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

'Calamity of severe nature': MP Tharoor writes to HM Shah on Wayanad landslides

NEW DELHI: Senior Congress leader and Thiruvananthapuram MP Shashi Tharoor wrote a letter to Union home minister Amit Shah on Wednesday, requesting that the Wayanad landslides be classified as a "calamity of severe nature" under the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) guidelines to provide immediate support to the affected regions. "My letter to Amit Shah ji yesterday (Wednesday), seeking the declaration of the Wayanad Landslide as a "calamity of severe nature" under the MPLADS guidelines, in order to facilitate urgent assistance from MPs to the affected areas. @Rao_InderjitS," Tharoor said in post on X.

"On the 30th of July, in the dead of night, a



Shah to introduce bill to amend Disaster Management Act

NEW DELHI: Union home minister Amit Shah will introduce a bill to amend the Disaster Management Act, 2005, in both Houses of Parliament on Thursday. Nirmala Sitharaman will move the statutory resolution regarding Section 8A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975. Union minister Kiren Rijiju and Deputy Leader of Congress in Lok Sabha Gaurav

series of devastating landslides struck the

Gogoi will move a motion in support of the second report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on July 31. Union minister Ravneet Singh Bittu will move a motion for the election of two members to the council of the National Institutes of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM). Union Minister Manohar Lal is expected.

Wayanad district of Kerala, claiming over

a hundred lives and leaving many more severely injured in hospitals, while countless others remain missing, trapped beneath the debris. This disaster of unimaginable proportions has left behind a harrowing tale of death and destruction. The rescue operations involving the armed forces, the Coast Guard, the National Disaster Response Force, and other agencies continue their pitched battle against the vagaries of nature. The landslides have wreaked havoc upon countless lives, and as such, it is of grave importance to extend all possible support to the people of Wayanad. Such is the scale of the disaster that it necessitates coordinated and generous response from all sections.

Exercise caution': India's advisory for its citizens in Lebanon amid tense situation

NEW DELHI: The Indian embassy in Beirut issued an advisory on Thursday cautioning Indian citizens residing in Lebanon amid the recent escalation in the Middle East following the rising tensions between Israel and the Lebanon-based Hezbollah group. Advising against non-essential travel to Lebanon, the embassy said, "In view of the recent escalations in the region, Indian nationals are advised to avoid all non-essential travel to Lebanon." "All Indian nationals in Lebanon are advised to exercise caution, restrict their movements, and remain in contact with the Embassy of India in Beirut through their email: cons.beirut@mea.gov.in or the emergency phone number +96176860128," it added.

This comes after Hezbollah senior commander Fuad Shukur was killed in an Israeli strike on the outskirts



Agra panchayat lets off 'rapist' after 5 shoe strikes on his head

AGRA: A panchayat in Shahganj area of Agra district let off an alleged 20-year-old rape accused after ordering that he be hit five times with shoes on the head by the survivor in presence of community members. It also ordered the man to pay a fine for Rs 15,000 to the rape survivor. Citing family honour, the panchayat halted further police action in the matter. As police did not take any action despite being informed, their

of the Lebanese capital in a Hezbollah stronghold.

The strike, which was followed by another, hours later, which

role in the matter is now under scrutiny. The incident took place on the evening of July 25 when the woman from a neighborhood in Bhogipura area left her home but did not return soon. Around 9 pm, her family approached the police and lodged a complaint, accusing a local youth of abducting the girl. Police arrived at the village to probe the matter, but the community members intervened, claiming they would find the woman.

killed Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, triggered fears the war in Gaza could escalate into a region-wide conflict.

Virat Kohli responds to 'Chokli' chant by a fan with a stare

NEW DELHI: India's star batsman Virat Kohli was noticeably irritated when a fan addressed him as "Chokli" while he was practicing with his teammates in a room in Sri Lanka. As Virat was engrossed in his practice session, the fan began shouting "Chokli-Chokli," which caught his attention. He immediately turned to face the fan, displaying a displeased expression.

Virat landed in Sri Lanka on Monday morning for the three-match ODI series against the host nation.

Due to rain in Colombo, the initial practice session was called off. Nevertheless, Virat participated in his first net session since the conclusion of the T20 World Cup.

'If he wins, I give him free ...': Elon accepts Venezuela President Maduro's challenge



Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and billionaire Elon Musk are at loggerheads with each other with both of them trading barbs viciously. With the war of words brewing, the Tesla CEO now has accepted to debate the Venezuelan president.

The billionaire who has been at odds with Maduro amid political turmoil in the Venezuelan capital took to X and said, he "accepts" to fight him on national television with a condition ----- "If I win, he resigns as dictator of Venezuela.

If he wins, I give him a free ride to Mars."

Elon Musk has taken to X multiple times over the past few months to criticise Maduro and at times even thrown weight behind the opposition candidate in Venezuela. In one particular post Musk referred to Maduro as a "big guy", while also taking a dig at Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg by terming him a "little fella".

"Maduro is a big guy himself and probably knows how to fight, so this would be a real fight. Zuck is a little fella, so that would be a short fight lol," he said in his post.

For his part, the socialist leader has accused Musk of being behind "attacks against Venezuela" and possibly the mastermind of an alleged "computer hacking" at the National Electoral Council (CNE), which concluded Maduro as the winner of Sunday's vote.

Following a meeting with top political and military advisors on Tuesday, Maduro announced the creation of a special committee, aided by Russian and Chinese experts.

Infosys terms Rs 32,000 crore GST refund notice 'pre-show cause'

GST authorities issued a Rs 32,403 crore notice to Infosys for allegedly not paying IGST on services received from overseas branches between 2017 and 2022. Infosys, however, contended that GST is not applicable on these expenses, citing a recent circular. The company has responded to the pre-show cause notice and remains compliant with regulations.



Infosys terms Rs 32,403 crore notice 32,000 crore GST on Indian IT giant refund notice 'pre-show cause': Read company's letter to BSE GST authorities have slapped a Rs years starting 2017.

According to reports, the notice sent to Infosys by GST authorities says: "In lieu of receipt of supplies from overseas branch offices, the Company has paid consideration to the branch offices in the form of overseas branch expenses. Hence, M/s Infosys Ltd, Bengaluru is liable to pay IGST under reverse charge mechanism on supplies received from branch.

'Americans deserve better': Harris hits back at Trump's 'Indian or Black' comment

Kamala Harris responded to Donald Trump's comments questioning her racial identity, calling his remarks divisive and disrespectful. Harris emphasized that Americans deserve truthful leadership that celebrates diversity. She criticized Trump's term as president, suggesting his recent comments were another example of his divisive behavior,



and called for unity and respect. 'Americans deserve better': Harris hits back at Trump's 'Indian or Black' comment Democrat leader Kamala Harris hit back at her presidential rival Donald Trump after the latter questioned her racial identity on

Wednesday. Harris, without naming the former US president, said that the American people deserved better adding that Trump had put on the "same old show" of "divisiveness and disrespect." "The American people deserve a leader who tells the truth, a leader who does not respond with hostility and anger when confronted with the facts.

For Madhya Pradesh, cheetahs are a matter of 'national security'

BHOPAL: The Madhya Pradesh forest department has upheld its decision to withhold correspondences related to the 'Project Cheetah', citing concerns over national security and the potential harm to India's sovereignty and integrity. This stance was reiterated in response to a notice from the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA). The department rejected an RTI application from activist Ajay Dubey, who sought details on the cheetah reintroduction project, specifically management correspondence at Kuno Wildlife



Sanctuary in Sheopur district and Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary in Mandasaur district. The request was denied under Section 8(1)(a) of the RTI Act, which allows withholding information that could affect India's sovereignty, security, strategic, scientific, or economic interests, or its relations with a foreign state. Saurav Kumar Kabra, the public information officer at the office

includes exemptions for information pertaining to the security, strategic, scientific, or economic interests of India." The forest department elaborated on the sensitive nature of Project Cheetah, an ambitious national scheme involving collaboration between India and countries such as South Africa, Kenya, and Namibia. "Project Cheetah is a critical experimental scheme, which received permission from the Hon'ble Supreme Court as a scientific experiment on 28 January 2020. The second phase of Project Cheetah.

BSF foils another infiltration attempt in Jammu

NEW DELHI: The Border Security Force on Wednesday foiled an infiltration bid and neutralised one Pakistani intruder along the international border in the Samba border area, PTI reported. According to officials, The infiltrator was spotted moving into Indian territory near the Khora post. They said the intruder paid no heed to the warnings from BSF personnel and was subsequently fired upon. Senior BSF and police officials have reached the area of incident and efforts are on to retrieve the body.

Iran's supreme leader orders attack on Israel after killing of Hamas chief Haniyeh: Report

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei ordered a direct attack on Israel following the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran. The military was instructed to prepare offensive and defensive strategies. Iran has blamed Israel for the incident, and retaliation plans include coordinated attacks from allied regions like Yemen, Syria, and Iraq. Iran's Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has ordered a direct attack against Israel in response to the killing of Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran on Wednesday, reported. The New York Times, citing three Iranian officials aware of the development. Khamenei gave his nod to strike Israel during an emergency

meeting of Iran's Supreme National Security Council on Wednesday morning, shortly after the announcement of Haniyeh's death. The Hamas leader was in Tehran to attend the swearing in ceremony of Iran's new president Masoud Pezeshkian. He was killed around 2 am local time, following his attendance at the ceremony and a meeting with Khamenei. Both Iran and Hamas have blamed Israel for the killing of Haniyeh. However, Israel neither confirmed nor denied responsibility for Haniyeh's death. Khamenei, the supreme leader of Iran and commander in chief of the armed forces, has ordered military leaders from the Revolutionary Guards.

Today is historic day for followers of Hindu religion: Pawan Srivastava

Prayagraj: In the historic decision given today by the Honorable High Court at Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi, the decision given by Honorable Justice Mayank Kumar Jain, declaring Tere Yashika as maintainable, is commendable and welcome. Welcoming the above decision, former District Convener Bajrang Dal, former General Secretary Vishwa Hindu Parishad and senior leader Bharatiya Janata Party Pawan Srivastava said that this decision will prove to be a milestone in the above case. He further said that all Hindu-religion People with faith and devotion towards their faith will soon get an auspicious opportunity to see the grand divine temple at the birth place of Lord Shri Krishna in Mathura.

Nazul Property Bill anti-people, exploitation of poor to increase: Ujjwal

Battle will be fought from road to Parl

Prayagraj: MP Ujjwal Raman Singh proved that by getting the anti-people Nazul Property Bill passed in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly on the strength of majority by the BJP government, it proved that it is free from the poor. They have nothing to do with it, they are just patrons of the capitalists. SP State Secretary Vinay Kushwaha said that MP Ujjwal Raman Singh said that a fight will be fought against this bill from the streets to the Parliament because it will have a direct impact on the general public who will read it for hundreds of years. The BJP government is trying to snatch away the homes of the people who have been living in their homes since 2005. The State Secretary also expressed his gratitude to those BJP MLAs who went against their government and opposed the Nazul Property Bill in the House. This proves that The BJP government has become dictatorial, it is not able to see anything, new rules are being brought from all sides just to harass the people. Samajwadi Party is continuously opposing this.



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Rotary Club of Alld Academia started 'Creation of Mini Forest' prog

Prayagraj: Rotary Club of Allahabad Academia started the 'Creation of Mini Forest' program on Thursday, August 1 at 2 pm at Shagan Sports Academy, Guru Teg Bahadur Nagar, Prayagraj. On this occasion, the club started creating its 12 mini forests by planting 50 medicinal and 50 fruit trees. In the program, the club's founding president Major Donar Tariq Khan stressed the im-



portance of community service to the club president Aftab Ahmed and other members present. He said that meaningful and lasting community service can bring positive change in the society. Shahid Kamal Khan, Project Director of this series of plantations, announced the creation of a dozen mini forests during the Rotary session and promised to take care of them. Former President of Rotary Club of Allahabad Academia, Dr. Afroz Jaha, Rotarian Dr. Ishanya Raj, Syed Ashraf, Alija, Meena Khan, Tariq Salman, Zaheer, Raza, Shams Tabrez, Parvez Ahmed, Rizwani, Farid and Ahmed Makin were also present in this program. This tree plantation program has taken a new initiative towards environmental protection and community participation, which will prove beneficial for the society and environment in the coming days.

