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

Exit polls forecast Congress win in Haryana, give Cong-NC edge in Jammu & Kashmir

NEW DELHI: Congress is set to record a crushing win in Haryana while the NC-led alliance in Jammu & Kashmir could be well placed to form the government in the Union territory, according to exit polls released Saturday. If the polls turn out right - a big if - it would buttress the feeling that momentum is against BJP and with the INDIA bloc. In the build-up to crucial state assembly elections in Maharashtra due next month and in Jharkhand and Delhi early next year, that gives the ruling alliance at the Centre reason for worry while acting as a morale booster for the opposition. 2 days to go for results On Haryana, the four polls analysed here all agreed that Congress would win and most projected that it would be close to the two-thirds mark, if not over it, in the 90-member assembly. Three of the four polls gave Congress 50 or more seats even at the lower end of their range of



Haryana turnout 67%, only 54% in affluent Gurgaon

CHANDIGARH: Haryana's single-phase assembly elections ended peacefully Saturday, with voter turnout reaching nearly 67% by midnight - lower than the 76% recorded in 2014 and 69% in 2019, both years when BJP won the polls. EC officials estimated that the final figure could climb. The highest turnout was recorded in Fatehabad district at more than 74%, followed by Yamunanagar, Palwal, Sirsa and Mewat with nearly 73%. The state's

urban districts Gurgaon and Panchkula recorded the lowest polling. Turnout in Gurgaon district was 57.2%, lower than 60.5% in the 2019 election, per 9pm data released by the local administration. The trend of urban areas - Badshapur (54%), the main city seat, and Gurgaon (51.2%) - pulling the turnout down continued despite more than 100 booths being set up in condominiums to make voting more accessible.

projected seats. At the top end of the range,

Congress could get up to 65 seats. Even in the

fourth poll, released by Dainik Bhaskar, the mid-point of the range was 49, above the majority mark of 46. All the polls also agreed that the Dushyant Chautala-led JJP, which had played kingmaker five years ago, would be completely decimated and the INLD-BSP alliance too would not be able to win a significant number of seats. In Jammu & Kashmir, the three polls agreed that the NC-Congress-CPM combined had a clear edge over BJP, and that PDP, which had formed govt with BJP in 2014, would be nearly decimated. However, two of them left the NC alliance short of the majority mark even in the best-case scenario while the third suggested it might just about reach that target. However, given the large number of independents and others projected to win, and with PDP unlikely to go with BJP, NC would likely be better placed to cobble together a govt than BJP.

Govt gives nod for recruitment of Railway officers through engineering & civil services exams

NEW DELHI: The govt on Saturday gave the go ahead for recruitment of railway officers through Civil Services Examination (CSE) and Engineering Services Examination (ESE) after struggling to get enough fresh technical manpower through the IRMS, an integrated railway service that cabinet had approved in December 2019. Prior to the Cabinet approval of Indian Railway Management Service (IRMS), the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) used to carry out recruitment tests for railway officers through CSE and ESE. In an office memorandum, the personnel department (DoPT) on Saturday said that considering the railway ministry's proposal of Thursday, it gave "in-principle approval" for recruitment through UPSC-CSE and UPSC-ESE "considering the unique requirement of both technical and non-technical manpower" in the ministry. Barely hours after the



India's quiet diplomacy in UK's return of Chagos Islands to Mauritius

NEW DELHI: India played a quiet yet significant contribution in the historic transfer of the sovereignty of the Chagos Islands from the United Kingdom to Mauritius. According to ANI sources, India had steadfastly and unwaveringly advocated for "the need to do away with the last vestiges of colonisation" during the negotiations. The joint statement released by UK and Mauritius also acknowledged New Delhi's involvement in the matter. The statement specifically mentioned, "In reaching today's political agreement, we have enjoyed the full support and assistance of our close partners."

DoPT communication, the railway ministry on Saturday wrote to UPSC and the telecom department said now it has been decided that recruitment of IRMS would be made through CSE and ESE. It said that telecommuni-

cation being the nodal ministry for ESE has notified the rules and has sought applications by October 8. It requested the telecom ministry and UPSC to allow participation in the recruitment.

