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3 new criminal laws kick in today, data ousts 'danda' as policing tool

NEW DELHI:

The criminal justice system is set for a major overhaul with the three new criminal laws - Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) - coming into force on Monday, replacing the British-era Indian Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code and the Indian Evidence Act. Starting Monday, all FIRs will be registered under the provisions of BNS. However, all cases registered before July 1 will continue to be tried under IPC, CrPC and Indian Evidence Act until final disposal. BNS has 358 sections, down from 511 in IPC. As many as 21 new crimes have been added in BNS compared to IPC, duration of imprisonment extended in 41 crimes, fines increased in 82 crimes, minimum punishment introduced in 25 crimes, community service introduced as penalty in six crimes



and 19 sections removed. BNSS has 531 sections as against 484 in CrPC, with changes in 177 sections, addition of nine sections and 39 sub-sections and deletion of 14 sections. The Indian Evidence Act, with 166 sections, is being replaced with BSA having 170 sections, with change in 24 sections, addition of two new sub-sections and deletion of six sections. BNS, BNSS and BSA are being implemented six months after they were enacted based on protracted and detailed consultations with all stakeholders including SC and HC judges, governors, chief ministers, civil servants,

police officers, collectorates and Members of Parliament and legislative assemblies. Around 3,200 suggestions were received and examined over several rounds of talks, with home minister Amit Shah having taken 158 such meetings, leading to the drafting of a whole new set of criminal laws that seek to leverage technology to make India's criminal justice system one of the most modern in the world. The BNS, BNSS and BSA bills were referred to a parliamentary standing committee and most of its recommendations were accepted by the govt before bringing the bills to Parliament for

approval

The underlying spirit of the new criminal laws, as PM Modi had stated at the All-India DGPs conference in Jan, is "citizen first, dignity first and justice first", with emphasis on the 'danda' (baton) being replaced by 'data' as a policing tool. While replying to the debate in Parliament on BNS, BNSS and BSA bills, Shah had underlined that the focus of the new laws was on justice delivery, while safeguarding the rights of victims as well as accused, rather than on punishment. Also, the colonial mindset apparent behind ordering of IPC sections - with those dealing with 'rajdroh' (treason) preceding ones related to serious offences like 'murder' and 'rape' - was being done away with. Under the new criminal justice system, a person may report crime online, without having to visit a police station (online FIR) and also file a zero-FIR at any police station.

General Dwivedi takes over as chief of Army, faces China, J&K tests

NEW DELHI:

An aggressive and expansionist China, which continues to forward deploy around 1.4 lakh troops and heavy weapon systems along the frontier from eastern Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh for the fifth year running now, will be the primary operational challenge for new Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi. Gen Dwivedi, who took over the reins of the over 11-lakh strong force as the 30th chief from Gen Manoj Pande on Sunday, will also have to contend with the spike in militancy in J&K, especially the series of military-style ambushes by well-trained terrorists that have caused setbacks to his force in the densely forested and hilly Poonch-Rajouri region. Gen Dwivedi is no stranger to the threats posed by China and Pakistan, which are often collusive. Commissioned into the J&K Rifles in 1984, he had a two-year tenure as the GoC-in-C of the



Sujata Saunik is 1st woman chief secretary of Maharashtra

MUMBAI: After being overlooked twice, the state's seniormost IAS officer, Sujata Saunik, has taken over as Maharashtra's first woman chief secretary. Now, women head the state's bureaucracy as well as the police force, with Rashmi Shukla as DGP, reported. Sujata Saunik succeeds Nitin Kareer, who

retired on Sunday. She is set to retire on June 30 next year. When Manukumar Srivastava retired as chief secretary in March 2023, Sujata Saunik was expected to succeed him since she was the seniormost bureaucrat in the state. But her husband, Manoj Saunik, was appointed instead.

Dwivedi's taking over the top post, the Army said, "The global geo-strategic environment remains dynamic, with the challenges in the security domain becoming more pronounced due to technological advancements.

Navy chief starts four-day B'desh visit today to bolster def ties

NEW DELHI: Navy chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi will begin his four-day official visit to Bangladesh today to further consolidate bilateral defence ties and explore new avenues for maritime cooperation.

Admiral Tripathi is scheduled to hold talks with his counterpart Admiral M Nazmul Hassan, Army chief General Waker-Uz-Zaman and Air Force chief Air Marshal Hasan Mahmood Khan during the visit, which comes soon after Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was in India for a comprehensive dialogue with PM Narendra Modi to boost the overall bilateral relationship.

NIA search in Rajouri over Reasi pilgrim bus attack



JAMMU: NIA conducted Sunday searches at multiple locations across Rajouri district of J&K in connection with the June 9 terrorist ambush on a pilgrim bus in Reasi that claimed nine lives and left 41 wounded.

"NIA took over the investigation on June 15 on orders from the ministry of home affairs. It searched five locations linked to hybrid terrorists and overground workers (those who provide logistical support)," said an NIA spokesperson.

Hybrid terrorists are radicalised people who execute acts of terrorism and then seamlessly blend back into their regular routines without leaving any discernible trace.

These sites were identified by Hakam Khan, a local suspect arrested for allegedly providing shelter and food to the terrorists, and aiding them in hiding and navigating the area undetected.

In addition to NIA, security teams from Army, paramilitary forces, and J&K police are scouring the hilly, forested terrain of Jammu division following four attacks over three days (June 9, 11 and 12) in Reasi, Kathua and Doda districts. Security forces have killed five terrorists so far, all suspected to be Pakistanis. American M4 carbines, AK-series assault rifles, grenades, IEDs, and assorted ammunition were found on the slain terrorists. "NIA has also started examining the seized material to unravel the conspiracy.

India joins UN's Doha meet on Afghanistan attended by Taliban

NEW DELHI:

India is among the 25 countries participating in the third UN-led conference on Afghanistan in Doha that kicked off Sunday, looking to find ways to improve the lives of the Afghan people in the Taliban ruled country. The meeting is significant as it is the first time that the Taliban are attending the talks.

However, the UN has



denied that the latest round of talks in Doha are meant to pave the way for international recognition for the Taliban. The conference has also come under strong criticism

from rights groups for not engaging Afghan women and civil society members. India is being represented in the meeting by MEA joint secretary of the Pakistan, Afghanistan

and Iran (PAI) division J P Singh. The official, who visited Kabul in March this year, also met Taliban leaders in Doha. India continues to tread carefully on the Taliban, as it works closely with them for Afghanistan's humanitarian needs and its own security needs but without doing anything that might be seen as a step towards official recognition.

Congress questions PM silence on NEET, rail crash, infra collapse

NEW DELHI:

Congress on Sunday asked PM Narendra Modi why he did not mention NEET, the railway accident in West Bengal or instances of infrastructure collapse in his 'Mann Ki Baat'. Congress's media and publicity head Pawan Khera said, "He did not say anything on NEET, or railway accident, or the daily infrastructure collapses



that we are hearing of.

He did not speak on the serious incident that happened at Delhi airport, in which a person lost his life. "PM did not speak on any issue of peo-

ple's interest. His method has been to change the agenda. Because everyone is talking about NEET, the scams, to distract attention, you're talking about umbrella from Kerala."

This May-June was city's hottest in at least 74 yrs

NEW DELHI

The capital this year suffered its most torrid peak summer months of May and June in at least 74 years. Both the month of June and the May-June period this year were the hottest in terms of maximum temperatures in records at Safdarjung station since 1951, which were analysed by TOI.

The average maximum temperature in June was nearly 42°C (41.95), surpassing the previous highest of 41.9°C recorded in 2012. This was only the eighth time since 1951 that the mean maximum temperature in June had stayed above 41°C. This May-June was Del's hottest in at least 74 yrs.



And, in line with projections that global warming was causing more extreme weather, three of the four highest June temperatures were seen in the last 13 years. Unbearable! This May was seventh hottest since 1951. While several heat records were surpassed in Delhi in June, what made this summer that much more unbearable was the extremely long spell of high heat. The average maximum tempera-

ture this year in the May-June period, corresponding with peak summer in the city, was as much as 0.5 degree C higher than the previous hottest corresponding period recorded in 2012. This year's average maximum was 41.7 degrees C as compared with 41.2 degrees C in 2012. To put these temperatures in perspective, the mean maximum temperature in May-June has touched (or crossed) the 41-degree mark

only four times in the last 74 years at Safdarjung. The other two years being 1995 and 2010. May 2024 itself was the seventh hottest since 1951 with an average maximum of 41.4 degrees C. This was the first time during the analysed period that the average maximum in both May and June was above 41 degrees C. The period saw a 40-day spell of consecutive 40-degrees-plus daily temperatures, an unprecedented event. There were as many as nine heat-wave days at Safdarjung in June and five in May, another number that hasn't been surpassed in recent times.