Ensuring Bridge Safety in UP

Mirzapur: The recent incidents of the bridge collapse in neighbouring Bihar have instilled fear among the people of Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh. The Shastri Bridge, a crucial link connecting Mirzapur to Jaunpur, Varanasi, Bhadohi, Gopiganj, Allahabad, Sonhadra, and Banaras, has become alarmingly weak due to overloaded trucks and heavy vehicles. Potholes are cropping up in various places, hinting at the possibility of a major accident. The Shastri Bridge, constructed in 1976, has undergone three repairs so far, but its current condition remains precarious. Recently, a portion of the footpath collapsed, prompting the police to barricade it. However, for the convenience of residents, the bridge had to be reopened after repairs. Given the continuous bridge collapses in Bihar, the situation at Shastri Bridge and the heavy vehicular load raise concerns for commuters. Unfortunately, the administration lacks a mechanism to prevent overloaded vehicles from using this bridge. If the administration had been vigilant and installed higher barriers to restrict overloaded vehicles earlier, the bridge's lifespan would have extended.

The presence of potholes on the bridge poses a danger, especially during rainfall when they fill with water. Pedestrians and two-wheeler riders are particularly vulnerable. The administration must address the noise pollution caused by heavy vehicles and immediately implement a higher barrier system to prevent overloaded vehicles from crossing the bridge. Modifying NH-19 (formerly NH-2) to divert such traffic away from the bridge would reduce pressure. While some suspect foul play, the Shastri Bridge remains crucial for Mirzapur, and its safety is essential for the general public. If we all remain vigilant and avoid negligence, we can prevent a major disaster. Let's ensure that the fate of this bridge doesn't mirror Bihar's recent incidents. The administration must stay alert to safeguard lives and infrastructure.

Felicitation ceremony for trainees organized under Skill India Developed India campaign

Prayagraj/Lucknow: Union Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (Independent Charge) Jayant Choudhary and State Minister of State for Vocational Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (Independent Charge) Kapil Dev Aggarwal on Thursday presented the Indira Institute of Technology in the capital Lucknow by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Government of India. Participated in the felicitation ceremony of the trainees trained under Skill India Mission under the campaign "Skilled India, Developed India: Creating a developed India with the youth power of New India" at Gandhi Pratishthan. He honored the students trained through various schemes and programs. Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Minister of

State for Education, Jayant Choudhary assured to fulfill any demand of the Uttar Pradesh government without any delay. He said that information about training programs can be easily obtained on the Skill India website and the youth receiving training under the Skill India Mission should also inspire other people in the society. In Uttar Pradesh, 60,000 people have been trained through apprenticeship and a target has been set to train 3 lakh people this year. Approval has been received for the construction of Kendriya Vidyalaya in Banda. In 2014, the length of National Highways in Uttar Pradesh was 7,986 km, which has increased to 12,292 km in 2023. He said that under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), 21.60 lakh people have been trained in Uttar Pradesh, out of which 16.87 lakh have completed the certification. Under the latest edition of

the scheme, 4.61 lakh candidates have been enrolled and 205 job fairs have been conducted, in which 64,589 candidates have been

being made skilled and providing them employment and self-employment opportunities. The productivity of youth manpower has



shortlisted.

State Minister of State for Vocational Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (Independent Charge) Kapil Dev Aggarwal said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the guidance of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the youth of the state are

an important place in achieving the goal of 1 trillion dollar economy by making the youth a partner in the economic development of the state by providing them skill training and making the state self-reliant by providing employment to the trained youth. The Skill Development Minister said that the Yogi government

has made a provision of Rs 200 crore for the operation of Skill Development Mission and Rs 100 crore for Project Praveen through the supplementary budget. Till now, more than 17 lakh 50 thousand youth have been trained and about 6 lakh 50 thousand youth have been provided employment. In the current year, more than 1 lakh 65 thousand youth were provided employment. The Skill Development Minister said that in collaboration and coordination with the Secondary Education Department, boys and girls studying in government secondary schools from classes 9 to 12 are being given free vocational training along with regular classes. In the year 2023-2024, 43,200 students from 315 schools have been given free skill training.

The Skill Development Minister said that a special action plan has been prepared for training in new emerging sectors with high

employment potential like Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Robotics, Cloud Computing, Green Jobs, Telecom Sector etc. Preparation of DSDP (District Skill Development Plan) in every district to identify the local needs and employment possibilities so that the youth can get employment at the local level after training. On this occasion, Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary, MSDE, M. Devraj, Principal Secretary, Vocational Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Mahendra Prasad Aggarwal, Principal Secretary, Higher Education, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Sonal Mishra, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India, Abhishek Prakash, Secretary, Industrial Development Department, Uttar Pradesh Government and other officials were present.

Safety dialogue organized in electric lobby

Prayagraj: A safety dialogue was organized in the loco pilot class room of the electric lobby Prayagraj. A total of 32 running employees of Electrical Operation Department participated in the Safety Dialogue. In the safety dialogue, crossing of red signals and other accidents during railway operations were discussed point by point, counseling was done on the following topics related to the rainy season. 1. Passing a red signal without proper authority is an "H" class accident. A collision may also occur when a vehicle is stopped in front of a red signal, which may result in an "A"

class accident. Along with the collision, the vehicle may catch fire, which may result in a "B" class acci-



dent. This incident This can happen at a level crossing, which can cause a "C" class accident, or after SPAD (SPAD-Signal Passing at Danger), the vehicle can deviate, which can cause a "D" class accident. Due to

spade accidents like this, many change in class. 2. While operating a train in railways, one should al-

ways follow the system, signal and authority. If this is not followed then it is called an accident. 3. While operating the vehicle, always keep in mind the type of engine, type of load, brake power of the vehicle, track,

gradient, O.H.E. Special attention should be paid to curve, speed, signal and signal distance. 4. Before reaching the red signal, be careful at two yellow signals, be alert at one yellow signal, and stop the vehicle before reaching the red signal. 5. The speed of the vehicle should always be maintained as per the signal aspect. 6. What is the duty of the loco pilot in case of jerk from the engine and how to protect the adjacent line? In the safety dialogue, Chandrika Prasad, safety consultant, explained in detail through safety classes and quizzes. Chief Loco Inspector, S.K. Singh was also present in the meeting.

Shri Shiv Mahapuran Katha concluded with Purnahuti

Devotees accepted Bhandara Prasad of Lord Bholenath

Prayagraj: Shri Shiv Mahapuran Katha organized by Dutva Path in Bagiya Narayan Vatika of Munshi Ram Prasad was concluded with Purnahuti. On this occasion, all the devotees performed Havan with the wish of well-being and then organized Prasad Bhandara of Lord Bholenath. In which thousands of devotees received the Prasad of Lord Bholenath. Kumar Narayan was the coordinator of Bhandara. Media in-charge Rajesh Kesarwani conducted the program. On this occasion, Sapna Arya, Satish Chandra Kesarwani, Rambabu Kesarwani Neeraj Gupta Rajendra Prasad Kesarwani, Rajesh Kesarwani, Sadhna Chaturvedi, Asha Kesarwani, Jai Shri Kesarwani, Urmila Kesarwani, Abhilash Kesarwani, Lallu Lal Kushwaha, Agrahari and many workers and devotees of the organization were present.

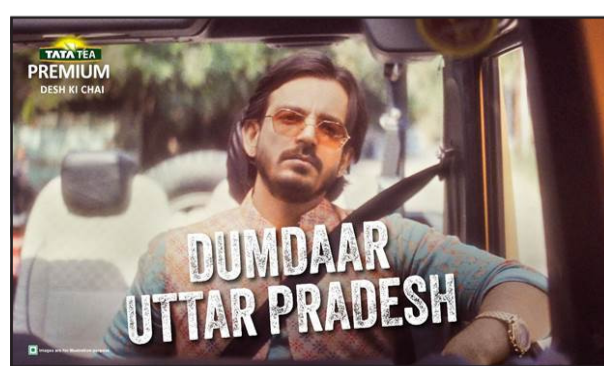


Tata Tea Premium celebrates UP's heroic spirit

Varanasi: Tata Tea Premium, flagship tea brand from Tata Consumer Products portfolio takes you on an engaging journey in Uttar Pradesh with the launch of a new film under the aegis of its hyperlocal strategy. The film brings alive the brand proposition of 'Desh ki chai, apne Pradesh ka swad' anchored through a societal truth that is unique to the state.

The Uttar Pradesh film is a cinematic story of unexpected heroism featuring a local strongman with a humane touch. Amidst the hustle of UP's busy streets, he becomes a beacon of humanity by using his influence to clear a path for a desperate ambulance hopelessly stuck in traffic. It's a testament to the 'Dumdar' spirit of the people from UP which in times of need steps up gallantly to deliver a

positive impact of kindness in sharp contrast to the stereotype that UP is generally associated with. Thereby, associating the product benefit, with the brand's proposition - 'Dumdar UP



ke liye, Dumdar Chai'

Puneet Das, President - Packaged Beverages (India and South Asia), Tata Consumer Product, said, "Tata Tea Premium had pivoted to its hyperlocal approach almost half a decade ago. While maintaining our na-

tional stature, we also leverage our regional expertise by understanding the unique preferences of each of the states. Our new films continue to bring alive the insight that is deeply rooted

into the cultural truth and tea preference of each region. This in the process seamlessly brings alive the brand proposition of the region/state. Hence, these films tend to evoke a feeling of regional pride in the heart of our consumers.

"Each state and in turn its people are often fit into a 'type', while some stereotypes are biased and come from an outsider's perspective, some in fact are true to their nature and our films celebrate this 'local' spirit in all its glory. For example, our film on people of Uttar Pradesh addresses their negative stereotype of being power hungry. The stereotype is flipped on its head by showcasing their 'Dumdar' nature when it comes to using their power to good use. We hope consumers will really love and connect with these engaging stories, as much as we did in bringing them to life. Aim is to continue to bring alive more such stories that evoke regional pride, through digital, on-ground and other media led activations."

Appealed for compensation to people injured in dilapidated house accident

Prayagraj: Sushil Jain, State President of Public Interest Act, Uttar Pradesh, appealed for compensation to the people injured in the dilapidated house accident on July 31. While submitting a memorandum to the District Magistrate Prayagraj regarding compensation to the laborer and the shopkeeper injured in the house accident, he said that due to the collapse of the dilapidated house in Muthiganj, the shop of the shopkeeper Neeraj Kesarwani has been completely destroyed and he has suffered a lot of loss and injury. Apart from this, Atul Jaiswal and Rajendra Kesarwani Raju have been injured, regarding which the Janhit Karini Samiti demands from the Uttar Pradesh District Administration that Rs. 100,000 should be given to the injured and Rs. 200,000 to the victim shopkeeper Neeraj Kesarwani as compensation. Rajesh Kesarwani, Rajkumar, Gautam, Advocate Lalchand Yadav, Lalji Yadav, Ram Pratap Patel, Anil Singh, Sipahi Lal, Ajay Agrahari, Shatrughan Jaiswal, Abhilash Kesarwani etc. were the workers of the committee.

Avanse Financial Services Limited files fresh DRHP with SEBI for an IPO

Varanasi: Avanse Financial Services Limited, an education focused non-banking financial company ("NBFC") operating in India, has filed fresh Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) with SEBI for an Initial Public Offering (IPO). Avanse Financial Services is the second largest education focused NBFC in India by assets under management ("AUM") as of March 31, 2024 (Source: CRISIL MI&A Report). It also has the second highest disbursements during the Financial Year 2023 and recorded the second highest profit after tax in Financial Year 2024 among education focused NBFCs in India. The company offer a full stack education offering with products ranging from education loans for students to growth capital for education institutions through education infrastructure loans. Through student-loans - international and education loans - domestic businesses, the company provides loans and other value-added services to Indian students and professionals who are admitted to study overseas or at domestic institutions. It also provides collateral-backed financing to private educational institutions in India.

The Public Offer aggregating up to ₹3500 crore comprises of a fresh issue of equity shares of up to ₹1000 crores and an offer for sale (OFS) of up to ₹2500 crore by the "Selling Shareholder" (The "Offer for Sale") with face value of Rs. 5 each equity share.

National Skill Development Corporation Launches Women Entrepreneurship Prog

Varanasi: In a pivotal move towards empowering women entrepreneurs and spurring economic growth, the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) is excited

to unveil the Women Entrepreneurship Program. This initiative, aims to tackle the challenges faced by women in entrepreneurship by offering crucial skills, knowledge, and networking opportunities. The program has been launched with the introduction of complimentary self-learning basic entrepreneurship courses available in multiple languages on the Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH). Upon completion of these courses, participants will receive a co-branded certificate from NSDC, Britannia Industries and National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD), acknowledging their entrepreneurial skills and competencies. This initiative aims to empower approximately 25 lakh women across India, providing them with

the skills, knowledge, and resources needed to start and grow successful businesses.

At the launch of this program, Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, GOI said, "It is our privilege that Britannia has partnered with us, focusing on women entrepreneurship."



