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

'A pretense': Oppn on PM Modi's apology over Shivaji statue collapse in Maharashtra

NEW DELHI: As Prime Minister Modi apologised for the collapse of Shivaji statue in Maharashtra, the opposition called the gesture just a pretense and claimed that he was forced to apologise due to the strong protest by the people of Maharashtra.

"The strong protest from the people of Maharashtra and the opposition today forced Narendra Modi to apologise to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. But this is not an apology, it is a pretense," Congress said on X. "Maharashtra will neither forget nor forgive this insult to Raje," it added.

The opposition also doubled down on its demand for the removal of CM Eknath Shinde and deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis of Maharashtra from their constitutional responsibilities. "If Modi is really apologising for this unpardonable sin, then he should remove the CM and deputy CM of Maharashtra from their



The Mahayuti government in state has come under fire

The Mahayuti government in state has come under fire not only by the opposition members but also from within its own fold. NCP's Ajit Pawar, second deputy chief minister to Shinde, and his

party cadres across the state have all condemned the statue collapse. Chief minister Eknath Shinde recently said he would not hesitate to touch the feet of warrior king Chhatrapati Shivaji.

posts," the Congress said. Shiv Sena (UBT) also reacted strongly saying the apology is not enough. Party spokesperson Anand Dubey said, "If any corruption is found regarding his statue, his statue is desecrated, then an apology will not suffice, your CM and deputy CM should resign, minister

Kesarkar should be suspended, because the question is not just about statue, the question is about our pride." The opposition demanded that a strong action be taken in this regard.

The apology from the Prime Minister came after constant attacks and repeated demands for apology by opposi-

M Modi said that he understood the pain of the devotees

"PM Modi said at an event in Maharashtra's Palghar. PM Modi said that he understood the pain of the devotees of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and felt sorry for the statue collapse. "Those who consider Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj as their deity and have been deeply hurt, I bow my head and apologise to them. Our values are different. For us, nothing is bigger than our deity," he added.

tion parties over the collapse of the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj statue in Sindhudurg on August 26.

"Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj is not just a name for us. Today I bow my head and apologise to my god Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

Who is Jagdish Tytler? Congress leader against whom court asked to frame charges in 1984 Sikh riots

Forty years after the bloody anti-Sikh riots, Delhi court on Friday directed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to frame charges against Congress leader Jagdish Tytler in the case that resulted in death of three persons in the 1984 massacre.

Special CBI judge Rakesh Siyal said there was sufficient evidence against Tytler, a former union minister, to put him on trial. "Sufficient ground is there to proceed against the accused person," the judge said.

The charges against Tytler and others have been filed under sections 147 (rioting), 109 (abetment of an offence) read with 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Quick recap to 1984 violence & Tytler's role in the carnage

Operation Blue Star was a significant event in the history of India that took place in June 1984. It refers to the military operation ordered by the Indian government to remove



The Indian National Congress, which was seen as responsible for the military operation

mistrust and alienation among the Sikh community towards the Indira government. The Indian National Congress, which was seen as responsible for the military operation, faced significant backlash from Sikhs, which impacted the party's political fortunes in Punjab and other regions with a significant Sikh population.

Indira's assassination The fallout from Operation Blue Star resulted in a tragic event that altered the

Sikh militants, headed by Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, who had fortified themselves inside the

course of Indian history. PM Indira Gandhi was on her way to meet British actor Peter Ustinov for a documentary. Ustinov was going to interview her. As she walked through the garden of PM residence at 1 Safdarjung Road, her trusted bodyguards, Beant Singh and Satwant Singh opened fired on Indira and she fell on the ground. She was rushed to the hospital and died hours later. Beant Singh was shot dead another guard Satwant Singh.

Golden Temple complex in Amritsar, operation and the subsequent events caused a deep sense.

Who is Jagdish Tytler

Indira's assassination triggered anti-Sikh riots in Delhi and other parts of the country, leading to widespread violence, loss of life, and damage to Sikh properties.

During the riots, one of the names that cropped up was of Congress leader Jagdish Tytler, who was accused of leading a mob that killed three people in the Pul Bangash area in the capital.

Jagdish Tytler, born on August 17, 1944, in Gujranwala, a city now located in Pakistan, is the son of James Douglas Tytler, who established several renowned educational institutions, including the Delhi Public School, the Summerfields School and the JD Tytler Higher Secondary School.

Throughout his career, Tytler has represented India on various international platforms. He served as a one-man delegation,

Nasa removes two astronauts from Space X flight to accommodate Sunita and Butch Wilmore

Nasa plans to remove two astronauts from a SpaceX mission to make room for two ISS astronauts, Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore, who will return early due to safety concerns with their Boeing Starliner capsule. The adjustments ensure their February return with Nick Hague and Aleksandr Gorbunov, while other astronauts are deferred to future flights. The agency said that factors such as spaceflight experience were considered in making this decision.

Nasa removes two astronauts from Space X flight to accommodate Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore stranded at ISS Nasa announced on Friday that it will remove two astronauts from the upcoming crew to make space for two astronauts currently stranded at the International Space Station (ISS).

Nasa astronauts Zena Cardman and Stephanie Wilson will be removed from the SpaceX flight but are expected to be included in future missions. The agency said that factors such as spaceflight experience were considered in making this decision. Nasa's Nick Hague and Russian astronaut Aleksandr Gorbunov are set to launch aboard a SpaceX rocket to the ISS in September. They will return in February with the astronauts currently stranded at the ISS.

Kamala aces CNN interview, skirting and dancing around some questions

NEW DELHI: WASHINGTON: Drawing a sharp contrast with the divisive outlook of her opponent Donald Trump, Democratic Presidential nominee Kamala Harris asserted on Thursday that Americans, fueled by characteristic hope and optimism, are ready for a new way forward, leaving behind the MAGA candidate's dark and discordant politics. As part of her outreach, Harris said she would



appoint a Republican to her cabinet if she is elected president. Donald Trump rips Kamala Harris after CNN interview: 'She didn't look like a leader... Can't see her with Kim Jong-un'

"I think sadly in the last decade, we have had in the former president someone who has really been pushing an agenda and an environment that is about diminishing the

character and the strength of who we are as Americans — really dividing our nation. And I think people are ready to turn the page on that," Harris said in her first major sit-down interview since she became the Democratic nominee. It was testing interview, with CNN's Dana Bash relaying doubts from nativist Americans about her identity, her performance as VP.

Regional Sahbhagita Mission to boost wetlands conservation in eastern states of India

NEW DELHI: A two-day regional workshop under the Sahbhagita Mission, focused on the conservation and management of wetlands, was held in Kolkata on Thursday and Friday. Organized by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) in collaboration with the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), the workshop aimed to foster a comprehensive "whole of society" and



"whole of government" approach to preserving these vital ecosystems. The workshop brought together diverse participants, including representatives from research institutes, the private sector, wetland con-

servation champions, and NGOs. In the spirit of inclusivity, the event facilitated discussions among stakeholders to address the challenges and successes of wetlands conservation across the eastern states of India. Following the inaugural session, representatives from the states of Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, and West Bengal presented overviews of their respective wetlands conservation.

200 days of farmers protest: Vinesh Phogat to join agitation at Shambhu and Khanauri borders

NEW DELHI: As the farmers protest completes 200 days on Saturday, Olympian Vinesh Phogat is set to participate by joining those agitating at Shambhu and Khanauri borders. Since February 13, farmers have been camping at Shambhu after authorities halted their march to Delhi. They are demanding a legal guarantee of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for all crops among other issues. Amritsar district farmer leader Baldev Singh Bagga highlighted that efforts to communicate with the government have gone unanswered.



"Farmer organisations had repeatedly written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi as well as former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh but have received no responses," he said. "As Modi enters his 11th year in office, rather than addressing our demands, the govt continues to suppress the voice of farmers," he alleged.

Convenor of the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha Sarvan Singh Pandher passionately appealed to the farmers to gather in significant numbers at the Shambhu and Khanauri points on August 31. Meanwhile, it has been a challenging period for Vinesh. On August 7, she was set to face Sarah Ann Hildebrandt

from the United States for Paris Olympics gold medal in the women's 50kg category. However, she was disqualified before the final match after failing to meet the weight requirement. She made a plea to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) to award her a joint silver medal, but that was dismissed. Following her disqualification, Vinesh announced her retirement from wrestling. Despite not receiving a medal, she was welcomed back in India with great enthusiasm, and she hinted at a possible return to the sport considering different circumstances.

Several tourists stabbed in Egypt's Taba

A hotel altercation in the Egyptian seaside town of Taba left three Arab-Israeli tourists and four Egyptian workers injured on Friday. According to state-linked media, the incident occurred at a hotel in Taba, a popular destination near the Israeli border, when a dispute escalated between the tourists and hotel staff.

One of the Egyptian workers sustained serious injuries and was hospitalised along with the three tourists, who were referred to as "Arab 48," a term used for Palestinians and their descendants who remained in Israel after its creation in 1948. The fight reportedly started when the tourists attempted to obtain services without payment, leading to a violent confrontation with hotel staff. Al-Qahera News, a state-linked channel, reported that security authorities are investigating the incident. The channel, which has ties to state intelligence, emphasized.

It was not easy decision': Omar on NC's 'sacrifice' for pre-poll alliance with Congress in J&K



NEW DELHI: National Conference (NC) vice president Omar Abdullah on Friday said that forming a pre-poll alliance with Congress for the upcoming assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir was a challenging decision for the party. He added that to ally, the party had to "sacrifice" many seats where it believed it had a chance of winning. Abdullah, who was addressing a party function at the NC headquarters Nawa-i-

Subah, emphasised, "This is not only our fight, but of the whole Jammu and Kashmir. If we have to undo the wrongs done to us, it will not only benefit us, but every citizen of Jammu and Kashmir. We are fighting this battle collectively for Jammu and Kashmir." "That is why we joined hands with the Congress, even as it was not an easy decision for us, (because) we had to sacrifice those seats where we knew only the NC can give a tough fight," he said.

Taneira makes its debut

Prayagraj: Taneira, a TATA product, expanded its footprint in Uttar Pradesh with the launch of its first store in Prayagraj and sixth in the state. A haven for saree connoisseurs of the city, the store spans over 8,500 sq ft, expansively spread across three floors. Located at Tashkent Targ Lines the store was inaugurated in the presence of Mr. Ambi Narayan, CEO, Taners, Mr. Ana Banerjee, Retail Head, Taneira. Celebrating the city's rich cultural heritage and renowned textile craftsmanship, the store features a dedicated wedding zone that caters to brides-to-be with a wide selection of lehengas and bridal wear for the season. The store blends traditional elegance with contemporary sophistication, offering a meticulously curated selection of artisanal and handcrafted garments. Customers can also explore Parichay, an exclusive collection that embodies Taneira's mission to preserve traditional crafts. Celebrating iconic queens through rare heritage crafts, this collection features hand-painted Tussar silk sarees adorned with Thangka art and vibrant Madhubani paintings, blending traditional textile techniques with contemporary design and enhanced by intricate Zardozi work. In addition to its signature weaves such as Pure Silk, Cotton Ikat, Kota Doria, revitalized Chandlers and Maheshwaris, Banarasis, Tussar, Jamdanis, Kanjivaram, South Silks, Sambalpuri, and Vegan collections- all under one roof, the store will also feature an exclusive selection of kurtas, blouses, in-skirts, lehengas ready-to-wear outfits, and unstitched kurta sets crafted from pure, natural fabrics.