TMC man assaults couple, held as video goes viral

CHOPRA (NORTH DINAJPUR):

Police on Sunday registered a suo motu case and launched an investigation after a video of a man brutally thrashing a woman and her male friend over an extra-marital relationship in Bengal's North Dinajpur went viral on Sunday. The accused, a TMC functionary, has been arrested. The accused was identified as Tajemul alias JCB. The party dissociated itself from Tajemul saying police would act tough on the perpetrator. BJP, CPM and Congress have condemned the incident. The woman, a resident of Chopra, has a 14-year-old daughter and her husband. She is a migrant labourer. While she had been warned by her in-laws.

CBI arrests Godhra edu trust chief for NEET malpractices

Vatika Times

VADODARA: The chairman of a reputable private school in Gujarat's Godhra was arrested Sunday in the NEET-UG malpractice case being investigated by CBI, making him the sixth suspect to be taken into custody in the state and the fourth person linked to an educational institute after the school's principal, a teacher and an academic consultant. Dixit Patel, who heads the Jay Jalaram Education Trust, stands accused of seeking Rs 10 lakh each from willing medical aspirants in return for helping them clear NEET-UG through unfair means. Jay Jalaram School was one of the designated NEET-UG centres in Panchmahal. for the May 5 test, just as Oasis School in Hazaribag, whose principal and vice-principal are in CBI custody.

After Anand arrest, CBI drove edu trust head 86km to Godhra. A CBI team arrested Dixit Patel, chairman of a reputable private school in Godhra, in Anand and drove 86km to Godhra, where he was produced in a court with a remand plea. The magistrate asked the agency to seek his remand from the special CBI court in Ahmedabad. Dixit's arrest came days after CBI sought and received custody of the four people arrested by police in the initial days of the investigation. A CBI team has been camping in Gujarat to connect the dots in the NEET-UG paper leak case investigation that started in Bihar and Jharkhand before evidence emerged in other states, including Maharashtra and UP, of a larger conspiracy involving paper leak rackets.

Editorial

Bloody stalemate, no signs of breakthrough

In the book 'The Fathomless Caves', Kate Forsyth, the author, describes war as, "An unpredictable beast. Once unleashed, it runs like a rabid dog, ravaging friends and foes alike. It can drag on for years, a slow attrition of nerve and fortitude, or be over in one brilliant flash, an extravagant configuration of flame and blood and sweat." The Russian-Ukraine War fits well into the above description.

When President Putin launched 'special military operations' to 'demilitarise and denazify' Ukraine on February 24, 2022, it was universally given that the war would be over in a few days, with Russia inflicting a crushing defeat on Ukraine. Ironically, two years later, the conflict rages on, degenerating into a state of stalemate with little change in the ground situation. Although a classic limited war, its politico-economic impact has been felt far and wide, with serious geo-strategic ramifications. Militarily, it has gone on to redefine the very nature of warfare. The Russian offensive commenced as a typical military campaign, preceded by missiles and airstrikes, followed by a large-scale ground invasion along multiple fronts. The northern thrust was launched from Belarus towards Kyiv, the southern one was from Crimea, and the south-eastern push was from Luhansk-Donetsk towards Kharkiv.

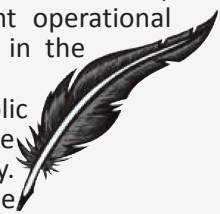
In the wake of heavy losses and stiff Ukrainian resistance on the outskirts of Kyiv, the Russian Northern thrust stalled within a month, towards the end of March. By April, the Russian Army had retreated to consolidate gains around the Luhansk and Donetsk areas. However, the Russians did succeed in capturing Mariupol in May after a prolonged siege. Having stabilised the situation, in August, the Ukrainian forces launched a limited counterattack in the south and a month later in the north-east, succeeding in recapturing Kharkiv and Kherson by November, thus forcing the Russians to withdraw east of the Dnieper River. With winters setting in, the pace of operations had slowed down. The Ukrainians resorted to launching a number of drone strikes against the Russian bases. A period of lull was used by the belligerents to consolidate their positions and gear up for the next phase. By the end of 2022, around 8 million refugees had fled Ukraine. Both sides had suffered heavy casualties; more than half a million Russian and Ukrainian soldiers were killed or wounded, besides over 10,000 civilian fatalities. Towards early 2023, Ukraine launched a major counter-offensive on a wide front. However, it soon went awry. The frontal assaults by the Ukrainian mechanised forces against the Russian multi-layered field fortifications complemented with minefields made no headway, and the offensive soon petered out. On the other hand, the Russian Army achieved a major success in May 2023 with the capture of the strategically important city of Bakhmut after months of fighting, with Prigozhin's Wagner militia making a major contribution. In 2024, Russia is prepared for a grand offensive to gain an upper hand, sensing exhaustion amongst the Ukrainian ranks and Kyiv's depleting manpower, equipment, and resources.

Russia has revived its defence industry and also revamped its warfighting potential with military supplies, particularly ammunition, missiles, and drones from North Korea and Iran. The recent seizure of Avdiivka, an important town 20 kilometres east of Donetsk, will definitely offer a significant operational advantage to the Russians in the region.

Additionally, it is a symbolic victory and a huge morale booster for the Russian Army.

The state of stalemate notwithstanding,

the scope of conflict has enlarged.



Stubble burning will get relief and this type of plants will be set up in UP

Pollution becomes a major problem in the National Capital Region of New Delhi and its surrounding areas as winter sets in. This has become a big problem for the last several years not only in Delhi but for the residents of the surrounding areas. In view of this problem, the Yogi government of Uttar Pradesh has tried to provide relief to the citizens and to provide a source of income to the farmers instead of loss from the stubble generated from the paddy crop other than rice. It is noteworthy that in some areas of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan, administrative action is being taken continuously against farmers due to stubble burning. In which, apart from imposing fine on paddy farmers by the local administration, action is being taken to send them to jail. Due to which farmers are troubled. Seeing this problem of farmers, the Yogi government of Uttar Pradesh is trying to get rid of the pollution caused by stubble burning. For which the government is working on the technology of producing compressed gas (CNG) from stubble in the state, which will provide income as well as employment to a large number of people of the state. Along with this, pure organic fertilizer (green energy) will also be produced, the con-



sumption of the produce will ensure better health.

In fact, in view of this problem in the state, CM Yogi had already released the Bio Energy Policy 2022 to encourage bio energy. Under this policy a target of large scale investment was set. In which many big investors of the country had signed an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the state government in the Global Investors Summit, which is now going to come to fruition. The Yogi government had set a target of biogas plant in every tehsil, some of which are ready to start soon. Among the plants which are ready to start is Buland Biogas of Bulandshahr district, which is being established in village Lauhgala tehsil. Buland Biogas had signed an MoU worth Rs 18 crore 75 lakh with the state government, the price of which has now increased to around Rs 21 crore. According

to government representatives, this plant will start its production in December. This plant will produce 3 tonnes of CNG per day, which will reduce the dependence on petrol and diesel in the state. 80 to 100 people will also get employment. In these, both skilled and unskilled people will get employment. While talking to Dainik Bhaskar, owner of Buland Bio Gas, Athar Ahmed said that the plant produces not only stubble but also compressed biogas from degradable waste like straw, cow dung, chaff, sugarcane dung, municipal waste or a mixture of all the gases.

Is made. With the help of this technology, CNG is purified. License for this plant has been obtained from PSU Indian Oil of the Ministry of Petroleum, Government of India. However, the government and the people running the institute believe that the

best thing about this project is that it will produce organic fertilizer in large quantities. The waste generated in the production of compressed gas will be 100 percent organic. This waste will be solid as well as liquid. The liquid organic fertilizer produced by the plant will be given to the farmers free of cost for 3 years. These farmers will be identified by the DM or CDO of the districts. This will benefit those farmers who are not able to buy fertilizer, DAP, urea. The advantage of organic fertilizers and liquid fertilizers is that a thick layer of fertilizers has been spread in the fertile lands. It takes time to reach the roots of trees and plants. At the same time, if organic fertilizer is added to it, it will reach the roots in 2 to 3 hours.

This will not only benefit the farmers but also the common people will be able to get pure organic food. People's health will be benefited by pure eating habits. It is believed that considering the need of the hour, the Yogi government of the state has taken this project forward very rapidly and brought Bio Energy Policy-2022 for it. The government provided all the facilities in this.

The first facility is that those who have received a LOI license can apply for it. Apart from this, along with the Central Government, the State

Government is also providing a maximum subsidy ranging from Rs 75 lakh to Rs 20 crore. Not only this, the surcharge on electricity has been exempted for 10 years. Stamp duty has also been exempted for 10 years and land development charges have also been made free for 10 years. Apart from this, a discount of 50 plus 30 i.e. total 80 percent is being given on machinery. Not only this, arrangements are also being made for raw material i.e. degradable waste. For this, long term agreements have been made with sugar mills for sugarcane flour. The Animal Husbandry Department has been asked to make agreements with all the government cowsheds for cow dung. Not only this, if the project is worth Rs 50 crore or more then the government is providing a 5 km road. The Yogi government has deployed entrepreneur friends to help investors. Looking at the spell and desire of the government, it seems that soon the paddy producing farmers in Uttar Pradesh will get relief

and till now those who were being harassed by the administration in the name of stubble burning will get relief and this type of plants will be set up in Uttar Pradesh.