Echoing this sentiment, Shri Ved Mani Tiwari, COO (Officiating CEO), NSDC & MD, NSDC International stated, "Today, this program is about women-led entrepreneurship and aligns with the Prime Minister's vision for women development. One of the most important component of this is that private and public sector organisation are going together telling women to have entrepreneurial ambitions. From Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao to Lakhpati Didi, India has travelled a lot of distance when it comes to women development."

For better traffic management at all railway stations during Mahakumbh 2025

Inspection of under-construction works and rly platforms conducted

Prayagraj: With a view to improving traffic management at all railway stations during Mahakumbh, joint inspection of under-construction works and platforms was conducted by officials of fair administration, police administration and railway administration. Better traffic management at all railway stations during Mahakumbh 2025. In view of the construction, today a joint inspection of the under construction



works and platforms of Phaphamau station, Prayaghat station and Prayaghat station under Northern Railway was done by the officials of fair administration, police administration and railway administration. Joint inspection will help in better operation of trains, developing holding areas to prevent crowding, making route diversion plans and establishing inter-departmental coordination.

39th foundation day of Saraswati Sangeetalaya celebrated with pomp

Prayagraj: The 39th foundation day of Saraswati Sangeetalaya was celebrated with pomp. In which Aarti was performed by the organization's manager Chandra

everyone by worshipping the Mother Goddess with 'Varde Veena Vadini' and 'Ganesh Vandana' and welcoming them with Kartal sound. Dinesh Singh assured to contribute with his

Kant Malviya and Jewelers Trade Association President Dinesh Singh by garlanding Goddess Saraswati. On this auspicious occasion, mainly the President of Prayagotsav Music Competition and Music Conference, Ms. Shubha Malviya and Principal Mati Mamta Malviya, Rajni Kant, Chandrashekhar Mishra, Ashok Singh, Ramshankar Thakur, Manoj Yadav, Mati Ratan Malviya, Hiramani Jaiswal, Vimal Bhatt, Ramya, Kesari, Tanisha Sonkar, Agrima Jaiswal participated in Maa's Aarti. After this, famous singer Ms. Shubha Malviya and Vimal Bhatt on the tabla mesmerized ev-



body, mind and money to the organization and Rajni Kant said that Chandra Kant Malviya is doing the work of promoting Indian classical music, hearty congratulations to him for that. Along with this, Chandrashekhar Mishra ji described classical music as the foundation of Sanatan Dharma.

UPPSC Recruitment 2024

UP University Service Asst Registrar notification likely soon

Prayagraj: Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission (UPPSC) is likely to release the notification for the Uttar Pradesh University Service Assistant Registrar Examination 2024. Eligible candidates can download the notification from the official website uppsc.up.nic.in from the second week of August 2024. The recruitment drive aims to fill up a total of 38 vacancies. Steps to download Asst Registrar notification 2024: Visit the official website uppsc.up.nic.in. On the homepage, click on the Assistant Registrar notification 2024 link. The notification will appear on the screen. Check and download the notification. Take a printout for future reference.

UPPSC: Recruitment will be done on 38 posts of Assistant Registrar Commission will release advertisement in second week

Prayagraj: Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission (UPPSC) is going to recruit 38 posts of Assistant Registrar in the state universities. Advertisement for Uttar Pradesh University (Central) Service Assistant Registrar Examination-2024 will be released by the Commission in the second week of August. The Commission is going to do this recruitment after seven years. Earlier in the year 2018, the advertisement for this recruitment was issued. The selection result for recruitment to 21 posts of Assistant Registrar was released in July 2020. After this there was no new recruitment on the post of Assistant Registrar. Now after seven years, advertisement for new recruitment is going to be issued. According to Commission's Deputy Secretary Virendra

Mani Tripathi, advertisement for Assistant Registrar recruitment is possible in the second week of August.

This examination was not included in the calendar of the year 2024 of the Commission. In such a situation, the exam date has not been decided yet. The Commission will conduct this recruitment through written examination and interview. Like all other examinations of the Commission, to apply for this examination too, it will be mandatory for the candidates to do One Time Registration (OTR). Applications without OTR candidates will not be accepted. So far, 1868166 OTRs have been made for various examinations of the Commission. With new recruitment, the number of OTRs can reach around 19 lakhs.

PM Modi not concerned with matters of public concern: Haji Haroon Ansari

Prayagraj: Haji Haroon Ansari, the newly nominated senior vice president of Gujarat State Congress Minority Department, said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is not concerned with matters of public concern. During the reception of National Secretary of Minority Department Parvez Ansari on his arrival here today at his residence in Atarsuiya, he said that lying on every issue, distorting things, dividing people in the name of religion, politics, state and language. This has happened for the first time at the level of the Prime Minister. Ansari alleged that small and medium industries, which are the backbone of India's employment, have been destroyed by the government, the result is that no matter what Modi ji does, the youth of the country cannot get employment. Said that the Central Government wants to institutionalize discrimination against Muslims, backward classes and women by giving permission to government employees to attend RSS events, which is an attack on the constitutional rights given to these weaker sections. It was also said that the results of the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections have given a message to the people to end the politics of hatred. It is known that Haji Ansari is a native of Kanpur who has been known for a long time as a famous businessman of Surat. He has been appointed by Gujarat in-charge Insaf Azad on the instructions of Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and on the recommendation of department chairman MP Imran Pratapgarhi.



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AIIMS boosts access to cancer treatment, signs MoU with CanKids

Prayagraj: The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) has signed an MoU with CanKidsKidsCan for Patient care coordination and support services to drive best standards of treatment, care and support including continuity of care namely Survivorship and PalliativeCare. The aim is to improve survival outcomes, access to quality and holistic care services and towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and reducing Out of Pocket Expenditure (OOPE) towards Global Best. Both Organizations have had a very Rich History spanning over 20 years with AIIMS having treated over 16,000 number of Children & their Families since 2004. The Association has now expanded to 10 Hospitals (AIIMS), NationallyCanKidsPartnership with AIIMS New Delhi is our biggest and longest standing - dating back to 2004 and it has grown with

the learning from AIIMS Delhi to over 141 treating centers across India. Dr. M Srinivas, Director AIIMS stated that the Entire Care Fraternity at AIIMS is behind this Alliance. This shall provide Wind in our Sails to successfully realize our Vision 2030, said Ms. Bagai. Our Co-Founder, Sonal Sharma has been Associated with AIIMS for the last 24 year said no Parent or Child should fight the Battle alone.

CanKids has been recognized as the key leading non-profit organization working in India to address the needs of children with cancer (0-19 years) and their families. It is the only organization in India working at all levels - grassroot, district, state and national and supporting the health authorities and hospitals for last 19 years to improve the quality/standard of treatment, care and other holistic support services.

It drives best access to holistic treatment, care and support for children with cancer and their families reaching a childhood cancer treating center through its 141 Cankids Hospital Support Unit (CHSU) partnership projects across 58 cities and 22 States/UTs. Currently only 34% children with cancer each year are making in to a cancer center.

Direct support for families is provided through its YANA - You Are Not Alone - social support protocol and services, social support teams and care centers including Home away from Homes, CanShala schools, Subhita palliative centers, Passport2Life Survivorship clinics, and online CanNurture, CanNourish and CanShala services. CanKids has supported over 79,357 families to date, with annual support of over 15000 children each year.

To enable early diagno-

sis and referral for timely treatment, thereby improving access to care it aims to partner with State Governments and other relevant stakeholders. Currently Cankids has MOUs with 8state governments and knowledge and technical partner for childhood cancer, and 16 State projects to improve Access2Care to 50% by 2025 and 100% by 2030.

Its Suddridh Health System Strengthening projects focus on improving survival outcomes to 60% by 2030 as mandated by the 2018 WHO Global Initiative on Childhood Cancer. It works with national and international bodies, including WHO, WHO SEAR, St Jude Global, SIOP and Childhood Cancer International. The role and contribution of Cankids has been significant in the improvement of Access2Care and survival rate and outcomes for children with cancer in India.

President Night of Lions Club Allahabad Sangam concluded

Prayagraj: Club members were honored for the work done in their session today under the leadership of President Lion Manoj Kesarwani. The members who supported the President throughout the year were greatly praised. he said that last year they carried out many service works which included plantation of saplings, organizing health camps, organizing blood donation camps, sports and paint-



ing competitions among school children. Getting it done, donating cupboards in old age homes, making people aware about eye donation, getting water coolers installed in schools so that school children can drink cold water etc. After the awards program, a new team was given the charge of the club in which Shalu Pahwa, Secretary Lucky Srivastava, Treasurer Amit Mehrotra and PRO Mahesh Aggarwal were appointed to the post of President. The program was conducted by Rishi and Ira Sethi. Sushil, Anupam, Sanjay, Suhla, Dharmendra Bajaj, Dharmendra Srivastava, Manish Khanna, Pratvinda Kumar, Madan, Hemant, Adarsh, Sharad, Abhilash etc. members were present in the program.

Sapling planted in Ford School and College

On the theme of "One tree in name of mother"

Naini, Prayagraj: On the occasion of World Environment Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had appealed to the countrymen to plant "One tree in the name of mother". In this series, students of Ford School and College along with their mothers reached the school and planted saplings. The program was started from 8 am under the direction of Principal Rajni Singh in which saplings of different varieties were planted. School Manager Prof. Dr. Ritu Prakash Dubey said that the students who have planted saplings with their moth-



ers will not only always remember the memory of their mothers, but it is also a unique service for Mother Earth. Our life remains safe only because of trees, such experience has been seen during the Covid period that when the environment became pure, an amazing increase in the immunity of people was seen. Charles Robert, Shireen Massey, Sunila Chaddha, Vandana Lal, Himanshu Sarkar, Shivam Singh, Daniel Chirag Masih, Mudit Srivastava etc. participated in the program.

Future of 21st century theater reflected in Kala Sangam

Prayagraj: The new issue of NCZCC's magazine focusing on folk art and culture has been published. The theater of the new century has been highlighted with pictures. Along with eight theater artists of the country, an article by Prof. Amitesh of the city is also included. The fourth issue of 'Kala Sangam', the quarterly magazine dedicated to folk art and culture of the Central Region Cultural Centre, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, is this time dedicated to the theater of the new century. The previous three issues were related to folk arts. Center Director Prof. Suresh Sharma. The diversity of theater of the last 23 years has been underlined in the new issue published under the guidance of Suresh

Sharma and edited by Amitabh Srivastava. In the magazine, theater artist Sangam Pandey has written

Thoughts on Hindi Theater of the 21st Century', has emphasized on strengthening the theater infrastruc-



on the theater festival in the beginning of the 21st century that no matter how much the technology changes in the modern era, the artistry and continuity of theater ultimately depends on money. Writer Ravindra Pandey, focusing on the topic 'Some

ture and improving theater training. Drama director Prof. Devendra Raj Ankur has deeply thrown light on the importance and methods of training in Greek theater and Sanskrit period theatre. Well-known writer Girijashankar Mishra has drawn an excellent outline

of the 70-80 years from the middle of the 20th century till the present in his article. MK. Raina has very well pointed out the responsibilities of Hindi theatre. Also, measures have been suggested to overcome the lack of basic facilities for performing theatre. Whereas Prof. of Hindi Department of IIV. Amitesh Kumar has outlined in detail some of the colors of Hindi theater of the twenty-first century. Besides, Prasanna has thrown light on the Hindi theater of the new century and Kewal Arora on the theatrical contribution of the pioneer of Indian theatre, Ibrahim Alkazi. The artistic combination of pictures as per the theme of the magazine is making the cover article of the magazine meaningful.

ABVP submits memo against irregularities and rigging in teacher recruitment

Prayagraj: Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad submitted a memorandum to the Registrar and the Dean of the Commerce Faculty against the irregularities and rigging in the teacher recruitment of the Commerce Faculty and Business Administration Department and gave a 48-hour ultimatum to the university administration, if the demands are not met, there will be fierce agitation. In Allahabad University The issue of rigging and irregularities in the teacher recruitment of Commerce Faculty is gaining momentum. Today, Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad protested outside the Registrar's office and raised slogans. Submitted a memorandum to the Registrar and Dean of the Faculty of Commerce regarding 9-point demands, and also gave an ultimatum to take a decision within 48 hours. Alok Tripathi, unit president of Akhil Bharatiya

Vidyarthi Parishad, Allahabad University, said that this type of irregularity in the teacher recruitment of the university is not only playing with the future of the students but is also a malicious attempt to tarnish the dignity and identity of the university. If the university administration does not take cognizance of this matter within 48 hours, then the student council will be forced to carry out violent agitation. Union Minister Ayushman Chauhan also demanded an investigation into the recruitments done in the past. He said that during the tenure of Prof. Sangeeta Srivastava in the university, no recruitment



has been done in a transparent manner. Student Council will soon demand investigation of these recruitments from the Education Ministry! During this, unit vice president Dheeraj Pandey, joint secretary Rishabh Sharma, Abhay, Shivam, Aman, Vivek, Arpit etc. workers were present.

