a bench of Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and



Prasanna B Varale directed UYRB to convene a meeting on Friday to decide on Delhi govt's plea for an additional 150 cusecs water from Haryana at the earliest. The court passed the brief order after

Delhi and Haryana kept blaming and accusing each other over not complying with the water-sharing agreement. The court said water disputes between states were complex and sensitive issues which should be adjudicated by an expert body like UYRB. "The issue should be left to be considered by the body constituted with the agreement of parties in the MoU of 1994.

IAF special aircraft departs from Kuwait for India with mortal remains of 45 Indian victims

NEW DELHI: An Indian Air Force (IAF) special aircraft, carrying the mortal remains of 45 Indian victims who lost their lives in the tragic fire incident in Kuwait, has departed for Kochi. Accompanying the remains is Minister of State Kirti Vardhan Singh, who worked closely with Kuwaiti authorities to ensure the swift repatriation process. "MoS Kirti Vardhan Singh, who coordinated with Kuwaiti authorities to ensure swift repatriation, is onboard the aircraft," confirmed India in Kuwait. Among the victims were three men from Uttar Pradesh, identified as Praveen Madhav Singh from Varanasi, and Jairam Gupta and Angad Gupta from



Asked to quit, Paytm employees cry foul

MUMBAI: "I started crying at the meeting. I told them that I was willing to work even at a lower salary and designation," said a Paytm employee who is staring at an imminent job cut. Executives from the HR department reached out to him over a call late last month, stating that his role would be eliminated as part of an organisational restructuring and asking him to tender his resignation by early June. Facing an uncertain

future in the wake of RBI's decision to put an end to Paytm Payments Bank and the wallet business, scores of employees are being asked to "voluntarily resign" without being given any prior notice, several have been denied severance pay and many are being asked to pay back their joining and retention bonuses to the company, several former and present employees of Paytm told.

Gorakhpur district. The sole victim from West Bengal was Dwari Kesh Pattanayak, a 52-year-old native of Medinipur. Dwari Kesh had postponed his scheduled birthday during Durga Puja. home in April to celebrate his daughter's birthday during Durga Puja.

Exhausted over being targeted: Salman to cops

MUMBAI: Actor Salman Khan, who has been allegedly facing persistent threats from the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, while recording his statement before the crime branch expressed his frustration and exhaustion over being targeted for a crime he claims to have already suffered greatly from. and paid fines imposed by various courts. The gang has been targeting Khan since 1998, when he was accused of hunting chinkaras near Jodhpur while shooting for a movie. The city crime branch, probing the case in which two shooters fired at Khan's Bandra residence on behalf of Bishnoi on April 13, recorded the statements of Salman Khan and his brother Arbaz Khan on June 4. Navi Mumbai police recently arrested another faction.

NEW DELHI: This summer, India has faced what's possibly the longest ever spell of heatwave days, with data from IMD revealing that Odisha experienced the most extreme weather and topped the chart by recording the highest number of such days (27), followed by western Rajasthan (23), Gangetic West Bengal (21 days), and Delhi, Haryana, Chandigarh and western UP (20 days each) during March 1-June 9. These numbers were more than double of what these regions normally experience annually. And, heatwaves continue to scorch many of these regions. Delhi, for instance, has seen three more heatwave days since June 9, including Thursday, taking the total so far to 23. IMD on Thursday said "severe heat wave conditions" over northern parts of India are likely to continue in the next 4-5 days. Heatwaves are spells of

unusually high temperatures as compared to what is normally expected over a region. Therefore, temperatures at which heatwaves are declared differ from place to place based on the historical temperatures of that region. Data shared by IMD for the March 1-June 9 shows that 14 of 36 meteorological subdivisions in the country have recorded over 15 heatwave days. These subdivisions are spread across the country with east and north India the worst hit. Even the relatively cool high-altitude regions such as Himachal Pradesh reported 12 heat wave days followed by Sikkim (11), Jammu & Kashmir (6) and Uttarakhand (2). "The IMD's map shows a high number of heatwaves over India. This was expected and predicted in advance. In the year following an El Nino year (2023) we tend to get more heatwaves. That is due to favourable atmosphere.

Electricity thieves spoil sleep of honest consumers

People forced to wake up due to tripping and low voltage

Prayagraj: The problems of scorching heat from the sky have been further increased by electricity tripping and low voltage. There are heaps of complaints against the Katiyamar electricity thieves, but even if the electricity department does something, how much can it do? He is neither getting support from the public nor from the local representatives. In Muthiganj Unchamandi, there have been many complaints from

those who use electricity by cutting the Katia. There are allegations that some people use AC and other heavy power machines with stolen electricity, due to which the residents of the locality are facing the problem of low voltage. The residents of the locality complained about this to the Chief Engineer, Pratham. Virendra Pratap Singh, a resident of unchamandi, gave a written complaint letter to the Chief Engineer Distri-



bution. Prayagraj Area I and said that some people in the locality use AC and other heavy power machines with

stolen electricity, due to which the problems start in the night. Low voltage problems start causing

problems to people. Inverters also fail due to low voltage. Problem in filling water in the tank and the fan is not running properly even after electricity. This situation always arises in summer.

Organized electricity theft in Kareli and Kasari Masari: Most cases of electricity theft in the city are coming from Kareli. In many densely populated Muslim settlements, electricity is used throughout the day.

When the electricity department team goes, they are chased away from there, because there are organized criminals there. Even after the complaint, no action is being taken. The complainant said that even before this, a written complaint was given to the responsible officer of the electricity department in Rambagh sub-division, but leave alone any action; no one even reached the spot to investigate.

Slogan of planting trees to save lives is failing, green trees being cut by bullies

Prayagraj, Thana Holagarh Gram Sabha, Jamunipur: Tree plantation was done by Pujari Human Services and Nature Conservation Institute, which is not a safe tree. Some people, due to their arrogance, cut down a tree laden with fruits for two consecutive days, when information was given on number 112, when the police arrived, the cutting was stopped.



Again in the morning, the cutting of the tree started with the whole family along with an ax and sticks. Then again the police was informed. The police arrived after being informed but the tree continued to be cut even in front of the police. President of the organization K.P. Mishra Manoj contacted the police station but by then a large part of the tree had been cut. Not only was the tree cut down, it was also threatened with death if

it was stopped. Out of fear, the whole family kept on refusing from a distance, but Rajendra Mishra, a resident of Jamunipur, along with the family, cut down the pearly branches along with the fruits, flowers and bird's nest near the main trunk. K.P. Mishra Manoj told that on one hand the government is giving slogans of planting trees and saving the environment and on the other hand the green trees are being cut down by some bullies, even then we have informed all the top officials. No action is being taken, our aim is to save trees and save lives?

First PhD of Acupressure to Prayagraj's daughter

Prayagraj: Archana Dubey, daughter of Prayagraj, has been the first person in the country to receive a Doctorate Degree (PhD) in Acupressure in the direction of Acupressure treatment. Archana Dubey has been active in the direction of acupressure treatment for the last three decades and is providing services of acupressure, yoga and naturopathy. She was awarded this degree in a convocation ceremony by Guru Ram Rai University, Dehradun on the topic 'Effect of Yoga and Acupressure on the problem of PCOD in women.'



Let it be known that Archana Dubey, as the National President of Akhand Charitable Trust and President of Uttar Pradesh of Vishwa Samvad Parishad Yoga and Naturopathy Cell, is making dedicated efforts for the promotion and expansion of acupressure. On receiving the honour, Dr. Shyam Pachauri, International President, Founder of World Dialogue Council, Prof. Dr. Sia Pratap Singh, Yoga Guru Sunil Singh, Yogacharya Dr. Ramesh Chandra, Yogacharya Dr. Navdeep Joshi, Mr. and Mrs. Kabra, Dr. Anant Kumar Jain, Prof. Dr. Naveen Singh, Dr. Satendra. Mishra, Dr. S.K. Aggarwal, Dr. Rashmi, Seema Sharma, D.R. Chaudhary, Siddharth Chaudhary, Guru Prakash Sharma, Prerna, Manisha Singh, Namita Prajapati S. Of. Shukla, Anupam Singh etc. have congratulated Dr. Archana Dubey for this achievement. -Urvashi Upadhyay

Mand made national spokesperson of Shri Niranjani Akhara

Prayagraj: Shri Shri 1008 A c h a r y a Mahamandaleshwar, the Peethadhishwar of the country's largest Akhara, Shri Niranjani Akhara. His Holiness Swami Kailashanand Giri Ji Maharaj today nominated Gursimran Singh Mand as the national spokesperson of Niranjani Akhara, revered Peethadhishwar. Ji told that for the welfare of the world, I remain busy in worshipping Maa Bhagwati Kali and worshipping Mahadev. In whatever time I get, being an Acharya, I have to study all the scriptures, and for the propagation of Sanatan Dharma. One has to travel within the country and abroad, due to this it is not possible to sit in debates to present one's views in



front of media and news channels for the welfare of Sanatan, therefore, after consideration, the name of Guru Simran Singh Mand has been considered for

this work. Let us tell you that Gursimran Singh Mand is originally a resident of Ludhiana city of Punjab state and is currently the national president of Anti-

Khalistani Morcha. Mand is known as a Hinduist ideology. Expressing happiness on this occasion, Manish Tiwari area panchayat member from Prayagraj, Bhupendra Mishra Pappu, Pawan Kumar Pandey (Bajrang Dal convener), Vipin Pandey (Advocate High Court) Pawan Kumar Shukla. General Secretary, Deepak Dwivedi, Avnish Dubey, Monu Tiwari, Anand Prakash, Vashishtha Narayan (Advocate) Manoj Tiwari Girijashankar, Rajendra Prasad Bholebaba, Rahul Tiwari, Baboon Tiwari, Harshit, Vipal etc. A large number of people distributed sweets and sweetened each other's mouth.

Vicks Breaks Sabse Badi Khabar with Powerhouse Ranveer Singh

Varanasi: Vicks breaks Sabse Badi Khabar "Vicks ki Goli Ab Ho Gayi hai Badi" with powerhouse brand ambassador Ranveer Singh unveiling the First-ever Double Powered Transformation of India's iconic Triangular Vicks Cough drops in two decades.

Sahil Sethi, Category Leader, Consumer Healthcare, P&G India, "Vicks ki Goli Lo, Khich Khich Door Karo" the iconic brand jingle of Vicks Cough Drops instantly brings in nostalgia, having helped generations of Indians speak up with a khich khich free voice since 1960s. Committed to build on this legacy we are always listening to what our con-

sumers want and incorporating these insights across our product formulations and packaging. Along with the charismatic Superstar Ranveer Singh, we are delighted to announce our SABSE BADI KHABAR in decades - launch of Vicks Double Power Cough Drops, our first-ever double powered transformation of India's iconic triangular Vicks Cough drops. Formulated based on Consumer feedback on the need of their preferred Cough Drop in a Bigger Size that can help relieve symptoms of throat irritation and cough, our new 'Vicks Double Power Cough Drops' is a BADI GOL which provides BADI RAHAT. Ab Vicks ki Goli

Khao, Badi Rahat Pao."