Woman files gan-grape complaint, then goes missing

Mumbai: The MRA Marg police are searching for a 29-year-old woman who had lodged a gan-grape complaint with the police. The woman was admitted to a social center in Central Mumbai, but when police reached there, she was nowhere to be found. Meanwhile, police are scanning CCTV footages to trace two accused persons. A city police officer said that as per the FIR initially registered at the CSMT railway police station, the incident took place around 10 days ago. The woman stated in her complaint that she was near CSMT railway station on that night when two unidentified men approached her, took her to a nearby footpath and raped her. The railway police had admitted the woman to a social center.

Apprenticeship beneficiaries cross 8.5 lakh mark in 2023-24

NEW DELHI: With a more than 150% increase in govt-sponsored apprenticeships since 2019-20, the number of beneficiaries under the National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS) surpassed 8.5 lakh in 2023-24, and 1,298 crore was released as grant for stipend. For the second consecutive year, over 2.5 lakh apprenticeships have been funded, as the ministry of education continues to expand the scheme's reach. Govt is also planning to recognise apprenticeship training through formal credits and certifications, in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. So far this year, 1.51 lakh apprentices are being trained, supported by a funding of 366 crore. These youths are being skilled to work in sectors such as IT, electronics and automobile components. According to the centrally funded apprenticeship data accessed by TOI, an additional 3.43 lakh apprentices are presently undergoing training in sectors including IT/ITES, automobile and auto components, banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI), and electronics. Apprenticeship beneficiaries cross 8.5 lakh mark in 2023-24. The programme, implemented by the department of higher education, offers apprenticeship to fresh graduates and diploma holders without prior work experience. "Over the past five years, nearly 8.68 lakh apprentices have benefited from the scheme," said a senior MoE official, who added that govt is intensifying its efforts to enhance employability by expanding this flagship initiative for on-the-job training of graduates and diploma holders. "With a robust budget of 3,054 crore allocated for the period from FY 2021-22 to FY 2025-26, NATS aims to bridge the skills gap between students and industry demands, helping young

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah ruled out Saturday any possibility of a post-poll alliance with BJP to form the next govt in J&K after results of the assembly elections are declared on Oct 8. Abdullah stressed that any party that aligns with BJP would "vanish" in J&K. "The vote we got here is the vote against BJP," said the former J&K CM, whose party con-

Farooq Abdullah rules out post-poll alliance with BJP



tested the three-phase elections (Sept 18 to Oct 1) in alliance with Congress. "The difficulties they (BJP) put the Muslims in, bulldozed their shops, houses, mosques, and schools - do you think we will go with them?" PTI quoted him as saying. "I think our people will not vote for BJP. If they (BJP) think they will form the govt, then they live in cuckoo's world." NC vice president and Farooq's son Omar

Abdullah echoed his father's sentiments, saying the party would prefer to sit in opposition rather than forge an alliance with BJP. "Any kind of arrangement would ruin any party in Kashmir," he said. The statements came in response to speculation of potential post-election alliances, particularly if neither NC nor BJP secures the required number of seats for govt formation.

Bengal villagers attack police after child's body found in ditch

JOYNAGAR (SOUTH 24 PARGANAS): A nine-year-old girl's battered body was found in a ditch near her home at Joynagar in Bengal's South 24 Parganas early Saturday, triggering a rampage by villagers who alleged "perfunctory" police response on a complaint since she went missing the previous day after leaving home for tuition. Her family alleged she was raped and murdered.



The protesters ransacked a police outpost in Joynagar's Mahismari village, set it on fire and rained stones on the personnel, forcing the cops to retreat more than 1km to escape the fury that unfolded against the backdrop of nearly two months of agitations over the rape

and murder of a junior doctor in Kolkata's RG Kar Hospital. Later in the day, Mostakin Sardar, a 19-year-old resident of Mahismari village, was arrested on charges of murdering the class IV student. "He has admitted to killing the girl but has denied raping her. We are waiting for the post-mortem report," Baruiapur SP Palash Chandra Dhali said. The girl had left home for her tutor's place barely a kilometre.