Speaking at the launch, Mr. Ambuj Narayan, CEO, Taneira said, "We are thrilled to unveil our inaugural Taneira store in Prayagraj, a city esteemed for its vibrant textile heritage and historical significance. This location is particularly meaningful for us as it represents a confluence of tradition and artistry, making it an ideal setting to showcase our curated collection of exquisite, handcrafted weaves. Our goal is to offer a unique blend of timeless elegance and exceptional craftsmanship for our customers in the city."

Membership workshop will be organized at 1216 booths

Going door to door to connect people of every section with the party

Prayagraj: The stage of preparations, meetings and workshops at every level is in the final stages for the BJP's membership campaign starting from September 2. Under which membership workshop training will be organized on Saturday (31st August) at a total of 1216 booths of all 15 divisions of Prayagraj metropolis. Addressing the metropolitan officials, divisional president, in-charge, expatriate and membership group in the campaign-related meeting held at the party office in Civil Lines on Friday, metropolitan president Rajendra Mishra said that now it is the turn to work. On Saturday, membership workshop training will be organized at all 1216



booths of the metropolis in which the required people should ensure 100 percent attendance. The Metropolitan President said that the organization will also honor any worker who performs excellently in this campaign. You will have to work hard in the campaign. At the same time, in the meeting called by the Backward Class Morcha regarding the campaign, the Metropolitan President appealed to the Morcha workers and officials to go door to door and make the backward class people members of the party. On this occasion, Ramesh Pasi, Kunjibihari Mishra, Devesh Singh, Murari Lal Aggarwal, Varun Kesarwani, Abha Singh, Rajesh Kesarwani, Vivek Mishra, Rakesh Bharti, Prashant Shukla, Rajesh Patel, Hanuman Pandey, Deep Dwivedi, Rajesh Kesarwani, Kuldeep Mishra, Vijay Srivastava, Anand Dubey, Rakesh Bharti, Prashant Shukla, Pramod Jaiswal, Archana Shukla, Madhumita Nath, Priyanka Parashar, Gaurav Gupta, Bhola Singh etc. worker officials were present.

Likely visit of CM Yogi to Prayagraj on Sept 3

Prayagraj: Chief Minister Yogi can come to Prayagraj on September 3. Due to Phulpur by-election, the visit is considered very important. He can inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of projects worth crores. CM Yogi can come on September 3 at 2.30 pm. Under the Shakti Yojana, tablets will be distributed to the students. Youth from across the state will be given employment in the employment fair. He will also address the public meeting in view of the Phulpur elections.

Police Commr conducted inspection to prevent cheating during UP Police Recruitment Exam

Prayagraj: Commissionerate Police Commissioner Tarun Gaba visited the examination centers to maintain the integrity of the written examination of Uttar Pradesh Civil Police Reserve Direct Recruitment-2023. During this, he inspected other examination centers of Prayagraj including KP Inter College, CAV Inter College, Jagat Taran Girls Inter College, and Mary Wanamaker Girls Intermediate College. To ensure fairness and cheating-free conduct of the examination, the Police Commissioner directed the concerned officers to ensure strict compliance as per the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).

Aims to boost MSMEs growth and support UP's Path to \$1 Trillion Economy

Prayagraj: Flipkart, India's homegrown e-commerce marketplace, announced the grand opening of two new Fulfillment Centers (FCs) in Uttar Pradesh. The facilities include an FC and a sortation center in Unnao and a sortation center along with a Grocery FC in Varanasi. The technologically advanced facilities, covering over 5 lakh sq. ft of storage space, were virtually inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri. Yogi Adityanath. These new Fulfillment Centers aim to streamline delivery times and increase efficiency across numerous pincodes while creating more than 3,600 direct and indirect employment opportunities. The new Grocery fulfillment center in Varanasi and the non-large facility in Unnao will provide an expansive selection of products to its customers, ranging from local to established brands.

Speaking about the development and echoing these sentiments, Rajneesh Kumar, Chief Corporate Af-

airs Officer, Flipkart Group, said, "With the government's continued focus on creating a conducive business environment and fostering innovation, Uttar Pradesh offers enormous potential for entrepreneurial growth and success. It has become one of the leading states in e-commerce adoption and seller empowerment.

With our strategic investments in Uttar Pradesh and our wide marketplace ecosystem, we aim to strengthen local communities, MSMEs, farmers, and ancillary businesses by supporting their digital transformation journey. The efforts towards enhancing infrastructure, with a growing network of fulfillment centers, will ensure faster and more reliable deliveries to customers. Through key initiatives like Flipkart Samarth, Samarth Krishi and the launch of the new FCs in the state, Flipkart is creating thousands of employment opportunities, thereby supporting Uttar Pradesh's

goal of becoming a \$1 trillion economy by 2027. The opening of FCs across cities is also a testament to our commitment to meet the evolving needs of customers efficiently."

During the virtual inau-

Pradesh is a testament to the state's growing reputation as an emerging industrial and entrepreneurial hub. These fulfillment centers are not only generating large-scale employment but also empowering the state's

area of over 15 lakh sq. feet of Grocery FCs, Mother Hubs, Last Mile, and Jeeves F1 hubs in Uttar Pradesh, generating over 7 lakh direct and indirect jobs. Flipkart has also partnered with the state government

ated a dedicated microsite for sellers from the districts of Uttar Pradesh, assisting MSMEs on the ease of doing business online. In line with the commitment to the One District One Product (ODOP) program, Flipkart has supported the sale of district-specific products from Uttar Pradesh, recording over Rs.1,600 crores in sales. Flipkart's Jeeves has partnered with the UP Skill Development Mission to certify technicians under Skill India.

Flipkart Grocery currently serves over 1,800 cities and 10,000 PIN codes across India. It has strengthened its operations to meet the growing nationwide demand. To enable greater inclusivity and assist customers in their shopping journey, Flipkart has made its app available in 12 Indian languages. Flipkart is also continually improving the user experience on its platform with features such as voice-enabled shopping, credit offerings, open-box delivery, and more.



guration, Yogi Adityanath Ji, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, highlighted the significant role this expansion will play in boosting economic growth in the state. During his address, Yogi Adityanath Ji remarked, "Flipkart's substantial investment in Uttar

MSME units by providing them with a pan-India reach. Millions of customers can benefit from Flipkart's advanced supply chain, which seamlessly processes a large number of orders every day."

Over the years, Flipkart has established a combined

on multiple initiatives fortifying market access, linkage and growth for the MSME sector.

Besides initiatives such as Flipkart Samarth and Samarth Krishi, Flipkart has collaborated with the state government for their ODOP program where it has cre-

Poetry seminar of Likhaika Sangh held

Prayagraj/Barielly: The poetry seminar of the city's well-known literary organization Likhaika Sangh was held near St. Francis School in coordination with Mrs. Uma Sharma. The poetry seminar was presided over by Sushila Dhasmana Muskan and the chief guest was poetess Mrs. Meena Agarwal. Senior poet-lyricist Kamal Saxena took over the responsibility of conducting the poetry seminar. First of all, the patron of the organization Mrs. Nirmala Singh Ji, Sushila Dhasmana, Kamal Saxena, Meena Agarwal, President of the organization Deepti Pandey and General Secretary Kiran Kainthwal jointly lit the lamp and offered flowers in front of the statue of Maa Sharda. Mrs. Meera worshipped Maa Sharda. Mohan presented in a sweet voice. After this, Sudhir Mohan

presented his song, 'Come on, we remember your tears.' Smt. Uma Sharma enthralled everyone by singing the song 'Man Sunana

ing. When we went to the temples, we found only darkness, and lamps kept burning on the tombs of the enemy.



Chir Virah Ka Koi'. Lyricist Kamal Saxena conducted his ghazal. He received applause after narrating, "The pain that we heard kept turning into tears." Our feet were bare but we kept walk-

Avinash Aggarwal wrote his ghazal, "Of course our sighs should not affect them." Got applause after reciting. Dr. Kiran Kainthwal on education. The song, Har Ghar Deep Jalana Hai, Ghar

Ghar Deep Jalana Hai,, was recited. President of the organization, Deepti Pandey narrated her plight in this way, "I habitually give away love. Even after winning, I lose every game." Sushila Dhasmana Muskan presented her poem in this way, "Seeing the crying, feeding the hungry, seeing the hungry crying, but understanding, this is my religion, brother. Meena Agarwal Read your ghazal like this, "Coincidences are strange. He is close to me as soon as I close my eyes. Patron Nirmala Singh won applause by reciting her ghazal like this, "O friend, have you ever seen the body of someone who has a piece of cloth on his body?" In the end, Mrs. Uma Sharma expressed her gratitude to everyone and for the success of the program congratulated everyone.

Roadways buses to ease Prayagraj airport-to-mela travel during Mahakumbh

Prayagraj: On the proposal of airport authorities, Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation officials are preparing to provide buses for ferrying passengers from the airport to the Mela area during the upcoming Mahakumbh 2025. At least 20 buses will be deployed at the airport to transport passengers to their destinations, said airport officials. This bus service will help passengers from overcharging by private taxi and auto drivers and will also reduce traffic on the route. During the Mahakumbh 2025, a large number of pilgrims are expected to arrive by flight from different parts of the country. Without proper transportation options, they may fall prey to overcharging by private taxi drivers for trips to the Mela area and other locations. To address the potential problems faced by pilgrims during the Mahakumbh, the airport administration has requested Mela Officer Vijay Kiran Anand to provide buses for transporting passengers to the Sangam. During a meeting with airport officials, district magistrate Navneet Singh Chahal also assured the deployment of buses to carry pilgrims from the airport to Sangam City.

Public relations officer at the airport, Shyam Kartik Singh, said officials have requested the deployment of buses at the airport during the Mahakumbh and even after its conclusion to ferry pilgrims and other passengers. The deployment of buses will offer better facilities and help prevent overcharging by private taxi drivers, he added. It is worth mentioning that during Kumbh-2019, complaints were received about overcharging by taxi drivers for transporting pilgrims from the airport to the Sangam. Some pilgrims were charged up to Rs. 2,000 or more by taxi drivers.

Adani Enterprises Ltd announces maiden public issuance of secured non-convertible debentures

Varanasi : Adani Enterprises Limited ("the Company" or "AEL"), the flagship company of the Adani Group and one of India's largest business incubators in terms of market capitalization with a long track record of creating sustainable infrastructure businesses since 1993, has announced the launch of its maiden public issuance of secured, rated, listed redeemable, non-convertible debentures. The NCDs proposed to be issued under the Issue have been rated "CARE A+; Positive (Single A Plus; Outlook: Positive) by CARE Ratings Limited. Securities with these ratings are considered to have adequate degree of safety regarding timely servicing of financial obligations. Such securities carry low credit risk.

AEL's offering will include up to 80,00,000 non-convertible debentures ("NCDs" or "Debentures"), each with a face value of ₹1,000. The base size issue is ₹400 crore, with an option to retain over-subscription up to an additional ₹400 crore ("Green Shoe Option") aggregating up to ₹800 crore ("Issue" or "Issue

Size"). The Issue will open on September 04, 2024, and close on September 17, 2024, with an option of early closure or extension. The minimum application size for each application for NCDs would be ₹10,000 across all series collectively and in multiples of ₹1,000 thereafter.

The proceeds from the Issue will be utilized primarily towards the prepayment or repayment, in full or in part, of the existing indebtedness availed by our Company (at least 75%) and general corporate purposes (up to 25%) in compliance with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Issue And Listing of Non-Convertible Securities) Regulations, 2021, as amended from time to time ("SEBI NCS Regulations"). Trust Investment Advisors Private Limited, A.K. Capital Services Limited and Nuvama Wealth Management Limited are the Lead Managers to the Issue. The NCDs are available in tenors of 24 months, 36 months and 60 months with quarterly, cumulative and annual interest payment options across eight series.