Speaking about the Brand's Badi Rahat promise, Dr. Jaspreet Kochhar, Director, Vicks Research & Development, "New Vicks Double Power Cough Drop is a superior product for relief from sore throat and cough formulated with a proven mix of effective and well known Ayurvedic ingredients such as Menthol, Eucalyptus oil and Camphor. The new formulation designed to be stronger with 2X Menthol comes in 3 different variants in cooling menthol, soothing honey, and warming ginger - developed and tested with Indian consumers. Consumers can now pop in their favourite and well-loved

cough drops for better, fast, and long relief, with superior cooling and great taste. That's what we call Badi Rahat." Bringing the 'Sabse Badi Khabar' to life is none other than the face of Vicks-Ranveer Singh through a quirky new Television Commercial. Talking about his association with Vicks Cough Drops, Powerhouse Ranveer Singh shared, "Vicks ki goli is a part of our culture. It's always been the go-to remedy for clearing khich-khich! Proud to represent such an iconic brand as Vicks. I'm excited about the new Double Powered Cough Drops. The TVC is cute and quirky. I hope the audience receives the message with a smile."

Dee Development Engineers Ltd IPO to open on June 19

Varanasi: Dee Development Engineers Limited ("Dee Piping" or "The Company"), shall open its Bid / Offer in relation to its initial public offer of Equity Shares on Wednesday, June 19, 2024. The total offer size of Equity Shares (face value ₹ 10 each) comprises of fresh issue aggregating up to ₹ 3,250 million (The "Fresh Issue") and offer for sale of up to 45,82,000 Equity Shares. (The "Offer for Sale"). This offer includes a reservation of up to aggregating up to ₹ 10,00 million (₹ 1 crore) for subscription by eligible employees. (The "Employee Reservation Portion") The Anchor Investor Bidding Date shall be Tuesday, June 18, 2024. The Bid/Offer will open on Wednesday, June 19, 2024 for subscription and close on Friday, June 21, 2024. ("Bid Details") The Price Band of the Offer has been fixed at ₹ 193 to ₹ 203 per Equity Share. Bids can be made for a minimum of 73 Equity Shares and in multiples of 73 Equity Shares thereafter. (The "Price Band").

The Company proposes to utilise net proceeds from fresh issue of Equity Shares towards (i) Funding working capital requirements of our Company estimated to ₹ 750 million in Fiscal 2025; (ii) Prepayment or repayment of all or a portion of certain outstanding borrowings availed by our Company estimated to ₹ 1,750 million in Fiscal 2025; and balance to General corporate purposes (the "Objects of Issue"). The offer for sale of up to 45,82,000 Equity Shares ("Offered Shares") comprising up to 45,82,000 Equity Shares by Krishan Lalit Bansal (collectively, the "Promoter Selling Shareholders"), and such offer for sale of Equity Shares by the Selling Shareholders, "the Offer for Sale").

This Equity Shares are being offered through the Red Herring Prospectus of the Company dated June 11, 2024 filed with the Registrar of Companies, National Capital Territory of Delhi and Haryana at New Delhi.

'Nayi Soch Ki Sawaari': Demystifying electric mobility for Delhi's truck drivers

Noida: In India, MHDVs (medium and heavy-duty vehicles) constitute just 2% of all road vehicles but account for over 45% of all road emissions. In Delhi, where vehicular pollution has reached a crisis point, Delhi's Transport and Environment Minister Kailash Gahlot stated in October 2023 that Electric Vehicles Policy 2.0 would target commercial vehicles to address the issue while hoping for all vehicles to become electric by 2030. The same year,

the nation's capital registered a total of 6,57,312 vehicles out of which 73,610 were electric. For grassroots stakeholders like Naseeb Singh (36), a truck driver who plies the Haryana-UP-Delhi route, this discussion about green technologies and transport decarbonisation takes time to be relatable. For drivers and others in his trucking community, the well-being of their family and community, the effect of pollution on their health, comfort of driving, ease of main-

tenance, and cost efficiency take priority. 'Nayi Soch Ki Sawaari' an initiative to generate awareness about electric trucks amongst people like Singh and his peers is seeding the ground for bigger conversations by addressing their immediate concerns. There have been considerable conversations concerning how India's energy security strategy can be an 'energy-independent' nation by 2047 through various strategies including EVs. The International Coun-

cil on Clean Transportation has especially focused on the role Heavy Duty Trucks (HDTs) can play in this aspirational transition to a more sustainable energy ecosystem and warned that without further policy intervention, HDT emissions may quadruple by 2070 in India. For Singh, these national policy matters may not be of immediate urgency; however, he fully recognizes the positive impact that electric mobility can bring. Naseeb Singh, now bet-

ter informed, says, "Electric vehicles signify a positive change. That is why many brands are coming forward to launch new electric vehicles. One of the benefits is that drivers of electric vehicles will hopefully be able to earn a stable, better salary as they will not need to resort to extensive cost-cutting measures while driving diesel vehicles. Electric trucks are comfortable for the driver too as the trucks are easier to drive. They are better for the environment as they serve as

a defence against environmental pollution. These trucks will also provide considerable relief to owners by replacing costly non-renewable fuels like diesel with renewable and affordable energy." Naseeb is among nearly 2,000 truck drivers, across Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Chandigarh, who are beginning to discuss electric mobility as an interesting concept that they want to know more about.

BJP members congratulated Prem Khandu on becoming Arunachal CM

Prayagraj: BJP leaders congratulated Chief Minister Prem Khandu for taking oath as the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh for the third time and Chauna Meen as the Deputy Chief Minister. On this occasion, BJP Metropolitan President Rajendra Mishra and Metropolitan spokesperson Rajesh Kesarwani said that the double engine government of Bharatiya Janata Party in Arunachal Pradesh has once again lived up to the expectations of the people of Arunachal Pradesh and under the leadership of Chief Minister Prema Khandu, Arunachal Pradesh has once again fulfilled the aspirations of the people. Will be successful in doing so and will accelerate towards becoming a developed Arunachal Pradesh. Among those who congratulated were Kunj Bihari Mishra, Varun Kesarwani, Rajesh Kesarwani, Ramesh Pasi, Devesh Singh, Vivek Aggarwal, Vijay Vaish, Sushil Jain, Prashant Shukla, Rakesh Bharti, Anand Vaishya Sudarshan, Pramod Modi, Raju Pathak Girjesh Mishra, Raghavendra Singh, Sachin Jaiswal, Subhash Vaishya, Rajan Shukla, Ajay Agrahari, Shatrughan Jaiswal, etc.

58 candidates declared successful by UPPSC

Prayagraj: Office, Public Service Commission, Uttar Pradesh Advertisement No. by Information Commission under Medical Health and Family Welfare Department, Uttar Pradesh (Allopathy): -D-1/E-1/2024, V.No.: -S-8/03 Total 440 posts of Medical Officer, Grade-2 (Level-2) Pediatrician (80 posts for unreserved category, 171 posts for Other Backward Classes of Uttar Pradesh, 133 posts for Scheduled Castes of Uttar Pradesh) 12 posts reserved for the Scheduled Tribes of Uttar Pradesh and 44 posts reserved for the economically weaker section of Uttar Pradesh and under horizontal reservation, 08 posts for dependents of freedom fighters, 88 posts for women and 17 posts for disabled category (09 posts LV, 02 posts OA, 02 Online advertisement was issued for selection on 02 posts OL, 02 posts DW and 02 posts reserved for AAV candidates. The interview for the post in question was conducted by the Commission on 05th and 06th June, 2024. 2- After the interview, a total of 58 candidates have been declared successful for the post in question by the Honorable Commission in the order of merit. The said selection result can be seen on the Commission's website <https://uppsc.up.nic.in>. 3- Due to non-availability of candidates, the remaining 22 posts are unreserved, 171 posts are for Other Backward Classes of Uttar Pradesh, 133 posts are for Scheduled Castes of Uttar Pradesh. It has been recommended to carry forward the vacancies reserved for 12 posts for Scheduled Tribes of Uttar Pradesh and 44 posts for Economically Weaker Sections of Uttar Pradesh as per rules. Under horizontal reservation, 08 posts were not selected due to non-availability of any candidate against the posts reserved for the dependent category of freedom fighters, out of 88 posts of female candidates, 13 available female candidates were selected and 17 posts were selected in the disabled category. (Relative to 09 posts of LV, 02 posts of OA, 02 posts of OL, 02 posts of DW and 02 posts of AAV), the available 02 OL category candidates were selected in place. 4- Candidates whose names have PROV written in front of them in the said selection result. He has been selected provisionally and his selection will remain provisional till the required documents are submitted.

To add aura to grandeur of Mahakumbh 2025, 4 major gates & 108 pillars to be installed

Dwadash Jyotirlinga will be displayed in Minto Park, Nakshatra Vatika will be built in Bhardwaj Park

Prayagraj: Special attention is being given to the beautification of the city with a view to making the experience of the devotees coming for Mahakumbh 2025 more divine and grand. Arrangements are also being made to allow the devotees to have darshan of the twelve Jyotirlingas in the famous Minto Park of Prayagraj. Twelve Jyotirlingas will be painted on 12 walls at a marked place in the park so that the visiting devotees can have darshan of all those Jyotirlingas through those walls. Apart from this, the work of developing landscaping and greenery will also be done in the surrounding areas and in order to increase the knowledge of the devotees, necessary information related to all those Jyotirlingas will also be indicated there. In this sequence, Nakshatra Vatika will also be established in Bhardwaj Park to provide information about the trees that influence human life according to the constellations, where 27 types of important plants will be planted according to the 27 constellations. People will be able to come here and get information about the plant according to their constellations.

Apart from this, taking inspiration from the various pillars installed on the approach road leading to Ram temple in Ayodhya, about 108 pillars equipped with facade lighting will also be installed at various places in the city. These will be installed on all river front roads and other major roads from GT Jawahar to Fort Dwar. Besides, four big gates will also be installed to welcome the devotees coming to the city from different routes, in which Ganga Gate will be installed on Phaphamau side, Yamuna Gate on Rewa side, Saraswati Gate on Varanasi side and Shiv Gate on Sahason side.

Special Lok Adalat to be organized from July 29 to Aug 3

Prayagraj: It is proposed to be organized by the Supreme Court from 29.07.2024 to 03.08.2024. If you want to get your case pending before the Supreme Court resolved through conciliation through this Lok Adalat, then to get your case listed in the Lok Adalat, you can go to the office of District Legal Services Authority, Prayagraj from 28.07.2024. Contact first. For more information contact the office of District Legal Services Authority. This information has been provided by Dinesh Kumar Gautam, Secretary/ADJ, District Legal Services Authority, Prayagraj.

DM appealed to people to avoid heatwave and gave instructions to subordinates for necessary work

Prayagraj: Due to the current mercury being more than 46 degrees Celsius, related to protection from the scorching heat, hot wind and heat wave. The departments have been instructed by the District Magistrate on how to protect themselves from this scorching heat, hot wind and heat wave and how to stay safe. To avoid hot winds, cover the windows with reflectors like aluminum foil, cardboard etc., so that the outside heat can be prevented from coming inside. Black

curtains should be placed on those windows and doors from which hot winds come in during the afternoon. Listen to the local weather forecast and be aware of upcoming temperature changes. Get first aid training to deal with emergencies. Never leave children and pets alone in a closed vehicle. As far as possible, stay indoors and avoid the heat of the sun. To avoid the heat of the sun, stay on the lower floor of the house as far as possible. Eat balanced, light and



regular food and never use stale food and do not consume alcoholic beverages. Cover your body and head with cloth or cap outside the house. Use beverages at home like lassi, buttermilk,

buttermilk, wood apple sherbet, salt and sugar solution, lemon water or mango panna etc.