By starting in the state, his income will increase and he will be happy.

Intelligence is a prime security weapon

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's regime, aided by a brilliant National Security Advisor, has boosted the confidence of national Intelligence agencies about doing their job of protecting the security and integrity of India on a proactive, apolitical and professional note. Intelligence Bureau (IB), the 'mother' organisation that fostered the family of Intelligence entities including SSB, ARC and R&AW, traced its origins in the Central CID established by the British some 135 years ago and the fact that it saw an essential continuity of its functioning after Independence, is an affirmation of its belief that by and large its goal had been to safeguard the country against the doings of its perceived 'adversaries'

at any point of time. IB's charter multiplied a great deal with the emergence of India as a sovereign nation and as the largest democracy that happened also to inherit the destabilising legacy of a religion-based Partition accompanying its freedom. The Bureau derives strength from three basic principles of its working. First is the freedom it exercises in the matter of covering an activity or an entity that - in its 'own judgement' - amounted to a threat to national security. Secondly, the government at the Centre can task the IB which is only appropriate but it never influences its findings - IB may be the only reliable agency to tell the government what is adverse in the public environment disapproving the notions that

Intelligence only reported what the political masters 'liked to hear'. Thirdly, the IB's communications with the government are not only confidential but are marked as 'unofficial' notes meant only for the benefit of the recipients and not available for scrutiny by an outsider. Working of India's Intelligence agencies is in line with the principle that they are not police organisations. The IB is led by IPS officers who join the organisation giving up on the 'glamour' of uniform and accepting 'anonymity' by choice in lieu of the rare satisfaction they had of directly working for the national cause - with full confidence that good work was always given credit for and with a belief that the nation acknowledged.

Manipur has been burning for many months due to the hatred and bitterness

In India, people of more castes and religions live together than in any other country in the world. If we look at history, we will find that people from all over the world came to India and most of them stayed here. But today, Manipur has been burning for many months due to the hatred and bitterness that is prevalent among people of different religions in India. The leaders of the ruling party, especially the Prime Minister, are silent about this violence. Meanwhile, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (Sangh) chief Mohan Bhagwat, expressing concern over the Manipur violence, has taught the country to live with unity and love. But the Sangh chief's statement about living in unity in the country is being interpreted in different ways. The reason for this is that apart from the Manipur violence, Mohan Bhagwat has said many other things which need to be considered at this time. In fact, the Sangh chief gave a big message of unity in the Nagpur parade on the day of Vijaydashami regarding the increasing tension between Hindus and Muslims. The way the Sangh chief said in a questioning tone, how did people living in the same country become so alien? Political people, intellectuals, journal-

ists and political analysts are trying to find out the meaning of everything. Mohan Bhagwat says from this question. No one is able to understand its true meaning? The simple meaning of this question of Bhagwat is that hatred towards the people of one's own country is not a good thing. But the question is arising for whom did Mohan Bhagwat say this? But before this it is important to understand that the Sangh chief also said that there should not be indiscretion and imbalance. There is a need to take our mind seriously and bind the country in the threads of unity. Because I believe that by expressing concern over the violence in Manipur, the Sangh chief has also hinted at Prime Minister Narendra Modi not speaking on Manipur. However, Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat also said that we have to be cautious in elections and we have to accept everyone as our own and keep everyone's influence cool. This is the call of belonging, whoever listens to it will be benefited. It will not be known what will happen to those who still do not listen. Many analysts have their own views on this statement of the Sangh chief, some are saying that he is threatening the government, some

are saying that he is warning the opposition, some are saying that he is giving advice to Muslims. So some are saying that they are giving advice to Hindus. At the same time, some are saying that Mohan Bhagwat is calling extremist people, no matter which religion they belong to. At the same time, some people are also saying that this statement of Mohan Bhagwat is just politics, which is for vote bank politics under the guise of religion. Its Indian meaning is also that Mohan Bhagwat has been accused of supporting the Janata Party. Is. However, I believe that Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat has been talking about unity in the country for the last several years. He is the first Sangh chief who went to mosques as well as madrassas and gave a big message of unity and brotherhood to the country. Before this, no Sangh chief had shown the courage to take such an initiative. In such a situation, instead of doing politics on the statement of the Sangh chief, do not come and vote for his statement. We have to vote for who is better. Along with this, Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat also praised some of the works of the government. It is clear from this that he has not spoken against the government.

Facing political persecution with resilience

After Maharani Jind Kaur, Maryam Nawaz Sharif will rule the Takht-e-Lahore. Jind Kaur, popular as Rani Jindan, took over as queen regent in 1843, ruling on behalf of her five-year-old son Duleep Singh, who ascended the throne after the death of his father Maharaja Ranjit Singh. She remained queen until the end of the First Anglo-Sikh War in 1846. Nearly 180 years later, Pakistan Punjab is finally getting its first female chief minister. No mean achievement in a male-dominated political setup where women are often relegated to the sidelines. And certainly not a small feat in a family where every third per-

son has been or wants to be the chief minister of Punjab province. Maryam's first prominent appearance was in a BBC interview, where she detailed her father's incarceration by General Pervez Musharraf in the October 1999 coup. While Nawaz and other male members of the family were imprisoned, his fearless wife Kulsoom and daughter Maryam rallied for public support. "I can smell the danger, but who is on the wrong side? Ultimately Gen Musharraf is going to be in trouble," Maryam had said. First lesson learnt - dictators die politically, but civilian leaders live through generations. Facing political

persecution with resilience and defiance made Maryam Nawaz a political force long before she began her parliamentary career. The 'How to Become a Successful Politician in Pakistan' guide will have one chapter, really - let thyself be persecuted at the hands of the real rulers of this land. In the case of Maryam, this persecution began years before she fought her first provincial and national election in 2024. If Nawaz was targeted by the Pakistan Army, Maryam was hounded with trumped-up political court cases that only served to enhance her popularity. Let's rewind to July 2018, when hundreds of paramilitary

soldiers apprehended the father and daughter at Lahore airport, taking them into custody just days before the general election that year. The imagery of a defiant daughter, standing next to her father and willingly accepting arrest, is what catapulted Maryam to where she is today. Going to jail before getting a political launch is the best start to the career for any Pakistani politician. In the next four years of Imran Khan's Army-backed hybrid government, Maryam continued to be hounded with arrests, court cases, harassment and even death threats. In 2021, the government threatened.

Nova Agritech Ltd. Announces Investment of up to Rs. 36 Cr in Wholly Owned Subsidiary

CHANDIGARH: Nova Agritech Limited (BSE: 544100, NSE: NOVAA-GRI), a leading agri-input manufacturer offering soil health management, crop nutrition, and crop protection products, has announced that its board, in its meeting on June 22, 2024, has approved an investment of up to ~Rs. 36 Cr in Nova Agri Sciences Private Limited (Wholly-owned Subsidiary) by way of subscription to 35,28,650 Unsecured Optionally Convertible Debentures (OCDs) of face value of ₹100 each. Earlier, the company reported its consolidated quarterly and yearly results. The company reported net sales of Rs 70.77 crore and net profit of Rs 8.28 crore in Q4FY24 compared to net sales of Rs 73.17 crore and net profit of Rs 8.07 crore in Q3FY24. In its annual results, the net



sales increased by 20 per cent to Rs 252.47 crore and net profit increased by 38.2 per cent to Rs 28.31 crore in FY24 compared to FY23. Nova Agritech Limited was founded by Sambasiva Rao Yeluri and Kalyana Chakravarty with the objective of being a one-stop solution provider by offering ecologically sustainable and nutritionally balanced products to farmers. Mr Yeluri Sambasiva Rao is currently serving as the MLA of the Parchur constituency, representing the Telugu

Desam Party (TDP), the current opposition party in the state. He successfully led the 2019 Assembly election from the same constituency and was re-elected as MLA for the third time in 2024. The company is an agri-input manufacturer offering soil health management, crop nutrition, and crop protection products, focused on a tech-based, farmer-driven solution approach. The main offerings are ecologically sustainable and nutritionally balanced products based on extensive R&D.