Centre to review on Monday situation in Naxal-hit states

NEW DELHI: Home minister Amit Shah will review the security situation as well as progress of development schemes in eight left-wing extremism-hit states in a meeting with their chief ministers on Monday. The meeting comes against the backdrop of a major success achieved by counter-naxal forces in Chhattisgarh, with the security personnel having eliminated 31 naxals in Maad area on Narayanpur-Dantewada border over the past two days. With the high casualties inflicted on the left-wing extremists in Chhattisgarh, the total number of naxals killed by the



security forces so far has risen to 238 this year. While 202 Left-wing extremist cadres were neutralised until Sept 15, five more were killed over the next fortnight. Finally, 31 more were killed in a single two-day operation that concluded on Friday. Shah will chair the LWI review meeting with the chief ministers of affected states like Andhra

Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Telangana, Odisha, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. With Shah having recently declared the govt's intent to wipe out left-wing extremism by March 2026, the counter-Naxal operations are at a decisive stage. The meeting is likely to discuss how the security forces must go deeper into the

Nationality enough for Afghan women to seek asylum, rules EU court

The European Court of Justice (ECJ) on Friday said that an EU country can grant asylum to Afghan women solely based on their nationality and gender. The decision comes in response to the severe restrictions imposed on women's rights by the Taliban since their takeover of Afghanistan in 2021. Under Taliban rule, women in Afghanistan have faced an extreme interpretation of Islam, which has gradually pushed them out of public life. The United Nations has described these restrictions as "gender apartheid," with women bearing the heaviest burden, AFP News Agency.

Bengal govt misses 'deadline', junior docs begin fast



KOLKATA: Junior doctors protesting at Esplanade in Kolkata went on an indefinite hunger strike from Saturday evening after expiry of the 24-hour deadline they had set for Bengal govt to meet their 10-point demands, reports Sumati Yengkhom. Six junior doctors, including three women PGTs, from Medical College Hospital, SSKM, NRS Medical College and other institutes

began the fast-unto-death. But none of the fasting doctors are from RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, where the rape and murder of a PGT on Aug 9 had sent junior doctors across state on a warpath, demanding justice for the victim and far-reaching changes in health-care administration. The development came barely 24 hours after the junior doctors announced complete withdrawal.

IFC keen to collaborate with UP govt on infrastructure and agri-tech development

Lucknow: International Finance Corporation (IFC)'s Global Managing Director, Makhtar Diop, paid a courtesy visit to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at his official residence on Saturday.

During the meeting, Diop expressed IFC's keen interest in supporting the state's ambition of becoming a one trillion dollar economy and collaborating in the areas of infrastructure and agricultural technology (AgTech).

The discussion explored various possibilities for cooperation in Uttar Pradesh, with a focus on Public-Private Partnership (PPP) models. IFC showed a particular interest in contributing to the state's development in infrastructure and AgTech. In response, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath assured IFC of full support and cooperation in these efforts.



IFC's Global MD, Makhtar Diop, said that IFC has been cooperating in many important projects for the past several years. "IFC committed US\$200 million to IndiGrid, India's first and largest power sector infrastructure investment trust, supporting the modernization of India's transmission sector through asset monetization. At the same time, IFC actively engages in PPP transaction advisory for innovative renewable energy projects."

Notably, IFC and the World Bank Group are working with the state government to increase infrastructure investment in urban areas of the state. Uttar Pradesh has at least 7 cities (Kanpur, Lucknow, Ghaziabad, Agra, Varanasi, Meerut and Prayagraj) with a population of more than 1 million, which can become an important part of this initiative.

IFC and the World Bank Group can jointly help establish a pooled financing structure for the state to attract private capital into urban infrastructure. A pooled commercial financing structure could draw on the financial strength of the State of UP to address collective funding requirements for urban infrastructure.

He said that with the support of the WBG 100 Cities program, including IFC, a state intermediary could raise loans/bonds on a pooled basis with a government guarantee or credit enhancement.

The WBG-ADB 100 cities program with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) aims to deliver bankable projects in water supply, sanitation, and solid waste management services in 100 cities. The program is in preparatory stages.

IFC has invested nearly US\$750 million in 29 projects in sectors such as chemicals and fertilizers, housing, renewable energy, telecommunications, health and food processing since 2007.

To support the state government's efforts to promote PPPs, IFC signed an MoU with the Department of Infrastructure and Industrial Development (IID) in July 2023, under which IFC is providing advisory services on procurement, operation and maintenance of e-buses.