According to the forecast released by the Meteorological Department, there

is a possibility of high/mid temperatures from March to June. In such a situation, people should make necessary preparations to protect themselves from heatwave. The Health Department is running an awareness campaign among the general public regarding protection from heatwave. When the temperature of the environment reaches 3-4 degrees more than 37 degrees Celsius, it is called heatwave or heat wave. In future, the heat wave will increase further, hence various mea-

sures should be adopted to protect from heat. In the heat, the body fluids start drying up. Due to lack of water and salt in the body, there is a higher risk of heat stroke. People with alcohol addiction, heart disease, chronic disease, obesity, Parkinson's disease, old age, uncontrolled diabetes need to take special protection from heat wave. Apart from this, people using diuretic, antistimulant and mental illness medicines should also be careful of heat-stroke.

Shiv Dwar to welcome pilgrims this Mahakumbh

Prayagraj: Along with Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati Dwar (gates), a Shiv Dwar will also be constructed to welcome pilgrims at Mahakumbh-2025. The Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati Dwar were constructed during Kumbh-2019 but the Shiv Dwar will soon be constructed at one of the routes of entry to Prayagraj by the Mela Authority. A proposal of construction of four gates has been made for the upcoming Mahakumbh. Ganga Dwar will welcome pilgrims coming from Phaphamau, Saraswati Dwar on the route from Varanasi, Yamuna Dwar on the route from Rewa and Shiv Dwar on the route from Sahson will welcome pilgrims and tourists during the Mahakumbh. A tender has also been issued for the construction of the gates.

Mela officials said that unlike earlier welcome gates, the new ones will be grander and more beautiful. The gates will be adorned with paintings, murals and other artworks. On Shiv Dwar, a large idol of Lord Shiva and visuals of 'Ganga Awatara' will be depicted. Mela officials said that pilgrims will witness religious visuals at spots in the city. At Minto Park, a Dwadash Jyotirling will be made for pilgrims. Moreover, Dwadash Jyotirling will be depicted through paintings on 12 walls at the park. Landscaping and greenery will be developed near the park. A Nakshatra Vatika will come up at Bhardwaj Park where 27 different plants will be planted as per the 27 Nakshatras. People may take information about the plants according to their Nakshatras.

Similar to the pillars adorning the route to Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, 108 pillars will be constructed at different spots in the city, which will be lit with facade lighting. The pillars will come up at GT Jawahar Crossing to Kila Dwar, all riverfront roads and other main routes.

Minister Nandi met Governor

Prayagraj: Uttar Pradesh Government's Industrial Development Minister Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi today paid a courtesy visit to the Constitutional Head of Uttar Pradesh, Governor Anandiben Patel at the Raj Bhavan in Lucknow and received her guidance. Minister Nandi said that Governor Anandiben Patel has a long political experience, having been the Minister and Chief Minister of Gujarat for a long time. Her valuable suggestions and guidance inspire us all. Minister Nandi expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the Governor for giving her valuable time.



Joy among devotees on opening of all gates of Lord Jagannath Ji in Puri

Prayagraj: Joy among the devotees of Lord Jagannath in Prayagraj when the world famous Lord Jagannath Puri Dham temple opened for devotees to visit. Shri Jagannath Ji Mahotsav Committee Trust's Rath Yatra co-coordinator Rajesh Kesarwani told that in the temple of Lord Jagannath located in Puri Dham, four big gates have been built for the darshan of the devotees, whose names are Singh Dwar, Hasti Dwar, Ashwadwar, Vyagra Dwar, which are for the last 5 years, except the Singh Gate, the remaining three gates were closed due to Corona, but when the effect of Corona ended, the temple administration repeatedly asked the outgoing Chief Minister of Orissa, Naveen Patnaik, to open the remaining three gates of the temple. It was said that but the Naveen Patnaik government did not give permission due to which the devotees had to face a lot of difficulties in having darshan of Lord Jagannath ji and there was anger towards the government. On this occasion, Shri Jagannath Ji Mahotsav Samiti Trust appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Orissa. Expresses heartfelt gratitude to the Honorable Prime Minister and Chief Minister for fulfilling the promise made by the newly elected Chief Minister Mohan Charan Manjhi to open the remaining three closed gates of Puri Dham for the devotees to visit and congratulates all the devotees of Lord Jagannath across the world.

NEP at PRSU: 20% course revision for 4-yr UG, 1-yr PG prog on card

Prayagraj: Prof Rajendra Singh (Rajju Bhaiya) University, Prayagraj and its 703 affiliated colleges will introduce four-year undergraduate (UG) and one-year postgraduate (PG) programmes, starting from the new academic session (2024-25). This initiative is part of the changes implemented under the National Education Policy (NEP)-2020, which also involves modifying 20% of the UG-PG curricula. A key feature of this change is that the fourth-year curriculum will be research-based, university officials said.

Students who complete the four-year UG programme will be eligible for PhD admission, but they will need to undertake a year of coursework during the PhD programme, they added.

To facilitate these changes, the Board of Studies (BoS) of the university has initiated a series of

meetings to revise the curricula for every UG and PG subject. An academic council meeting is scheduled to be held in the last week of June, where the revised curriculum will be officially approved, officials said.

Officials also said that from the new session, students who have completed three years degree programme (regular bachelor's degree) from the university and wish to enroll in a PG course, will be admitted to the fourth year of the new UG course allowing them to earn an honours degree with research and then go on to graduate with a postgraduate degree in the fifth year under NEP-2020.

As part of this transition, the university administration is updating the curricula for the fourth and fifth years. BoS has already approved the curriculum revisions for many subjects, and changes for all

subjects will be completed within the next 14 days.

Vice-chancellor, Prof Rajendra Singh (Rajju Bhaiya) University, Prof Akhilesh Kumar Singh, said that under the new national education policy, UG students will enter the fourth year, receive an honours degree with research, and be awarded a PG degree in the fifth year. The new curriculum will also include study of moral education and Indian traditions, along with research. Students in the fourth year will complete a minor research project, and the final semester of the fifth year will be entirely dedicated to research work (dissertation), he added. Formerly known as Allahabad State University, PRSU was set up in 2016. It has 703 affiliated colleges, including 373 in Prayagraj, 79 in Kaushambi, 80 in Fatehpur, and 171 in Pratapgarh.

Dr. Priyanka Chahal and Rohit Dalal Excellently Represent India in Russia

Prayagraj: At a prestigious high-level forum in Russia, Dr.

Priyanka Chahal and Rohit Dalal, both from Haryana, showcased India's strength and prowess on the international stage. Dr. Priyanka Chahal, hailing from Jind, Haryana, received a distinguished invitation to represent India at the Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum, organized by Roscongress, held from June 5th to 8th, 2024. Known as the "Russia Davos," this event, graced by the presence of Russian President Vladimir Putin, stands as one of the largest global gatherings focusing on key economic issues. Over its 26-year history, the forum has established itself as a premier platform for exchanging best practices and expertise in sustainable development.

Dr. Chahal, with a distinguished background as a doctor and expertise in global policy, diplomacy, and sustainability, brought significant value to the forum.

As a youth development expert with five years of experience, she played an integral role in representing India, making her mark through active participation in various sessions and even sharing her insights during a special plenary session with President Putin. She proudly represented India in numerous high-level ministerial meetings and secured interviews with leading Russian news channels.

Accompanying Dr. Chahal were two other notable delegates from India: Rahul Chaudhry from Agra, UP, and Rohit Dalal from Bahadurgarh, Haryana. Mr. Dalal, an

accomplished international wrestler and entrepreneur, shared his experiences in the sports and fitness industry, contributing to discussions aimed at enhancing business opportunities between India and Russia. Together, these three Indian delegates bolstered relationships within BRICS+ countries, advocating for greater youth participation in decision-making processes.

They collectively believe in the significant potential for bilateral cooperation and growth between India and Russia, especially with increased youth involvement. Their shared vision includes further strengthening India-Russia relations for mutual economic and trade growth, heralding a promising future of collaboration and prosperity.

Soon, hassle-free journey to Varanasi, Mirzapur from Prayagraj

Prayagraj: Travellers heading to Varanasi and Mirzapur via Handia from Andawa will soon have an easier journey. This will particularly alleviate the frequent traffic jams witnessed in Sarai Inayat, Hanumanganj, Saidabad, and Handia areas of Prayagraj. The Public Works Department's construction division-3 has completed 95% of the four-lane construction on Old GT Road from Andawa to Handia. The remaining 5% of the work will be completed by June 30, said officials.

Executive engineer of construction division-3 of PWD Navin Kumar Verma confirmed that under the expansion project of Old GT Road, 95% of the four-lane road construction has been completed. The final phase involves the remaining 5% of the work around the Andawa Mod which is under continuous monitoring, and is set to be completed by June 30, he added.

The deadline for completing the four-lane construction is set for June 30. To complete the remaining 5% of the work, an addi-

tional instalment of ₹29 crore was released by the state government on June 6 from the total sanctioned budget of ₹294 crore for the four-lane project, the official shared.

The four-lane expansion covers a 22.4 kilometre stretch from Andawa Mod to Handia. The demolition and widening work between Sarai Inayat, Hanumanganj, Saidabad, and Handia began on December 27, 2021. Meanwhile, changes are also planned for Cemetery Road. The road will be widened

by three metres, and a divider will be constructed in the middle, featuring a green belt. Additionally, there are plans to develop a green belt in the vacant space between the road and the new Yamuna bridge.

Prayagraj development authority's chief engineer Ashutosh Srivastava said the work from Bairahana crossing to Yamuna Bank road on Cemetery Road and from Shyama Prasad Mukherjee crossing to Prof Rajendra Prasad (Rajju Bhaiya) University is set to be completed in next two

months.

The PDA has issued a tender for road widening and other development works. Before issuing the tender, the Prayagraj Municipal Corporation commenced constructing drains on both the sides of Cemetery Road. Ten years back, Cemetery Road was renovated, with the municipal corporation repairing the dilapidated road and installing streetlights in the middle.

The state government has released part of the budget for the construction of

the Kaushambi-Prayagraj road and GT Road. Over ₹54 crore has been allocated for the Kaushambi-Prayagraj road. The construction of the Kaushambi-Prayagraj road is crucial for boosting tourism in this neighbouring district of Prayagraj. This road is being linked with the tourist spots of Kaushambi to Prayagraj airport. The Public Works Department has commenced work on both roads, aiming to complete the projects before the formal start of the Mahakumbh-2025.

On Ganga Dussehra, grand bhajan evening organized by "Jai Triveni Jai Prayag"

Prayagraj: On the occasion of Ganga Dussehra 2024, Jai in front of Bandhwa Wale Late Hanuman Ji Temple. The organization of ten day Bhajan Sandhya has started from 07 June by the organization "Triveni Jai Prayag". Every day at 06:00 in the evening, a grand aarti and worship of Maa Ganga is performed, after which a cultural program of Bhajan Sandhya is performed from 08:00 in the night. Famous singer Swati Nirakhi and famous singer Neeraj Singh, in collaboration with the well-known organization "Global Greens", which has been working with full dedication in the interest of the society for the last 18 years on environmental protection like saving Ganga, Yamuna, trees, thirst, water and banning polythene, their singer Senior folk singer Uday Chandra



Pardesi along with his daughters Shreya Singh and Asmita Singh received the wholehearted appreciation of the devotees, audience, listeners and music lovers present with their

soul-stirring bhajans.