Supreme Court declines to stay NEET counselling; Congress begins protest

NEW DELHI Congress leader Rahul Gandhi launched another attack on PM Modi over the alleged irregularities in NEET and cancellation of UGC-NET. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has "psychologically collapsed" post-elections and will struggle to run a government like this. "We will punish the culprits, and therefore, we have formed a high level committee to probe the matter," said Pradhan today at a press conference. Meanwhile, today morning, while hearing fresh petitions seeking cancellation of NEET UG 2024, the Supreme Court refused to put a stay in the counselling process. To further

intensify their protest against the BJP-led NDA government in the alleged NEET irregularities, the Congress is today hosting a nationwide protest demanding justice for the NEET UG, UGC NET candidates. Dharmendra Pradhan takes 'moral responsibility' for NEET 'errors', sets up high-level panel. In a first admission of irregularity in the conduct of the NEET undergraduate exam this year, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Thursday acknowledged there have been "some errors limited to specific regions", referring to Bihar's investigation into allegations of paper leak, and announced the setting up of a high-level

committee to fix responsibility within the NTA and review its structure and functioning. One of the people suspected of being behind an alleged question paper leak of NEET UG 2024 has told the Bihar police that four aspirants had gathered at a location chosen by him a night before the exam and "memorised answers" of questions from the paper.

The Congress party in J&K has started a protest in the area, as a part of the nationwide protest being carried out by Congress today. The J&K wing of Gandhi-led political party is demanding cancellation of NEET UG 2024.

As Patnaik begins a new innings as Opposition leader, in his Assembly team?

Former Odisha chief minister Naveen Patnaik is all set to begin his new innings — this time on the Opposition benches. On , BJD's legislature party elected him as the Leader of the Opposition after his party lost the state assembly polls to the Bharatiya Janata Party.

or Patnaik, a five-time CM who hasn't lost a single election since his Lok Sabha debut in 1997, this marks a significant change — this is the first time since the BJD's assembly debut in 2000 that the former CM will occupy the Opposition bench. Along with him,

the BJD also elected senior MLA Prasanna Acharya as the deputy leader of the legislature party. Former speaker Pramila Mallik will be the chief whip of the party while former minister Pratap Keshari Deb has been picked as its deputy chief whip.

CAPSULES

As Sukhu's wife hits campaign trail, Himachal Congress divisions come bubbling up

Kangra

Even before Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu's wife Kamlesh Thakur could reach Dehra in Kangra district on Thursday to launch her campaign for the July 10 Assembly bypoll, problems had flared up for her in this high-stakes battlefield. State Congress treasurer Dr Rajesh Sharma, whose name Himachal Pradesh Congress Committee (HPCC) president Pratibha Singh had recommended for the ticket, vented his anger at Sukhu at a public meeting in Dehra on Wednesday, accusing him of mental harassment. "If anything happens to me, my wife or children, then CM Sukhu will be responsible," Sharma said. Soon afterwards, the Congress leader suffered what was described as a panic attack and was admitted to a hospital in Kangra. A day before, on Tuesday, Thakur's candidature was announced even though Sukhu said more than once that he was not keen on the ticket for his wife. Although Thakur has been an active member of the HPCC for around two decades, she will be making her electoral debut on July 19. In an attempt to end the conflict, she said at her first election rally on Thursday, "Dr Sharma is like a brother. We will soon settle our differences mutually," Thakur told reporters that there would be no lack of development in Dehra and added that "every issue in the constituency will be resolved with the help of the the CM". She said Dehra was her maternal home and no daughter would want her maternal home to remain underdeveloped.

EC sets the ball rolling for J-K polls, electoral roll to be published by Aug

Jammu and Kashmir The Jammu and Kashmir poll panel has also started the process for holding 47 by-polls that are due across the country, they said. (Express file photo) The Election Commission (EC) this week kicked off preparations for holding Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana, Jharkhand, and Maharashtra, by announcing the revision of the electoral rolls by August 20. Sources said the EC wrote to the Chief



Electoral Officers of the poll-bound states and Union Territory on Thursday, giving the schedule of the special summary revision (SSR) of the electoral roll. In a statement on Friday, the EC said the pre-special summary revision exercises, including rationalising the loca-

tions of polling stations to make them more convenient, would start on June 25. The electoral rolls would be updated with the cut-off date of July 1 in the poll-bound states and UT—Haryana, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, and J-K, the EC said. The draft rolls would be pub-

lished on July 25, after which electors have the chance to file claims and objections till August 9. The publication of the final electoral roll will be done by August 20, as per the schedule. While J-K has not had an Assembly in place since it was dissolved in 2018, the term of the Haryana, Maharashtra, and Jharkhand assemblies is ending on November 11, November 26, and January 5, 2025, meaning the elections have to be completed before that.

Bengal CM set to inaugurate Jagannath temple in coastal town

Medinipur

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is all set to inaugurate a Jagannath temple in the coastal town of Digha in Purba Medinipur district in the first week of July. Sources in the state administration said she could inaugurate the temple on the first day of the Ratha Yatra festival, which begins on July 7. "The temple is now ready for inauguration. We are waiting for the CM's green signal. After we receive that, we will officially announce the inaugu-



ration date," said a state government official. The Jagannath Dham, built as a replica of the Jagannath temple in Puri in neighbouring Odisha, is located in the seaside resort town adjacent to New Digha

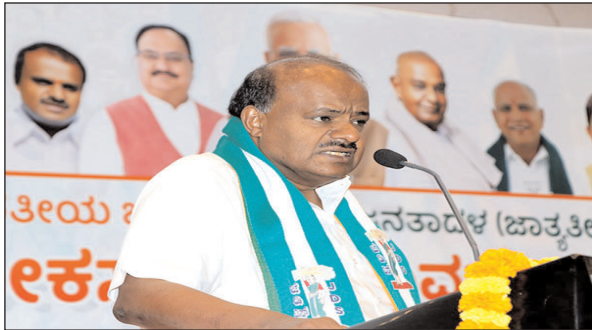


railway station. Spread across 22 acres, the temple, a pet project of the CM, was built for Rs 143 crore, according to the state urban development department. The Jagannath Dham has been built by the West Bengal

Housing Infrastructure Development Corporation (WBHIDCO), with the Kolkata-based Design Studio handling the design and architecture. Banerjee laid the foundation stone of the temple, which is located eight km from Chandaneswar temple in Odisha's Balasore district, in 2019. Back then, she claimed that she expected the temple to generate a foot-fall equal to the temple in Puri and said tourists would enjoy the same facilities on Digha's beaches as in Puri.

Kerala JD(S) gives in to LDF pressure, set to form new outfit

Kerala The Janata Dal (Secular)'s Kerala unit, which is an ally of the CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) in the state, has decided to float a new outfit, saying that it cannot be part of a party that allies with the BJP. The JD(S)'s Kerala unit president and MLA Mathew T Thomas told the media Wednesday: "The party in Kerala does not want to be known as a fraction of a party that is an ally of BJP. After considering legal aspects, we will take a decision in such a manner to allow all elected members of the party, including those in local bodies, to continue in their posts. A new party will be registered and the state unit of the JD (S) will get merged into that new party," he said. The JD(S) has two MLAs in Kerala —



Thomas and K Krishnakutty. The latter is the power minister in the CPM-led LDF government. The JD(S) joined the Narendra Modi-led NDA government 3.0 earlier this month, with senior JD(S) leader H D Kumaraswamy inducted as the Union minister of steel and heavy industries. The CPM started facing heat from other allies of the LDF. Last week, the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), which has one MLA in Kerala, has raised questions over the JD(S) continuing to be a part of the LDF Cabinet headed by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

front so far. The issue has now assumed urgency after the JD(S) joined the Narendra Modi-led NDA government 3.0 earlier this month, with senior JD(S) leader H D Kumaraswamy inducted as the Union minister of steel and heavy industries. The CPM started facing heat from other allies of the LDF. Last week, the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), which has one MLA in Kerala, has raised questions over the JD(S) continuing to be a part of the LDF Cabinet headed by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

Buzz over his 'exit' from NCP, Bhujbal keeps Mahayuti, MVA on tenterhooks

Maharashtra civil supplies minister and senior Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Chhagan Bhujbal is known in state political circles as a firebrand who often speaks his mind. Bhujbal seems to be again keeping his party and the Mahayuti coalition guessing, this time over the Maratha quota issue as well as the Rajya Sabha nomination for party chief Ajit Pawar's wife Suntera. The speculation about Bhujbal's exit from his party amid reports of rising tension among the Mahayuti partners — including the BJP, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and Ajit-led NCP — after the NDA's poor show in the recent Lok Sabha polls appears to be adding to the ruling camp's troubles in the



run-up to the state Assembly polls slated for October this year. Meanwhile, fuelling the buzz, Shiv Sena (UBT) president Uddhav Thackeray referred to reports about Bhujbal's possible exit during his address at his party's foundation day event Wednesday. Even as Bhujbal, seen as one of the tallest OBC leaders of the state, has denied any such moves, his statements on being denied the Rajya Sabha berth by

the NCP and his opposition to the inclusion of Marathas in the OBC category have left the Mahayuti leaders red-faced. "I am not upset. While working in a political party you have to make collective decisions. Everything does not happen as per one's wish... There were many aspirants (for a Rajya Sabha berth) but only one can get the nomination. I am not an Independent that I will go by my wish. As a party worker, a party

leader, one has to abide by the party's decision. Sometimes the party faces some compulsions," Bhujbal had said while dispelling rumours that he was upset over Sunetra's nomination. Earlier this week, at a meeting of its supporters, the Bhujbal-headed Mahatma Phule Samata Parishad — an umbrella organisation of the OBC organisations — decided to press for a caste survey — a move which is likely to deepen the fissures between the Mahayuti partners. In the past, Ajit Pawar too has demanded a caste survey on the lines of the one conducted in Bihar by CM and JD(U) supremo Nitish Kumar. Besides, Bhujbal's position has been at odds with the BJP-led NDA's stand on several issues.