MUNPL Meja Celebrates National Sports Day with Enthusiasm and Excitement

Meja. MUNPL Meja celebrated National Sports Day 2024 with great enthusiasm and excitement, underscoring its commitment to fostering physical fitness and sportsmanship amongst its employees and their families. The event, held at Triveni Club on August 29, 2024, was a vibrant display of athletic prowess and team spirit.

The Chief Guest of the event, Shri Kamlesh Soni, CEO of MUNPL Meja, inaugurated the celebrations with National Sports Day pledge. During the event he said, "National Sports Day is a reminder of the vital role that sports play in our lives. It teaches us discipline, teamwork, and resilience. At MUNPL Meja, we believe in fostering a culture of health and fitness, and today's event is a testament to that commitment."

In line with this commitment, St. Joseph School, MUNPL, Meja also organized a diverse range of activities such as Kho-Kho, football, and volleyball. Students from different age groups participated with enthusiasm, showcasing their skills and sportsmanship in every event.



The event saw the active participation of senior officials, including Shri Ajit Basak, GM (O&M), Shri Pradeep Kumar Sabat, GM (C&M), and Shri Vivek Chandra, Head of HR, along

with members of the Sports Council, employees, family members, and children.

MUNPL Meja has also planned various big-ticket sports activities till 31.08.2024 to further cel-

brate National Sports Day. These initiatives are designed to continuously encourage employees and their families to engage in physical activities and maintain a balanced lifestyle.

TODAY'S EVENT

On the occasion of Chhathi Mahotsav, Maha Aarti of Lord Shri Krishna and 56 types of dishes will be offered on 31st August at 8:00 pm on the occasion of Chhathi Mahotsav in Munshi Ram Prasad's Bagiya Mutthiganj. On the occasion of Chhathi Mahotsav, Maha Aarti of Lord Shri Krishna and 56 types of dishes will be offered and Prasad will be distributed on 31st August at 6:00 pm on the occasion of Chhathi Mahotsav at Hanuman Temple, Mutthiganj Hatia Police Booth intersection.

People in power have deviated from their duty: Ujjwal Raman

Public darshan of newly elected MP in Kareli held

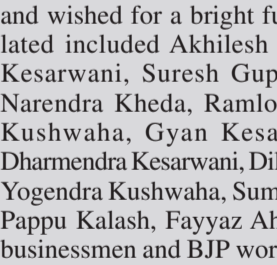
Prayagraj: Politics is an austerity in which along with rights, the public representatives should also have a sense of duty, but today the meaning of politics has changed and the public has to run from pillar to post to find solutions to the basic problems. These things were said by the newly elected MP Ujjwal Raman Singh in the public meeting organized in Kareli area. While addressing the residents of the area present in the darshan program, he said that due to the poor and selfish working style of the people's representatives sitting in power, the officials have become autocratic due to which a lot of small problems have arisen. He said that this is not just a matter of Kareli. The condition of almost all



the areas is the same and people are yearning for basic facilities like roads, electricity and water. MP representative Vinay Kushwaha said that about 500 people reach the Ashok Nagar residence of MP Ujjwal Raman Singh and former MP Kunwar Revati Raman Singh every day. They are narrating their problems and are getting all possible help. This proves that the people from the ruling party have nothing to do with the plight of the people. Before the public darshan, MP Ujjwal Raman Singh visited the residence of former MLA Parvez Ahmed Tanki and inquired about his well being. He also discussed the solutions to the problems of the area. In the public darshan, Ansuman Mishra, Dr. Nisar Ahmed, Mehboob Usmani, Parvez Akhtar Ansari, Bablu Shagun, Tehzeeb Ahmed, Suayev Khan, Nafees Anwar, Councilor Fazal, Councilor Khashan, Moin Habibi, Arshad Ali, Arshi Qazi, Gulsher Chocho etc. were there.

Dhanjay Singh became district coordinator of BJP OBC Morcha membership campaign

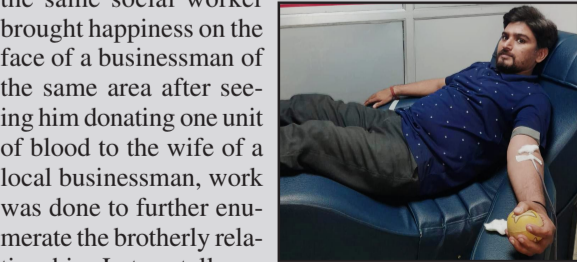
Prayagraj: Dhanjay Singh, District Vice President of Bharatiya Janata Party Pichda Morcha and General Secretary of City West Traders Federation, was appointed the District Convener of BJP OBC Morcha Membership Campaign. Ramesh Singh alias Raju Patel, Ghanshyam Maurya, Nateshwar Singh, Barkha Jaiswal were given the responsibility of district co-convenor. There was a wave of happiness among the traders when Dhanjay Singh was made the district co-ordinator. President of the City West Traders Federation, Akhilesh Singh, officials of the Traders Federation and BJP OBC Morcha officials and workers congratulated



and wished for a bright future. Those who congratulated included Akhilesh Singh, Rajesh Gupta, Atul Kesarwani, Suresh Gupta, Dharmendra Dwivedi, Narendra Kheda, Ramlochan, Sonu Sahu, Manjeet Kushwaha, Gyan Kesarwani, Sunil Kesarwani, Dharmendra Kesarwani, Diljit Singh, Krishlay Kesarwani, Yogendra Kushwaha, Suman Kapoor, Ratan Aggarwal, Pappu Kalash, Fayyaz Ahmed and a large number of businessmen and BJP workers congratulated him.

Social worker gave message of humanity by donating blood to Muslim woman

Prayagraj: While on one hand Hindu-Muslim politics is being played in the country, Devashish Srivastava set an example in Prayagraj. This saying that Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians are all brothers has been proved true. Devashish Srivastava (Deva), a social worker based in Cotton Mill of Naini area, gave the message of humanity, while on one hand, in the name of Hindu-Muslim, the entire country Politics is taking place, the same social worker brought happiness on the face of a businessman of the same area after seeing him donating one unit of blood to the wife of a local businessman, work was done to further enumerate the brotherly relationship. Let us tell you that the wife of a businessman of the area is admitted in a hospital of the area, where during the treatment, it was found that only 6 points (units) of blood were left in her body. She tried to take blood at many places but the blood was not available. When social worker Devashish Srivastava (Deva) came to know about the fact that he was not found, he immediately went to the hospital and met Nazim and then donated blood at Naini Blood Center and set an example of humanity.



Work stopped by digging drain track by PDA in Triveni Road and Shankar Lal Bhargava Road. This work has been stopped, which was started in February by Prayagraj Development Authority from the Kumbh Mela funds, which is being stopped by digging holes at many places, leaving it half incomplete. The mayor has also issued a letter warning and warning to complete the work by October. The work could not be started even after the siege of the Chief Engineer of PDA by councilors and people under the leadership of Councilor Kiran Jaiswal on 12th August. The historic Dadhikando Fair of Kidganj is also on 17th and 18th September but this time it is being held. That the working style of PDA will eclipse the historical fair. Regional Councilor and Chief Whip of BJP in Municipal Corporation, Kiran Jaiswal said

Student activist's room raided by NIA over alleged Naxal links

Prayagraj: The human rights group People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) has condemned the raid conducted by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) at the rented room of a student activist in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj in the early hours of Friday (August 30) in connection with his alleged Naxal links.

A seizure memo of the operation showed that the raid was regarding a 2023 FIR lodged under charges of criminal conspiracy, waging war against the nation and several sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. In a statement, the NIA said it conducted multi-state raids - across locations in UP, Delhi, Haryana and Punjab - as parts of its "efforts to scuttle the attempts of the banned CPI [Communist Party of India] (Maoist) organisation to revive its presence in the Northern Regional Bureau area".

A total of nine locations, linked with various accused and suspects in the 2023 FIR case were searched as part of the crackdown, the NIA said. The agency raided four locations in Punjab, two each in UP and Haryana, and one in Delhi.

Several digital devices (laptops, mobile phones, pen drives, compact discs, hard drives, compact discs, memory cards), SIM cards and pocket diaries were

seized during the searches, conducted at the premises of suspects believed to be close aides of various accused in the instant case, the NIA said. The agency alleged that "these suspects were receiving funds for propagation of CPI (Maoist) ideology from the erstwhile Eastern Regional Bureau (ERB) head Prashant Bose, NIA investigations have revealed. "The ERB, particularly Jharkhand, had been funding the suspects, believed to be long-time associates and OGWs [overground workers] of the accused, to recruit cadres and raise the organisation in the northern states."

NIA investigations further led to the identification of several front organisations and student wings tasked to identify suitable persons to work as underground cadres, to wage a war against the Indian government and to carry out violent terrorist acts as per the ideology of the proscribed outfit, the agency said. It added that further investigations are continuing in the case. The NIA also raided the house of Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU-Krantikari) general secretary Sukhwinder Kaur in Punjab's Bathinda district on Friday, following which farmer groups raised a protest against the government.

The FIR was lodged on

June 19 last year by the NIA. The PUCL said that the NIA seized pamphlets based on a lecture by economist Arun Kumar from Hindenburg Research's investigative report on industrialist Gautam Adani from the student,

certed attempts are being made by the leaders, cadres and sympathisers or over ground workers (OGWs) of [the] CPI [Communist Party of India] (Maoist)" for "re-energising their decrepit in-

underground cadres, the NIA alleged.

Azad is the joint secretary of the Inquilabi Chhatra Morcha (ICM), a left-leaning student organisation, and is also a member of the executive committee of the



whose name is Azad.

Titled 'Vartaman Bharatiya Arthyvayastha: Adani prakran ka asar' ('Modern Indian economy: The effect of the Adani case', the pamphlets were drafted by a local people's social group, the Allahabad Nagarik Samaaj. The raid was carried out at Azad's house in the early hours of Thursday, from 5:30 am to 10 am, the PUCL said in a statement.

It alleged that the raid at Azad's room, which he shares with three other persons, was carried out "in view of his activism". The 2023 FIR said that "con-

fluence" in the states of UP, Uttarakhnad, Delhi, Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh.

It named six accused persons and, like the NIA's statement on Thursday, alleged that the CPI (Maoist)'s ERB was funding overground workers in the aforementioned northern states, and also alleged the involvement of front organisations in waging war against the government.

Several front organisations and student wings were tasked with identifying suitable persons who could work as

'Allahabad Nagarik Samaj'. The PUCL also said that apart from the Adani pamphlet, NIA officials also seized the May-June issue of the magazine Dastak, in which Azad had written an article on the movement of activist Sonam Wangchuk in Ladakh.

Seema Azad, the PUCL's UP state president who was in 2010 arrested on charges of allegedly being a member of the banned Naxalite outfit CPI (Maoist), is the editor of Dastak, a monthly non-commercial magazine. A third item seized by the NIA was a copy of 'Mashaal', a six-

page newspaper published by the ICM. The UP PUCL in a statement said that the three things the NIA took from Azad's house "make the purpose of the raid clear".

"It is not difficult to understand from this what the government wants to do through the NIA. It wants to shut down the voices of those who oppose it," said the PUCL.

Azad, who hails from Agra, is based in Prayagraj, where he studies at the Allahabad University. He secured a Master of Arts degree in political science earlier this year. He also cleared the Junior Research Fellowship exam last year. The PUCL described him as a "brilliant student" who was also active in raising "democratic demands" in the city. The NIA has issued a notice to Azad and summoned him to Lucknow for questioning on September 15. "This is the next step in the mental torture of a student," the PUCL said.