Uday Chandra Pardesi recited the hymn based on Shiva "Bhole teri jata se Shankar teri jata se behti hai Ganga stream..." and a melodious bhajan on Hanuman

ji, while Neeraj Singh recited "Ganga tera paani amrit jhar jhar bahta jaaye..." We are residents of the country in which Ganga flows..." "Let's call, mother has called..." by singing "Let's call, mother has called..." connected the audience with the feeling of devotion and the glory of God, while singers Shreya Singh and Asita Singh He enthralled the people by singing "Mano toh main Ganga maa hoon na mano toh bahta pani". Swati Nirakhi also started her performance with the hymn of Lord Shiva and then "Ganga Maiya mein, as long as there is water... More adorn your life..." "Ram, your Ganga has become dirty, wash away the sins of the sinners... By singing the famous bhajan "Hey Ganga Maiya Tohe Piyari Chadhaibon" and Bajrang Bali "Baithe Hain Shri Ram Janaki Mere Seen Mein...", it created such an atmo-

sphere that all the men and women saints started dancing with all their heart. Devotion and emotion. The event was spectacularly conducted by Sanjay Purusharthi, President of Global Greens and Awadhesh Nishad, General Secretary of Global Greens, followed by Pradeep Pandey, Vice President of Jai Prayag. Singh and other officials honored all the artists and both the announcers by giving them Ang Vastram and mementos. In the program, along with many dignitaries of the city, Sankata Babu, Kanchan Shukla, Shiva Tripathi, Vibhuti Narayan Pandey, Devesh Shukla, Sanjay Saxena, Rita Saxena, Sita Nishad, Abhishek Saxena, Dr. Kashyap, Abhishek Singh, Ashish Mishra, Pankaj Kushwaha, Sharad, Raj and Ajitabh were also present.

10th Int'l Yoga Day to be celebrated systematically and enthusiastically on June 21

Prayagraj: District Development Officer/Incharge Chief Development Officer Bholanath Kanojia and Chief Revenue Officer Kunwar Pankaj on Thursday celebrated the Tenth International Yoga Day to be held on June 21, 2024. Regarding the preparations for the day, necessary guidelines were given in a meeting with the officials of the concerned departments in Sangam Auditorium. It was told in the meeting that this year the theme of Yoga Day has been set as "Yoga for self and society". It was told in the meeting that Yoga Week will be celebrated from June 15 to June 20 and the main program of Yoga Day will be held on June 21. From June 15 to June 20, yoga practice programs will be organized every day be-

tween 06:00 am to 07:00 am under the Yoga Week program in all development blocks, tehsils, gram panchayats and headquarters. Yoga Week program at the headquarters level will be organized every day

21 must upload his photo while doing yoga on Ayush Kavach. The Chief Development Officer in-charge has given instructions to ensure timely arrangement of cleanliness, toilets, drinking water, sound system,



from 15th June to 20th June between 06:00 AM to 07:00 AM at Chandrashekhar Azad Park. It was also told in the meeting that every person doing yoga under the yoga program organized from June 15 to June

LEDs as well as other necessary arrangements at the venue. On this occasion, Additional Municipal Commissioner, Ayurvedic Officer Dr. Sharda Prasad and officials of other concerned departments were present.

Editorial

Post-Cold War era and Great Power competition

Post-World War II saw the emergence of two power blocks: the US-led North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), formed in 1949, and the Soviet Union-led Warsaw Pact, formed in 1955. NATO was meant to defend against the spread of Soviet-led communism. The Warsaw Pact was to counter NATO. The resultant Cold War saw huge military buildups and competition in the space and nuclear fields. At its peak between 1975 and 1985, the US and Soviet Union had a nuclear weapons stockpile of nearly 60,000 warheads. The collapse and breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991 brought an end to the Cold War. The period saw arms control treaties and a significant reduction of nuclear weapons, and stockpiles between the two are now around 6,000 each. The period also saw the folding up of the Warsaw Pact, but a significant increase in NATO, which, as of date, has 32 members. The world became unipolar, with the US dominating the security scene. This was also the period when the world concentrated on the War against Terror. West Asia became the area of focus. By 2007, Russia had begun to consolidate its power under President Putin. China had started rising as an economic and military power. China unilaterally usurped nearly three million sq. km of the South China Sea (SCS), and became aggressive for Taiwan unification. The Quad was formed with the US, Japan, Australia and India to thwart China's expansionist designs in the Indo-Pacific. Meanwhile in Europe, Ukraine was showing interest in joining NATO. This would have brought the alliance on the Russian doorstep. This was unacceptable to Russia. Initially to secure its Black Sea fleet, Russia arranged to annex Crimea in 2014. With Ukraine still not relenting on NATO, Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022. Effectively that brought an end to the post-Cold War era.

Post-Cold War Era Begins

Despite massive NATO support to Ukraine, Russia continues to hold nearly 20 percent Ukrainian territory. The American and European public opinion shows war fatigue, and are not keen to pump more money or weapons. Hamas in Gaza, Hezbollah in Lebanon, Houthis in Yemen and several militias in Syria and Iraq are part of Iran funded and backed "Axis of Resistance". Now, they have a new backer: Russia. Developments in West Asia (Gaza war and Houthis) have also complicated the US' desire to focus more on the Indo-Pacific. Russia has secured lifelines for its economy and defence enterprises, while navigating to retain its military influence outside of Europe. In spite of economic sanctions, Russia has once again emerged as a power to contend with. Russia supports legacy multilateral institutions, along with China. It is strengthening BRICS, and is pushing for the de-dollarisation of international finance. Russia and China want to prevent the US and its allies from writing international rules. Russia has recalibrated its entire foreign policy to fit the needs of a long struggle. Russia has already expanded its trade and political relations with non-Western countries. The pillars of Russia's global foreign policy are self-preservation and global de-compartmentalisation. China has not only emerged as an economic power that is peddling influence around the world through Belt and Road and other economic initiatives, but has also become a significant military and Space power that wants to initially exert influence in Western Pacific and Indian Oceans, and later across the globe. China has also been modernising and expanding its nuclear arsenal. It is not willing to sit with the US and Russia to discuss arms control or evolve new treaties. The antagonism between Russia and the US has already put arms-control treaties on slow-burner.

India and the Greater Indo-Pacific: Balancing geopolitical equations

Looking at the complex geopolitical and geoeconomic challenges the Indo-Pacific region is currently grappling it is necessary that there is a need to broaden the geopolitical concept of the Indo-Pacific to the Greater Indo-Pacific. The Greater Indo-Pacific can rebalance the global geopolitics and geoeconomics while checkmating China's hegemonic role. India, being the Centre of Indo-Pacific geopolitics, can play a central role in the formation of Greater Indo-Pacific.

Introduction

The recent war between Israel and Hamas, as well as Russia and Ukraine war along with the Red Sea crisis demonstrates that some of these crises are having an impact on the geopolitics of the Indo-Pacific. Along with these wars, the rise of China is also posing a substantial challenge to the Greater Indo-Pacific encompassing major countries of the "Eurasian Heartland" in the phraseology of Halford Mackinder, like India, the US, Japan, South East Asian countries, South Korea, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Israel, Egypt, France, Germany, Italy, Greece, Russia and Kazakhstan. Though the idea appears to be entirely imaginary, understanding the present geopolitical complexities is necessary to consider the Greater Indo-Pacific concept. Both the US and Russia should learn from Israel's and Saudi



Arabia's relations. Improved relations between Moscow and Washington can enhance peace and security in West Asia, the Mediterranean and Indo-Pacific regions as well also in the post-Soviet space. Bringing these above-mentioned regions into a Greater Indo-Pacific framework can give impetus to peace and security in the region as well as enhance economic cooperation. A Greater Indo-Pacific can also provide a necessary challenge to China's hegemonic geopolitics. In this context, India can play a vital role in giving the necessary leadership to Greater Indo-Pacific. The prolonged crisis in the "heartland" in the form of a war between Russia and Ukraine, as well as the onset of the war between Israel and Hamas and its spiral impact in the form of the Red Sea crisis, is providing a new kind of geopolitical equation in

the global map. One thing is sure: phrases like alliances and block politics (though not in an ideological framework) and issues relating to armament and disarmament are currently gaining broader importance in geopolitical discourses. The two wars, as discussed above, demonstrate the significance of the metaphor of "Eurasia" as coined by British geopolitical thinker Halford J Mackinder in his classic work Democratic Ideals and Reality published in 1919, where he eulogised the concept of "World Island" and also "Heartland" in the lexicon of geopolitics. The reason for discussing the metaphor of "Eurasia" or "Heartland" in the present strategic polemics on the Indo-Pacific is to highlight how these two trajectories can be relevant in the context of the geopolitics of the region. Though Mackinder has not talked about the concept of

Indo-Pacific, his article titled Geographical Pivot of History, published in 1904, discussed the concept of "Inner Crescent" and "Outer Crescent", where much of the Indo-Pacific comes under the ambit. For instance, India is in the inner crescent of Eurasia and Japan and the United States are in the outer crescent as per Mackinder. Highlighting the strategic significance of both "Inner Crescent" and "Outer Crescent", Mackinder, in his book Democratic Ideals and Reality, suggested that "The actual balance of political power at any given time is, of course, the product, on the one hand, of geographical conditions, both economic and strategic, and, on the other hand, of the relative number, virility, equipment, and organization of the competing peoples" (p.192). Similarly, German geopolitical analyst Karl Haushofer in his seminal work Geopolitics of the Pacific Ocean, published in 1924, outlined the strategic significance of this region in the global geopolitics. Describing this region as a "giant space is expanding before our eyes." He further highlights that this region "awaits the dawn of the ageing Atlantic, the over-age Mediterranean and the European era." (as quoted in

Weigert, H. W. (1942). Reviewed work(s): geopolitik des pazifischen ozeans by Karl Haushofer (Review: Haushofer and the Pacific). Foreign Affairs, 20(4), 732-742. Similarly, Nicolas J Spykman in his classic work Geography of Peace, outlines the concept of Rimland where countries like Japan, India, South Korea and Saudi Arabia, located to adjacent Heartland can play a greater role. In this context, he highlights Rimland's logic, which contrasts the Mackinder approach. Spykman stated, "Whoever rules the Rimland commands Eurasia, and whoever rules Eurasia commands the world." The necessity for delving into some of the issues relating to theoretical polemics of Indo-Pacific, as highlighted in the above works of both Mackinder, Haushofer and Spykman is to trace out the significance of the concept of Indo-Pacific, which is gaining much importance in the present-day geopolitical analysis. One may recall here that Indian scholar Kalidas Nag, in his work Greater India, explains India's role in global geopolitics. In the same book, Nag highlights that "India, through the hands of Ashoka, showered her blessings of peace and progress over this symbolic union of Asia, Africa and Europe with the ties of Internationalism" (p.127). Nag's work further highlights India's inroad.

How women are navigating challenges and taking centre stage?