'We didn't play him well': Afghanistan coach Jonathan

NEW DELHI: Afghanistan coach Jonathan Trott pointed out the failure to execute plans against India's pace bowler Jasprit Bumrah for their loss in the T20 World Cup Super Eight clash on Thursday. Trott also expressed his disappointment over his team's shot selection in their defeat. "Obviously, Bumrah is going to be a key bowler for any side. For India, he's crucial and we needed to play him better. His figures suggest we didn't play him very well. We'd obviously spoken about it and how we were going to play him. So, we weren't able to execute that and, yeah, that's very disappointing," Trott was quoted as saying by Reuters after the match. "Obviously disappointed with a few of the shots or the decision-making," Trott added. Trott supported skipper Rashid Khan's decision to use his overs early and emphasized the need for other bowlers to step up.

Looking forward to OpenAI accessing my phone



Delhi : Tech entrepreneur Elon Musk has stated that the AI firm led by Sam Altman, ChatGPT, may eventually have access to his phone, after his criticism of the Apple-OpenAI collaboration on ChatGPT's integration with iPhones. The CEO of SpaceX and Tesla responded with worry to rumors that OpenAI has appointed Paul Nakasone, the former head of the National Security Agency (NSA) and commander of US Cyber Command, to its board of directors. Musk said, "Can't wait for

OpenAI to have access to my phone," on the social media site X. Nakasone stated he would assist in shielding OpenAI from "increasingly sophisticated bad actors" after joining the organization. The new safety and security committee at OpenAI will also include the former senior US intelligence official on board.

Due to ChatGPT integration, Musk threatens to outlaw iPhones at his enterprises. Due to ChatGPT's connection with iPhones,

Musk last week threatened to outlaw iPhones from any of his businesses. He declared that Apple products will not be allowed in his companies if Apple incorporates OpenAI at the operating system (OS) level, calling it an intolerable security breach. The tech tycoon added that guests to his companies will need to provide their Apple products for inspection at the door, since they will be kept in a Faraday cage. It appears that Musk and Samsung are collaborating on an X phone.

RAI provides major financial institutions with a new 160-series mobile phone to reduce spam

Delhi: To stop residents from falling for scammers, the government has set aside 160 mobile phone series for transactional and service voice calls for all firms regulated by RBI, SEBI, IRDAI, and PFRDA in the first phase. Representatives from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), and other financial institutions as well as all telecom service providers (TSPs) were met by the

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). The 160 mobile series will make it easier to identify the calling entity once it is put into use. According to the Ministry of Communications, the meeting gave authorities, organizations, and telecom service providers a forum to share views about how best to use this series. According to the Ministry, the 140 series operation, which is now being utilized for promotional reasons, is moving to a distributed ledger technology (DLT) platform, and the

operationalization of digital consent scrubbing is also underway. The Ministry stated, "A significant reduction in spam calls from 10-digit numbers is anticipated with the execution of the aforementioned two measures." During the conference, representatives from banks, other financial institutions, and regulators emphasized the importance of cooperating to combat the problem of spam, especially with voice calls. They also pledged their support for TRAI's timely implementation of various projects.

Exporters choose plane route for Red Sea crisis

Delhi: Red Sea tension has led fast fashion and electronics exporters to fly to the US and Europe via Gulf nations. Companies like Zara have been using freighters, but now exporters are exploiting passenger aircraft belly space. With DIAL open to allow additional freighters to deliver

cargo faster, Bangladeshi garment exporters choose Delhi airport. Cargo headed to Europe and North America is more expensive because ships now take a longer route around the Cape of Good Hope, and shipping time has increased, prompting exporters to look at newer options,

especially when buyers want faster delivery. A large exporter stated shipping took 30 days longer. "Many exporters are using sea and air transport to save time and cost, particularly of footwear, apparel, electronics and high-value low-volume engineering goods," said Fleo.

CAPSULES

With 11,730 crore in inflow, foreign investors are making a strong comeback to India's equity markets

Delhi: With an influx of 11,730 crore rupees, foreign investors have made a spectacular return to the Indian equities markets. For the past several months, foreign investors have been dumping their equity in Indian markets. When Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) made investments in the Indian equity market the week before, the pattern shifted. May had the highest amount of equity sold by FIIs in any month of 2024—more than 40,000 crore rupees. As of June 14, the Net FIIs outflow for the month was 3,064 crore rupees, based on statistics from depositories. Between June 3 and June 7, foreign investors sold 14,794 crore rupees in shares. Rather than equities, they choose the debt market. FIIs have invested 5,700 crore rupees in the debt market as of June 14 this month. It has been beneficial that there is now more interest in Indian markets.

Insurance firms can't deny claims without documents.

Delhi: The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) said that general insurance companies cannot deny claims for "want of documents". When issuing coverage, insurers must gather all essential papers. Importantly, the regulator has required companies to provide a product with a policy duration of less than a year, with or without extension or periodic review based on specified criteria, including reported or settled claims.

Paytm in negotiations to sell movie and ticketing to Zomato

Delhi: Sources tell Bloomberg that Paytm is in talks with Zomato Ltd. to sell its movie and events ticketing division as part of a strategic overhaul due to dwindling revenues. One97 Communications Ltd., Paytm's parent firm, and Zomato are allegedly in advanced talks. According to insiders, other potential purchasers are interested in the business, but requested anonymity owing to the confidential conversations. They said no final decision has been made, Bloomberg reported. Paytm, helmed by billionaire founder-CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma, revealed plans to reduce non-core businesses and mention job cutbacks after its first revenue fall last month. This decision is in



response to regulatory activities hurting Paytm Payments Bank Ltd., a key part of Paytm's operations. The article said regulatory restrictions forced Paytm to cooperate with other lenders. Paytm, which relied on the bank for digital wallets and payment

operations, has struggled since the central bank intervened early this year. Bloomberg said that Paytm and Zomato did not respond to requests for comments outside of business hours. Paytm does not disclose sales figures for its movie and events ticketing business, but its marketing services segment, which includes this business, credit card marketing, and gift vouchers, sold 17.4 billion rupees (\$208 million) in the fiscal year ending March 2024. A successful sale will allow Paytm to focus on travel, offers, and cashback, which are critical for merchant growth and sales. Zomato may expand into a new, fast-growing digital area by acquiring Paytm's movie and events ticketing business.

With an IPO planned, Hyundai Motor India hopes to raise up

Delhi: The South Korean automaker's Indian subsidiary, Hyundai Motor India Limited, plans to submit its draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in anticipation of an initial public offering (IPO) that may garner between \$2.5 and \$3 billion. Following the \$2.7 billion listing of the state-owned Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) in 2022, this will be the largest initial public offering

(IPO) in the nation if the regulator gives the listing the go-ahead. It is expected that the business would offer the entire issue as an offer for sale (OFS), anticipating the sale of 140 million to 150 million shares. In terms of passenger sales volumes, Hyundai Motor India was the nation's second-largest automaker in FY24, behind Maruti Suzuki. The business opened its first manufacturing facility in India in 1998, followed by a second in 2008. The executive chair of Hyundai

Motor Group, Euisun Chung, announced plans to expand the company's activities in India in order to use the nation as a major export center for the South Korean carmaker in April of this year. Hyundai Motor Group has made fresh investment plans totaling around 5 trillion won (\$3.75 billion) in India over the past year. This indicates the group's intention to better target one of the key automotive markets in the world that is expanding at the fastest rate.

Standard Capital Markets Ltd. Incorporates Subsidiary for Insurance Broking

Vatika Times Chandigarh: Standard Capital Markets Ltd., a leading player in the financial services sector, has announced that it has incorporated a subsidiary under the name of "Standard Insurance Broking Ltd." to act as a Direct broker under the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Insurance Brokers) Regulations, 2018. NOC of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India already taken and now company will also apply for taking Insurance Broking License of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI). Earlier, the company announced that its has partnered with a leading fintech company to provide educational loans to individuals seeking higher education. This

collaboration aims to make education more accessible and affordable for students, empowering them to pursue their academic goals. Through this strategic partnership, Standard Capital Markets Limited will leverage the fintech company's innovative platform and expertise in student financing to offer competitive loan options tailored to the needs of students. The loans will cover tuition fees, living expenses, and other educational costs, ensuring that financial constraints do not hinder students from receiving a quality education. Standard Capital Markets Limited is a leading player in the financial services sector. Embracing the uniqueness of each client, the company consistently strives to deliver personalized, professional services. It upholds an unwavering commitment

to every client while adhering rigorously to the best professional norms and practices, exuding dynamism in every interaction. The company offers a diverse range of Personal Loans, ensuring not only competitiveness but also flexible repayment terms. With their support, clients can confidently pursue their goals without confusion or worry. For businesses seeking financial support, the company extends Business Loans with flexible overdraft options.