Last August, the NIA conducted simultaneous searches at the residences and offices of several activists, including Seema Azad, and students in various cities of eastern Uttar Pradesh, purportedly to look for their alleged connection with the CPI (Maoist). Those raids were carried out in connection with the same June 2023 FIR.

New Chairman, Vice Chairman and members appointed in UP Backward Classes State Commission

Backward Classes Welfare Minister Narendra Kashyap gave his best wishes

Prayagraj/Lucknow: Under the Backward Classes Welfare, the Uttar Pradesh Government has issued a notification for new appointments in the Backward Classes State Commission of the state. According to the notification issued in this regard, under the Uttar Pradesh Backward Classes State Commission Act, 1996 and its Amendment Act, 2007 and 2014, the Governor has nominated various persons as Chairman, Vice-Chairman and members of the Commission. These appointments will be effective for a period of one year from the date of assuming charge. State Minister of State for Backward Class Welfare and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Independent Charge) Narendra Kashyap said while congratulating all the newly appointed Chairman, Vice Chairman and members of the Backward Classes State Commission, I have full confidence that all of them, with their experience and

knowledge, will effectively carry forward the work of the Commission and will remain dedicated to the welfare of the backward classes. Under his leadership, the Commission will play an important role in protecting the rights of the backward classes of the state and their empowerment. Rajesh Verma has been appointed as the Chairman. Their address is B-1/108, Sector-K, Aliganj, Lucknow. Sohan Lal Shrivastava and Surya Prakash Pal have been appointed to the post of vice presidents. Sohan Lal's address is Bengali Chauraha, Vindhyachal, Mirzapur, while Surya Prakash Pal's address is 35, Adarsh Colony, Civil Lines, Rampur.

The members of the commission are Satyendra Kumar Bari (Gangadhar Puram Colony, Gram Sabha Kairampur, police station Deendayal Nagar, Chandauli), Melaram Pawar (village and post Jangheda, Samaspur, Saharanpur), Vasudev Maurya (village

Haibatpar, police station Ayodhya, Ayodhya), Full. Badan Kushwaha (Village Barwa, Mahadeva, Post Parsauni, Kushinagar), Vinod Yadav (Village Muradpur, Post Gotha Bazar, Doharighat, Mau), Shiv Mangal Biar (Gram Sabha Raghunathpur, Police Station Baburi, Chandauli), Ashok Singh (201, Sudarshan Housing Society, Vinayakpur, Kanpur), Chiranjeevi Chaurasia (179, Dewan Bazar, Gorakhpur) Kuldeep Vishwakarma (305, Shri Hari Tower, P.P. Mission Compound, Gwalior Road, Jhosi), Laxman Singh (Vidhan Sabha Marg, Lucknow), Dr. Murhu Rajbhar (Village and Post Surhupur, Tehsil Jamnia, Ghazipur), Ghanshyam Chauhan (Jawahar Nagar, Kadiapur, Sultanpur), R.D. Singh (Village Chechuvapur, Post Sidhauri, Gorakhpur), Janardan Gupta (Village Pipramunderi, Vishunpur, Bhaijauli, Maharaganj), Baba Balak (Village and Post

Masmaria, Jalaun) Ramesh Kashyap (Post Pavtikalan, Police Station Kairana, Shamli), Pramod Saini (Post Pavtikalan, Police Station Kairana, Shamli), Karuna Shankar Patel (Mo. Shankarganj, Bisuan, Sitapur), Ravindra Mani (Village Pidi, Post Baripur, Police Station Sikriganj, Tehsil Khajani, Gorakhpur), Ramshankar Sahu (A-344, Kalpana Estate (Sahu Colony), Kalli West, Rae Bareilly Road, Lucknow), Vinod Singh (C-802, Bahukhandi, Dalibagh Minister Residence, Lucknow), Mahendra Singh Rana (Village and Post Dholna, Police Station Dholna, Kasganj), Ms. Richa Rajput (D-31 W-2, Juhi Kaland, Barra, Kanpur) and Ram Krishna Singh Patel (Village Gadhya Lonipar, Post Naribari, Prayagraj) have been nominated. All these newly appointed President, Vice President and members will be elected for their tenure. During this period, honorarium, allowances and other facilities will be provided as per rules.

Kanha restaurant inaugurated for convenience of youth and students

Prayagraj: Kanha Restaurant has been launched keeping in mind the convenience of the people of Mira Patti, Mundera and surrounding areas, especially the youth and students, in the western area of the city. The centrally air conditioned, purely vegetarian restaurant was inaugurated on Friday afternoon by Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee State Working Committee member Fuzail Hashmi with the sound of Kartal amidst Vedic mantras. Restaurant pro-



prietor Kundan Pal said that in the morning breakfast, delicious Kachori, Crispy, Samosa, Poha, Butter Toast, Sandwich, Delicious Dahi Jalebi, Malai Lassi, Buttermilk, Tandoor Tea, Coffee etc. are available. Apart from more than a hundred varieties in lunch and dinner, in addition to Dosa, Imarti, Burger, Idli, Dry Fruits Kulfi, Rabadhi, Paneer Pakoda, Bread Pakoda etc. in the evening snack, special care has been taken about the speciality and quality of service. Home delivery available round the clock. Former Pradhan Kamal Hashmi, Bilas Pal, Anish Ahmed, Amaazuddin, Lal Chandra Kushwaha, Ahmed Ji, Devi Prasad Kesarwani, Bhola Nath Yadav, Gaya Nath Pal, Sirajul Hasan, Engineer Salman Hashmi etc. were present on the occasion of inauguration.

Chatti Mahotsav in Ma Kalyani Temple today

Prayagraj: Sixth Mahotsav of Yogiraj Lord Shri Krishna will be celebrated in the temple of Shaktipeeth Mother Kalyani Devi Ji on Saturday 31st August. President priest Pandit Sushil Pathak told that on the said occasion, a special bhajan evening will be organized from 5 pm and grand decoration of Lord Shri Radha Krishna and Mata Kalyani Devi will be done, and the life of Lord Shri Krishna will be narrated in the temple premises. Various related tableaux will be decorated, and Maha Aarti of Lord Shri Krishna and 56 Bhog will be offered at 8 pm, after which Prasad will be distributed.

Proposal for widening work of Kohdarghat - Kheri road passed: Rita Bahuguna Joshi

Prayagraj: Former MP Professor for widening and strengthening work of Kohdarghat - Kheri road under Meja Legislative Assembly on the demand of area residents Rita Bahuguna Joshi met Public Works Minister Jitin Prasad several times through correspondence and proposed widening and strengthening of Kohdarghat-Kheri road, on which Public Works Minister Jitin Prasad assured that the said work would be done soon. "The above work has been approved, work will start soon," said Former MP Professor Rita Bahuguna Joshi.

Symbolic mass fast on Sept 2 in protest against PDA's erratic functioning: Councilor Kiran Jaiswal

Prayagraj: Work stopped by digging drain track by PDA in Triveni Road and Shankar Lal Bhargava Road. This work has been stopped, which was started in February by Prayagraj Development Authority from the Kumbh Mela funds, which is being stopped by digging holes at many places, leaving it half incomplete. The mayor has also issued a letter warning and warning to complete the work by October. The work could not be started even after the siege of the Chief Engineer of PDA by councilors and people under the leadership of Councilor Kiran Jaiswal on 12th August. The historic Dadhikando Fair of Kidganj is also on 17th and 18th September but this time it is being held. That the working style of PDA will eclipse the historical fair. Regional Councilor and Chief Whip of BJP in Municipal Corporation, Kiran Jaiswal said



that due to the negligence of Prayagraj Development Authority, it is not possible to build this road before the Kumbh Mela, hence their negligence. As a warning against this, a mass fast will be observed by BJP councilors, workers and common people from 10:00 am to 2 pm on September 2 from 10 am at Kidganj Police Booth intersection. Councilor Kiran Jaiswal, Mukesh Lara Rudrasen Jaiswal, BJP Metropolitan Vice President, Vivek Aggarwal media in-charge Rajesh Kesarwani, Manoj Mishra, Bablu Sahu Dilip Kesarwani, Narendra Jaiswal Ram Nath Dubey et al asked Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to start and complete the work immediately and tarnish the image of the government by deliberately delaying the Kumbh work. Strict action has been demanded against those responsible.

Editorial

'A quiet case of ethnic cleansing': Why we don't care

Being a Hindu in Bangladesh is a difficult situation. Till the other day, he aroused anger, especially among the people of jihadi kind, for being seen as a collaborator who schemed enough to become a Sheikh Hasina supporter. He indeed was a loyal Hasina supporter. Still, that doesn't guarantee him safety. As per a 2021 human rights report, Bangladesh saw more than 3,600 attacks on Hindus in Bangladesh since 2013. Hasina had been in power since 2009. Minorities in Bangladesh had been ardent Hasina supporters not because the killing of Hindus, the destruction and looting of their property, including temples, and the wanton discrimination regularly meted out to them had stopped completely. Every now and then, on one pretext or the other, there would be violence where only one particular community would be targeted. The last "great killing" took place in 2021 when a copy of the Quran was found at a Durga Puja pandal. It later turned out to be the handiwork of a Muslim man, but the damage was done. As a result, if The Daily Star, the largest-circulating daily English-language newspaper in Bangladesh, is to be believed, "117 Hindu temples or puja pandals and 301 shops/homes were also damaged". The Hindu-Muslim violence in Bangladesh is starkly different from that in Bharat. One tends to loosely use the term riot to describe it. But then they are not riots. There can never be a riot in a Muslim-majority state. Remember that line from Taslima Nasrin's Lajja, where Suronjon is caught in an argument with his father, Sudhamoy Datta: When the father defends his stay in violence-prone Bangladesh, saying there "are riots in all countries. Aren't there riots in India?", the son responds: "Riots are good, Baba. But here we don't have riots. Here Muslims are killing Hindus!" Still Hindus supported Hasina. Because she ensured there was a semblance of order, a sense of normalcy in their lives. They had seen much worse, so much violence that Hasina's 'controlled chaos' was something they grasped with both hands.

But as the saying goes, 'good' things don't last long. And they ended this Tuesday, August 6, when Sheikh Hasina was given the 45-minute ultimatum to pack her bags and leave the country. The chaos soon descended on the streets of Bangladesh and even the statue of Bangbandhu — the man who got the country's freedom in 1971 — was not left alone. For Hindus in Bangladesh, the era of a jhatka-type of execution was back in action. One can grasp the seriousness of the situation from the fact that the head of Bharat's Ministry of External Affairs, which is instinctively prone to take a less alarmist position, informed Parliament that "properties of individuals associated with the (Hasina) regime were torched across the country. What was particularly worrying was that minorities, their businesses and temples also came under attack at multiple locations". Within 24 hours, there were reports of Hindus being attacked, their houses and temples ransacked, and their valuables looted in as many as 27 districts of Bangladesh. Even an ISKCON temple wasn't spared. Orchestrated by Jamaat-led Islamist outfits, one saw the resumption of ethnic cleansing that Sheikh Hasina had put a lid on 15 years ago. One can gauge the scale and nature of violence from a harrowing video in circulation these days when Islamist fundamentalists are seen inspecting the genitals of a lynched man, and expressing happiness that he is a Hindu! The othering of Hindus was always normal in Bangladesh. But now, the genie of jihad, which Hasina had kept inside the bottle for 15 years, is out in the open. Unfortunately, at a time when the minorities of Bangladesh deserved care, empathy and support, there is a tendency, especially among Hindu 'liberals', to look the other way, if not completely discount their sufferings.