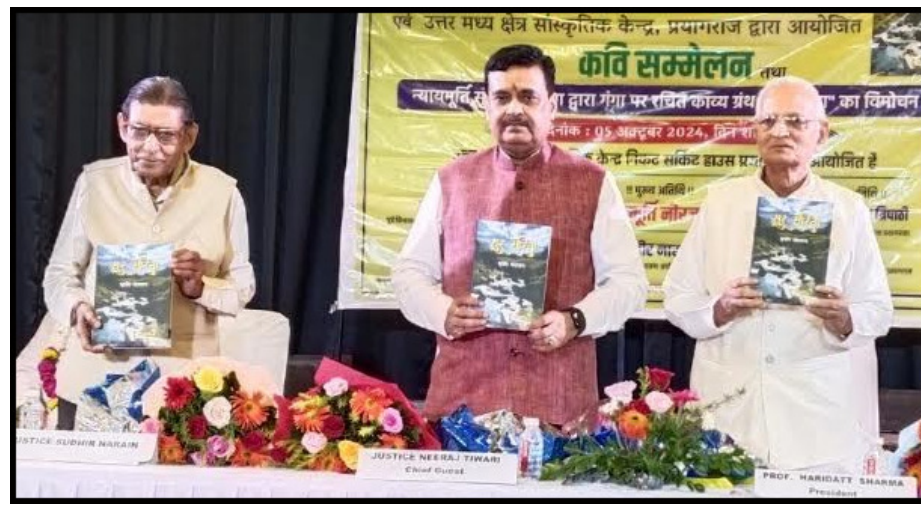
Justice Sudhir Narayan's book of poetry 'Sursarita' released

Poets enthralled the audience with their creations in the Kavi Sammelan

PRAYAGRAJ: Kavi Sammelan was organized on Saturday under the joint aegis of North Central Zone Cultural Centre, Ministry of Culture, Government of India and Narayan Art Academy and under the chairmanship of Prof. Haridatt Sharma, the book of poetry 'Sursarita' written by Justice Sudhir Narayan was released in the Cultural Centre, Auditorium. The program started with lighting of the lamp by the chief guest Justice Neeraj Tiwari and Saraswati Vandana by Priyanka Chauhan. When the poets gathered on the

stage, all the essences of literature were overflowing. Strings of songs, ghazals and Muktak were lit up. In the Kavi Sammelan, senior poets Yogendra Kumar Mishra Vishwabandhu, Dr. Rajendra Tripathi 'Rasraj', Preeti Bajpai, Dr. Shambhunath Tripathi 'Anshul', Dr. Shlesh Gautam enthralled the audience with their creations. Justice Sudhir Narayan, Director Ravindra Kushwaha welcomed all the guests and poets by presenting them with bouquets, robes and souvenirs.

Chief Guest Justice



Neeraj Tiwari said that 'Sursarita' is a poetic text

that irrigates nature, religion, spirituality and hu-

manity with its words and symbols. Thereafter, Manoj

Gupta gave a musical presentation of the compositions of 'Sursarita'. At the end of the program, Justice Sudhir Narayan and Prof. Lalit Kumar Tripathi, Director Ganganath Jha Sanskrit Research expressed their sentiments. The program was conducted by Dr. Piyush Mishra. On this occasion, officials of the center and Additional Advocate General Mrs. Garima Prasad, Dr. Ravi Mishra, Dr. Saroj, Santosh Kumar Tripathi, Ravindra Kushwaha, Shambhunath Srivastava etc. were present.

Video of Green View Public School teachers beating a student goes viral

Bhadohi. A video is going viral on social media very fast. In which some teachers are seen beating a student. When investigation was done regarding this viral video, it was found that it is of Green View Public School. The person who is seen beating the student is a teacher of Green View Public School. On investigation of the viral video, it was also found that two students study in Green View Public School near Bharat Tiraha of the city. One is a class 12 student and the other is a class 11 student. The class 11 student was beaten badly by the school teacher. Seeing his younger brother crying, the elder brother who is a class 12 student in the same school went to the school teacher with a complaint. Seeing this, the teachers of Green View Public School pounced on him and started beating him like a donkey. Even after beating and beating, the anger of the teachers did not calm

down here. They banned that class 12 student from coming to school. However, it

manager called the student's father and apologized for such actions done

avoiding talking to the media. When an attempt was made to talk to the school



was fortunate that he has been allowed to sit for the board exams. However, it was found that after the video went viral, the school

by the teachers, saying that parents, please ask once. Such a mistake will not be made again. The student and his parents are now

manager Abdul Qadir Ansari in this regard, he did not pick up the phone. Perhaps he too is avoiding talking to the media.