The company empowers clients to stay ahead of the competition by providing prompt financial assistance, fostering business growth with ease. The Flexi Overdraft feature simplifies cash flow management, allowing easy access to funds as needed, and eliminating.

Bill Gates on nuclear energy, 'investing billions', huge costs

Delhi: Bill Gates, billionaire and Microsoft founder, spoke to CNN about his TerraPower nuclear energy plant in Wyoming, its challenges, and the future of nuclear power. He sought to allay concerns about radioactive waste and expenses. He vowed to invest "billions more" in new-generation nuclear power and that global collaboration and scale will lower costs. Gates claimed they've "gone back to the basics" to cut costs: "We're willing to cool the plant with metal instead of water, as folks have long said. That solves the high pressure and extra heat when shutting down. The complexity has made nuclear power more expensive and complicated. We completely



transform that from first to third generation." Gates said they delayed the plant since the original plan changed and fuel may come from Russia. "We had to alter the 2028 strategy since it relied on Russian fuel manufacture. Naturally, that's unacceptable now. All of these facilities' fuel will come from the US or friendly nations," he said. Post-Fukushima and as Germany decommissioned similar plants, Gates sought to reassure on nuclear

power politics and optics. "This has fantastic safety features. Despite its issues, nuclear power has a respectable record." "This regime doesn't force operators to do the right things. It naturally absorbs heat without releasing it. France, the UK, Japan, and South Korea are quite accepting of nuclear; they know they need it, but Japan doesn't have as much acreage for solar or wind as the US. That requires a greater nuclear proportion.

Adani's Rs 45,000 cr Mundra Port development receives green light

Delhi: Gautam Adani's Adani Ports & Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) gained environmental and coastal regulation approval from the Centre to double the capacity of its Mundra port to 514 million tonnes with a ₹45,000 crore investment. This could help APSEZ get a rollover from the Gujarat government when the port's 30-year concession expires in 2031. The Kutch port in Gujarat can handle 225 mt of cargo a year, including 9.5 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs). It has environmental and coastal regulation zone certification. Mundra, India's largest commercial port and top container port by quantities, handled 179.6 mt of cargo, including 7.4 million TEUs, in fiscal 2024, accounting for almost a fourth of all cargo volumes and over a third of

container freight. In its April volume projection, APSEZ expects to handle 200 mt of cargo in FY25. This will make it the nation's first port to do so. Ports/terminals should operate at 70% capacity to avoid congestion and productivity difficulties worldwide. "The terminal operates efficiently at 70% capacity. Port industry insiders say efficiency diminishes above that, causing delays. APSEZ applied to the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) attached to the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change to raise the capacity by 289 mt to 514 mt as part of the expansion of the Waterfront Development Plan spread over 3,335 hectares at Mundra port. The port has grown in double digits over the past few years, putting it on track to reach full capacity.

Govt. limits tur, chana stock until Sept to curb hoarding

The import of the current harvest of tur from East African countries starting in August 2024



Delhi: The Union Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs said wholesalers, retailers, huge chain shops, millers, and importers will be subject to stock limits. The Removal of Licensing Requirements, Stock Limits, and Movement Restrictions on Specified Foodstuffs Order went into effect. Stock limits for each pulse are 200 tonnes for wholesalers, 5 tonnes for retailers, 5 tonnes at each retail outlet, and 200 tonnes at the depot for big chain retailers; last 3 months of production or 25%

of annual installed capacity, whichever is higher, for millers. The measures discourage stockpiling and boost market availability. Importers cannot keep imported merchandise after 45 days after customs clearance. Tur, urad, and chana prices have been constant yet high all year. India imports 15% of its pulses annually to meet demand. Legal companies are required to report stock positions on the Department of Consumer Affairs portal. "In case the stocks held by them

are higher than the prescribed limits then, they shall bring the same to the prescribed stock limits by 12th July 2024," the note added. As Kharif pulses like tur and urad are likely to rise, the government expects tur and chana dal prices to fall. The statement anticipates the import of the current harvest of tur from East African countries starting in August 2024. A new crop of chana in Australia and its import from October 2024 will help keep chana affordable for consumers.

Google cancels Play Store online gaming trial due to lack of rules

Delhi: Google paused its pilot program to list fantasy sports and rummy games on the Google Play Store, but gave India a "grace period". This means Google will not increase Play Store open access for more real-money games as planned in January. Existing Play Store apps will stay there. Google suspended the pilot, which began in July 2018 and was extended in January in India, Brazil, and Mexico, due to a lack of a "central licensing framework" that governs game legality. "Expanding our support of real-money gaming apps in markets without a central licensing

framework has proven more difficult than expected, and we need additional time to get it right for our developer partners and the safety of our users," a spokesman for Google said. The move hurts India's online gaming industry, which is divided over whether games are 'games of skill' or 'games of chance'. Supreme Court cases challenging Tamil Nadu and Karnataka's internet gaming prohibition remain pending. Google said it is developing a framework for permitted applications in this field. "In the meantime, in India, we are extending the grace period of

the pilot program so existing apps offering fantasy sports and rummy games in India can remain on Play Store," the spokesman said. A senior Google executive said on condition of anonymity that the company intends to create a framework, but conversations are ongoing and there is no "specific timeline" for when these apps can be used again.

India's major online gaming companies by revenue—Sporta Technologies (Dream11), Gameskraft, and Games24x7—listed their fantasy and rummy apps on Play Store after Google's program.

RBI changes priority sector lending rules

Delhi: RBI has amended its priority sector guidelines to encourage banks to provide modest loans in economically challenged districts with low loan amounts. New rules discourage lending in districts with large average loans. Fresh priority sector loans in districts with low credit availabil-

ity (less than Rs 9,000 per person) would receive 125% additional weight starting in FY25. In districts with substantial credit availability (above Rs 42,000 per person), loans weigh 90%. Except for outlier districts with poor credit availability and excessive loan sizes, all other dis-

tricts will remain 100% important. "RBI has decided to rank districts based on per capita credit flow to the priority sector, and to establish an incentive framework for districts with lower credit flow and a disincentive framework for districts with higher priority.

Parliament group advises the government to suspend EU carbon tax for MSMEs for 3 years

It also encouraged India to work with the EU on deforestation laws

Delhi: A parliamentary panel advises India to request a three-year delay on the EU's carbon tax on engineering MSMEs since domestic manufacturers may not be able to afford it. The report advised prioritizing the development of a comprehensive framework to support and equip MSMEs to combat CBAM (carbon border adjustment mechanism). The EU will impose



CBAM on seven carbon-intensive sectors, including steel, cement, and fertilizer, from January 1, 2026. Engineering goods are subject to this import duty. The department-related parliamentary standing committee on commerce's

report, Comprehensive Strategy to Map Major Products and Countries to Maximize Exports and Minimize Imports, advised the government to work at the highest level with the U.S. and EU to protect the domestic industry from additional tariffs and CBAM. "The Committee exhorts the government to seek the deferment on application of CBAM on MSME sector by at least three years," noted.

It also encouraged India to work with the EU on deforestation laws because domestic coffee companies worry it will hurt exports. About 55% of Indian coffee exports go to the EU.

GST Council to change alcohol tax legislation, settle disputes

Delhi: The GST Council is considering amending GST legislation regarding extra neutral alcohol (ENA), a highly pure alcohol used in liquor manufacture but not for direct consumption. These revisions explain that ENA should not be GST-taxable, which could relieve the spirits industry by avoiding dual taxes. In addition to legislative changes, the Council is anticipated to propose a mechanism that would allow central and state tax agencies to stop recovering past tax dues,

helping the spirits industry. This action is part of a larger attempt to settle tax disputes and streamline taxation. The GST Council will discuss officer committee revisions at its meeting in the national capital. According to two Centre-state sources, this committee was charged with drafting legislative revisions to keep ENA outside the GST regime, a decision made at the GST Council's 52nd meeting on October 7 last year. The proposed revisions clarify tax implementa-

tion by excluding ENA from GST under section 9 of the Central and state GST statutes. GST is currently applicable to non-alcoholic goods and services, however ENA is not mentioned. The clarification should reduce the alcoholic beverage industry's tax burden by preventing the same commodity from being taxed under several streams. The Centre would submit CGST and IGST Act revisions in Parliament, while states will alter SGST laws. Since the 2017 indirect tax reform.