One editor of a New Delhi-based website who carries an American passport.



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

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



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

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

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

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

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

India's Olympics outfits are tacky. Tarun Tahiliani was too busy dressing Bollywood

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

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

The expanding battlefield: Assessing the 'Axis of Resistance' as Iran prepares to retaliate

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

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

examine the military capabilities of each side to better understand how such strikes could unfold.

Military capabilities
Iran is the main protagonist in the anticipated strike. For years, it has relied on its proxies in the region to wage war on its behalf, but this time, it is likely to undertake a direct strike. As Iran and Israel are separated by almost 1,800 km, a ground war or "boots on the ground" is unlikely. Therefore, military power projection will be through stand-off weapon systems like drones and missiles. Regarding airpower, Iran has a poorly equipped and ageing fleet. Its air force comprises an array of aircraft, ranging from US-made F-14s to Chinese F-4s, F-5s, and F-7s, along with Russian Sukhoi and MiG-29s. Most estimates suggest a total of 330–350 aircraft. Although Iran has been asking Russia to supply Sukhoi-35 fighter jets, this is unlikely to materialise soon. It is Iran's missile technology, however, that is potent and lethal. Iran's array of missiles is the largest and most diverse in the region.

Bangladesh is in the throes of Islamist pogrom against minority Hindus, and our liberals are busy obfuscating reality

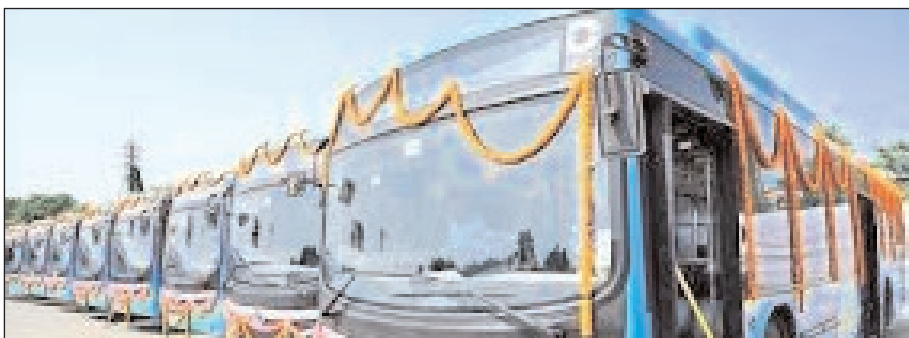
Bangladesh is in the throes of Islamist pogrom against minority Hindus, and our liberals are busy obfuscating reality. Members of the army clear an entrance of the Ganabhaban, the Bangladeshi prime minister's residence, a day after the resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in Dhaka on August 6,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

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

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

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

The Delhi BJP also claimed credit for the new electric buses



Delhi: Lieutenant governor V K Saxena chief flagged off 500 electric buses, taking their total number in the city fleet to 1,300. Delhi now has 1,300 electric buses, which is the highest in any city in India. We have to improve the transport sector," said . The buses will run on 100 routes, including between Najafgarh and Lado Sarai; Najafgarh and Safdarjung; Shahbad Dairy and Anand Vihar ISBT; Mangolpuri Y block and Kamla Market; Inderpuri and Jahangirpuri; Anand Vihar ISBT and IGI Airport; Rithala village and Shivaji Stadium;

and Badli railway station and Janak Puri, among others. Transport minister Kailash Gahlot, who was present at the flag-off, said, "The push for electric mobility in Delhi is among the biggest steps in the fight against pollution. By 2025, he added, Delhi is expected to have 10,480 buses, with 8,280, or 80%, of these electric, which would help save about 4.6 lakh tonnes of emissions annually. The Delhi BJP also claimed credit for the new electric buses, with its state president Virendra Sachdeva

saying the vehicles were the Centre's gift to Delhi under the FAME scheme of the ministry of heavy industries, Government of India. The buses have special features for the safety of women and will make travel more comfortable for them, he said, adding that they would also reduce vehicular pollution on city roads. Leader of the Opposition in Delhi Assembly R S Bidhuri said BJP MLAs will go door-to-door to apprise people about the schemes undertaken by the Centre for Delhi.

Delhi Jal Board has launched a 'maintenance week'

Delhi: Delhi Jal Board has launched a 'maintenance week' in all its zones to provide assistance on water and sewer-related issues. According to DJB sources, additional chief engineers of all 11 zones have been asked to start providing solutions to 'critical areas' in terms of sewer-related problems. With an objective to provide quick response to the public at large on water and sewer issues, DJB has started Maintenance Week in all zones in full swing. Extra efforts are being put to resolve complaints received from all mediums including 24x7 helpline- 1916," said the DJB in a tweet.

MCD to start survey in first week of register vendors

Delhi: Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) will carry out a survey of vendors who have so far not been covered in previous surveys in the city. After technical and financial evaluation, the civic body had assigned tenders to three agencies for conducting the surveys. Currently, they are busy preparing a management information

system (MIS) board. The first survey was done by the corporation in the financial year 2020-21, under which 62,333 vending certificates were issued till "Not all street vendors were covered earlier, so the survey will be carried out again. A website was launched to enable those left out to register and a public notice was issued on July 14, 2023.

Thereafter, three agencies were identified for conducting the survey. The decision to restart the survey is aimed at fulfilling CM Arvind Kejriwal's guarantee of creating vending zones," said MCD mayor Shelly Oberoi. L

Maharashtra govt formally launches 'Ladki Bahin' scheme



Delhi: The Mahayuti government in Maharashtra formally launched the ambitious "Majhi Ladki Bahin" scheme for eligible women, with Chief Minister Eknath Shinde hinting at doubling the monthly stipend from Rs 1,500 to Rs 3,000 if the alliance is voted to power in elections. More than 1 crore women are expected to benefit from this scheme whose launch coincided with Rakshabandhan festivities.

The Shiv Sena-BJP-NCP government, facing a tough assembly polls battle against the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi in coming months, came up with the "Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin" scheme, months after a debacle in Lok Sabha elections in Maharashtra. The scheme, modelled on the MP

government's "Ladli Behna Yojana", provides monthly Rs 1,500 assistance to the married, divorced, and destitute women in the 21-60 age group with Rs 2.5 lakh annual family income ceiling. If we receive your support, we can manage to give you more than Rs 3,000," Shinde said at the launch event marked by the display of pyrotechnics on a specially-created

Tamil Nadu private institutions book seats amid NEET uncertainties

Delhi: Despite SC considerations about NEET-UG 2024, including the prospect of a re-test due to a question paper leak during the May exam, some private medical colleges in Tamil Nadu have begun undergraduate admissions. Some have boldly posted admissions posters, while others are doing it covertly. They are now "booking" seats with a Rs 2-3 lakh "advance". The process becomes clear when parents request admission. "Parents are asked to meet authorities on campus and leave mobile phones and electronic gadgets," said student counsellor .

HC tells fire dept, MCD to inspect study centres

Delhi: Delhi High Court directed the city's fire service and the municipal corporation to inspect all coaching centres to ascertain if they were complying with the fire safety norms. A bench headed by Justice Yashwant Varma directed the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and Delhi Fire Service (DFS) to point out the "deficiencies" to the coaching centres and issue appropriate directions to them

if they are found vulnerable to incidents of fire. You will point out the deficiencies to individual coaching centres, educational centres. A joint inspection by both MCD and Delhi Fire Services (will be carried out). Indicate all non-conforming factors to all occupants. Give them time to comply. Any (centres) which are found totally hazardous, issue directions and they will have the right to approach us,"

the court added. The bench clarified that the coaching centres, which shall be given time to work on the shortcomings, will ensure that instruction to students is not disrupted. If you face an eventuality where it is to be shut down, you will continue instructions. You will not disrupt any instructions or coaching or other activities. It can always be continued online," the court added further.

University researchers to explore UP's development story

Lucknow Thanks to the dedicated efforts of the Planning Department, university researchers will soon have access to Uttar Pradesh's development story over the past seven years. This initiative, in line with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's vision, aims to ensure that development data is not restricted to government officials and district headquarters but is also avail-

able for academic research. They are preparing a comprehensive booklet based on a detailed report, which will be distributed to all universities in the state, including all agricultural science centres, for research purposes. Department officials state that the booklet uses 72 indicators for better district-level assessment and provides a detailed classification of subregions.

Sight Of Unclaimed Cars Gathering Dust May Soon Be A Thing Of Past

Delhi: The Delhi Police commissioner has authorised district DCPs to start e-auctioning process at their level and dispose of seized vehicles lying in various police stations and occupying a large space. The vehicles include those found abandoned or seized during surprise checks where the driver, upon being signalled to stop, fled, leaving the vehicle behind. According to police sources, the responsibility of conducting the e-auction of condemned general store articles, KT spares and vehicles, and articles seized under Section 66 of the Delhi Police Act was assigned to the DCP (provisioning and logistics). The condemnation committees at district and unit levels carry out the necessary paperwork to determine which goods and articles are to be condemned. Thereafter, requests are sent to the DCP (P&L) for handling the e-auction formalities. However, as



observed, this practice of centralised e-auction often results in delays and does not yield the desired results," a police source said, quoting the circular. To streamline the process and expedite e-auctions for timely disposal of condemned goods and articles, the duty assigned to DCP (P&L) was further assigned to DCPs of districts and units, the source added. A senior officer pointed out that these vehicles occupy significant space at police stations, compromising the overall cleanliness of the surroundings. The attempt to move them

through the provisioning and logistics unit wasn't entirely successful," he said, adding, "The new process of auctioning will help officers maintain cleanliness within their respective police stations. Once all the avenues have been exhausted to locate the owner, cops place advertisements in newspapers stating that the vehicles are at the police station and the owners can contact them. After a sufficient waiting period following the advertisements, the vehicles are moved for auction, where they are sold to registered scrap dealers.

Businessmen and social organizations respond to CM Yogi's call to help flood victims

Lucknow/Lakhimpur Kheri In response to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's appeal to people to assist flood victims, several businessmen and social organisations have stepped forward to help the marooned people in flood-affected Lakhimpur Kheri. Acting on the Chief Minister's guidance, District Magistrate Durga Shaha k... [1 8 : 1 5 , 21/7/2024] +91 99189 66505: Yogi govt com-

pletions preparations, large number of devotees expected on first Monday of SawanUP govt makes special arrangements for easy darshan, security and convenience of devoteesNo-vehicle zone from Maidagin to Godowlia on Mondays during the month of SawanArrangements made for live telecast of Garbhagriha darshan, temple complex equipped with LED screens and lost & found centreElderly,

divyans and VIPs will get free e-rickshaws and golf carts for darshanSilko gate opens for first time this year, new entry arrangements for pilgrimsOne lane reserved for 'Kanwariyas' on Prayagraj to Varanasi National HighwayMultilingual personnel will be on duty at 'lost & found center', doctors team will be present to handle emergenciesVaranasi, July 21The Yogi govern-

ment has made special arrangements to ensure smooth darshan, security, and facilities for the devotees as the auspicious month of Sawan, dedicated to Lord Shiva is beginning from Monday. Spanning from July 22 to August 19, this special period for the worship of Mahadev will include five Mondays. During Sawan, a large number of devotees travel from afar with Kanwars to perform Jalabhishek for Lord Shiva.