Rajarshi Purushottam Das Tandon loyal servant of Hindi: Justice Shekhar Kumar Yadav

Prayagraj: Patriot, hard-working yogi, strong orator, dedicated political, exclusive servant of Hindi, social reformer, jailed countless times while fighting the British for the independence of the country. Today's youth can play an important role in nation building by taking inspiration from the sacrifice and simplicity of the life of Bharat Ratna Rajarshi Purushottam Das Tandon ji, the son of the holy land of Prayagraj. The above views were expressed by Honorable Justice Shekhar Kumar Yadav of Allahabad High Court on the occasion of the 142nd birth anniversary celebrations of Rajarshi Purushottam Das Tandon ji organized by Lok Sevak Mandal Prayagraj. While presiding, Lok Sevak Mandal Secretary Brahm Prakash Tiwari said that Tandon ji never compromised with his principles and moral conduct and played an important role in nation building as the National President of Lok Sevak Mandal. Director of Gandhi Academic Institute, Om Prakash Shukla said that the youth should take inspiration from their freedom fighters and become partners in nation building. Senior alumni leader of Allahabad University, Shri Rajesh Singh said that the youth should take inspiration from their great men and become participants in the work of nation building. Play your role. The program was conducted by Akashvani Kendra's announcer Vinay Srivastava and the vote of thanks was given by social worker teacher Shri Narayan Yadav. Shri Lovelesh Singh Prashant Maurya, Anuradha, Ravi, Sagir Ahmed, Guddu, Chandan, Ghanshyam Master, Padma, Jiya, Arvind Chopra, etc. were present in the program.



Editorial

Why Celebrities Are Seeking Legal Protection For Their Personality Rights

The court was also informed that third parties were unfairly benefiting commercially from the sale of merchandise featuring his pictures and voice for ringtones. Most alarming was the online circulation of fake pornographic images and videos of the actor with other actresses. Notably, in its order, the Delhi High Court stated that satirical writing and genuine criticism would be safeguarded and not construed as violations of personality rights. While the word 'Jhakaas' can be used by people, they cannot exploit it commercially in the manner Anil Kapoor does. Similarly, it can be used for satire, criticism or parody, but not for monetary gains. In the Jackie Shroff case as well, the court declined to order the removal of a video titled 'Jackie Shroff is Savage, Jackie Shroff Thug Life', posted on a YouTube channel named 'Thugesh'. The court deemed the video a form of artistic expression and said imposing restrictions would have significant consequences. In the Anil Kapoor case, the court established the protection of personality rights in the realm of AI and deepfakes. However, this hasn't deterred the illegal use of celebrities' personal attributes for financial gains. Regarding the existing laws, advocate Naik says: "I feel the current laws and the jurisprudence that we got from the Delhi High Court in matters of Mr. Bachchan or Mr. Kapoor are good references. I personally feel the time has come for us to protect personality rights.

like the one provided by the Copyright Act." However, the challenge lies in taking tangible action to identify infringers, notify them, and ensure compliance. Jackie Shroff's case marks the first instance of a court restraining an uncensored Chatbot. "There is a need for updated legislation or legal interpretations to address these emerging issues and provide stronger protections for celebrities' persona in the digital age. Additionally, enforcement mechanisms may need to be strengthened to effectively combat the misuse of AI-generated content," observes Masodi. In the online world, cybercriminals exploit AI for nefarious purposes to make money while jeopardising people's reputations. Celebrities are taking the lead, and the courts are establishing principles and precedents. Being vigilant to preempt damage is crucial.

"A few celebrities may choose not to pursue legal action due to various reasons such as the perceived insignificance of unauthorised use, the costs involved in litigation, or a desire to avoid negative publicity," says Shoeb Masodi, Partner, M&P IP PROTECTORS. Personality rights, as the name implies, pertain to the rights associated with the personality of a well-known individual, primarily applicable to celebrities whose names, images or voices are prone to misuse for profit. The concept dictates that only the owner or creator of these attributes has the right to derive monetary benefits from them. Personality rights have gained importance alongside the right to privacy given the kind of fame celebrities enjoy today. In 1995, the Supreme Court recognised a person's right to control the commercial use of one's identity in the R Rajagopal vs. State of Tamil Nadu case, commonly known as the Auto Shankar case. In 2015, the Madras High Court intervened to protect actor Rajinikanth's personality rights, halting the release of the movie Main Hoon Rajinikanth. The filmmakers had utilised the actor's name and style without his express permission, with the title itself serving as a clear indication of its connection to Rajinikanth. In yet another case involving actor Amitabh Bachchan,

the Delhi High Court in November 2022 restrained the use of the actor's name, image, voice.

Hezbollah vs Israel: What happened the last time they went to war in 2006?

The killing of a top Hezbollah commander in Beirut by the Israeli Defence Forces has sparked concerns about a possible war between Israel and the Lebanon-based terror group. The two previously fought a 34-day war in 2006 that ended in a stalemate. But what happened? Hezbollah vs Israel: What happened the last time they went to war in 2006?

Hezbollah on 12 July, 2006, killed three Israeli soldiers and captured two others in what it called operation 'Truthful Promise.' AP

Are Israel and Lebanon's Hezbollah going to war? This is what many are worried about in the aftermath of the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) killing a top Hezbollah commander in Beirut. Israel claimed that the commander Fouad Shukur was allegedly behind the weekend rocket attack that left 12 young people dead in the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights – an assertion that Hezbollah has denied. The two sides have exchanged near-daily strikes for the past 10 months against the backdrop of the war in Gaza, but they have previously kept the conflict at a low level that was unlikely to escalate into full-on war. However, that could now change. "The Israeli enemy has committed a great stupid act in size, timing and circumstances by targeting an entirely civilian area,"



Hezbollah official Ali Ammar told Al-Manar TV.

"The Israeli enemy will pay a price for this sooner or later."

But what happened the last time Israel and Lebanon did battle?

Let's take a closer look:

The war between Israel and Hezbollah kicked off with Hezbollah fighters crossing the border into Israel on July 12, 2006. As per Human Rights Watch, the militants attacked an IDF convoy near the border. They killed three soldiers and kidnapping two others – whom they brought back to Lebanon. The aim of the operation was in keeping with Hassan Nasrallah's objective to capture Israeli soldiers and exchange them for prisoners. Hezbollah also sought the return of the Israeli-occupied Sheba Farms. The terror group then announced it would enter 'indirect negotiations' with Israel. However, then Lebanese prime minister

Fouad Siniora denied that he knew what Hezbollah was planning. In a letter dated July 13, 2006, to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, the Government of Lebanon declared that "[T]he Lebanese Government was not aware of the events that occurred and are occurring on the international Lebanese border" and that "[T]he Lebanese Government is not responsible for these events and does not endorse them."

'Act of war'

However, Israel was having none of it. Minister Ehud Olmert announced that the Lebanon government had committed an 'act of war.' "Lebanon is responsible and Lebanon will bear the consequences of its actions," Olmert vowed. Meanwhile, Israel's chief of staff Dan Halutz said "if the soldiers are not returned, we will turn Lebanon's clock back 20

years," as per ICRC. Udi Adam, the head of Israel's Northern Command, added, "This affair is between Israel and the State of Lebanon. Where to attack? Once it is inside Lebanon, everything is legitimate – not just southern Lebanon, not just the line of Hezbollah posts." The IDF on July 13, 2006, began bombing bridges, roads, and important other Hezbollah positions including Beirut's Rafic Hariri International Airport. Israel also imposed a 'complete blockade' on Lebanon, as per Human Rights Watch. According to CSIS, Hezbollah was taken by complete surprise.

Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah later admitted he would not have started the war had he known its outcome. Reuters

Indeed Nasrallah would later announce that he would not have conducted the operation if he had known about the outcome. But that would come later. Hezbollah's immediate reaction was to fire a hail of rockets at Israel. The terror group is estimated to have fired 4,000 rockets – around 34 on average daily.

As per CSIS, Hezbollah militants hid themselves along trees, patches of vegetation, caves, surface irregularities, and buildings along the slopes of the hills. From here, they launched missiles and rockets at Israeli posi-

tions on the border. They also used civilian infrastructure to hide command centers, ambush Israeli fighters and allow its own militants space to manoeuvre. Hezbollah also used anti-tank guided missiles (ATGMs) to great effect. During the war, ATGMs accounted for the majority of Israeli infantry casualties including 24 tank crewmen. ATGMs also took out 20 tanks. The performance of Hezbollah's militants won praise from Western analysts, as per CSIS. According to ICRC, the government in Lebanon repeatedly asked the United Nations Security Council to call for an 'immediate and unconditional ceasefire' between Israel and Hezbollah.

The ceasefire
The war finally ended with the United Nations Security Council passing Resolution 1701 on August 11, 2006.

The resolution called for a "full cessation of hostilities based upon, in particular, the immediate cessation by Hezbollah of all attacks and the immediate cessation by Israel of all offensive military operations, and emphasising the need to address urgently the causes that have given rise to the current crisis, including by the unconditional release of the abducted Israeli soldiers. The resolution also called for a demilitarised zone on Lebanon's side of the border.

Snatching Mamata's OBC Pie for Muslims, Starving Vote-Bank Politics

"This court's mind is not free from doubt that the said community has been treated as a commodity for political ends. This is clear from the chain of events that led to the classification of the 77 Classes as OBCs and their inclusion to be treated as a vote bank. Identification of the classes in the said community as OBCs for electoral gains would leave them at the mercy of the concerned political establishment and may defeat and deny other rights," it noted. The court observed that the decision of the State was an affront to the Muslim community as it was being treated purely as a vote bank. The National Commission for Backward Castes had discovered that 118 of

179 groups in the Bengal OBC list were Muslims! In the Most Backward Class category, of 81 communities 73 are Muslim and only eight are Hindu. Of the 98 communities in Category B, 45 are Muslim and the rest Hindu. The state's Muslim population in 2011 was 27 per cent. How can one-fourth of the population snatch three-fourths of OBC benefits? Besides, NCBC chairperson Hansraj Gangaram Ahir found that illegal immigrants from Bangladesh and Myanmar's Rohingya had made their way into the beneficiaries list. He said state officials initially claimed that these were Hindus who had later converted to Islam. Asked for proof, they slinked away. Earlier, a

Constitution bench of the Supreme Court under CJI YK Sabharwal had stated that the concerned State will have to "show in each case the existence of the compelling reasons, namely, backwardness, inadequacy of representation and overall administrative efficiency before making provision for reservation...the State has to collect quantifiable data showing backwardness of the class and inadequacy of representation of that class in public employment in addition to compliance of Article 335." The Calcutta High Court has gone as far as calling the practice of arbitrarily giving Muslims a slice of the OBC quota a fraud on the Constitution. "The State has reserved to itself.

What is Australia's world-first peanut allergy treatment for infants?

In a world first, Australia will offer life-saving treatment for babies allergic to peanuts. The country, which is dubbed the 'allergy capital of the world', has about 3 per cent of children who develop peanut allergies by the time they turn one year old.

What is Australia's world-first peanut allergy treatment for infants? Babies with peanut allergy in Australia will be fed peanut powder to build tolerance. Representational Image/Pixabay

Australia is taking steps to tackle peanut allergy in babies. The country has launched a nationwide programme to build immunity for those allergic to peanuts. Touted as the world's first, the initiative entails life-saving treatment for babies with potentially deadly peanut allergies. Ten paediatric hospitals in five states have joined hands with the National Allergy Centre of Excellence (NACE) to roll out the peanut oral immunotherapy (OIT) programme, reported ABC (Australian Broadcasting Corporation). How will it work and why has Australia launched the ambitious plan? We explain.