Orientation session organized in district jail

Chitrakoot: As per the directions of Uttar Pradesh State Legal Services Authority, Lucknow, in the third phase of the Under Trial Review Committee, the Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority, Additional District Judge Neelu Mainwal, organised an orientation session for jail visiting advocates and paralegal volunteers at the district

prisoners were discussed regarding the accused of any non-bailable offence in a case tried by the magistrate, whose investigation has not been completed within 60 days. By 7 October, the District Jail Superintendent will provide the details of eligible prisoners on the prescribed format to the Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority. The in-



jail on Saturday.

He informed that in the orientation session, such prisoners are considered who are under trial and are imprisoned for more than one-third of their sentence. Apart from this, prisoners imprisoned even after getting bail from the court, prisoners imprisoned in compoundable cases, prisoners imprisoned in cases with maximum punishment of two years, sick prisoners, prisoners imprisoned for the first time in criminal cases, women, prisoners between the age of 19 to 21 years imprisoned in crimes with less than seven years of punishment, prisoners with deranged mind will be discussed. Apart from this,

formation and data received will be reviewed in the meeting of the Under Trial Review Committee to be held on 16 October. The meeting will be organized under the chairmanship of the District Judge. In which the District Magistrate, Superintendent of Police and District Jail Superintendent will participate. Also, the list of eligible prisoners provided by the jail will be considered by the committee. On this occasion, District Jail Superintendent Shashank Pandey, Deputy Jailor Rajneesh Kumar Singh, Chief Legal Aid Defense Council Gaya Prasad Nishad, Assistant Legal Aid Defense Council Yogendra Singh and Kuldeep Singh etc. were present.

MG Windsor becomes India's First Passenger EV to record 15,176 Bookings on the First Day

Gurugram: MG Windsor EV, India's 1st Intelligent CUV, received a significant customer response minutes after the bookings commenced on Thursday, October 3, 2024, at 7:30 am. Within 24 hours, the company secured bookings for 15,176 units, making MG Windsor India's 1st Passenger EV to achieve such a feat. This milestone highlights the growing demand for four-wheeler EVs in the Indian market and

underscores the shift toward electric mobility.

Commenting on this Satinder Singh Bajwa, Chief Commercial Officer, JSW MG Motor India, said, "We are grateful to our customers who have embraced the MG Windsor wholeheartedly and enabled it to reach the milestone of 15,176 bookings in just one day. This achievement solidifies the MG Windsor's position as a progressive force in India's electric vehicle mar-

ket. As the first EV to reach this benchmark, the MG Windsor's popularity underscores the increasing demand for sustainable,



cost-effective, and rider-friendly transportation choices among Indian car buyers. We are delighted to

contribute to this evolution, and remain committed to delivering innovative, intelligent, and eco-friendly mobility solutions."

The Windsor EV combines the comfort of a sedan and the expense of an SUV. The Intelligent CUV sports an aerodynamic design, spacious and opulent interiors, imposing stance, reassuring safety, smart connectivity, driving comfort, and many hi-tech fea-

tures. It is available for car buyers at an attractive starting price of INR 9.99L + INR 3.5/km*, under the BaaS program. The option for an outright purchase is also available, with prices starting from INR 13,49,800 (ex-showroom).

Powering the MG Windsor EV is a 38 kWh Li-ion battery pack, which is IP67 certified, and delivers an impressive performance of 100kW (136ps) power and 200Nm Torque through

four driving modes (Eco+, Eco, Normal and Sport), resulting in 332**km ARAI certified range on a single charge. The CUV is available in three variants: Excite, Exclusive, and Essence; and four vibrant colour options: Starburst Black, Pearl White, Clay Beige, and Turquoise Green.