Check illegal pubs and bars in Safdarjung once a wk: HC

Delhi: Delhi High Court directed police and the excise department to conduct inspections "at least once a week" in Safdarjung Enclave to clamp down on unauthorised pubs and bars serving liquor illegally. A bench of acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Mini Pushkarna also told the authorities not to be fooled into assuming that pubs and bars without licence were not serving alcohol. A person is running a bar and pub,

and you think he is not serving liquor. How can you be so innocent I am surprised," Justice Manmohan said when one of the government counsels claimed that no licence had been issued to these outlets to serve liquor. Officials should go for the inspection at a time when the bars and pubs will be open, preferably in the evening, the court instructed. It asked the Delhi government to file a supplementary affidavit.

MCD plans to lift garbage at night too

Delhi: Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has prepared a new plan to make the city garbage-free and has decided to collect waste from all wards during night also. Mayor Shelly Oberoi said that the tipper would run during night hours in several areas to ensure cleanliness across the city. It will ensure that garbage does not remain lying anywhere. Apart from this, an agency will be appointed for the maintenance of parks and col-

lecting waste. Services of the agency will also be taken for pruning of trees," said the mayor after holding a meeting with the councillors of Shahdara South zone at the Civic Centre. In the meeting, the councillors informed the mayor about garbage commonly found scattered at dhalao ghars in their areas. "Although the agency concerned is collecting garbage regularly, the waste remains scattered due to ragpickers.

CAPSULES

India's 'Rishi tradition' tied to national and public welfare: CM Yogi

Gorakhpur Gorakshpeethadhiswar and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that India's Sanatan Rishi and Guru traditions are fundamentally oriented towards public and national welfare. "These traditions inspire us to dedicate every action and moment to the Sanatan values, society, and the nation. By doing so, we honor the Guru tradition. The Gorakshpeeth, too, upholds this Guru tradition, working tirelessly for the betterment of the public and the nation", he stated. He was addressing the closing session of the Shri Ram Katha and Guru Purnima Mahotsav, held at Digvijaynath Smriti Bhavan since July 15. After offering flowers at the portraits of the late Mahants of Gorakshpeeth, Digvijaynath Ji Maharaj and Mahant Avedyanath Ji Maharaj, and worshipping the Vyaspeeth, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath remarked that in Sanatan culture, the tradition of gotra is closely linked with the 'Rishi'. "The concept of gotra transcends caste distinctions, as each gotra is associated with a specific Rishi who embodies a tradition free from caste discrimination. Followers of various castes adhere to the gotra of a single Rishi", he pointed out. The Chief Minister emphasized that Indian culture is the most ancient and flourishing in the world, with Sanatan festivals serving as a testament to this rich heritage. These festivals link India and its followers of Sanatan Dharma to a deep historical continuum. CM Yogi stated that Guru Purnima, also known as Vyas Purnima, marks the birth anniversary of Maharishi Krishna Dwaipayan Vyas, who gifted humanity with Vedic literature. Maharishi Vyas provided the Vedas, Puranas, and numerous other crucial scriptures. He lived about 5,000 years ago, and his works spanned multiple generations.

Swiggy's Valuation Dips To \$14.7 Bn Ahead Of IPO, Sets Sight On \$15 Bn Target



(SEC), media reports reveal. This is a 2.6 per cent drop from its previous valuation of USD 15.1 billion in March, attributed to rupee depreciation. As per Reuters, Swiggy is preparing for one of India's largest IPOs this year, targeting a valuation of around USD 15 billion. The food delivery giant, backed by SoftBank,

aims to raise between USD 1 billion and USD 1.25 billion through the offering. Swiggy plans to use the IPO proceeds to scale its quick commerce business, Instamart, and add more warehouses to compete with rival Zomato, which has doubled its market value to USD 28 billion since its 2021 listing. In another devel-

opment, according to media reports, Swiggy was valued at USD 11.5 billion by investor 360 One WAM, formerly known as IIFL Wealth Management, as of June 2024. Swiggy recorded Rs 5,476 crore in revenue from operations during the first three quarters of FY24, with reported losses.

US-based asset management firm Baron Capital has marked Swiggy's valuation at USD 14.74 billion as of June 2024, according to regulatory filings with the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), media reports reveal.

Delhi : US-based asset management firm Baron Capital has marked Swiggy's valuation at USD 14.74 billion as of June 2024, according to regulatory filings with the US Securities and Exchange Commission

DRDO successfully test fires Made-in-India portable anti-tank missile



NEW DELHI: The defence research and development organisation on Tuesday conducted successful test-firing of the indigenously developed Man-Portable Anti Tank Guided Missile (MP-ATGM). The test took place at a field firing range located in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, DRDO officials said.

The MP-ATGM is a portable, shoulder-launched missile system designed to neutralize enemy tanks and armored vehicles. The MP-ATGM is a portable, shoulder-launched missile system designed to neutralize enemy tanks and armored vehicles. The ATGM system is well-equipped with day/night and top attack capability with a dual mode seeker functionality. The missile successful trials were conducted on April 14. The system consisted of the MPATGM, launcher, target acquisition system, and the fire control unit.

The Warhead Flight Trials were successfully conducted at the Pokhran Field Firing Range, Rajasthan on April 13, 2024. Missile performance and warhead performance were found to be remarkable.

'If courts start denying bail ...': SC affirms 'bail is rule' even for special statutes

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday granted bail to a man accused under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), emphasising that the legal principle "bail is rule, jail is an exception" is applicable even to offences under special statutes. The top court highlighted that denying bail in deserving cases would be a violation of fundamental rights. A bench of justices Abhay S Oka and



Augustine George Masih underlined the importance of considering bail applications in accordance with the law, even in serious allegations. They stated, "Allegations of the prosecution may be very serious, but it is court's duty to consid-

er the case for bail in accordance with law. Bail is the rule and jail is the exception applies even to special statutes. If courts start denying bail in deserving cases, it will be a violation of rights guaranteed under Article 21." The judgement came in the case of Jalaluddin Khan, who was booked under the UAPA and other sections of the now-defunct Indian Penal Code. Khan had rented out the upper

floor of his house to alleged members of the banned organisation Popular Front of India (PFI). According to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), the investigation disclosed that a criminal conspiracy was hatched with the intention of carrying out acts of terror and violence. This was purported to create an atmosphere of terror and endanger the unity and integrity of the nation.

Who will hoist flag in Delhi? AAP-LG conflict creates uncertainty

NEW DELHI: Contrary to chief minister Arvind Kejriwal's wish, uncertainty looms over who will hoist the national flag during the Delhi government's function on the occasion of Independence Day. A few days back, CM Arvind Kejriwal had written a letter to Delhi LG VK Saxena from Tihar jail urging him to allow Atishi to hoist the flag at the function at Chhatrasal stadium. However, the General



Administration Department said on Tuesday that the letter does not qualify as a permissible communication. "It is absolutely clear that the letter does not qualify as the permissible communication which can be sent outside prison. Any communication, written or oral, in contravention of the rules quoted

above, is not legally valid and therefore cannot be acted upon," news agency ANI quoted additional chief secretary of the department as saying. The department had sought convenience of the Kejriwal for his availability for the Independence Day function. The issue was brought to the notice of the higher authorities and the decision is awaited. General administration along with all concerned departments are making all arrangements

for the function at Chhatrasal Stadium as per past practice, the department said in a statement. Later, former deputy CM Manish Sisodia also joined the tug-of-war saying that the flag should be hoisted either by the CM or the minister of the elected government. "The flag should be hoisted by the CM or Minister of an elected government. I don't think there is any problem in this. However, it would be wrong to expect about democracy, Constitution from

the LG. We can only expect dictatorship from them and that they are doing," news agency PTI quoted Sisodia as saying. Notably, AAP minister Gopal Rai had on Monday instructed the GAD to arrange for his cabinet colleague Atishi to hoist the national flag on Independence Day. Rai said that the directive was issued as Kejriwal had requested that she should take over the flag-hoisting at Chhatrasal Stadium on August 15.

Population to hit 152.2cr by 2036, sex ratio will improve to 952: Govt

NEW DELHI: By 2036, India's population is expected to reach 152.2 crore, with a slightly improved female percentage of 48.8% as compared to 48.5% in 2011, a report published by the ministry of statistics and programme implementation (MoSPI) showed on Monday.

The report — 'Women and Men in India 2023' — projects that the proportion of individuals under 15 years of age will decrease from 2011 to 2036, likely due to declining fertility rates.

In contrast, the proportion of the population aged 60 years and above is anticipated to substantially increase during this period. India's population in 2036 is expected to be more feminine compared to 2011, as reflected in sex ratio which is projected to increase from 943 (per 1,000 males) in 2011 to 952 by 2036, highlighting a positive trend in gender equality, the report said. The report offers a



Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh granted 21-day furlough

CHANDIGARH: Dera Sacha Sauda chief and rape convict Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh has been granted a 21-day furlough, official sources said on Tuesday. During his temporary release period, Singh will go to the Dera ashram in Barnawa in Uttar

Pradesh's Baghpat, they further said. The Sirsa-headquartered Dera sect chief was granted the temporary release days after the Punjab and Haryana High Court disposed of the Shiromani Gurdwara P a r b a n d h a k Committee's .

comprehensive view of the situation of women and men in India, providing data on population, education, health, economic participation, and decision-making. It presents gender-disaggregated data across urban-rural divides and regions, highlighting disparities. Key indicators are derived

from published data of various ministries, departments, and organisations. "Gender statistics play a crucial role in promoting and measuring gender equality. They provide benchmarks for progress, making visible similarities and differences between men and women," it said.

Former Bangladesh PM Hasina booked for murder of grocery store owner



This marks the first legal action taken against Hasina since she resigned as PM and fled the country on August 5.

The other accused in case include several high-profile individuals, including Awami League general secretary Obaidul Quader, and former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kama. Additionally, the former inspector general of police (IGP), Chowdhury Abdullah

Al Mamun, and Harunor Rashid, the former DB chief, are among the accused. Other prominent figures named in the case are Habibur Rahman, the former DMP commissioner, and Biplob Kumar Sarker, who

held the position of former DMP joint commissioner. On August 5, Hasina stepped down from her role in the wake of a student-led revolt and sought refuge in India. Throughout her 15-year tenure, her administration was accused of widespread human rights abuses, including the unlawful execution of political opponents. The military declared Hasina's resignation and named Nobel

Tokyo gold medalist para shuttler Pramod Bhagat suspended for 18 months, to miss Paris

NEW DELHI: Pramod Bhagat, the reigning Paralympic champion in badminton, has been suspended for 18 months due to violations of the BWF's anti-doping whereabouts clause. The suspension is effective immediately, resulting in Bhagat missing the upcoming Paris Paralympics, a significant loss for India's medal prospects.

The whereabouts clause is a crucial aspect of anti-doping regulations. It requires athletes to provide detailed information about their locations for out-of-competition testing. Failure to comply with this clause can lead to suspensions, as seen in Bhagat's case. "In 1 March 2024, the Court of Arbitration of Sport (CAS) Anti-Doping Division found Bhagat in breach of the BWF anti-doping regulations for committing three whereabouts failures within 12 months," the Badminton.

World Federation (BWF) said in a statement. "Bhagat, an SL3 athlete, appealed this decision to the CAS Appeals Division. On 29 July 2024, the CAS Appeals Division dismissed the Bhagat's appeal and confirmed the CAS Anti-Doping Division decision of 1 March 2024.