What's a food allergy?
Food allergy is an abnormal response of the body to certain foods. When the body's immune system feels a "dan-

ger" to your health, it generates immunoglobulin E or IgE antibodies, according to Johns Hopkins. These react to the food, causing allergy symptoms such as hives, asthma, itching in the mouth, stomach pains, vomiting, or diarrhoea. Severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) includes symptoms like difficulty in breathing, wheezing or persistent cough, swelling of the tongue or throat, difficulty talking, and continuous dizziness or collapse. Eggs, peanuts, cow's milk, shellfish, fish, tree nuts, soybeans and wheat are some of the most common allergy-inducing foods in Australia, reported The Guardian. Peanut is one of the most common allergy-causing foods in Australia. Representational Image/Pixabay

Australia's world-first peanut allergy treatment Australia will offer oral immunotherapy to babies with a peanut allergy. As per BBC, eligible babies will be given peanut powder every day for two years, which will help in building up their tolerance. The doses will be increased over time so that their sensitivity to peanuts can be reduced. The initiative will be carried out under the supervision of select paediatric hospitals around the country. "This is a slow process. Under supervision, each child has increases in

dose each month at a level that shouldn't cause a reaction for that child," programme medical lead Dr Tim Brettig told ABC. "Eventually they will reach a maintenance dose, where they'll then stay and continue this dose for up to two years before stopping to see if this treatment has been effective." Only children under 12 months who have been diagnosed with a peanut allergy and are getting care at one of the 10 participating hospitals will be eligible for the programme, reported BBC. The peanut powder will be given to infants mixed into other foods. With this, the hope is to increase the tolerance threshold and decrease the risk posed by peanuts to allergic babies. "In some cases, [the threshold] might be so high that they can eat peanut in their diet freely, for others it might raise it to a level where accidental exposures wouldn't result in an allergic reaction," Brettig was quoted as saying by BBC. After the end of two years, a food allergy test will be done to ascertain if treatment led to remission, reported AFP. Doctors have warned families against trying oral immunotherapy at home without supervision. "This programme follows a carefully planned dosing schedule and children are under the strict medical supervision."

The Massacre Law': Why Turkey wants to cull 4 million stray dogs

On Tuesday, Turkey approved a controversial bill that aims to regulate millions of stray dogs. Although many of them are harmless, a growing number are congregating in packs, and numerous people have been attacked in Istanbul and elsewhere. The government estimates that around four million stray dogs roam on the streets and rural areas. Opposition lawmakers, animal welfare groups and others have dubbed the bill the 'massacre law'.

A stray dog rests on a banner that reads "#Withdraw the legislation" during a protest by animal rights activists in Ankara, Turkey, Monday, July 29, 2024. On Tuesday, the country approved a controversial bill that aims to regulate millions of stray dogs. This comes despite massive protests against the law over the past few weeks, occasionally scuffling with police and carrying banners that read, "You cannot kill them," and "Take back the massacre law." Animal lovers and advocates fear many canines would be killed or end up in neglected, overcrowded

shelters. New rules Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, whose ruling AK Party proposed the bill, told legislators, "Although some people persistently ignore it, Turkey has a stray dog problem." According to The Associated Press, deputies in the Turkish Grand National Assembly approved the law after a tense, marathon overnight session as the government pushed to have it passed before the summer recess. The bill was approved with 275 votes in favour and 225 against. The full assembly will have a

final vote in the coming days. Under the new rules, municipalities will have to collect stray dogs and house them in shelters, where they will be neutered and spayed. Animal rights activists stage a days-long protest in a public garden in Ankara, Turkey, late Tuesday, July 23, 2024. AP The law requires all municipalities to spend at least 0.3 per cent of their annual budget on animal rehabilitation services and building or upgrading shelters, though they will be given until 2028 to do so, as per Reuters.

Jagdeep Dhankhar defends RSS in Rajya Sabha, opposition protests

NEW DELHI: Rajya Sabha chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on Wednesday strongly defended the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and said it had "unimpeachable credentials" and he would not permit any member to single out an organisation which was "doing national service". Dhankhar's comments came after SP member Ramji Lal Suman, while talking about National Testing Agency chairman, said for BJP, a person's calibre was measured by whether he was from RSS or not. Dhankhar immediately intervened and said, "I hereby rule that RSS is an organisation that has full constitutional rights to participate in the development journey of this nation. This organisation bears unimpeachable credentials, comprises of people who are deeply committed to serving



the nation selflessly." He further said, "RSS is an organisation which is a global think tank of the highest order." This led to a furore as the opposition, led by LoP Mallikarjun Kharge, protested and said the member be allowed to express his views. Kharge said if a member was speaking within rules and not violating any rule, he or she should not be prevented from making his statement. He went on to say that what Suman said was "correct" and what Dhankhar was doing was not right. The chairman said

Kharge indicated that the chair could intervene when there was a transgression of rules. "I agree with that. The member wasn't transgressing rules, he was trampling on the Constitution. I won't permit a member to single out an organisation which is doing national service. This is a violation of the Constitution." Dhankhar said he'd noticed that "people are engaging in divisive activities", adding that "this is a pernicious design, a sinister mechanism to run down the growth of the country".

7 tribal BJP MLAs skip assembly session

Ten tribal MLAs, seven of them from BJP, skipped the first day of the Manipur legislative assembly monsoon session on Wednesday over security concerns. They also have been demanding a separate administration for tribals in the state. The current session, till August 12, is the third since the ethnic violence broke out on May 3 last year.

Stage set to shift National Museum to North Block

NEW DELHI: The Centre is gradually putting in place the building blocks for Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum (YYBM), having completed a survey of the North Block, where the National Museum will be relocated in the first phase, before the South Block is also utilised. Next up are consultations with 106 state and university museums, a new law that will

also address the large manpower requirement, and the award of architectural contracts. The culture ministry, which is driving the ambitious project to build the world's largest museum spread over almost 1.6 lakh square metres, is going beyond its physical infrastructure to address several other features. It has already held consulta-

tions with central govt agencies, including Special Protection Group and Delhi Fire Services, as well as several other service providers. The ministry, over the next few days, will hold consultations with state and university museums to showcase their artefact collections. Additionally, they will explore the possibility of conservation efforts.

Campaign Launch: #GetMonsoonReady with Forever Living Products (India)

New Delhi: As the monsoon season brings relief from the summer heat, it also introduces challenges like flooding, infections, and gut health issues. During this time, it's essential to take extra care of our health by adopting preventive measures. To support your health and well-being, Forever Living Products (India) has launched the #GetMonsoonReady campaign, featuring a range of natural health and nutritional products. Join the Campaign:

#GetMonsoonReady Forever Living Products invites you to participate in the #GetMonsoonReady campaign. Share a photo along with a quote about how you protect your hair and skin during the monsoon. Tag us on Instagram @FLPIndia The month-long campaign will also include engaging activities like quizzes, crosswords, polls, relevant contests and new product launches. One can also share nostalgic memories with your loved ones from past monsoon seasons. Winners of the campaign will be celebrated in the first week of September at our corporate office in Gurugram and will have the opportunity to meet Mr. Harish Singla, Country Sales Manager of Forever Living Products (India). Featured Products for Monsoon Health 1. Complete Immune Support: Boost your immune



system during the rainy season with Forever ImmuBlend™. This supplement supports and strengthens your immune system, promoting immune cell production to keep infections at bay. 2. Better Nutrient Absorption: Aloe Vera's natural cleansing abilities help your digestive tract absorb nutrients from food, promoting healthy digestion and immune health. Forever Aloe Vera Gel® contains 99.7% pure inner leaf aloe vera gel with no added preservatives, supporting nutrient absorption and a

healthy digestive system. 3. Digestive System Support: Enjoy your favorite monsoon snacks without worrying about gut health. Forever Active Pro-B™ is a probiotic that promotes healthy digestion, containing six synergistic strains with over 8 billion CFU, and supports immunity. 4. Healthy Skin and Fresh Feel:

Combat the varying humidity of the monsoon season with Forever Living Products Aloe Vera Gelly. It soothes, moisturizes, and conditions sensitive tissue. Stay fresh all day with Forever's Dream

and Desire no-gas deodorants, which contain 2X perfume for long-lasting freshness. A Message from Mr. Harish Singla, CSM, Forever Living Products (India) "Every Forever supplement has a story to tell. Every time you think about Forever, think about the high quality 'from plant to product to you.' We combine the best of science and nature with advanced technology to ensure you receive the highest quality products. The story of every supplement begins with us and continues with you."



6-year-old carries dad's pistol to school, 'mistakenly' pulls trigger on boy, 10

PATNA: A six-year-old pre-primary student of a Bihar school carried his father's licensed pistol to class Wednesday and ended up "mistakenly" pulling the trigger on a 10-year-old boy inside a classroom. The bullet struck the Class III student's left palm. Police said the owner of the gun, a guard at the same school in Supaul district's Triveniganj, took away his son and the weapon after being informed of the shooting. Both have been untraceable since. Triveniganj SDPO Bipin Kumar said the injured child's relatives vandalised the school and blocked the town's main road until police intervened. The boy is out of danger, he said. Investigators dismissed speculation about the shooting being linked to a land dispute involving the school and the injured student's family. "How the child entered the campus with a gun in his bag is the focus of the investigation. The boy who was shot at told police that he had nothing against the junior who fired the weapon," Kumar said. "Prima facie, the bullet was fired mistakenly. More will be known once we trace father and child," the SDPO added.

Swine flu toll 150 till June, up from 2023 tally of 129

NEW DELHI: As of June 30, nearly 150 people have died due to seasonal influenza A (H1N1), also known as swine flu, across India, according to data from the National Centre for Disease Control. Punjab reported 41 deaths, followed by Gujarat (27), Haryana (26) and Maharashtra (16). Delhi did not report any deaths this year, but did record 1,563 cases. Govt data recorded 7,215 cases of swine flu across India as of June 30. India reported 129 H1N1 deaths and 8,125 cases last year.

India, China agree to sustain 'momentum' in border talks

NEW DELHI: Amid signs of a renewed effort by India and China to resolve the military standoff in eastern Ladakh, India and China held another round of diplomatic talks for an early completion of the disengagement process that India sees as essential for resuming normal bilateral exchanges. While there was no breakthrough in the talks as the situation at Demchok and Depsang, the two remaining fric-



tions points, remains the same, India said in a statement the discussion was in-depth, constructive and forward-looking. Both sides also agreed to maintain the "momentum" through the established diplomatic and

military channels. The talks followed two meetings in a span of three weeks last month between foreign minister S Jaishankar and his counterpart Wang Yi in which they agreed to work with a sense of pur-

pose for full disengagement. In their last meeting in Vientiane, Jaishankar and Wang also agreed on the need for "strong guidance" to achieve the same. Further to discussions between the two foreign ministers in their recent meetings, according to the Indian readout, the two sides reviewed the current situation along the LAC with a view to finding an early resolution of the outstanding issues.

BSF woman constable drives back armed Bangladeshi intruders in West Bengal

KOLKATA: A BSF constable took on a gang of 13-14 armed intruders near the border outpost in Bengal's Ranaghat on Wednesday and managed to drive them back into Bangladesh even after she was surrounded. BSF officials said around 2am, the constable spotted the intruders, armed with knives and swords, crossing the border fence. "She charged at the intruders and gave a verbal warning, but they entered

the Indian territory, surrounded the constable and attacked her. By then, a fellow jawan responded to her alarm and threw a stun grenade towards the intruders," BSF South Bengal Frontier spokesperson DIG AK Arya said. As the intruders continued their ascent, the constable fired at them, pushing them back into Bangladesh. Arya said BSF was not ruling out the possibility of an

intruder getting injured. "This is not an isolated incident. Such attacks have been made on jawans by cattle smugglers and intruders at the border outposts of Krishnanagar, sector headquarters in Nadia, Bamanabad, Rajanagar and Behrampur recently. Jawans had to fire in self-defence and have foiled incidents of smuggling and illegal intrusion. They have seized illegal drugs, animals and

other illegal items," Arya said. The Ranaghat incident comes a day after a jawan was injured while successfully foiling a smuggling attempt on the India-Bangladesh border near Madhubana outpost in Behrampur. Officials said 8-10 smugglers were spotted by the jawan and as he challenged them, they attacked him. He fired at the smugglers, pushing them back.

Om Birla warns opposition MPs over placards in Lok Sabha

Opposition MPs protested in Lok Sabha over Anurag Thakur's jibe at Rahul Gandhi regarding his campaign for caste census. The protests led Speaker Om Birla to warn MPs against bringing placards into the House or preventing members from asking questions. MPs from Congress, DMK, SP and Sena (UBT), trooped into the well of the House and raised slogans even as

Lok Sabha transacted Question Hour proceedings. Birla warned Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi for preventing his own party MP from asking questions. He said members should refrain from such conduct or bring placards in the House. Later, parliamentary affairs minister Kiren blamed Congress and Rahul Gandhi for protesting against Thakur's dig at Rahul for not revealing his caste.