The Windsor EV comes with several industry-first initiatives to make the ownership experience seamless.

IITA Convocation: India has played a pivotal role in Information Technology: Kiran Deshpande

TOTAL OF 673 STUDENTS AWARDED WITH DIFFERENT DEGREES

PRAYAGRAJ: India has played a pivotal role in Information Technology. India invented remote software and IT services that helped proliferation of systems to the larger good and created wealth not just for Indians but people of many other countries. India gave the world a global industry and is a leader in it. In the process, many of the innovations in systems, standards, methodologies and technology development augmented the discipline of Information Technology.

These views were expressed by Kiran Deshpande, former CEO, Tech Mahindra & Co-Founder - Mojo Networks as the Chief Guest at the 19th Convocation of Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad on Saturday.

Delivering the convocation address, Deshpande said that today, IT is at the

nucleus of progress made in various areas of life and livelihood. Whether it is your health, managing your money, travel, entertainment, sports, professional pursuit and personal needs, computers are at the core of it all.

As graduates, post-graduates, PhDs, you are a lucky few who will open new frontiers through research, systems development and managing systems and organisations. Some of you will also become entrepreneurs. Your role is pivotal and foundational because the journey of computing is only partly done. It would not be far-fetched to say that from here on, computers may enter our bodies as specialist semiconductor chips, monitoring and treating us where it is most critical. And quantum computing has just begun. Future may solve the problem of treating diseases such as cancer, Alzheimer's

and many others.

These opportunities mean you carry big responsibilities on your young shoulders.

Prof. Anil Sahasrabudhe, Chairman, National Educational Technology Forum (NETF) Chairman, NBA, and Chairman EC-NAAC said that the National Education Policy 2020 has energized our entire education system through its reformist agenda such as interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary education and research for the betterment of mankind and society.

It is rooted in our culture reflecting the ethos of India and provides autonomy to all institutes to transform. It provides opportunities to study higher education in any Indian language. The use of technology in education is emphasized for increasing not only gross enrolment ratio, skilling and thereby en-

hancing employability and entrepreneurship but provide digital access to several key functions.

He said that the technologies are changing rapidly. The future is faster than what we had all imagined. The rate of change is faster than ever before be it Industry 4.0, artificial intelligence, machine learning, internet of things, robotics, drones, quantum computing, data science, blockchain, Chatbot to Open AI-ChatGPT have revolutionised all sectors of human endeavour be it education, healthcare, agriculture, transportation, sources of energy, governance, economy, businesses and made the lives of people much easier but have also produced challenges to the living on the planet in terms of pollution, ecological imbalance, and climate change.

The setting up of the National Research Founda-

tion and National Educational Technology Forum will enhance quality of education and research. I am looking forward to more and more infusion of technology in education starting from pre-school to PG education. Tools like AVGC, AR/VR/XR/Metaverse, AI, Data Science are going to make big changes in the manner in which empowerment is possible for all. It is in this context that graduating students can create edutech startups and provide the best education to all Indian students.

The vision of Atmanirbhar and Viksit Bharat set by the Prime Minister and the Government, can be achieved only through hard work by every citizen including all of you. We have developed an AI based translation tool Anuvadini to translate contents in English into all Indian languages. We need to see how we can empower

using such tools.

Prof Mukul Sharad Suatone, Director, IITA said that our institute is committed to advancing India's position as a leader in next-generation communication technologies. We are involved in cutting-edge research in 5G and 6G areas such as wireless communications, IoT, cyber security, AI/ML, and signal processing. As part of this commitment, we have been awarded the 5G use cases lab by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Gol.

IIT-A has signed several Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with many top-tier universities, industries and corporate. These arrangements also offer an exchange of technical knowledge to address genuine industrial and societal issues in India. IITA, as always, driven by its mission, has collaboration and cooperation with academia,

industry, research institutions, government agencies and operators in the social sector on its priority, both from India and overseas to create an enviable education eco-system for academics, research, innovation and cross-cultural exchanges. In pursuance of the same, for the previous year we have successfully executed 15 MoUs with various organisations having both national and international exposure.