Avoid promoting 'Ulips' as investments: Irdai

Delhi: The insurance regulator prohibits promoting Ulips and index-linked plans as investment products. The Irdai mandated tight standards for fund performance ads in a circular. They should show compounded yearly returns for the past five years with a caveat that past success does not guarantee future results. If applicable, benchmark index performance must be stated with fund performance. The circular advised advertisers not to overestimate benefits, selectively offer benefits without constraints, or make derogatory comparisons to competitors or the industry. The laws compel insurers to form an advertisement committee and appoint distribution channel compliance officers to ensure compli-



ance. These businesses strictly oversee advertisement material and enforce restrictions. The regulator also requires companies to let policyholders pay premiums online or hire a new agent or direct sales staff if the policyholder's agent leaves. A any new policy from the allocated insurance agency or direct sales staff for the same policyholder if the assigned policy is not resurrected or abandoned.

Oyo plans to raise \$125 million at a \$2.5 billion valuation

Delhi: Oyo, a key player in the hospitality industry, is reportedly receiving \$100-125 million in new capital, with a \$2.5 billion market valuation. The international chain of low-cost hotels is finalizing a "fresh fundraising of about \$100 million to \$125 million that slashes its valuation.

Land and luxury commercial buildings may be sold by LIC

Delhi: LIC plans to sell some of its premium commercial buildings and land nationwide to raise \$6-7 billion (50,043-58,384 crore). LIC, India's third-largest landlord, has instructed an internal team to develop a selling plan for its real estate assets nationwide, according to two sources. The process may begin in Mumbai. The article listed LIC's premium assets as the Jeevan Bharti building in Delhi's Connaught Place, the LIC building in Kolkata's Chittaranjan Avenue, and Mumbai's Asiatic Society and Akbarally's buildings. Two sources informed that LIC's real estate assets were valued at a cautious 50,000-



60,000 crore during their latest valuation. "LIC-owned buildings may be revalued for the formal asset sale procedure. LIC buildings may have a market value of at least five times the conservative estimate of 2.5-3 lakh crore, as many have never been sold.

The first insider informed that LIC may incorporate a separate business to keep and monetize real estate assets due to the difficulty of valuing them. He added LIC

owns the State Bank of India building on Mall Road in M u s s o r i e , Uttarakhand, and two media house offices in New Delhi and Lucknow.

"The insurance company owns numerous marquee buildings. The valuation must be done properly. Only piece-by-piece auctions can determine prices. However, the LIC Act must be amended and laws changed "said the second.

Flipkart will challenge Zepto, Blinkit with fast commerce

Delhi: As India's e-commerce has a future in India in recent years. Zepto commerce targets rapid commerce, the sector will heat up again. Three sources told Entracker that Flipkart has begun building infrastructure for its rapid commerce play. "In six to eight weeks, Flipkart will launch 10-15 minute delivery in at least a dozen cities," stated an anonymous insider. "It's building up a chain of dark stores across several cities including Bengaluru, Delhi (NCR) and Hyderabad among others." Flipkart's move into rapid commerce comes as experts expect it to cut into India's e-commerce pie soon. A 2022 Redseer analysis estimates the Indian fast commerce market at around \$45 billion. More crucially, Zomato's Blinkit, Swiggy's Instamart, and Zepto have shown investors that rapid

commerce has a future in India in recent years. Zepto commerce targets rapid commerce, the sector will heat up again. Three sources told Entracker that Flipkart has begun building infrastructure for its rapid commerce play. "In six to eight weeks, Flipkart will launch 10-15 minute delivery in at least a dozen cities," stated an anonymous insider. "It's building up a chain of dark stores across several cities including Bengaluru, Delhi (NCR) and Hyderabad among others." Flipkart's move into rapid commerce comes as experts expect it to cut into India's e-commerce pie soon. A 2022 Redseer analysis estimates the Indian fast commerce market at around \$45 billion. More crucially, Zomato's Blinkit, Swiggy's Instamart, and Zepto have shown investors that rapid

CAPSULES

A Japanese company is creating battery material with an energy density that is 100 times higher

Delhi: TDK, a multinational electronics business based in Japan, has revealed that it has created a material for solid-state batteries that has an energy density that is roughly 100 times higher than that of traditional ones. The Tokyo-based company claims that a variety of wearable gadgets, including smartwatches, wireless earbuds, hearing aids, and environmental sensors, may make use of their technology. Although the new material is intended to replace current coin cell batteries, it makes use of lithium alloy anodes and an oxide-based solid electrolyte. "Batteries are quite safe since they employ solid electrolyte based on oxides. It stated in a statement that "it is intended for use in wearable devices and other devices that come into direct contact with the human body." "The battery can be applied for replacing coin cell primary batteries in compliance with EU battery regulations, which require them to be replaced by rechargeable batteries, which is expected to contribute to the reduction of environmental impact," it stated. According to the company, the new technology also makes it possible for batteries to be smaller and have a longer operating life.

Voda to sell 10% Indus share for \$1.1bn

Delhi: Vodafone Group will sell 10% of India's Indus Towers for up to \$1.1 billion to service debt, according to a term sheet obtained by Reuters. Last week, Reuters reported that Vodafone was considering selling its 21.5% holding in mobile-tower operator Indus Towers through several group businesses.

Cellecor Gadgets Limited expands its overseas operations by incorporating a new Wholly Owned Subsidiary in Hong Kong

Chandigarh: Cellecor Gadgets Limited (NSE EMERGE: CELLECOR), a rapidly growing leader in India's dynamic Electronics and Consumer Durables Goods Market, proudly announces the establishment of its wholly owned subsidiary in Hong Kong, named Cellecor Gadgets HK Limited.

This strategic initiative, in line with the company's announced blue print for growth, underscores company's commitment to enhancing its supply chain capabilities and seizing whatever the opportunities available. Located strategically in Hong Kong, known as a gateway to Asia's electronics industry, the new subsidiary will serve as a pivotal hub for Cellecor Gadgets' procurement of critical components and operational activities, and with Hong Kong's robust logistical

infrastructure and business-friendly environment, the Company aim to further optimize its supply chain efficiencies and strengthen its competitive edge in delivering innovative, high-quality cost-competitive products to its customers. "We are excited to establish our wholly owned subsidiary in Hong Kong, a move that enhances our ability to meet the evolving demands of the electronics and consumer durables goods market," said Mr. Ravi Agarwal, Managing Director of Cellecor Gadgets. "This expansion positions us closer to key suppliers and partners, reinforcing our commitment to operational excellence and customer satisfaction." Hong Kong's strategic location and established supplier network will enable Cellecor Gadgets to streamline operations, reduce lead times, and

respond swiftly to market trends. The subsidiary will foster closer collaboration with regional distributors, enhancing growth opportunities and facilitating seamless market penetration across key consumption centres. As Cellecor Gadgets continues to innovate and expand its product offerings, the establishment of the Hong Kong subsidiary reaffirms our dedication to driving technological advancement and sustainability in the electronic consumer durables industry. Earlier, the company unveiled its strategic blueprint to propel the company toward its ambitious sales milestones. This comprehensive plan encompasses various aspects of operations and marketing to drive growth and ensure market leadership.

ONE DESPERATE THIEF ARRESTED BY THE TEAM OF PP TILAK VIHAR PS TILAK NAGAR

The diligent team of Police Post Tilak Vihar under Police Station Tilak Nagar has done commendable work by arresting active one active snatcher cum autolifter namely Rahul s/o Prem Pal along with the recovery of two stolen/snatched mobile phones, one stolen motor cycle and two stolen scooties. With this, five cases of theft have been solved. INFORMATION, TEAM AND APPREHENSION On 12.04.2024, a case regarding the theft of a motorcycle was registered at PS Tilak Nagar. A team comprising HC Raj Kumar and HC Dharmveer, under the leadership of SI Naresh, IC PP Tilak Vihar, and under the supervision of SHO Tilak Nagar and ACP/Tilak Nagar, was formed to apprehend the accused person. On 19.04.2024, information was received that a person with a stolen motorcycle would arrive from Kesho Pur Mandi. Upon this information, a trap was laid. At approxi-



mately 9:30 PM, a person arrived on a motorcycle. The informer pointed out and informed that this was the person about whom he had provided information. Immediately, the team swung into action and apprehended the accused person. Upon checking the motorcycle's details, it was found to be stolen in the aforementioned case. During the inquiry, the identity of the accused person was revealed as Rahul, son of Prem Pal, resident of Sikari Batta, Shyam

Nagar, Tilak Nagar, Delhi, aged 24 years. A cursory search of his person revealed two stolen mobile phones. Upon sustained interrogation, two more stolen scooters were recovered based on his information. RECOVERIES: 1. Two Scooties. 2. One motorcycle. 3. Two mobile phones. WORKED-OUT CASES: 1. E - F I R No. 010423/24 u/s 379 IPC PS Tilak Nagar. 2. E - F I R No. 3355/24 dt. 06/02/2024 u/s 379 IPC PS Tilak Nagar. 3. E - F I R No. 19312/2023 dt. 28/06/2023 u/s 379 IPC PS Dabri. 4. E - F I R No. 80033737/2024 u/s 379 IPC PS Mehroli. 5. E - F I R No. 80031962/2024 u/s 379 IPC PS Okhla. ACCUSED PERSON: Accused Rahul s/o Prem Pal R/o Jhuggi No. S-111, Sikari Batta, Shyam Nagar, Tilak Nagar, has studied up to 5th standard. Due to poor economic condition of the family, he came in contact of bad elements and got involved in criminal activities.