'Sure sign of ... ': On Gadkari's letter to Sitharaman, Congress takes 'dissent' jibe

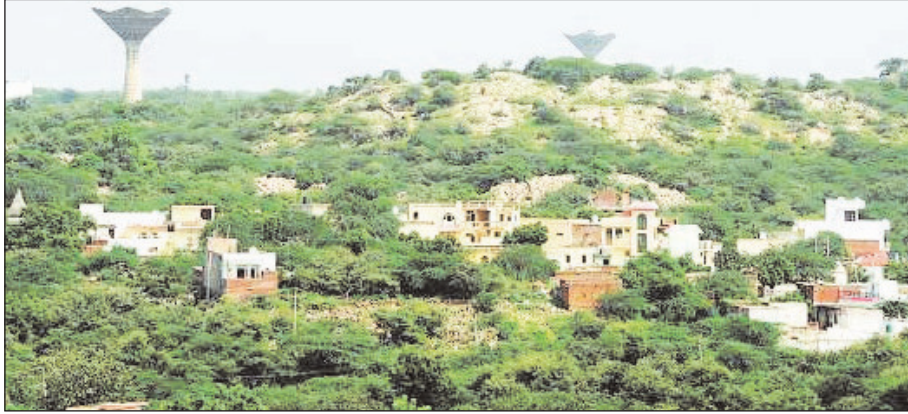


NEW DELHI: The Congress on Wednesday targeted the BJP over road transport and highways minister Nitin Gadkari's letter to finance minister Nirmla Sitharaman, calling it a "sure sign of internal dissent and rumblings" against Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In his letter, Gadkari requested Sitharaman to withdraw the 18 per cent Goods and Services Tax (GST) on life and medical insurance premiums. Union minister

Nitin Gadkari relayed the concerns of the Nagpur Division Life Insurance Corporation Employees Union, which had presented him a memorandum addressing issues in the insurance industry. Referring to the memo regarding issues in the insurance industry, road transport and highway minister said, "Levying GST on life insurance premiums amounts to levying tax on the uncertainties of life. The Union feels that the person who

covers the risk of life's uncertainties to protect their family should not be taxed on the premiums paid to purchase this cover." Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh responded on X, sharing Gadkari's letter as indicative of dissent within the government. Ramesh said, "Mr. Nitin Jairam Gadkari's letter to the FM on the Budget is a sure sign of internal dissent and rumblings against the non-biological PM."

Illegal Farmhouses Threaten Aravalli Hills Ecosystem: Sohna, Gurgaon



Delhi: Illegal farmhouses are destroying trees in the Aravalli Hills, particularly near Sohna's Gair Mumkin Pahar. Section 4 of the Punjab Land Preservation Act (PLPA) makes the Aravalli Hills uncultivable and needs government authorization to chop trees. A rise in illegal farmhouses threatens the national treasure of Aravalli trees and the delicate ecological balance of the surrounding area. Illegal farmhouses have long colonized the Aravalli Hills, but the situation has grown. Stakeholders and environmentalists are concerned about landowners blatantly felling trees.

Unchecked deforestation is destroying Raisina Hills' beauty, a worrying trend. Villagers say that illegal farmhouse owners take down trees, add stones, and install iron gates. These activities involve clearing forested areas to build approach roads to their farmhouses. Gates restrict

locals' access and the government's action. Recent forest department and local government operations have destroyed several illegal farmhouses, but a worrying analysis found that more than 500 new farmhouses were built in 2022. Even the Forest Department doesn't grasp the latest farm-

house development boom. The causes of this unlawful activity surge are unclear, making regulatory work difficult. The lack of a unified plan to combat this problem makes illegal farmhouses thrive. A concerted effort by local communities, government institutions, and environmental groups

is essential. Waking up is important to solve this problem and address its causes. There is an urgent need to address the proliferation of illegal farmhouses in the Aravalli Hills, particularly in Gair Mumkin Pahar. These constructions' unrestrained development and environmental violations will threaten the Aravalli ecosystem. Local communities' rights and well-being will be violated. Governments, environmentalists, and local stakeholders must work together to solve this problem. They should enforce laws and adopt sustainable methods to protect the Aravalli Hills' natural heritage.

India rice stocks three times target, alleviating supply concerns



Delhi: Two government sources in India, the world's second-largest rice producer, reported that rice stocks were nearly three times their target at the start of August. The surplus will boost market hopes of fresh Delhi lifting a recent export prohibition, along with the fresh season crop expected in October. Last month, the world's top rice exporter abruptly halted non-Basmati white rice exports, sending prices to multi-year highs. On August 1, state warehouses had 37.6 million metric tons of Indian rice, including unmilled husk varieties, sources told Reuters. Rice suits us "unidentified source said. Our supplies are sufficient as we near the end of the 2022-23 rice marketing year. Next crop is around the corner. "Sources reported

24.6 million metric tons of rice and 13 million metric tons of unmilled rice on Aug. 1.

Local government regulations require state-run warehouses to have 13.5 million metric tons of rice, including Strategic Reserves of 2 million for the quarter starting July 1. Rice is planted in June and July in India, and harvesting begins in October. The Food Corporation of India (FCI), India's primary grain importer, would increase state granary rice inventories with new season purchas-

es. FCI purchased 84.6 million metric tons of rice paddy from domestic farmers in 2022-23, yielding 57 million tons. Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare: Indian farmers harvested a record 135.5 million metric tons of rice in 2022-23. According to the weather service, eastern Indian rice-growing states may receive excess rainfall in August. A good crop will require FCI to acquire lots of rice from farmers, strengthening government granary inventories.

Publicize child begging helpline

Delhi: In a PIL against child begging, a bench led by acting chief justice Manmohan was informed by the Delhi government that anyone can report an event on the hotline, and a mechanism has been built to counsel and transmit the situation. After hearing the authorities, the court closed the PIL and ordered Delhi to provide an affidavit of compliance after eight weeks. The writ petition was dismissed, and the court, including Justice Tushar Rao Gedela, ordered respondents to promote the child hotline number 1098. Standing coun-



sel Santosh Kumar Tripathi represented the Delhi government, which assured the court that a framework is in place to respond to child beggars.

He also said out-of-school youngsters are being identified and admitted to schools. Residents can now record sightings

and help relocate animals for safer routes. Road accidents must be prevented, says the chief minister.

Discover how scoliosis affects child development. Discover the value of early diagnosis and treatment. How to help scoliosis-afflicted kids live better.

Used truck prices rise as logistics companies slash costs

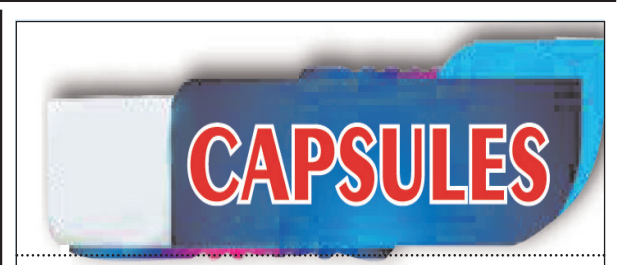
USED TRUCK PRICES ON THE UPSWING			
GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT (TONNE)	Jun-24	Jun-23	YOY Change
1.5 to 2	₹3,29,727	₹2,39,490	38%
2 to 3.5	₹5,82,400	₹4,76,462	22%
3.5 to 7.5	₹6,39,000	₹5,29,000	21%
7.5 to 16	₹8,10,000	₹7,55,833	7%
16 to 19	₹9,63,000	₹8,83,500	9%
25 to 28.5	₹13,60,000	₹12,88,000	6%
31 to 36	₹15,77,000	₹11,00,000	43%
37 to 43.5	₹16,00,000	₹13,50,750	18%
All vehicles are five years old			

Delhi: Used truck prices rose double-digits year-over-year for light commercial vehicles. A 38% increase in used vehicle costs for 1.5- to 2-tonne vehicles. The 2 to 3.5 tonne category rose 22% and the 3.5 to 7.5 section 21%. The only other segment with bigger price hikes was 31 to 36 tonnes, but truck marketers said this was a distortion because few higher GVW trucks are repossessed. The smaller tonnage unorganized fleet for inter and intra city logistics has been switching from new to old trucks in the recent year. Price hikes and logistics market stress due to inconsistent freight rate increases are to blame. Ashutosh Pandey, CEO, Mahindra First Choice Wheels, said smaller unorganized

fleet owners must cut costs and utilize 40% cheaper trucks. Marketers say the move toward used trucks has been obvious for about two years. Shriram Finance spokesman: "Over the past two years, prices for all types of used commercial vehicles, BS IV or BS VI, have increased 25-30%." "The subdued sales during 2019-22 have resulted in a shortage of supply in the used truck market." The used truck industry is booming, and prices are projected to stay high as new vehicle prices rise. The current batch of new trucks (one or two years old) will be available pre-owned after a few years. "This could potentially drive sustained growth in the used vehicle segment," he said.

Cruel to crush the snouts of dogs such as pugs

Delhi: PETA India announced that it would be conducting an appeal in advance of World Plastic Surgery Day to remind people that, although humans may have a choice in the form of their nose, pet dog breeds like pugs and other flat-faced dogs do not. According to PETA, those who are kind hearted should never purchase them since they are purposefully and cruelly bred to have a nose so compressed it makes it impossible for them to even breathe. According to PETA, a number of cities, including Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Kolkata, will host the awareness campaign at the same time. Marine Lines in Mumbai will have a massive billboard up. Pugs and other breathing-impaired breeds (BIB)—such as shih tzus, boxers, Boston terriers, French and English bulldogs, Pekingese, and Cavalier King Charles spaniels—suffer from brachycephalic syndrome.



Government bans pro-Khalistan SFJ for 5 years, citing anti-India actions

Delhi: The Centre has declared pro-Khalistan outfit Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) a 'unlawful association' for another five years, citing its continued anti-India and subversive activities and support for violent extremism in Punjab and elsewhere to create a sovereign Khalistan. On July 10, 2019, UAPA banned SFJ as a 'unlawful association' for its aggressive 'Referendum 2020' campaign for a Khalistan state on social media and in countries with large Sikh diaspora. In notification, MHA warned that SFJ, without immediate curbs on its unlawful activities, may escalate its attempts to carve out a Khalistan nation from Indian territory by destabilizing the lawful government; continue advocating secession of Punjab from the Union of India and formation of Khalistan; propagate anti-national and separatist sentiments prejudicial to territorial integrity and security; and escalate secessionist movements.



Delhi raised pollution certificate prices

Delhi: The Delhi administration has immediately changed two-, three-, and four-wheeler pollution-checking rates. Rates for petrol, CNG, and LPG two-wheelers and three-wheelers have been revised to ₹80. New pricing for fuel, CNG, and LPG four-wheelers are now ₹110. Diesel owners will pay 140 extra. The national capital's PUC rates were updated after 13 years. In response to increased pollution checking costs, Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot told PTI that PUC charges were revised. Gahlot stated, "We revised the charges to meet the Delhi Petrol Dealers Association's long-standing demands and escalating pollution inspection costs. We are committed to safeguarding Delhi's air quality and ensuring all vehicles fulfill pollution limits." Two- and three-wheeler pollution-checking fees for petrol, CNG, or LPG have increased from 60 to 80. However, the price of four-wheelers has risen by 30 from 80 to 110. The maximum PUC certificate increment for diesel automobiles is 100 to 140. Vehicle requirements limit PUC certificate validity. Car and two-wheeler owners must renew their PUC certificate every six months after a year for a new vehicle.



Government will sell wheat

Delhi: In order to sell FCI's wheat stock, the food ministry has set a minimum sale price of Rs 2,325/quintal for private bulk buyers like millers, below the market price of Rs 2,400/quintal. The minimum rice price for bulk buyers is Rs 2,800/quintal. Prices do not include FCI depot transportation. The ministry stated in an official notification that FCI will discuss



with the ministry to determine the quantity of grain inventories to be offloaded after considering PDS stock,

buffer norms, and 20 lakh tons. FCI has 289 lakh tonnes of wheat. Government may lift rice export prohibition and resume wheat sales. Minimum sale prices for FCI wheat and rice holdings.

A group of ministers will decide on export ban removal. Pre-registering farmers for urad procurement by government cooperatives.

Central armed police chiefs promise a 10% quota for ex-Agnives

Delhi: Heads of various central armed police forces (CAPFs) reiterated their commitment to implement a 10% quota for ex-Engineers in all constable-level posts, saying the forces will benefit from trained and disciplined manpower.

Protection Force (RPF) stating that ex-Agnives will receive 10% CAPF quotas. The DGs in these videos mention the recruitment rules amendments for each CAPF that relaxed ex-Agniveers. These include exemption from the physical efficiency exam and age relaxation of five years for the first cohort of ex-Agniveers and three years for succeeding batches.

"All CRPF ex-Agniveer recruitment arrangements are complete. Due to their Army discipline, Agnives will be valuable.