Former US president reveals assassination attempt details, calls Biden's exit a 'coup'

In a much-anticipated return to social media, former President Donald Trump shared harrowing details of an assassination attempt and pledged the largest deportation in US history during a live interview with Elon Musk on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter. The conversation was marred by technical issues, frustrating many of Trump's supporters as the start was delayed by over 40 minutes. Key highlights from the interview-

Assassination attempt recounted Trump recounted the near-fatal experience at a Pennsylvania rally, revealing how a bullet narrowly missed him. "If I had not turned my head, I would not be talking to you right now — as much as I like you," Trump told Musk. He attributed his survival to quick reflexes and divine intervention, emphasizing the severity of the situation by stating, "For those people that don't believe in God, I think we all have to start thinking about

that." Musk responded by praising Trump's bravery, saying, "You can't fake bravery under such circumstances — the courage is instinctual or it is not." Trump reflected on the aftermath of the incident, recalling how he wanted to reassure his supporters by standing up and showing he was unharmed. "I wanted to get up and let them know I was okay — and they went wild," he said. Criticism of Kamala Harris and Joe Biden. Trump attacked President Joe Biden saying he "failed miserably" in the presidential debate with him. He also called Biden's exit a "coup" by Democrats. Trump also seized the opportunity to criticize Vice President Kamala Harris and labeled her as "fake", blaming her for the influx of illegal migrants. "The number of illegals Kamala has welcomed into our communities is much bigger than we think," Trump asserted, accusing her of allowing criminals .

Coaching tenders are issued by DDA sports complexes



sports centers with over 53,386 members (excluding dependents) and 213,235 monthly users. Chilla Sports Complex, CWG Village Sports Complex, Saket Sports Complex, Siri Fort Complex, Dwarka Sports Complex at Sector 17, and Roshanara Club operate 158 coaching schemes with about

6,175 trainees. Coaching. The complex trains members and non-members in sports. "While DDA charges a fee for using the facilities at the complexes from members or non-members, provision for coaches is also provided after paying additional fees," a rep stated. "The DDA management will determine

coaching days and times based on facility availability. No coach or coaching agency can receive more than two sports complexes "official said. During busy hours like 6am-8am and 6pm-8pm, sports complexes rarely offer instruction. Regular members can use facilities during this period. If the complex secretary finds spare capacity, coaching can be allowed during these hours, with certain requirements "authority).

DDA will supply infrastructure and facilities; coaches or organizations will run sessions. "The coach and DDA would split outdoor coaching fees 60:40. Facilities where

DDA supplies most training aids and interior facilities share 50:50. At least 10% of economically disadvantaged trainees must receive free coaching, according to regulations. "The authority invited tenders on June 23. Officials stressed that coaches or agencies who have not offered free instruction to the necessary number of trainees will not be eligible for contract extensions. "If there is a requirement to impart coaching to EWS sections by more than 10% of trainees, then DDA will pay the coaches their share of the fees over and above the mandatory 10%," a rep said.

"While DDA charges a fee for using the facilities at the complexes from members or non-members"

Delhi: Development Authority (DDA) has invited professional sports coaches or coaching firms to instruct interested Delhiites at its sports complexes in various disciplines. Coaching will be revenue-sharing with some restrictions. DDA runs 17

City benefits from longer amusement license



Delhi: LG Saxena's unified public entertainment licensing platform, launched earlier this month, has made business easier and helped turn Delhi into a dynamic city, restaurateurs claimed. Restaurant operators may now schedule gigs without worrying about getting a license at the last minute with a long-term license. Before launching the service, they had to file a police license form before hosting singer, band, or percussionist, or stand-up shows. Permissions were slow, so you couldn't book good artists or host last-minute shows. This link lets you apply for a longer license online. Sandeep Goyle, National Restaurant Association of India Delhi chapter head, said this will help many businesses. The manager of a popular restaurant stated even a casual gig required a license and much documenta-

tion before submission. "Permission could take two weeks to a month. It could also be refused. This nearly ended live music and performance in restaurants, which mostly used DJs or recorded music "said. An LG secretariat official said the webpage was designed to streamline, simplify, and standardize the capital's licensing process for amusement parks, auditoriums, and video game parlours. According to the source, the licensing unit of Delhi Police, Municipal Corporation of Delhi, and National Informatics Centre created the transformational portal to improve licensing operations across Delhi. The paperwork and documentation requirements are much reduced, streamlining the application procedure. The site streamlines application processing and cooperation by combining municipal organizations, Delhi Fire Service, and Delhi Police onto a single platform. "The application can be filled out online from anywhere and sent to all agencies simultaneously for quick processing. This allowed public performers, poets, and comedians to perform without having their scripts approved by police before the capital event.

700 parakeets rescued from Old Delhi Market

Delhi: At least 736 birds of six species protected under different Wildlife Act schedules were rescued from at least two shops at Coat market, also known as Kabootar market, in Jama Masjid in central Delhi after a raid by the department of forest and wildlife on birds lived in metal and plastic cages of various sizes. The shopkeepers packed the cages inhumanely in confined areas. The shopkeepers fled after witnessing the raiders. The officials stated Jama Masjid police officers helped the forest and

wildlife department's raiding squad find and rescue the birds. Anamika, deputy conservator of forests (central division), said the 736 rescued birds included six kinds of Parakeets and Munias. There were 325 Scaly Breasted Munias, 190 Rose Ringed, 123 Black Headed, 39 Red, 37 Alexandrine, and 22 Plum Headed. "The abducted birds are fed and watered in a central forest section. Anamika (one name) stated, "After some observation, they will be released in Asola Bhatti Sanctuary."

After a tip regarding Jama Masjid stores illegally holding endangered species, the central forest division launched the raid, officials said.

A team of wildlife inspectors, foresters, wildlife and forest guards, and animal handlers went to the Coat Market with local police. "Since our team had to conduct the raid and rescue operation in a sensitive locality, we roped in the local Jama Masjid police staff to handle any security and safety issues," stated the DCF."

PUC centers reopen as government promises to evaluate testing fee



Delhi: Petroleum dealers association officials said most pollution-under-control (PUC) checking centre operators at Delhi petrol pumps resumed operations on Thursday after calling off their indefinite strike to demand higher fees. After a meeting between the Delhi Petrol Dealers Association (DPDA) and Delhi transport department officials, who promised to investigate the striking dealers' requests, services resumed. DPDA general secretary Bibek Banerjee said: "The principal secretary, transport, agreed to relook into rate revision based on actual costs involved in the process. The officer will get DPDA's complete reasoning for PUC tariff increases soon. For the greater

good, DPDA has called off PUC centers' petrol pump strikes. The transport agency said PUC centre dealers put off the strike after talking with them. "They will justify raising PUC rates in detail. The transport official, who requested anonymity, said the department will review the findings and take action. The Delhi government reported 945 PUC centers, 600 of which operate from petrol pumps. Around 400 dealers went on an extended strike from July 15 to demand double testing. Following a 13-year gap, the government recommended raising PUC rates by ₹20 to ₹40 last week. Petroleum traders say the raise is insufficient to cover costs while waiting for notification.

Scrap 'illegal' car, get refund for next purchase

Delhi: Scrapping your old car will get you a discount on your future one. Delhi government sent LG VK Saxena a proposal for approval. Kailash Gahlot, transport minister, said the policy encouraged the destruction of old, polluting vehicles and the adoption of newer, cleaner ones. "By offering tax concessions, we hope to make it easier for vehicle owners to transit to more environment-friendly options," said Gahlot. The government would reduce the motor vehicles (MV) tax for new transport and non-transport cars provided a certificate is submitted confirming an old vehicle was scrapped at a registered vehicle scrapping plant. To qualify for savings, one must acquire a new car in the same category as the scrapped one. New diesel cars will receive a 15% MV tax concession.

Delhi to expand PUC checkpoints

Delhi: The Arvind Kerjriwal-led administration stated that it is investigating new locations to open pollution under control (PUC) inspection facilities in Delhi for people's convenience. After the Transport department found several petrol pump PUC checking centres "non-operational", the decision was made. The Transport department has asked DMRC and IGL to open new PUC checking centres at their sites. Advertisement Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot said, "Ensuring vehicles comply with pollution norms is crucial for improving Delhi's air quality. By adding PUC checking centers, we hope to make car testing and certification easier for citizens. We thank DMRC and IGL for their help." Over 900 PUC inspection centers are in Delhi, including 700 at petrol pumps. In 2017, the Supreme Court ordered all state transport departments to set up PUC checking stations at fuel stations. The Transport Department found some PUC checking centres violating this directive recently. Enforcers have been ordered to shut down non-compliant PUC checking centers in the city.

Delhi government officers reshuffled

Delhi: The Delhi government's services department dismissed senior IAS officer A Anbarasu from the principal commissioner (trade and taxes) position. Anbarasu, a 1996-batch IAS officer, will remain principal secretary of Public Works Department and Delhi Jal Board CEO. Lieutenant governor VK Saxena ordered it, officials said. Sources further said the AAP government had noted that the official was overworked with three critical ministries, hampering work. The services department also selected 2002-batch IAS officer Nikhil Kumar as land and building secretary. Kumar was relocated to Delhi from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and was awaiting appointment. He had numerous key roles in Delhi before. The order also named 2008-batch IAS officer Chanchal Yadav secretary (home). In other news, 2009-batch officer KM Uppu was dismissed from the excise commissioner duties. He will now be New Delhi Municipal Council secretary entirely. In anticipation of postings, the services department dispatched 2001-batch IAS officers Arti Lal Sharma and Jitender Yadav to DDA and MCD. Ravi Jha, another IAS officer awaiting posting, is now New Delhi district magistrate, while Marathe Onkar Gopal is in MCD. LG transferred and posted only in his direct control offices, an official said. Tamil Nadu named P Amudha special officer for Mudhalvarin Mugavari and Makkaludan Mudhalvar. She was transferred from the home department after opposition criticism of law enforcement. CS Shiv Das Meena confirmed the appointment. Kerala appointed IAS officer K Vasuki to manage 'foreign collaboration'.

HC authorizes MCD to remove illegal construction

Delhi: The High Court ordered the MCD to dismantle an unauthorized structure built by a Mayur Vihar Phase 1 Extension housing society resident. On July 9, the HC bench of acting Chief Justice (ACJ) Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela ruled that MCD, under the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, is "fully empowered" to remove unauthorised

construction "even if it happens to be within the four corners of a house or a flat". The housing society's writ case to ensure MCD's statutory responsibility was maintainable, the bench said. After MCD ignored multiple reminders from 2019 to monitor various residents' encroachments, the society's controlling committee went to court.

The petitioner's attorney argued that a resident had built illegally and encroached on society land, then removed it herself. The attorney said just the elevated base remains.

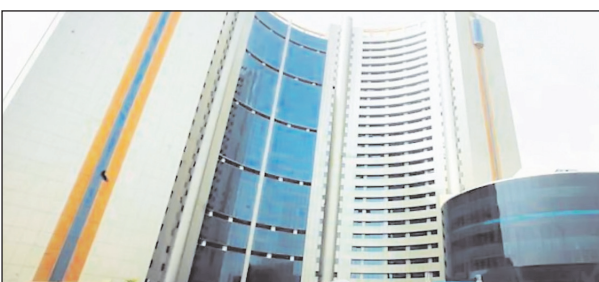
At the hearing, MCD counsel told HC that it had booked unlawful development in 13 society flats and partially demolished them. The counsel

Telemedicine to access specialized doctors

Delhi: State-run hospitals will provide Delhi residents telemedicine from doctors and specialists. Sources stated Delhi health minister Saurabh Bharadwaj has authorized doctors from several government hospitals to consult with patients via eSanjeevani. The Centre for Development of Advance Computing (C-DAC), which built the Sanjeevani software, agreed to Bharadwaj's request to alter it for the Delhi government. National patients can consult doctors in central government and municipal hospitals in the capital. A six-member committee led by ILBS

chancellor Dr. SK Sarin, created by Delhi High Court to improve health services in state-run and MCD hospitals and dispensaries, also advocated telemedicine. Sources said C-DAC will build a Delhi-only platform with state-run hospital doctors. "Since the government was in the process of hiring more doctors through UPSC and on contract, officials said the facility will be reviewed in due course of time and will be opened to patients from other states also," a rep said. Delhi's health department will hire general practitioners and specialists in surgery.