These initiatives have certainly strengthened our relationship with peer institutions. IITA has gone further to ensure outreach and support to other institutions that seek our mentoring through these MoUs. We appreciate our relations with tech giants, alongside handholding startups in the field of IT, AI, Electronics, VLSI, 6G, Fintech etc.

A total of 673 students were awarded with different

degrees at the grand ceremony of 19th Convocation held in the main auditorium on Saturday.

As many as 432 undergraduate students, 195 post graduate, 12 dual degree in M.Tech and Ph.D., 2 dual degree in MBA and Ph.D., 2 M.Tech by Research and 30 research scholars got awarded with Ph.D. at the convocation today. A total of 150 girls received their degrees this time.

262 B.Tech (IT), 128 B.Tech (Electronic Communication Engineering) and 42 students of B.Tech (Business Informatics) got their respective undergraduate degrees for the session 2024. Besides, 195 post graduate degrees including M.Tech, MBA and other branches will be conferred upon on the same occasion.

Inder Sonu (IIT2020195) was awarded the Chairman's Gold Medal for the Year - 2024 for his overall academic performance.



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will come to the parade ground in Prayagraj to see the Kumbh activities. Preparations are going on in full swing in the parade ground.



On the occasion of National Sports Day, a felicitation ceremony and sports competitions organized for players at North Central Railway

13 players and support staff were honored by the General Manager

Prayagraj: On the occasion of National Sports Day, various programs, sports competitions and felicitation ceremonies of players who have excelled in the field of sports are being organized at North Central Railway Headquarters, divisions and other units. In this sequence, players and coaches of North Central Railway who have excelled in the last one year were felicitated in a program organized at North Central Railway Headquarters.

On this occasion, those who were honoured by General Manager, North Central Railway, Shri Upendra Chandra Joshi at a programme organised at North Central Railway Headquarters today, included North Central Railway athletes Ejaz Ahmed, Akhilesh Kumar Powerlifting, Dharmendra Kumar Nishad-Badminton, Rohit-Hockey, Udit-Wrestling, N. Suman Bala-Weightlifting, Sandeep-Wrestling, Ms Mansi-Athletics, Shri Bhavesh

Pandey- Badminton, Shri Danish Ali and Shri Ram Yadav- Cricket, Shivani Singh- Badminton, Dharmendra Yadav- Powerlifting.

It is known that in this function being organized on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the great hockey player Major Dhyam Chand, the General Manager and other officers and players garlanded his photo at the beginning of the program. On arrival at the program, the General Manager was welcomed by the President of North Central Railway Sports Association and Chief Electrical Engineer Mr. AK Agarwal by presenting a plant.

On this occasion, in his welcome address, President North Central Railway Sports Association and Chief Electrical Engineer Shri AK Agarwal presented details of the achievements and activities of North Central Railway Sports Association.

In the same sequence, in his address on this occasion,



the General Manager said that the experiences related to the life of hockey player Major Dhyam Chand are naturally a source of inspiration for all of us. Congratulating all the players present, he said that our players also remain a source of enthusiasm and inspiration for all of us.

Today we are honouring our players

whose performance has made us proud. We hope that not only these but other players who are directly involved in this ceremony or are connected through video conferencing will also be inspired by this and will perform even better in future. In the programme, powerpoint presentation and vote of thanks were

given by the General Secretary of North Central Railway Sports Association, Mr. Sarvesh Dwivedi. On this occasion, the programme was conducted by Joint Secretary Dr. Amit Malviya.

In the same sequence, various sports competitions were also organized today at the Railgaon Stadium of North Central Rail-

way. Cross country race and tug of war competitions were organized in it.

The cross country was flagged off by the General Manager and President of North Central Railway Welfare Organization, Mrs. Chetna Joshi.

This competition was held in three categories - below 35 years, 35-50 years and above 50 years. Virendra Pal got first place in below 35 years, Vasishtha Kumar Rai in 35-50 years and Shivaji Kadam in above 50 years. Mrs. Gunjan Garg got first place in the women's category. Commerce Department was declared the winner and Security Department the runner-up in tug of war. On this occasion, the General Manager gave prizes to the winners.

On this occasion, the heads of the major departments of North Central Railway, other officers and employees were present. This program was conducted by Joint Secretary Dr. Amit Malviya.