Delhi: Congress sources claimed a two-member fact-finding committee sent by the party's central leadership to investigate its capital loss met with all candidates and top officials in recent days. Every candidate and Delhi official said AAP's elected officials and staffers didn't molest them. Anonymity claims AAP's support for Congress did not convert on any of the three seats. Top party official, requesting "The fact-finding committee will soon hand over the report to the central leadership for its consideration," he said. Congress and



AAP, the two parties of opposition's INDIA alliance, shared seats in the capital and contested the Lok Sabha election to avoid splitting anti-BJP support. AAP won four seats and Congress three after winning two straight assembly polls by a big mandate and the recent MCD polls. BJP won 54.3%, AAP 24.1%, and Congress 19.1%. AAP

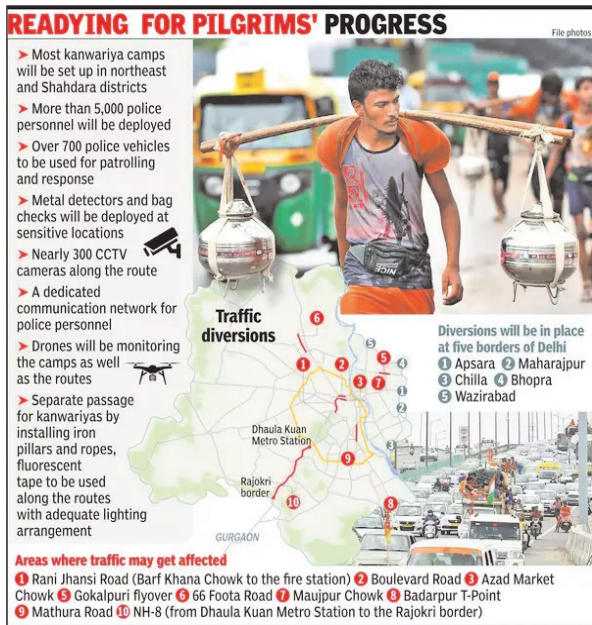
national convener and Delhi CM They worried that if their supporters voted for Congress today, they wouldn't vote for AAP in Delhi assembly elections in Jan-Feb next year "said a senior party official. Several days before the nomination process, we announced our candidacy. In places where its candidates ran, AAP has sent

activists from all constituencies. Senior AAP leaders refused to send personnel to our districts, another Congress man claimed. Senior Congress officials told the committee that many party workers were unhappy with the AAP collaboration. "Some party members also disliked the nomination of two outsiders. Meanwhile, AAP and Congress have stated that their cooperation is restricted to Lo Sabha elections and that they will compete in the Delhi assembly elections separately.

Kanwar Removed Yatra With Cameras And Drones For Tech Boost This Year

Police expect traffic delays, especially near Delhi, due to yatra diversions. Most Kanwariya camps are in Shahdara and North East

Delhi: The city will have around 5,000 police and 700 police cars to secure the Kanwar Yatra. Police expect traffic delays, especially near Delhi, due to yatra diversions. Most Kanwariya camps are in Shahdara and North



East. To prevent accidents, critical areas will have metal detectors and bag checks. When Kanwariyas pass along the route, at least 2,000 troops and 100 vehicles

will be needed in the two districts. "Installing iron pillars, ropes, and neon tapes will form Kanwariya corridors. Good illumination would be provided "A

Delhi Police officer said this will let yatriis go around and avoid chaos. Over 300 CCTV cameras and drones will monitor camps and routes. Police will have a dedicated communication network to coordinate and respond quickly to situations. Identified sensitive places will receive additional personnel. Kanwariyas will remain in Shahdara district, where the route has three zones for greater supervision. A police source said the route would have 68 security checkpoints. "In all, 181 CCTV cameras will be installed along the route, apart from the ones in the camps where the Kanwariyas will stay," he said. DCP

(Shahdara) Surendra Chaudhary and DCP (Northeast) Joy Tirkey briefed stakeholders on the measures. At five border points—Apsara, Maharajpur, Chilla, Bhopra, and Wazirabad—the yatra will diverge. Heavy commercial vehicle routes will be changed to reduce congestion. Boulevard Road, Azad Market Chowk, and Rani Jhansi Road from Baraf Khana Chowk to the fire station are expected to face traffic interruptions. 66 Foota Road, Maujpur Chowk, Badarpur T-Point, Mathura Road, and NH-8, especially from Dhaula Kuan metro station to Rajokri border, were also disrupted.

Must use tech to speed justice

Delhi: Delhi High Court acting chief justice Justice Manmohan stressed the need to use technology to improve the legal system and eliminate justice delays. He spoke at the launch of a pilot 'hybrid court' featuring speech-to-text. "We must employ technology to better the legal system to bring criminals to justice and reduce delays. To ensure the system functions correctly, good technology must be introduced." Justice Manmohan called the speech-to-text evidence recording facility a "very powerful weapon" that may be a "game changer". Speech-to-text combines automatic speech recognition and big language models to efficiently convert spoken words to text. The Digital Court app, which allows access to all e-filed cases and ensures that all physical documents presented in court have digital copies in the case infor-



mation system, was praised by Justice Manmohan for its use of artificial intelligence (AI). AG: "We are trying to promote paperless courts," "Everyone is making an effort and the IT committee headed by Justice Rajiv Shakder is doing a great job." But he also considered how technology was utilized to conduct crimes. "Today, when I sit in court and decide matters, one of the things that strikes me is that technology is being used to circumvent the laws, to break the laws, to promote infringements," stated. With the law is again to use technology in the right way."

Technology could assist relieve court staff shortages, the justice

said. "All the justices wanting many stenographers is my biggest concern as chief justice. The supply is low. He believed speech-to-text would solve the problem, especially for joint registrars and district judiciaries recording evidence, by freeing up a large pool of stenographers for other uses. Justice Manmohan also addressed judicial finances. "We need more money. Of course, the state has priorities. The ACJ noted there was a money dispute that must be resolved. He stated that hybrid court facilities were being developed in all 691 Delhi district courtrooms with a budget of Rs 387 crore.

No FASTag on windshield, twice cost.

Delhi: If you keep your vehicle's FASTag in your wallet or hand, NH toll gates charge double. NHMCL, the agency under National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), published the new regulation amid reports of people still using smart tags to cheat the system in closed tolling segments including expressways and greenfield highways. NHMCL stated in a policy circular that toll operators or collection agencies will charge the "user fee equivalent to two times" of the applicable charge if a vehicle



entering "FASTag lanes" doesn't have a windshield tag. It has ordered toll collectors to post this information, including penalties, at plazas. Toll collectors must "store the CCTV footage with clear vehicle registration number" of vehicles when collecting the double user fee. In case of dispute, this will be

evidence. NHAI officials said this was done to improve toll plaza efficiency and stop revenue leaks. They said people have sought to escape tolls on Allahabad Bypass, Amritsar-Jamnagar Expressway, and other greenfield highways by using FASTags not fastened to the windshield. Since such highways have near tolling, the user fee is deducted only when a vehicle exits. A spokesperson said customers have avoided exit tolls by exhibiting FASTags in their wallets or vehicles.

Used truck prices rise as logistics companies slash costs

DOUBLE TROUBLE: OVER AND UNDER THE GROUND

GROUNDWATER SITUATION AT DELHI'S THREE LANDFILLS

Location	TDS (mg/l)	Chloride (mg/l)	Hardness as CaCO ₃ (mg/l)
Ghaziपुर landfill			
Desirable limit for drinking water	500	250	300
Ghaziपुर dairy farm, lane no. 4	1,370	1,540	490
Ghaziपुर landfill site, near entry gate	890	1,625	420
Bhalswa landfill			
Desirable limit for drinking water	500	250	300
Bhalswa landfill site	5,280	2,390	1,060
Bhalswa dairy	3,330	1,495	900
Okhla landfill			
Desirable limit for drinking water	500	250	300
Okhla landfill site	1,990	965	1,090
Okhla bus depot	2,880	990	1,150

TDS: Total dissolved solids, CaCO₃: Calcium carbonate

Delhi:

According to senior civic officials, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) is expanding two waste-to-energy (WtE) plants in Okhla and Tehkhand, southeast Delhi, to process waste from Shahdara's north and south zones and reduce the burden on the Ghaziपुर landfill. The daily capacity of each facility will increase by 1,000 tonne. On July 7, the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission approved the Okhla plant's 40 MW increase from 23MW, a senior MCD official said. The Tehkhand plant proposal is also seeking environmental permission, the official said. The Okhla plant processes 1,950 tonnes

of garbage daily, and with another boiler unit, we can feed 2,950 tonnes of new waste daily. The source said the Okhla facility received environmental permission last year and will raise its power output from 25MW to 40MW by increasing its capacity from 2,000 tonne to 3,000 tonne. Shahdara North generates 1,250 tonne of waste daily and South 1,200. Most of this goes to the Ghaziपुर landfill, but its WtE can only process 1,300 tons per day. According to a February 2023 report submitted to the National Green Tribunal (NGT), Delhi generates 11,332 tonne of waste daily, 8,066 of which are processed by segregation, recycling.

The CBI searches three city police stations and arrests five officers for bribery

Delhi: The CBI raided three police stations in the city and arrested five personnel on bribery allegations as part of its drive on Delhi Police corruption. In a trap operation last week, the agency apprehended an inspector-rank officer. Agency stormed Patparganj police station in east Delhi, where Apoorva Gupta is DCP. According to



accounts, two cops were detained here. Four officers from another east Delhi police station were detained two weeks ago for threatening to book a businessman on money laundering

charges and extorting Rs 24 lakh. Additionally, a station inspector was arrested. District-level senior officials will be investigated in the current raid. An SI was arrested at Hauz Khas police station in another raid, an official said. CBI registered investigations after receiving information that cops demanded bribes from complainants in several cases. CBI then set a

PWD cancels Delhi's Najafgarh-Phirni flyover

Delhi: Officials say the Public Works Department (PWD) abandoned a 4.8km flyover on the Najafgarh-Phirni route to decongest the stretch after it was judged impracticable. The road will be modified, an official stated. "This road's decongestion will be addressed at the grade level. He stated that the zone maintenance wing will do this. PWD proposed the project in January 2023 and delivered it to UTTIPEC in June. One of 77 road intervention plans around traffic hotspots selected by authorities to decongest the city. Najafgarh-Phirni, a

major Delhi-Haryana road, typically has significant traffic jams during peak hours. The project included an elevated corridor to make Outer Delhi-Haryana transportation easier. Officials say the changes will reduce traffic on Najafgarh-Phirni, Kapashera, Dhansa, and Bahadurgarh highways. Last year, the government said the elevated corridor will assist over 200 nearby colonies. Footpaths, cycling lanes, and green spaces will be built as part of the street connectivity plan. Streetlights and high-tension electrical wires may be moved.

Kanwar Yatra guidelines issued, but Delhi citizens skeptical

Delhi: In light of motorists and residents' harrowing experiences due to the flouting of norms and widespread disturbance caused by Kanwar Yatra pilgrimage participants, especially late-night loud music, Delhi Police issued a series of advisories to Kanwar camp organizers to reduce confusion. The camps must refrain from playing music after 10pm, limit its volume, and not infringe on traffic lanes. This is done every year, but the Kanwariyas—devotees on the yatra—usually ignore it. Residents and members of the city's



resident welfare associations (RWAs), especially those living along the Kanwar Yatra paths, remain suspicious about the warning causing any on-the-ground change and insist that police preparations will again remain on paper. They blame the city police and other authorities for turning a blind eye every year as unruly

groups of people cause widespread commotion across the city during Kanwar Yatra. Loud music and giant boom boxes on trucks playing songs at deafening volumes throughout the night have become a routine annual affair, and the inability of authorities to contain the menace has emboldened lawbreakers. Eight main routes

will take the Kanwar Yatra through the city. Entrance from Apsara border leads to Seelampur flyover, Kashmir Gate, Rani Jhansi Road, Upper Ridge Road, Dhaula Kuan, and exit from Rajokri border in Haryana.

Kanwariyas can also enter Delhi via the Bhopura border and escape via the Outer Ring Road via Tikri or Singhu for Haryana. East Delhi's other major highways are Maharajpur and Ghaziपुर, and Kanwariyas pass through Kalindi Kunj and Badarpur.

Airport liquor store operating 24/7 in Delhi

Delhi: A 24x7 liquor store in Terminal 3's domestic arrival wing at Indira Gandhi International airport reopened nearly two years after it was closed due to a change in excise policy following a CBI inquiry into alleged excise policy irregularities. Delhi Consumer's Cooperative Wholesale Store Ltd., one of four government agencies handling all liquor stores in the state, received an L10 liquor license from the excise department. Around 140 retail liquor outlets are operated by DCCWS around the city. Store hours are 24x7, but only T3 passengers can enter. Duty-free shops are separate for international arrivals. "The 750-square-foot liquor store is self-service and walk-in. An informed official claimed all and international whisky, beer, gin, and vodka brands, as well.