Amid rapid digitization, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is no longer a buzzword but has emerged as a priority for businesses across industries. Whether it is voice assistants like Siri and Alexa fulfilling our wishes at a simple voice command, the ETA of cabs we book, or Natural language processing (NLP) and Machine learning (ML) algorithms-enabled chatbots resolving our queries instantly, AI is revolutionizing different aspects of our lives. However, to ensure its impactful development, equal and inclusive participation is essential. And women are rising to the occasion to explore prospective opportunities and break barriers with a vision to shape the future of AI. In an industry historically dominated by men,

women have defied bias to occupy a prominent position in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) sector. They have made significant strides in facilitating AI and ML advancements. In fact, women are credited with being one of the most prominent pioneers in the field of AI. Dating back to the mid-19th century, Ada Lovelace, known as the world's first computer programmer, worked collaboratively with Charles Babbage on the design of the Analytical Engine. Even in the mid-20th century, Katherine Johnson was instrumental in the success of the first manned space flights and went on to become a role model for women in the STEM field.

Closer home, several women are

leading the AI revolution. India has the highest skill penetration rates, and women are contributing by being at the forefront of AI research and development. Take Aakanksha Chowdhery, for instance. She is a staff research scientist at Google DeepMind whose extensive research and contributions extend to fields like signal processing, ML, edge computing, etc. Additionally, strong-headed women like Tessa Thomas at the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Ishu Jain leading central analytics at Swiggy and Divya Mittal, Director of data science at American Express, among others, are shining examples of female excellence in the field.

How India's South-South cooperation in Africa's agricultural sector is a win-win game

Exciting things were happening in Nairobi at the end of February. Indian models for Global South cooperation were in focus over a few days. This was particularly evident at the 11th Sankalp Africa summit session on scaling agricultural innovation through South-South collaboration. As many as 1500 people with ideas for impacting the development of their communities gathered at this annual event from across Africa. Investors and impact financiers looked at them and interacted to find solutions. Many sessions focused on possible solutions using the success of models in different countries, particularly India.

The agriculture and South-South cooperation session aimed at creating a deeper understanding of the challenges that agriculture value chains face in Africa. The role of agricultural innovations and how targeted interventions and sustainable development approaches could positively impact them and consequently benefit small farmers were emphasised. These have particular relevance for an enhanced understanding of the enabling aspects, barriers to technology transfers, and their adaptability. One of the areas that was focused on was South-South collaboration through innovative



agricultural enterprises, which could perhaps foster cross-border partnerships. This is relevant as the East African Community expands to include more countries and the Africa Continental Free Trade Area takes more steps towards implementation. A focused discussion brought together major stakeholders like development partners, policy-makers, representatives of farmers, innovative agricultural enterprises, and investors. The Indian model of a bustling innovative agricultural ecosystem, which has been impacted by innovative enterprises serving 15 million farmers, was in focus. The context was set by discussing how India-Africa cooperation has traditionally focused on the private sector and heavily on agriculture. Even bilateral cooperation at the government-to-government level and through the India-Africa summits has had agriculture at its core. Agriculture features in PM Modi's 10-point action plan for Africa, enunciated in

Uganda in 2018. Yet, do government-to-government initiatives always work? As per a recent book, The Harambee Factor, many of these initiatives, like seed demonstration centres, rural technology centres, farm science centres, and the like, were offered by India to African countries, but these were not easily absorbed by African governments. Wherever the private sector or civil society is involved, the absorption is better and more conducive to backward integration. This approach was then discussed with several partners at the session. There were two entrepreneurs: Giraffe Bioenergy and Everest Enterprises. They were complimented by investing companies, the Delta 40 and the Katapult VC. The World Bank and the Gates Foundation also participated, as did the CEO of the Cereal Growers Association of Kenya, which brings together half a million cereal growers for better marketing.

India presses on land borders amid Chinese expansionism in Indian Ocean

Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi said that on maritime disputes, "China has been exercising a high degree of restraint. [...] In face of deliberate infringements, China will take justified actions to defend its rights in accordance with the law. In face of unwarranted provocation, China will respond with prompt and legitimate countermeasures. China also urges certain countries outside this region not to make provocations, pick sides, or stir up trou-

bles and problems in the South China Sea." Wang Yi's statements on the South China Sea come at a key point where India is mounting pressure on the India-China land border. It has redeployed 10,000 soldiers from its western border to the Indo-Tibetan border in the Indian states of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. These troops will join 9,000 troops already guarding the 532 km stretch of the Indo-China border in these states, Bloomberg reported. The area consists of some of Hinduism's holiest sites, known as the Char Dham

(four holy abodes, as defined by Adi Shankaracharya). "China is committed to working with India to safeguard the peace and stability of the border areas," Mao Ning, a spokesperson for the Chinese foreign ministry, said. "We believe that India's practice is not conducive to safeguarding peace and is not conducive to easing tensions." Mao added that "India's increase in military deployments in border areas does not help to calm the situation in the border areas or to safeguard peace and safety in these areas," according to a

report by Reuters. The armed forces are well equipped, capable and ready to give a befitting reply if anyone casts an evil eye on India, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said recently against the backdrop of the nearly four-year border row with China in eastern Ladakh and concerns over Chinese military forays into the Indian Ocean. Maldives' new Islamist, anti-India President Mohamed Muizzu signed a military assistance pact with China earlier this week, surprising analysts from his own country.

Philippine have allowed international medical graduates to obtain licenses

Delhi: Philippine lawmakers have allowed international medical graduates to obtain licenses and practice locally, benefiting Indian students. Since the National Medical Council requires returning students to take the Indian screening test with a valid practicing license, the move advantages Indian doctors-to-be. The move follows several other nations' efforts to attract Indian medical students overseas. Russia, Belarus, and Georgia have adopted similar policies after NMC's 2021 amendment, which required medical graduates from other countries to have a valid practicing license before taking the Indian screening test. NMC de-recognized the Philippine Bachelor of Science in 2023. It only accepted candidates from their four-year MD program, similar to India's MBBS. It fell short of NMC's 54-month minimum, therefore candidates had to complete a year of internship before taking the screening test to become doctors. In India Foreign



education agent Kadwin Pillai stated all worries are gone. The Philippine UG medical course duration now meets NMC standards. Welcoming foreign medical students to practice medicine locally or abroad will help our students and boost the Philippines' status as a major Asian-Pacific medical education destination "said. About 2,000 Indian UG medical students study in the Philippines each year. A record 24 lakh students took the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test this year. Foreign education agents expect 5 lakh Indians to study medicine abroad when local admissions close. Students spend Rs 40 lakh on schooling on average.

The 15-year-old Indian weightlifter shattering the world mark for gold

Delhi: At the IWF World Championships, 15-year-old Indian weightlifter Preetismita Bhoi won a gold medal after shattering the world record for juvenile clean and jerk in the women's 40 kg division. She lifted an amazing 76kg, breaking the previous record of 75kg. On the first day of the competition, Bhoi's overall effort weighed 133 kg, barely 2 kg less than the young world mark thanks to her 57 kg snatch lift. Jyoshna Sabar of India won the silver medal with a total lift of 125 kg (56 kg + 69 kg), and Fatma Kolcak of Turkey took home the bronze medal with a total lift of 120 kg (55 kg + 65 kg). The result was a 1-2 finish. Two more weightlifters from India made it to the podium, making it an excellent day for them. Payal finished second in the women's 45kg category, losing to Colombian Lawren Estrada, who won her second world title with a total lift of 151kg (67kg+84kg). Payal took home a silver medal in the 45kg



How Does Widespread NCERT Textbook Adoption Benefit Indian Students?

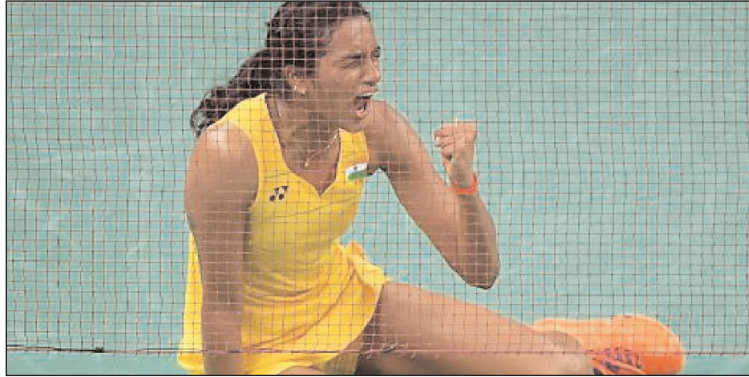
Delhi: NCERT textbooks dominate Indian education. These texts have underpinned Indian education for decades. The extensive use of NCERT textbooks has benefited pupils across. In this post, we will discuss the benefits of NCERT textbooks, their broad use, and how NCERT Solutions for Class 6 and other courses improve learning.

One reason NCERT textbooks are so popular is their dedication to quality education for all pupils. These textbooks are accessible and inclusive for various pupils. Experts curate the information to ensure accuracy and relevancy, meeting current educational requirements. NCERT textbooks guarantee national curricular uniformity.

event. With a total lift of 193 kg (86 kg + 107 kg), Babul Hembrom won the bronze in the men's 49 kg event, making him the fourth lifter from India to place on the podium.

Sindhu beat Ongbamrunghan to reach the Malaysia

Delhi: Indian shuttler PV Sindhu defeated Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrunghan in the Malaysia Masters women's singles semi-final at Axiata Arena to advance to the final. Sindhu defeated the higher-ranked Thai shuttler 13-21, 21-16, 21-12 in the 88-minute match. Her first tournament final since March last year. Sindhu has reached four BWF World Tour Super 500 finals. In his first semi-final of the year, the two-time Olympic medalist lost the first game before showing her real courage. After a fierce battle, she took the lead from world no. 10 in the second game and led by two points at half-time. Keep calm and extend your lead to win 21-16. In



Axiata Arena to advance to the final. Sindhu defeated the higher-ranked Thai shuttler 13-21, 21-16, 21-12 in the 88-minute match. Her first tournament final since March last year. Sindhu has reached four BWF World Tour Super 500 finals

the final game, she went all out and left her opponent no chance to recover. Sindhu led 11-5 before exchanging sides and closing with eight match points. She easily won

21-12 to win the match. Sindhu will face Wang Zhi Yi of China in the final. The incumbent Asian champion defeated Zhang Yiman in straight games to reach the

The US is the top study abroad location for Indian students

Delhi: The US is the top destination for Indian students seeking higher education abroad. Most Indian students prefer US education due to its universities, cultural diversity, and academic opportunities. Indian student enrollment in U.S. universities rose 35% in 2022-23. USA is known for academic brilliance and offers international students learning and job possibilities with close to 200 universities in the top 1500 QS world university rankings.

Indian students are the largest international cohort studying in the U.S. because M.S. final.

The Indian Junior Women's Hockey Team wins 2-2 (4-2 SO) versus Belgium

Delhi: As part of their ongoing European tour, the Indian Junior Women's Hockey Team defeated Belgium with a resounding 4-2 shootout victory after regulation ended in a stalemate. India's best goal scorer, Kanika Siwach, led the team with an outstanding brace. In the first quarter, the Indian Junior Women's Hockey Team quickly found their rhythm and made an impression. Kanika Siwach

rang the boards to give India the lead following an early penalty corner. In the same quarter, Kanika soon after scored her second goal of the game to make it 2-0. India kept up their momentum and held off Belgium during a goalless second quarter to limit their team and take a dominating lead into halftime. In the third quarter, Belgium had opportunities, including a pivotal penalty corner, but the Indian defense

was able to contain Belgium and keep the lead.