MCD will contract out all Karol Bagh municipal park maintenance



Delhi: Senior civic officials stated that the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) will pilot outsourcing municipal park management to commercial concessionaires to improve their upkeep. The 762-park Karol Bagh zone will host the pilot. A senior MCD official said the horticulture department has produced a project study for outsourcing Karol Bagh maintenance, including upkeep, pruning, rubbish collection, and vegetation. "The sanitation department manages waste in all zones through private concessionaires. We're out-

sourcing Karol Bagh park maintenance to a specialist. It is estimated to cost roughly ₹5 crore annually. The official, who requested anonymity, said the idea may be expanded to other zones if successful. MCD's horticulture department administers 15,226 parks on 5,172.07 acres. Most parks—90%—are "housing area parks"

(HAP) with areas under 5,000 square meters. Besides providing a green lung for Delhi, these parks allow citizens to exercise and play. According to an MCD official, outsourcing park management to experts should save money. "We expect better park maintenance. It will expedite park maintenance concerns from

citizens. The zonal officer would oversee all agency activity, the statement stated. The top MCD official stated that of 762 parks in Karol Bagh, 42 are more than 4,047sqm, 119 are 2,023.5sqm to 4,047sqm, and the rest are smaller.

Reported last year that the corporation had a gardener shortage, citing an MCD study that indicated 56% of gardener positions were vacant as of September 2023. Only 3,446 of 7,872 sanctioned gardener posts were hired, causing trouble in north and east Delhi.

A/to Meta, Facebook news may be blocked in Australia

Delhi: A corporate spokesman told a parliamentary hearing that Facebook's parent company, Meta, is thinking of removing news content from the platform in Australia if the government requires it to pay license costs. When questioned if Meta will prevent Australians from sharing news material in order to avoid paying fees, Mia Garlick, regional policy director for Meta, responded to lawmakers by saying that "all options are on the table". According to her, Meta was awaiting Canberra's decision on whether to implement an unproven 2021 law that would allow the government to determine how much US tech companies must pay media outlets for links. The statements provide the most evidence to date that Meta will adopt the same strict stance in Australia as it did in Canada in 2023 when that nation enacted



legislation of a similar nature. When the law was introduced in Australia, Meta signed agreements with News Corp and the Australian Broadcasting Corp, among other Australian media companies. However, Meta has since stated that it will not extend those contracts past 2024. The assistant treasurer of Australia will now have to determine if she wants to intervene and make Facebook pay for journalistic material. According to the assistant treasurer, Meta appears to follow the law only when it is convenient, but he is still gathering advice. Meanwhile,

Nine Entertainment and Seven West Media, Australia's two biggest free-to-air television broadcasters, said last week that they were slashing staff. They cited the loss of revenue when their contracts with Meta expire. When asked if banning Facebook news in Australia would be considered breaking the law, Meta's Garlick responded that it would be. "Every other law - tax laws, safety laws, privacy laws - we work to comply with," she stated. "It's just compliance would look slightly different in relation to this law if it's fully enacted."

A NOTORIOUS BURGLAR ARRESTED BY THE STAFF OF PS KANJHAWALA

Under the ongoing operation "PARAKRAM", a team led by SHO/Kanjhawala under supervision of ACP/Begumpur and under overall supervision of DCP/Rohini was constituted to put a curb on the menace of snatching, robbery and burglary and theft incidents in Rohini District. The staff of PS Kanjhawala has done a commendable job by arresting one notorious burglar namely Sonu, Aged about 28 years on a secret information in case FIR No. 293/24, dt. 29.06.24, u/s 380/511



IPC PS Kanjhawala. Four stolen mobile phones were recovered from his possession. With his arrest, four cases of burglary/theft have been work out. **INCIDENT AND ARREST:** On 29.06.2024, an incident of burglary was reported at PS Kanjhawala. Accordingly, a case of

FIR No. 293/24, dt. 29.06.24, u/s 380/511 IPC was registered at PS Kanjhawala. In order to nab the offenders, a team comprising of SI Prashant, HC Lalit and Ct Sunny led by SHO/Kanjhawala and under supervision ACP/Begumpur was constituted and investigation was taken up into the matter.

Wait 7 days to port after replacing the SIM

Delhi: New Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) rules require mobile phone users to wait at least seven days after replacing a lost or non-functional SIM card before switching service providers. The Telecommunication

Portability (Ninth Amendment) Regulations, 2024, prevent fraudsters from porting to new service providers under new names. The service provider cannot give the user a unique porting code until this seven-day period ends. The cus-

tomers receives an alphanumeric porting code from the current number to a new TSP. TSPs had three-and-a-half months from the TRAI to modify their telecommunication systems to refuse UPC requests in the seven-day period.



World Bank Backs India's Green Hydrogen Drive

Delhi: India's Green Hydrogen Mission received a second \$1.5 billion loan from the World Bank, raising its total financing to \$3 billion. To meet National Green Hydrogen Mission goals, India's domestic green hydrogen market must be strengthened and private investment encouraged. Auguste Tano Kouame, World Bank's Country Director for India, praised India's success, highlighting \$70 billion in tenders and indications of interest. Green hydrogen generation will benefit from Second Low Carbon Energy Programmatic Development Policy Cooperation changes, focused on electrolyzers. The program supports renewable energy improvements, including battery energy storage subsidies. The World Bank wants India to produce at least 450,000 metric tons of green hydrogen and 1,500 MW of electrolyzers by FY 2025-26 under this program. Increasing private sector involvement is crucial. Mr. Kouame said, "Indian green hydrogen production is safe. The administration has taken substantial steps, and no limits appear." He suggested that banking partnerships might improve the local market and that regulatory frameworks should be expedited to attract private firms. One of the World Bank's most ambitious undertakings is in India's green hydrogen sector. If successful, India might become a leading green hydrogen generator, creating green jobs. Mr. Kouame noted, "India's Green Hydrogen Mission seeks 600,000 jobs, a large number for one industry. These less labor-intensive, knowledge-based employment are inclusive, especially for women."

Kolhapur-Gaganbawda h'way work to hit trees

Kolhapur: Over 1,250 trees on the Kolhapur-Kale stretch will be felled for the first phase of the ongoing road widening works of the Kolhapur-Gaganbawda national highway (166-B). Many important medicinal and rare trees like terminalia, pinnata, bur-flower, shalmali, jamun, fig, banyan, peepal, baheda will be cut for this activity. The Kolhapur to Gaganbawda route was recently transferred from the Public Works Department (PWD) to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for the four-laning of the highway. Large scale passenger traffic from Kolhapur to Konkan-Goa occurs on this route. Shubham Patil, junior engi-



neer of NHAI said, "More than 1,250 trees between Shingnapur phata till Kale section of Kolhapur-Gaganbawda NH will be cut in the first phase of road

widening works in the district. The forest department has also approved of the same. The assigned contractor for the works has shortlisted reserved forest

land at Bazarbhogaon village where he will be planting saplings. The contract will not complete unless the plantation is done. We will look to it that the trees get planted accordingly." A villager from Kale, Sachin Patil said, "It is said that five trees will be planted in place of one tree getting cut during the highway works. But in reality, the authorities plant saplings which does not grow. This road stretch offers a canopy of trees that should be preserved." Anil Chougale from Nisarg Mitra, an NGO for the environment said, "The banyan trees on this stretch are nearly a 100 years old. Plantation should be done from the seeds of different tree varieties."

Indian Current Account Surplus After Last Quarter Deficit

According to CRISIL, India's current account surplus improved to \$5.7 billion in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2024, or 0.6% of GDP. This is a considerable improvement from the \$8.7 billion deficit (1.0%) in the

third quarter and the \$1.3 billion deficit (0.2%) in the fourth quarter of the previous fiscal year. The current account balance improved due to a shrinking merchandise trade deficit, an enhanced services

trade surplus, and rising remittances. Financial flows improved quarterly and annually, resulting in a \$30.8 billion foreign exchange reserve accretion in the fourth quarter, the biggest in ten quarters.

Regional aviation gets Air India route



Delhi: Air India stated Friday that it would begin using Airbus A350-900s on the Delhi-London Heathrow route on September 1. On the route, the airline will fly twice daily. The A350-900 will replace the 777-300ER and 787-8 Dreamliner on 14 of 17 weekly flights. The business claimed in a news statement that the replacement would add 336 weekly seats on the Delhi-London Heathrow

route. Flying our flagship A350s and B777s with updated cabin interiors to London Heathrow is a milestone for Air India. It shows our dedication to providing a world-class travel experience and exceeding customer expectations as we upgrade our fleet, said Campbell Wilson, CEO & Managing Director, Air India. The new Airbus planes will enhance 90% of its trips to London Heathrow. Air India began flying the new Boeing 777.

PLI policy boosts global tyre companies' make-in-India intentions

Delhi: Michelin, Bridgestone, and Goodyear are planning to invest in India's manufacturing industry, together with Yokohama and Birla Tyre, under a government system that links imports to local investment. These investments, estimated at Rs 3,000 crore, are a major response to the Centre's import curbs to increase domestic manufacturing. Yokohama, the largest investor, plans a plant in Haryana with roughly half a female workforce, creating several hundred employment. DPIIT linked the program to import approvals to stimulate capacity expansion. This resolves license issues that hampered international companies' high-end tire imports. "We are seeing the positive results of our initiatives and expect more companies to manufacture in India. "We are seeing the results of the steps we have taken and we are expecting more companies to come and make in India." The move supports the government's electric vehicle (EV) policy, which allows local manufacturers to import with lower duties. The Modi administration is recruiting Tesla to create jobs and accelerate the EV transition. Despite Elon Musk's canceled visit, officials are enthusiastic about future contacts. with Vinfast and others. The Department of Heavy Industries is working with stakeholders.

Over three months, doorstep delivery has been discontinued

Delhi: A three-member Delhi ministerial fact-finding committee has issued letters to senior DDA, forest, and Delhi Police officials for reportedly destroying 1,100 trees in Ridge without authorization. On Saturday, ministers Atishi, Saurabh Bharadwaj, and Imran Hussain constituted a committee to report to the forest minister. Does the opposition's request for a SC-appointed inquiry into NEET-UG 2024 irregularities make sense? The committee has ordered the principal secretary, DDA vice-chairman, principal commissioner (LD and LM), DDA commissioner (housing), deputy commissioner of police (south Delhi), station house officer (SHO), and other senior officials to attend a July 11 meeting. The committee's factual report to Supreme Court is due July 11. "As the next date of hearing in this matter is 12.07.2024 and the Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed GNCTD to file an affidavit based on the facts before 11.07.2024, your cooperation is needed to adhere to the strict timelines imposed by Supreme Court of India," Bharadwaj wrote in his email. Delhi's government and civic agencies were ordered to meet to consider comprehensive green cover measures by the court.

A vacation bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan expected the forest department and tree authority to monitor illegal felling. DDA lied in court, urban development minister Bharadwaj said after the hearing. He said DDA documents showed deputy governor VK Saxena and a chief engineer went to Satbari forest on Feb. 3 and verbally ordered 1,100 trees removed. Emails from DDA officials prove this, he added.

Panel warns officials about illegal tree cutting

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