Campaign Launch: #GetMonsoonReady with Forever Living Products (India)

New Delhi: As the monsoon season brings relief from the summer heat, it also introduces challenges like flooding, infections, and gut health issues. During this time, it's essential to take extra care of our health by adopting preventive measures. To support your health and well-being, Forever Living Products (India) has launched the #GetMonsoonReady campaign, featuring a range of natural health and nutritional products. Join the Campaign: #GetMonsoonReady Forever Living Products invites you to participate in the #GetMonsoonReady campaign. Share a photo along with a quote about how you protect your hair and skin during the monsoon. Tag us on Instagram @FLPIndia The month-long campaign will also include engaging activities like quizzes, crosswords, polls, relevant contests and new product launches. One can also share nostalgic memories with your loved ones from past monsoon seasons. Winners of the campaign will be celebrated in the first week of September at our corporate office in Gurugram and will have the opportunity to meet Mr. Harish Singla, Country Sales Manager of Forever Living Products (India). Featured Products for Monsoon Health 1. Complete Immune Support: Boost your immune system during the rainy season with Forever ImmuBlend™. This supplement supports and strengthens your immune system, promoting immune cell production to keep infections at bay. 2. Better Nutrient Absorption: Aloe Vera's natural cleansing abilities help your digestive tract absorb nutrients from food, promoting healthy digestion and immune health. Forever Aloe Vera Gel® contains 99.7% pure inner leaf aloe vera gel with no added preservatives, supporting nutrient absorption and a healthy digestive system. 3. Digestive System Support: Enjoy your favorite monsoon snacks without worrying about gut health. Forever Active Pro-B™ is a probiotic that promotes healthy digestion, containing six synergistic strains with over 8 billion CFU, and supports immunity. 4. Healthy Skin and Fresh Feel: Combat the varying humidity of the monsoon season with Forever Living Products Aloe Vera Gelly. It soothes, moisturizes, and conditions sensitive tissue. Stay fresh all day with Forever's Dream and Desire no-gas deodorants, which contain 2X perfume for long-lasting freshness. A Message from Mr. Harish Singla, CSM, Forever Living Products (India) "Every Forever supplement has a story to tell. Every time you think about Forever, think about the high quality 'from plant to product to you.' We combine the best of science and nature with advanced technology to ensure you receive the highest quality products.



Scientists, Gaganyaan astronaut bat for Ladakh as Moon & Mars analogue research site

BENGALURU: Scientists from Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (BSIP) have identified Ladakh as an ideal location for India's first Mars and Moon analogue research station. Their proposal leverages past research as well as their own field work experience. The research work, carried out by Binita Phartiyal from BSIP along with IISc's Alok Kumar and Shubhanshu Shukla — one of India's four Gaganyaan astronauts — comes as India accelerates its ambitious space programme, including plans for a space station by 2035 and a Moon landing by 2040. An analogue research station, Kumar explained: "is a place where activities meant for Moon and Mars can be planned and practised. For example, if you're planning

an astronaut habitat, you can build a habitat there as there are some similarities (geological, for example) with extra-terrestrial conditions. You can also use it to see how microbes and other organisms respond to such extreme environments." Phartiyal and Kumar, lead authors of the proposal, highlight Ladakh's unique geographical features that closely resemble both Martian and Lunar environments. The region's cold, arid desert landscape, rocky terrain, and geomorphological similarities to early Mars and the Moon make it an exceptional candidate for simulating extra-terrestrial conditions. "Ladakh offers a natural laboratory for testing equipment, training personnel, and conducting crucial scientific studies. Its environment provides geochemical, geomorphological, and astrobiological fidelity to Mars and Moon," says

Phartiyal. Phartiyal, who has been visiting Ladakh for research work nearly every year since 2000, has studied the landscape closely. "...Being there often makes me feel that you are on a different planet altogether," Phartiyal, who also participated in Nasa's Spaceward Bound India programme (2016), which cited Ladakh's high altitude mountainous ecosystem possessing Mars-analogous topological features, said. Multi-purpose The proposed research station would serve multiple purposes: Testing platform for space technologies, advancing Technology Readiness Levels (TRL), engineering integration, human studies and crew training and geological and astrobiological research. The establishment of such a facility would significantly boost India's space programme.

705/720 NEET girl who flunked Std XII chemistry now fails in supplementary too

AHMEDABAD: The girl from Gujarat, who had pulled off a remarkable 705 out of 720 in National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) but later failed her Class XII (science) board exam, has now failed supplementary exams, too, leaving her ineligible for college. Her result had caused an uproar due to the implausibility of a NEET topper failing board exams. She failed physics and chemistry papers in board exams conducted in March. She then took Gujarat board's supplementary exams in June, which give those who failed up to three papers a second shot. She has now failed Class 12, being unable to pass physics. She scored just 22 in physics in the supple-



mentary exam, compared to 21 on her first attempt. In chemistry, she got exactly the passing mark of 33 on her second attempt. She had scored just 31 marks in chemistry in the March exam. Sources said supplementary exam results cast serious doubts over the validity of her NEET score. "At a time when irregularities in NEET were pursued by the apex court this case can't be ignored. It is highly improbable for a stu-

dent who can't get passing marks in state board exams to get one of the highest scores in this highly competitive national entrance test for medicine. The case must definitely be probed," a member of state education fraternity said. When centre-wise and city-wise NEET-UG results were declared recently, her mark sheets for NEET and HSC science - bearing the same first, middle and last names - began circulating on social media.

CAPSULES

Woman on bike harassed, groped by mob on flooded road in Lucknow

NEW DELHI: A woman riding pillion on a bike was harassed by a group of men on a flooded road in Uttar Pradesh's Lucknow, a viral video showed. The video, shared by news agency IANS, showed a man and a woman trying to cross a waterlogged road under the Taj Hotel Bridge in Lucknow. In the horror show, a group of men, standing in knee-deep water, continuously kept splashing water on the riders. A man was also seen groping the woman as she tried to protest herself. As the biker tried to hurriedly cross the group, a few men tried to pull the two-wheeler from the back which led to the duo falling on the road. A man was later seen assisting the woman in getting up. The crowd was finally stopped by the police, according to IANS. In response to the video, the Lucknow Police on X said that the cops are trying to identify the accused on the basis of CCTV footage.

'Trinamool trying to break Congress, listen to party workers ...': Adhir strong message to Delhi leadership

NEW DELHI: Is Adir Ranjan Choudhury on his way out of the Congress? Well, we do not know for now, but the West Bengal Congress leader has surely dropped clear hints of rebellion amid imminent change of leadership in the state unit. The West Bengal Congress leader, who represented Behrampore Lok Sabha constituency for five terms, lost the 2024 Lok Sabha elections to cricketer-turned-politician Yusuf Pathan of the Trinamool Congress.

Further delay in deliveries of Tejas Mark-1A fighters to IAF

NEW DELHI: Grappling with just 30 fighter squadrons when it is authorised 42 to face the threat from China and Pakistan, the IAF will wait further for the deliveries of the indigenous Tejas Mark-1A jets to begin. The first of the 83 "improved" Tejas jets was to be delivered to IAF by March 31 this year, but will only be ready by September now, sources said on Wednesday. "Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL) at best will be able to deliver only half of the 16 jets it was supposed to deliver in the 2024-25 as per the contract," a source said. TOI had earlier reported that there had been a major delay in



the delivery timeframe of the 83 Tejas Mark-1A jets contracted from HAL under the Rs 46,898 crore contract in Feb 2021. Under it, all the 83 fighters are to be delivered by Feb 2028. While there has been a delay in delivery of F-404 engines by US firm General

Electric to power the Tejas, sources said there were certain developmental issues by the HAL as well. This comes at a time when another Rs 67,000 crore contract for 97 more Tejas Mark-1A fighters is also being finalized. The Rajnath Singh-led Defence Acquisitions

Council in Nov last year had given the preliminary nod or acceptance of necessity (AoN) for the acquisition of these 97 jets. Under the first-ever Rs 8,802 crore contract for 40 Tejas Mark-1 jets, HAL was supposed to finish the delivery by Dec 2016. But it has delivered only 35 of the 40 jets so far, with five trainers yet to be delivered. HAL will need to majorly crank up its annual production rate to deliver all the 180 Tejas Mark-1A jets, which are powered by GE-F404 engines, in time. The cabinet committee on in August 2022 had also cleared the over Rs 9,000 crore development of the Tejas Mark-2 fighters.

Insurance premium GST is like tax on life's uncertainties: Nitin Gadkari

NEW DELHI: Union road transport and highways minister Nitin Gadkari has urged finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman to consider suggestions for removing GST on life and health insurance, a demand that is unlikely to be met, although it has generated tremendous interest. While forwarding a representation from the Nagpur Divisional Life Insurance Corporation Employees Union, the minister, a three-term Lok Sabha MP from the constituency, said: "Levying

GST on life insurance premium amounts to levying tax on uncertainties of life...Similarly, the 18% GST on medical insurance premium is proving to be a deterrent for the growth of this segment of business, which is socially necessary." Citing other demands in the memorandum, he went on to say: "The union feels that a person who covers the risk of life's uncertainties to give protection to the family should not be levied tax on the premium to pur-

chase cover against the risk... you are requested to consider the suggestion of withdrawal of GST on life and medical insurance premium on priority as it becomes cumbersome for senior citizens as per rules with due verification..." Insurance was one of the biggest contributors to service tax kitty, which was subsumed into GST from July 2017. While Centre levied 15% service tax, GST Council, the all-powerful ministerial panel chaired by finance minister.

Kind strangers offer final resting sites for departed

WAYANAD: What nature's fury denied Mundakkai and Chooralmala's dead, the kindness of strangers provided on Wednesday as mourning families desperately searched for resting places for their loved ones beyond the landslide-ravaged zone. Meppadi, around 15km



away, was among the places where residents hurriedly made funeral arrangements for many of the victims. The burial grounds of Chooralmala Town Juma Masjid and Mundakkai Masjid were destroyed in the landslide that bore down on these two pockets of Wayanad early Tuesday. Cremation grounds at both places weren't spared either. Meppadi saw 30 burials in two days. Around 200 gravediggers from various districts dug up 50

graves in anticipation of more landslide victims being taken there. A Ashraf, vice president of Meppadi Juma Masjid Committee, said he and his colleagues held a meeting on hearing about the devastation in Mundakkai and Chooralmala and decided to help out their neighbours in every way possible, including burying the dead. "We used to have just a couple of burials every month. But this is a monumental tragedy and we have had people volunteering from across the state to help dig graves.

Supreme Court pulls up Kerala government for withholding files from green panel

NEW DELHI: Taking exception to Kerala government's reluctance in sharing information with the Central Empowered Committee, which is statutory body on environmental issues, Supreme Court has directed the state's land revenue commissioner to appear before it along with the additional secretary of the department to respond to why contempt proceedings should not be initiated against them for "withholding" files sought by the panel. "The CEC, originally constituted under the order of this court, has now received statutory recognition vide notification dated September 5, 2023. The said statutory status was also granted in pursuance to the directions



issued by this court. The CEC is, therefore, discharging its duties in order to assist the court in hearing matters assigned to the bench hearing TN G o d a v a r m a n Thirumulpad matter. Every authority is, therefore, bound to assist the CEC when the CEC conducts an enquiry. An attempt to withhold an important file, in our view, undermines the authority of this court. It prevents the CEC in discharging its duties of assisting the

court," a bench headed by Justice B R Gavai said. "We, therefore, issue notice to A Kowsigan, IAS, commissioner land revenue, and T R Jayapal, additional secretary, government of Kerala, and direct them to remain present in this court on August 21, 2024, and show cause as to why an action for committing contempt of the court may not be initiated against them by this court," the bench said.

Rahul Gandhi lying, says Ashok Chavan reacting to 'weeping' claim

MUMBAI: A day after Congress politician Rahul Gandhi's critical remarks, former chief minister Ashok Chavan, now a Rajya Sabha member from BJP, described the comments as baseless and illogical. "Rahul Gandhi did not mention my name. If he is referring to me, then I will describe his remarks as baseless and illogical. Let me make it clear, before joining BJP I did not meet Congress leader Sonia Gandhi in New Delhi. In fact, till the last moment, I was working in the Congress office, working on the seat-sharing formula. What Rahul Gandhi said is a lie. Rahul Gandhi's remarks are factually incorrect. It is just a political stunt in view of the forthcoming Lok Sabha election and to embarrass me," Chavan said. Chavan said that before joining BJP, he resigned from the assembly and, a few hours later, quit the primary membership of the party. Addressing a public meeting at Shivaji Park, Rahul Gandhi said a senior leader from Maharashtra, whom he did not want to name, left Congress and wept in front of his mother, Sonia Gandhi.

Fire safety steps missing, JLN Stadium told not to host events

NEW DELHI: Delhi fire department has written to the administrator of Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium (JLN) to stop using the premises for sporting events and functions due to a lack of fire safety measures. The fire safety certificate of Samrat Hotel in Chanakyapuri has also been cancelled over non-compliance with fire safety regulations. The hotel management, however, said it hasn't received any notice.