Minutes before the half, Belgium finally broke free in the last quarter, scoring twice in rapid succession to square the score at 2-2. India prevailed in the subsequent shootout to win the match 2-2 (4-2 SO). The next game for the Indian Junior Women's Hockey Team is scheduled for May 26 in Breda, against Germany.

Low-pressure area over Bay of Bengal-IMD

PUNE: A weather conundrum is gathering steam over Bay of Bengal ahead of monsoon arrival. India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast formation of a low-pressure area over southwest Bay of Bengal around, while some independent forecasters sounded alarm about potential for an intense cyclone in the making that could impact Odisha, Maharashtra, and Gujarat. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, director general of meteorology, IMD, told TOI: "Low-pressure area will help monsoon advance over Andaman sea and adjoining Bay of Bengal, but it may not have an impact on onset of mon-

soon in Kerala. However, we have not so far ruled out the possibility of the system turning into a cyclone later because known for cyclone formation. It is too early to confirm whether or not it will transform into a cyclone. If at all a cyclone forms, its impact on monsoon progress cannot be gauged as of now because it will depend on its path and intensity." GP Sharma, president of Skymet Weather Services, however, said the system did have a significant potential to become a cyclone, but is unlikely to hinder monsoon's progress. "There are ample chances that the Bay of Bengal system could gradually turn

into a cyclone. It is unlikely to disrupt the monsoon progress when it forms, rather only help in its progress," Sharma said. Roxy Mathew Koll, senior climate scientist at Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, told TOI: "A low pressure system will definitely develop over the south Bay of Bengal next week. Sea surface temperatures there are quite warm, so the ocean conditions are favourable. Madden-Julian Oscillation is reaching there soon, making the winds also favourable, providing rotational trigger for a cyclone to form. The restricting factor could be early monsoon development."

Indian women's compound team wins third straight Archery World

Delhi: Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Parneet Kaur, and Aditi Swami won their third straight Archery World Cup gold medal at stage two. The three defeated Turkey's Hazal Burun, Ayse Bera Suzer, and Begum Yuva 232-226 to prove their dominance. The world-number one Indian team showed skill and consistency from the start. They kept a six-point lead throughout the final, preventing Turkey from closing in. This win continues their winning trend, having won gold at World Cup Stage 1 in Shanghai and Stage 4 in Paris last year. India won silver in compound mixed team in addition to women's team. Olivia Dean and Sawyer Sullivan of the US faced Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Priyansh



Jain in the final. After an early lead, the Indian duo succumbed by two points, 155-153. Jyothi and Priyansh opened the match with a near-perfect 39 out of 40, giving India a two-point advantage. They lost consistency in later rounds. By halfway, the USA pair tied the score and beat the Indians with a perfect third end to win the gold medal. Prathamesh Fuge just missed a bronze medal in the individ-

ual events after losing to world number one Mike Schloesser of the Netherlands in a shoot-off. Fuge defeated Austrian world number six Nico Wiener in the quarterfinals. He lost in the shoot-off after overcoming a two-point deficit to force a tiebreaker, losing his first World Cup medal. In the compound men's individual semifinal, Fuge lost to world number seven James Lutz of the US 143-148.

HC overturns JNV's admittance denial

Delhi: The Delhi High Court has ordered the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) to admit students from districts other than their own. Justice C Hari Shankar overturned the order to not admit a pupil to JNV, Mungeshpur, and said the child can be admitted in Class 6 of the 2024-25 academic year and remain there. A youngster who attended Navyug School at Peshwa Road in the national capital until Class 5 petitioned the high court for admission to Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Mungeshpur, in Class 6. The school denied admission to the girl because she was educated in New Delhi, not Mungeshpur, North West. A youngster who attended Navyug School at Peshwa Road in the national capital until Class 5 petitioned the high court for admission to Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Mungeshpur, in Class 6. The school denied admission to the girl because she was educated in New Delhi, not Mungeshpur, North West. While the matter is pending with a division bench, the student in the previous petition was allowed to continue studying at the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Mungeshpur, as an interim measure. The high court overturned the petitioner's exclusion from Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Mungeshpur. "The petitioner is entitled to Class 6 admission to the JNV (Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Mungeshpur) in 2024-25 and continues education there.

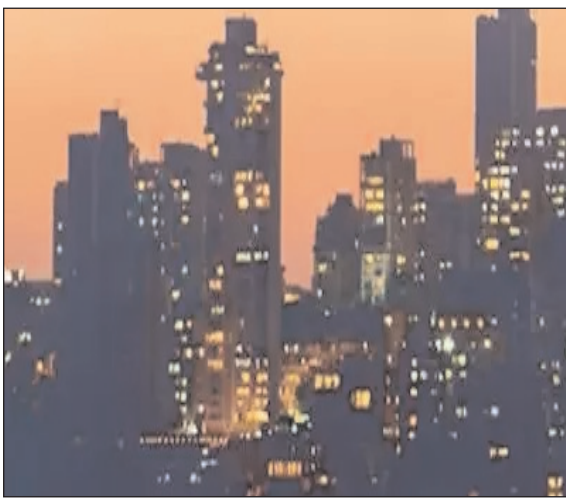


Govt takes Third Mumbai plan another step closer to reality

MUMBAI: The urban development department (UDD) has invited suggestions and objections from the general public from 124 villages that have now been made a part of the proposed Third Mumbai.

Third Mumbai largely consists of area that falls under the influence zone of the recently opened Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL), or Atal Setu.

MTHL is expected to have a major impact on the economic development and growth of the region and the state govt has decided to tap the potential that will emanate from this project. On Dec 12, Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) was appointed the New Town Development Authority (NTDA) for area that falls under the MTHL influence zone. MMRDA has envisaged Third Mumbai as a liveable and environment-friendly greenfield sustainable business cen-



tre with smart city features. It will have regional-level amenities with mixed-use and integrated residential areas for job creation and economic growth of Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR). Of the 124 villages, 80 villages are from Navi Mumbai Airport Influence Notified Area (NAINA), 33 villages from the Khopta New Town Notified Area, two villages from Mumbai Metropolitan Regional Plan and nine from the Raigad Regional Plan. Since some of the areas from NAINA and Khopta New Town

Notified Area have been moved to NTDA, UDD has decided to seek suggestions and objections about the modifications. A notification issued by state UDD said: "The suggestion and/or objections in respect of the proposed modification [are sought] from the general public within 30 days (April 3). The suggestions and/or objections shall be addressed to the joint director of town planning, Konkan Division, 3rd floor, main building, room no. 305, Konkan Bhavan, Navi Mumbai-400601."

NEW DELHI: Union minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar, the BJP candidate for Thiruvananthapuram, warned his Congress rival Tharoor against resorting to personal attacks during the election campaign. Chandrasekhar accused Tharoor of engaging in "third-rate politics" by spreading falsehoods and instilling fear in the minds of the people. acknowledging the importance of free speech under Article 19, Chandrasekhar emphasized

that crossing the line into personal attacks on his integrity would not be tolerated.

He asserted his determination to take legal action against such attempts, ensuring that consequences are served under the law.

"He (Dr Shashi Tharoor) relies upon this type of third-rate politics, putting fear in people's minds and telling lies. In any case, I have clearly said that everybody is free to do politics. Article 19 protects everybody's

free speech. But, if you trespass into lying about my personal integrity, then I will come after you. I will ensure under the law that the consequences will be served on you," he stated. Earlier in April, Rajeev Chandrasekhar issued a legal notice to sitting MP Shashi Tharoor for levelling cash-for-vote allegations against him. , who expressed shock over the allegations made by Tharoor on a television show, demanded that he withdraw his state-

ment and tender an unconditional apology. The notice further suggested that Tharoor had concocted these allegations to influence voters in Thiruvananthapuram and subvert the process of free and fair elections. Chandrasekhar expressed shock over the allegations made by Tharoor on a television show and demanded that he withdraw his statement.

and apologize unconditionally. (With inputs from agencies)

Will come after you if ...': Rajeev warning to Tharoor

Karya, NGO create Kannada Q&A bot for TB

Bengaluru: Not-for-profit organisation Karnataka Health Promotion Trust (KHPT) has teamed up with Bengaluru-based data cooperative Karya to develop a voice-based tuberculosis Q&A bot in Kannada. Currently, the app is in beta. A patient can ask in Kannada, "What types of food are okay to eat with my TB medicines?". And get the response in the same language: "You don't

have to worry too much about what you eat with your medication. Most things are okay, but it's good to eat lots of Vitamins A, C and E. You can get this by adding more fruits and vegetables to your diet! Here are some examples of what you can add: orange, mango, sweet pumpkin and carrots, guava, amla, tomato, nuts and seeds."

The app has a call to action button which

connects them to a helpline when necessary. The Global TB (tuberculosis) Report 2022 showed that 21.4 lakh TB cases were notified in India in 2021, 18% higher than 2020. KHPT has built a digital Kannada repository in ten dialects including Mangaluru Kannada, Sirsi Kannada, Belagavi Kannada, Mandya Kannada and Ballari Kannada through an exhaustive data collection exercise. This

includes data anonymised from those affected with TB, caregivers, social workers, frontline healthcare workers and communities to improve health outcomes of TB patients. KHPT and Karya interviewed 1,600 people to obtain 1,000 hours of data. They collected details on symptoms, treatment adherence, side effects, cost of treatment and benefits of the direct benefit transfer programme.

Court orders CBI probe into Manipur woman's 2013 murder

Supreme Court said unresolved crimes tend to erode public trust in institutions, which have been established for maintaining law and order, and ordered a CBI probe into the death of a 25-year-old Manipuri woman 11 years ago that has remained unsolved till date, reported. Delhi Police have failed to bring to light.

Kalyan Jewellers solidifies its presence in Haryana with all-new showroom at Kurukshetra

Kurukshetra: Kalyan Jewellers, one of India's most-trusted and largest jewellery companies, today launched its brand new showroom in Kurukshetra. The new and luxurious showroom aims to strengthen company's market presence in Haryana, which features an extensive range of designs from various collections. This is the company's 8th showroom in the state of Haryana. Patrons can expect state-of-the-art



facilities with world-class ambiance, providing an unparalleled shopping experience. Talking about the new showroom, Mr. Ramesh Kalyanaraman, Executive Director of Kalyan Jewellers, said, "As a

company, we have achieved huge milestones and taken major strides towards creating a holistic ecosystem to enhance the customer shopping experience. As we embark on this next phase of our growth journey, we are

delighted to announce the launch of our new showroom in Kurukshetra. With this launch, we aim to consistently expand our geographical footprint in the state of Haryana and are committed to continue offering best-in-class shopping experience to our customers while staying true to the company's core values of trust and transparency." This season, customers can avail flat 25% off on making charges on all jewellery purchases.

Brief court on steps taken to control noise pollution: HC

Hyderabad: Asking TSPSB and govt officials to be honest in their communication, Telangana high court on Tuesday directed director general of police and Hyderabad police commissioner to brief the court within two days the steps they are taking to control noise and sound pollution at function halls in Hyderabad and all over the state. The court, while making Secunderabad Cantonment Board as a respondent to the case, issued notices to the state govt, municipal,

police and pollution control officials. The case was posted to Thursday for further hearing. A bench of Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice J Anil Kumar, which took up a letter written to them by an additional chief engineer (environment) from the military's research and development wing as a PIL, wanted to know from the officials how they were implementing the noise pollution control and regulation rules, which were notified in a GO issued in

2010. The military engineer in his letter pointed out the inaction of officials in controlling unbearable noise levels from two function halls in Tadbund in Secunderabad Cantonment. He named Bantia Gardens and Imperial Gardens for violating the rights of the people residing in the vicinity. "These function halls collect lakhs of rupees towards rent for conducting marriages and other functions.

but show scant regard towards the

noise pollution norms," he said.