CAPSULES

Vishal Mega Mart selects ICICI and Kotak for a massive IPO

Delhi: According to persons acquainted with the situation, Indian grocery chain Vishal Mega Mart Pvt has chosen banks as it moves forward with a planned IPO in Mumbai this year. These individuals, who wished to remain anonymous due to the confidentiality of the discussions, stated that Vishal Mega Mart selected Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd and ICICI Bank Ltd to assist in setting up a share sale as early as the fourth quarter of this year. According to the persons, Partners Group Holding AG and Kedaara Capital, two private equity firms that hold it, would be able to reduce their ownership stakes through the IPO. The people claimed that other banks will probably be brought on board to work on the IPO. According to them, the Gurugram-based business might raise anywhere from \$850 million and \$1 billion through the IPO. Partners Group, Kotak, ICICI, and Vishal Mega Mart did not immediately respond to requests for comment made outside of business hours, while a spokesman for Kedaara declined to comment. In 2018, investment firm TPG Capital sold Vishal Mega Mart to Switzerland-based Partners Group and India-focused private equity firm Kedaara for an undisclosed sum. Food and groceries, fashion and general products, and private labels are all available at Vishal Mega Mart. Because of its potential for expansion, India has become a burgeoning market for deals, especially initial public offerings (IPOs).

Blood donation camps will be organized in the future too in the service of humanity: Ramchandra Jadoula

Kaithal: Barfani Seva Mandal Regd. Kaithal Branch Dhand was honored with a letter of appreciation from Haryana State Blood Transfusion Council for doing the noble work of social service through blood donation at the Blood Center District Civil Hospital Kaithal on the occasion of World Blood Donation Day and for making a selfless and invaluable contribution towards humanity. Those honored included Barfani Seva Mandal Dhand's head social worker Ramchandra Jadoula,

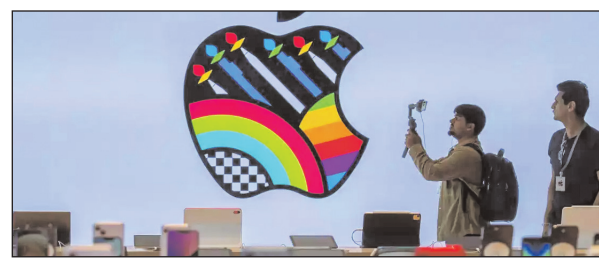


Mandal member Sheeshpal Garg, Hon. Subhash Gupta, Malkhan Singh Jadoula etc. After this, while talking in the Dhand office, head Ramchandra Jadoula said

that there is no greater donation than blood donation and every citizen should sacrifice his cooperation in this great donation, so that everyone's cooperation and contribu-

tion is in the service of humanity. He said that the Mandal will keep organizing huge blood donation camps from time to time in the service of humanity in the future too, in which full cooperation of people of every section, especially the youth, will be taken. It is important to mention here that a huge blood donation camp was organized in Dhand on 15 June, in which 114 blood donors donated blood. Due to which Barfani Seva Mandal has been honored by the Health Department by giving a letter of appreciation today.

Apple may hire 5 lakh Indians in 3 years



Delhi: Government sources expect Apple and its vendors to employ over 5 lakh Indians over the next three years. Apple's distributors and suppliers employ 1.5 lakh Indians. Tata Electronics, which operates two Apple plants, creates the most jobs. "Apple is employing more in India. Its vendors and components suppliers will employ five lakh people in the next three years, conservatively," a senior government officer told PTI. Apple would not comment on the forecast.

Apple wants to increase Indian output by five-fold to USD 40 billion (approximately 3.32 lakh crore) in 4-5 years. Counterpoint Research reported that Apple dominated the India market in revenue for the first time in 2023, while Samsung led in volume sales. The company reported that Apple surpassed 10 million units in shipments and topped revenue in a calendar year for the first time. According to commercial intelligence platform The Vision, Apple's iPhone shipments from India increased nearly 100% to USD 12.1 billion in 2023-24 from USD 6.27 billion in 2022-23.

Flipkart Announces the June edition of its 'Back to Campus' Campaign for Students

GURUGRAM: As students gear up for the new academic year, Flipkart, India's home-grown e-commerce marketplace, has announced the June 2024 edition of its annual 'Back to Campus' program after successfully concluding its May 2024 edition. Scheduled

between June 21 - June 27, the campaign will provide an expansive assortment of products across brands, including laptops, tablets, gaming consoles, monitors, smartwatches, true wireless earphones, printers, laptop accessories, and more, to cater to the entire spectrum of student's requirements. With a wide selection of devices, the program also prioritizes affordability and a rewarding experience, given the primary buyers are students.

In this regard, consumers can avail various options on Flipkart including, SuperCoins, No-Cost EMI, and attractive exchange deals for old laptops to ease the upgrade process. There will be additional student offers up to Rs 6000 off on Laptops

and Tablets coupled with No-Cost EMI offers up to 12 months on a wide range of credit cards. Catering to diverse payment preferences, Flipkart will provide multiple constructs such as cash on delivery, UPI, and credit / debit cards for seamless transactions. Young consumers now prefer feature-rich, premium products with advanced technology and high performance that fit their lifestyle and budget.

In the laptop segment, students seek devices with the latest-generation processors and ample RAM. A comprehensive selection of laptops with key specifications will be available at a starting price range of Rs. 9,990 from brands like HP, Asus, Acer, and others.

GRM Overseas Ltd. Board to Meet on 21 June to Consider Fund Raise

Chandigarh: GRM Overseas Limited (GRM), a leading a consumer staples organization, has announced that its board will meet on 21 June 2024 to consider and approve the proposal of raising funds by way of preferential issue of securities to the person belonging to the promoter/ promoter group/ Non-promoter group category subject to such regulatory/statutory approvals as may be required and the approval of shareholders of the company. Earlier, the company had informed that it had received its first order from the Ministry of Agricultural, Fisheries Wealth & Water Resources, Sultanate of Oman, to supply 4,500 MT of Premium basmati rice the order is worth Indian Rupees 465 million. The Govt.

entities in MENA region opens a significant target market for GRM Overseas with approx total size of 7,00,000 MT+ import of Basmati Rice. MENA region is the largest importer of Basmati Rice, having a lion's share ~78% of the total exports from India in FY23, while Europe contributes 6.9% and USA+ Canada contributes 6.6% (FY23). GRM Overseas has positioned itself strategically, as 95% of its export business is to the MENA region and has established itself as among the top 5 Basmati Rice exporters in MENA region. From humble inception in 1974 to redefining itself in the form of GRM, the Company has travelled a long way since then. Initially set up as a rice processing and trading house, it is growing to

become a consumer staples organisation. During the initial years, GRM exported rice to the Middle East, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Gradually expanding its reach, GRM has developed a market for its rice in 42 countries, thereby achieving the title of the 3rd leading Rice Exporter in India. GRM has three rice processing units with an overall annual production capacity of 4,40,800 MT-based out of Panipat (Haryana), Naultha (Haryana) and Gandhidham (Gujarat). Additionally, the Company has a warehousing facility of 1.75 Lakhs sq ft space adjacent to the Gandhidham plant facilitating speedy shipments from Kandla and Mundra ports.

Paytm approved for UPI ID migration

Delhi: The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has permitted Paytm operator One97 Communications (OCL) to begin customer migration to a new PSP the bank controls. SBI, Axis, HDFC, and YES Bank will be Paytm's PSPs. Paytm users will need permission to use a new UPI ID with one of the four banks' UPI handles. Paytm may urge you to change your '@paytm' handle to a UPI handle linked to one of the banks listed (such yourname@axis). Bank selection is available. This shouldn't affect UPI payments. Paytm will continue to transfer and receive money. This modification lets Paytm offer UPI services. A UPI handle update prompt may appear soon. To ensure uninterrupted UPI payments for customers and merchants, Paytm will transition users from its Paytm Payment Bank to Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, SBI, and YES Bank. Users with @paytm handles will migrate first. Users can continue offering UPI through partner banks with NPCI clearance. The Paytm app will let them make UPI payments from their bank accounts. Create bank-specific VPAs: Paytm now lets users set up VPAs with SBI, Axis, HDFC, and YES Bank.

Your new VPA may be yourname@sbi or yourname@axis, depending on the bank. After migration, Paytm users' UPI IDs with '@paytm' will change to @ptsbi, @pthdfc, @ptaxis, or @ptyes. Paytm received a third party application (TPAP) provider permit from NPCI on March 14 in conjunction with SBI, Axis Bank, Yes Bank, and HDFC Bank to ensure UPI transaction continuity for users.