The advocates representing the state and civic bodies were quick to point out to the notices issued to the two function halls and also instances of penalties of Rs 5,000 collected from them. The bench turned critical towards the state counsel and said this kind of action will not yield any result. "We want effective steps to rein in the errant halls. Tell us what you are doing to keep the noise within the prescribed levels.

Chocolates with betel instead of cocoa, but just as delicious

Bengaluru: How about chocolates made out of betel leaf instead of cocoa beans? If you are wondering how they'd taste, here is what researchers at Bengaluru-based Indian Institute of Horticulture Research (IIHR) said: "They are quite yummy... you won't miss the cocoa much."

IIHR has been working on chocolate bars made out of betel leaf powder, betel leaf oil extract, sugar and preservatives. Prototype of the betel chocolate-making technology, along with the chocolates, were showcased at the National Horticulture Fair, which was inaugurated on IIHR cam-

pus in Hessarghatta Tuesday. Principal scientist Hima Bindu told TOI: "We wanted to make this crop a value-added product which benefits farmers and is also welcomed by urban residents. We want to highlight its medicinal properties too — antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, etc."

The idea of a betel leaf chocolate was born when betel vine growers in Ramanagara and surrounding areas, along with Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, faced problems during the Covid lockdown. "Betel vine is a heritage crop. We got appeals from farmers to come up with solutions as they didn't know how to sell

the produce. While we were exploring options, the idea of betel-flavoured chocolates was conceived." the process, Bindu said the leaves are dried, converted into powder and laced with other ingredients.

These chocolates are not only tasty but also healthy as they contain medicinal properties and protect consumers from oral bacteria," she said, adding: "This could be one of the reasons why our ancestors used to have betel leaf in the form of paan.

The leaves contain compounds that can help fight various bacteria and fungi, making them useful for oral hygiene and wound healing."

Mask name of man cleared of Pocso case in e-records: HC

Bengaluru: The high court ordered deletion from its records the name of a man cleared of Pocso charges after a police report concluded that it was a false case. The HC cited "the right to be forgotten" principle upheld in several other cases and "the right to live with dignity". "Article 21 of the Constitution mandates that no person shall be deprived of his life or liberty except in accordance with law. The expression 'life' cannot seem to connote a mere animal existence, it has a much wider meaning. It takes within its sweep right to live with dignity," the HC's Justice M Nagaprasanna noted. The man had moved the HC for the deletion. Earlier, he was booked in Tumakuru district under sections 354A



and 354B (sexual harassment) of the IPC and Section 12 of the Pocso Act in a complaint filed in Sept 2021. The complainant had alleged that the petitioner was sending sexually intimidating WhatsApp messages to his daughter, a minor, and trying to force her into a physical relationship. However, the cops conducted a probe and submitted a "B report" — police's terminology for a false

case. In the meantime, the petitioner filed a criminal petition challenging the proceedings, and in Feb 2022, they were disposed of on the strength of the B report. Later, when the petitioner searched the internet and found his name still mentioned as an accused, he moved the HC seeking deletion/masking his name from the records. Justice Nagaprasanna noted that the right to be for-

gotten had been recognised in Supreme Court's Aadhaar judgment, and the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, also recognised the right to erasure of personal data. Further, the judge pointed out that in NT 1 vs Google LLC case, the Queen's bench in the UK, too, had recognised the principle in 2018.

"In a crime, once the accused gets acquitted - honourably discharged by a competent court of law, or this court quashes the crimes in exercise of its jurisdiction under Section 482 of the CrPC, those orders become final..."

The shadow of crime, if permitted to continue in place of shadow of dignity, on any citizen.

Techie working for MNC ends life in hostel room



Hyderabad: A 28-year-old woman identified as M Vidhya Sri, working as a techie with an MNC and residing in a private hostel at Kothaguda attempted suicide in the hostel on evening. She died while undergoing treatment in the early hours of . Gachibowli police registered a case under section 174 of the CrPC and started a probe. SI K Bhanu Prasad said they did not find any suicide note and that they are yet to ascertain the reason behind her suicide.

"We are also verifying her call data records for any suspicious activity. Based on PME report, the probe will proceed," he said.

Government should start new rules to combat fraudulent e-commerce reviews



Delhi: Consumer affairs secretary Nidhi Khare said the Union government will use an Indian Standards code to combat fake customer reviews and inflated ratings on e-commerce platforms, a global issue, as online shoppers complain more on the national consumer helpline. Online shoppers are heavily influenced by customer reviews and ratings. E-commerce sellers manipulate ratings and add paid reviews to encourage sales. "The presence of fake reviews online jeopardizes the trust-

worthiness and credibility of shopping platforms and can cause consumers to make wrong purchase decisions," said Khare, who led a stakeholders' meeting with Amazon and Flipkart executives. Mordor Intelligence estimates that India's e-commerce market would expand from \$112.93 billion in 2024 to \$299.01 billion in 2029, a 21.5% CAGR. The new standard (IS 19000:2022) assigns reviewers and administrators particular duties. New regulations compel organizations to identify

review authors in certain ways. E-commerce grievances on the national consumer helpline increased from 95,270 in 2018 (22% of all grievances) to 4,44,034 in 2023 (43% of total grievances). E-commerce platforms in India must create a documented code of practice and share it with management and workers. Khare said they must show how they will follow this constitution and the guiding principles. Amazon and other platforms have acknowledged the issue globally.

Sebi proposes tighter SME listing requirements over misuse worries

Delhi: Sebi and stock exchanges aim to tighten standards for SMEs seeking public listings, according to Reuters. Concerns over exploitation of a 2012 platform to help small firms access financing markets prompted this change. According to sources in the report, the planned modifications might boost the minimum amount of public offerings to Rs 30 crore to Rs 50 crore (\$3.59 million to \$5.99 million).

In response to stakeholder engagements, these new regulations are due later this year. There's no minimum issue size, but corporations listing on this



market must have Rs 25 crore in post-issue capital. One source told Reuters that a minimum offer size will ensure that genuine enterprises can access financial markets, protecting investor interests. During the fiscal year ending March 2024, more SMEs went public due to India's

strong equities markets. On PRIME Database, 205 companies raised Rs 60 billion through public offerings, up from 125 firms raising Rs 2200 crore the year before. Companies with yearly turnovers between Rs 5 crore and Rs 250 crore are Indian SMEs.

Air India, Vistara try to resolve staff issues before merger

Delhi: As the Vistara merger process begins, Air India hopes to resolve employee fitment difficulties. The Vistara-Air India integration committee has identified certain occupations that will be duplicated following the merger. Vistara has 6,500

employees and Air India 17,000. At a recent town hall meeting, employees were notified that the merger may eliminate some positions. The Tata Group will upskill some employees and place others in other group entities to avoid job losses. Prior to the

merger, Air India employed consultants to design the new structure. Some Air India staff would be kept, while others may join Air India Express. Some employees worry about their career advancement and seniority in the new framework.

CAPSULES

Joe Biden dramatically raises US tariffs on Chinese EVs and chips

Delhi: US President Joe Biden lambasted Beijing for "cheating" as he raised tariffs on Chinese products such as electric vehicles and semiconductors.

Beijing strongly opposed the sanctions as Biden sought to appear tough on trade ahead of a rematch with Republican Donald Trump in November's US presidential election. "We're not going to let China flood our market, making it impossible for American automakers to compete fairly," Biden declared in the White House Rose Garden. He said, "We're never going to allow China to unfairly control the market for these cars," before ordering duties. Trump's tariffs have been frequently criticized by Biden. He's been using similar tactics to win over blue-collar voters in swing Rust Belt states. The White House stated EV tariffs will treble to 100% this year and semiconductor duties will rise from 25% to 50% by next year. The sanctions targeted \$18 billion in Chinese imports, including batteries, vital minerals, and medical supplies. Biden said China has substantially supported critical sectors, forcing corporations to produce more than the world can consume and flooding the market with unfairly priced commodities. The president's announcement followed a review of tariffs imposed by then-president Trump on \$300 billion in Chinese imports. The Biden administration maintained tariffs.



Order mandating SpiceJet to pay Sun Group's Kalanithi Maran 270 crore overturned by Court

Delhi: Judge ordered SpiceJet to refund over 1270 crore to Sun Group promoter Kalanithi Maran, but a Division Bench of the Delhi High Court overturned it. SpiceJet and CMD Ajay Singh appealed the single-judge's ruling to a Division Bench of Justices Yashwant Varma and Ravinder Dubeja. Appeals are allowed. The July 31, 2023 order is vacated "By the Court. The Division Bench denied SpiceJet's request to postpone the single-judge ruling upholding an arbitral tribunal award ordering the airline to reimburse over 270 cases. The issue between Maran and SpiceJet began in



January 2015 when Ajay Singh bought SpiceJet from him. Maran reportedly gave Singh his 58.46% airline ownership. According to the contract,

Maran would receive redeemable warrants for his airline promotion investments. Maran was entitled to 18 crore warrants and 26% SpiceJet shares. No convertible warrants or preference shares were issued to Maran, and he received no money. Maran sought roughly 1,323 crore in damages. Arbitration was ordered by the Delhi High Court. The arbitral tribunal ordered SpiceJet to return Maran 1270 crore in July 2018. The tribunal also ordered the airline to pay 12% interest on warrant payments and 18% on Maran awards if they are late. The tribunal also found no breach of Maran, SpiceJet, and Ajay Singh's share sale and purchase agreement. Thus, Maran's shareholding return and damages claims were denied.

Government e-commerce platform accepting unicorns



Delhi: Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), a UPI-like alternative to e-commerce heavyweights, is onboarding unicorns like Makemytrip, Policybazaar, Cars24, and Zerodha to build traction. While ONDC was created to support small businesses like kirana stores and democratize online shopping, the government believes large players will give consumers more choice and boost demand in smaller towns and cities. The goal is to assist consumers and

businesses without platform fees."It expects all types of players to join, when asked if big startups would overwhelm smaller ones. "The intent is noble, let us see how it works and to what extent we can actually crack some of the issues you raised in terms of market concentration," said. industry and internal trade secretary, told reporters. Singh

Microsoft, I4C remove 1,000 cybercriminal Skype accounts



Delhi: The Indian Cyber Coordination Centre (I4C) and Microsoft have blocked over 1,000 Skype accounts linked to intimidation, blackmail, extortion, and 'digital arrests' of citizens by cyber criminals posing as police, CBI, narcotics, RBI, or ED personnel. A MHA statement stated I4C helps prevent SIM cards, mobile devices, and mule accounts used by criminals. Many complaints are being reported on the National Cyber Crime

Reporting Portal (NCRP) about how these fraudsters call potential victims and claim they have sent or are the intended recipient of a parcel containing illegal goods, drugs, fake passports, or other contraband. They may also claim that a loved one is in their custody for a crime or accident. Money is demanded to compromise the "case". Some victims face 'digital arrest' until their demands are granted. Many victims have

lost a lot of money to such thieves. The home ministry stated cross-border crime syndicates run this online economic crime. MHA said it is collaborating with other ministries, agencies, RBI, and other organizations to combat these frauds. I4C assists police in all states and Union Territories in identifying and investigating cases. Citizens should be aware of these frauds and disseminate knowledge. image

Airtel partners with Google Cloud to provide Indian businesses cloud and gen-AI solutions

Delhi: Bharti Airtel and Google Cloud are partnering to offer Indian businesses cloud and generative-AI solutions. The telecom company will use Google Cloud products to accelerate cloud adoption and modernization through the agreement. Airtel will offer cloud-managed services to its corporate customers, including over 2,000 large organizations and a million developing businesses. This partnership targets India's big and rising public cloud services industry, which IDC predicts will be worth \$17.8 billion by 2027.

Bharti Airtel managing director and CEO Gopal Vittal said, "Cloud and AI solutions will drive India's digital transformation. We're excited to collaborate with Google



Cloud to provide safe and scalable cloud solutions for government, companies, and startups. Our collaboration will speed the implementation of generative AI in the country and uncover its potential to solve challenges. Airtel will also use Google Cloud's generative AI to improve its mobile, broadband, and digital TV consumer experiences and internal processes. Airtel will also offer similar services to its Indian and global B2B customers.

According to Google Cloud CEO Thomas Kurian, "Our strategic partnership with Airtel is a major step for accelerating cloud and AI adoption in India. We want to develop disruptive solutions to improve Airtel's customer experience through our relationship." Airtel will train artificial-intelligence and machine-learning solutions on its enormous dataset using the two businesses' strengths—connectivity and AI technology.

IFC provides \$500 million to HDFC Bank so that it can offer microloans to female clients



Delhi: HDFC Bank said that it has received \$500 million from the IFC to support low-income women borrowers through onlending. According to an official release, the largest private sector lender in the nation would provide financing for income production, promoting financial inclusion and socio-economic growth. The microloans will be extended to women registered in the lender's

Sustainable Livelihoods Initiative (SLI) as well as self-help and joint liability groups. Arup

Rakshit, group head of Treasury at HDFC firm, stated that the firm has opted for a longer-term loan facility that will support the bank's endeavors to empower women. According to the statement, banks' wide distribution and cheaper funding costs can be used to provide microloans to women, despite the fact that non-banks now service two thirds of the microfinance market. "Having access to financial services is essential for enhancing the economy and empowering women."

Somany Ceramics open its largest franchise Grande Store in Rewari, Haryana

REWARI : Somany Ceramics Limited, one of the world's largest manufacturers of ceramic tiles inaugurated its SOMANY GRANDE showroom in Rewari, Haryana, which will be managed and operated by Maa Annapurna Granite.

On the occasion of the inauguration, Mr. Abhishek Somany, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer- Somany Ceramics Limited said, "Somany has been in the forefront of design and innovation for over fifty years, and we continue to grow from strength to strength adding more exclusive stores and redefining customer experience. Our Grande at Rewari will help customers to see, experience and choose from our wide range of quality products. It's also a prime opportunity for us to showcase our premium offerings and meet the aspirational demand in the Rewari



region". With a manufacturing capacity of 75 million square meters annually and exports to over 80 countries across 6 continents, Somany has over 500+ exclusive outlets and partnered with 15,000+ dealers and sub-dealers across India. The newly opened outlet in Rewari, near Pushpanjali hospital Rewari by pass, showcases a distinctive assortment of SOMANY's premium collection. Spanning an expansive area of 5000 square feet, this store aims to invigorate and enhance SOMANY's market presence in Rewari, Haryana. It serves as a platform to discover a diverse range of wall

and floor tiles across multiple categories, including the innovative and newly launched Large Format Somany Max slabs and the elegant Italmarmi collection. 'SOMANY MAX', the inaugural large-scale showroom in Haryana, presents a pioneering range of tiles that skillfully replicate natural textures and finishes with remarkable precision. The store will also showcase an extensive collection of SOMANY's top-tier sanitary ware and bath fittings alongside EZY Fix Adhesive and Grout range, providing a holistic home enhancement journey.

Dr. Vinod Sharma released a unique satirical collection 'Dekhan Mein Chhote Lage'

Chandigarh: The famous poet and editor of the Dainik State Samachar, Chandigarh Edition, Vinod Sharma released unique satirical collection 'Dekhan Mein Chhote Lage'. in the premises of Punjab Kala Bhawan, Sector 16. He was accompanied by senior literary figures Prem Vij, Lajpat Rai Garg, Neeru Mittal Neer and Chandigarh Sahitya Akademi Secretary Subhash Bhaskar. The editor of the book is the famous educationist and writer Acharya Rajesh Kumar. Publisher



Sushil Swatantra said that more such books are also planned. The collection includes works by two satirists of the city, Prem Vij and Neeru Mittal. Speaking on this occasion Dr. Vinod Sharma

said that this is a good attempt in literature. The reader has no more time to read. He likes such composition. He congratulated both the editor and the publisher of the book.

The state has enlisted the role of government nominees in autonomous colleges

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

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

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

As soon as Hooda government is formed, all the promises and announcements will be implemented: Sultan Jadoula

Kaithal: Senior Congress leader and former Chief Parliamentary Secretary Sultan Singh Jadoula said that the BJP government has entangled the public in the web of portals like Parivar Pehchan Patra and Property ID. 90 to 95 percent flaws were found in these, so former Haryana Chief Minister Chaudhary Bhupendra Singh Hooda has announced that all unnecessary portals will be abolished with immediate effect after the formation of the Congress



government. The BJP government has lathicharged the farmers demanding their rights, Sarpanchs, employees demanding OPS, Asha workers demanding respectable salary,

Anganwadi workers, Mid-Day-Meal workers, sanitation workers and youth. Congress leader Sultan Singh Jadoula was promoting the policies of Congress in various villages of the constituency

under the Congress' Haath Se Haath Jodo Abhiyan. While interacting with the villagers, former MLA Jadoula alleged that the BJP government, intoxicated with power,

is constantly making false promises of permanent jobs, SC and OBC. of reservation. This is the reason why permanent recruitments are not being done on 2 lakh vacant posts in the state and these posts are being filled through Kaushal Nigam.

The group of students at a primary school in Chhattisgarh's Bastar district took a stand against a teacher

NEW DELHI: The group of students at a primary school in Chhattisgarh's Bastar district took a stand against a teacher who arrived intoxicated. The viral video depicts the intense scene as the teacher hastily starts his motor-bike amidst a barrage of slippers thrown by the students, ultimately fleeing the premises. This dramatic confrontation sheds light on the challenges faced by students in accessing quality education and the pressing need for accountability within the education system. As per the 'X' post, the incident took place at Pilibhatta Primary School, where the teacher's recurrent presence in class while under the influence of alcohol had become a growing concern. Rather than fulfilling his teaching duties, he frequently

resorted to sleeping on the floor, disregarding the needs of his students. Frustrated by his behavior, the students confronted him, only to face verbal abuse in return. Matters reached a tipping point when the teacher arrived intoxicated once again last week, prompting the students to take decisive action. This incident is not isolated, as another disturbing event recently surfaced in Chhattisgarh's Bilaspur district. A teacher was caught on camera openly carrying alcohol onto school premises, displaying a blatant disregard for the standards of conduct expected in such settings. The footage serves as a stark reminder of the urgent need for enhanced oversight and accountability measures within educational institutions.

Ajay Devgn's NY Cinemas First FootSteps in Delhi NCR at Elan Epic Mall, Gurugram

Gurugram: NY Cinemas, owned by Ajay Devgn, has launched its first multiplex in Delhi NCR at Elan Epic Mall, Sector 70, Gurugram. It stands out as one of the most admirable multiplexes in the region. Elan Epic, a paragon of modern retail, is strategically located at sector 70 on the Southern



Peripheral Road (SPR), offering effortless connectivity to the entire city. Just a 3-minute drive from NH-8 and with proximity to Golf Course Extension Road, it ensures smooth access. Ajay Devgn, Founder of NY Cinemas stated, "NY Cinemas is expanding and making its way to Gurugram, Delhi NCR. Our endeavour is to create an impeccable experience for audiences watching films at the theatre. I have received a lot of love from my audiences there, and this is my way of giving them the best entertainment experience." Ajay Devgn, the four-time National Award-

winning Actor and Director, who is extremely passionate about his art, founded NY Cinemas in 2017, a multiplex chain that curates its cinemas with Indian ethos and values and aims to revive the old-world charm of single screens in multiplexes and bring audiences closer to their favourite films and film stars. This cinema goes beyond just movie screening by providing an array of premium amenities. Spanning an impressive 46,000 Sq. Ft, this state-of-the-art property features a 5-screen.

Flipkart collaborates with DPIIT to empower Indian Toy Manufacturers and enhance global competitiveness

GURUGRAM : Furthering the agenda to position India as a "Toy Export Hub", Flipkart, India's home-grown e-commerce marketplace, in collaboration with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), organized a workshop aimed at enhancing India's capabilities in the global toy supply chain. The workshop focused on upskilling and reskilling domestic manufacturers to produce innovative and high-quality toys that represent India's rich cultural heritage. Rajneesh Kumar, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, Flipkart said, "Through the Flipkart marketplace, we have been able to provide local toy manufacturers a platform to reach customers across India thereby supporting their growth. We are happy to support DPIIT,



Ministry of Commerce's efforts to help strengthen the Toy industry in India, and accelerate India's development as a global toy manufacturing and export hub. This workshop and hackathon will help all participating stakeholders identify opportunities to achieve this goal of the government." Hundreds of toy manufacturers across India participated in the workshop, which included interactive and expert-led discussions with Flipkart, covering quality improvement, innovation, and adherence to industry standards. The workshop aimed to equip Indian toy manufacturers with the nec-

essary tools, knowledge, and resources to enhance their competitiveness and help them grow their businesses online. The event was graced by Shri. Rajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary, (DPIIT); Shri. Sanjiv, Joint Secretary, DPIIT; Mohammad Ishar Ali, Director, DPIIT; Rajneesh Kumar, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, Flipkart and Manjari Singhal, Head of FMCG and General Merchandise, Flipkart. In pursuit of making India a global manufacturing hub for toys, the Government has implemented a series of strategic initiatives, including the formulation of a comprehensive National Action Plan for Toys (NAPT). The key initiatives under NAPT aim to elevate the Indian toy industry through quality enhancement.

Angad Vir Singh Randhawa, achieved remarkable success in competitive exams

Mohali: Angad Vir Singh Randhawa, a student of Super Sciences at DAV Public School, Mohali, has achieved remarkable success in some of India's most challenging competitive exams. Demonstrating exceptional academic prowess, Angad has cleared both the JEE Advanced and JEE Mains exams, and has secured an outstanding score of 700 out of 720 in the NEET examination. He was also the school topper in Class XII(2023-24)with 97.2% , consistently excelling in his studies throughout the year and setting a benchmark for his peers.



Principal Dr. Mrs. Rosy Sharma congratulated Angad on his achievements, stating, "We are immensely proud of Angad's accomplishments. His success is a reflection of his hard work and the high standards of education we strive to provide at DAV Mohali. We wish him the best for his future endeavors." Angad's achievements have not only made his family proud but have also brought great honor to DAV Public School, Mohali.