It is clear from the post mortem report that the girl was raped before she was murdered

PRAYAGRAJ: The post mortem report on Saturday made it clear that the 10-year-old innocent girl who was found murdered was raped in Prayagraj's Soraon village. The limits of brutality were crossed against the girl studying in class 2. Both the hands of the girl were twisted and broken. There were many injury marks too.

It seems that the girl had struggled with the assailants to save herself. When the girl kept fighting and resisting, she was brutally killed. That is, her hand was twisted and broken along with a wound on the head, and then she was thrown on the ground. This is the reason why a wound was formed on her temple.

The right and left hands of the girl have been completely broken. There have been serious blows on her head. In a way, the part where the blow was made was crushed. There were seven serious wounds on her body. Small scratches were different.

The slide of the swab of the girl has been preserved so that it can be sent to the forensic science laboratory. The police officers have

also been arranged for its report. But, from the crime scene to the postmortem report, the story of brutal murder after rape is clear.

Gangrape cannot be said because there is no such evidence. But, the way the girl was killed, experts are not denying that more than one brutal person can be involved in the incident.

Late on a Friday evening, the postmortem of the girl's body was done after videography and photography in front of a panel of three doctors and forensic team. The girl's family came to Swaroop Rani Nehru Hospital.

However, DCP Ganga Nagar Kuldeep Gunavat said that investigation is going on. Police teams are engaged in raids and interrogation in many villages. They have to give a report to the officers on this brutal murder. CM Yogi Adityanath is visiting Prayagraj on October 6. A 10-year-old girl was murdered in Prayagraj Soraon village. She was missing since Friday evening. The body was found in a paddy field 200 meters away from the house at 10 am on Friday, October 4.

Cleaning of the city is being going on using drones and Artificial Intelligence

PRAYAGRAJ: In view of the upcoming Maha Kumbh, the cleanliness system of the city is being further improved through drones and AI under the direction of Municipal Commissioner Chandramohan Garg. In the new system, monitor-

being resolved immediately.

It is worth mention that the Municipal Corporation has established a state-of-the-art solid waste control room to monitor the cleanliness and management of the city. Through this control

night. Special cleaning teams have been formed for ghats, tourist places and religious places, which take responsibility for cleaning these areas. Along with this, mechanized sweeping machines and water sprinklers are being used, through



ing is being done especially on the banks of the rivers where normal cameras cannot be reached. Apart from all VIP routes, major intersections, historical places, spiritual places, all places in the city are being monitored with drone cameras. Wherever deficiencies are found, zonal officers and food and sanitation inspectors are ordered by calling from the control room and it is

room, door-to-door collection, city sweeping, public toilets, and solid waste processing are monitored. Along with this, the cleanliness system of various places in the city is being improved using AI based mobile cameras. Beats have been formed to keep the city clean, in which sweepers have been deployed. Especially markets and public places are cleaned at

which the streets of the city are being cleaned and dust is being controlled. Dustbins are being installed at various places in the city, so that people can get proper facilities for throwing garbage. Municipal Corporation has also acquired refuse compactors, water tippers and suction machines, so that the capacity of garbage collection can be further increased.

Free Bicycle Distribution by Rotary Platinum

Prayagraj, 5 October 2024: Rotary Platinum provided free bicycles to needy students under its project "Aatmanirbhar". Club President Shashank Jain said that free bicycles were distributed to 30 children at Prayag Mahila Vidyapeeth Inter College for such poor and needy students who travel long distances on foot to get education or are not able to afford a vehicle.

The program started with the national anthem, after which the chief guest District Governor Rotarian Paritosh Bajaj, special guest District Secretary Rotarian Mukesh Agarwal, DGRH Rotarian Pankaj Jain, and Assistant Governor Rotarian Saurabh Puri were welcomed and felicitated.

The chief guest said in



his address that Rotary has been doing such works of human service regularly and will continue to do so in future. While conducting the program, Rotarian Pramay Mittal said that Rotarian Jaya Mittal was honored as the most active female Rotarian by the Dis-

trict Governor, who was honored by the District Secretary by wearing a pin.

Former President Rotarian Piyush Ranjan Agarwal welcomed Principal Kavita Singh and appreciated her cooperation, due to which this program was successfully completed.

Media in-charge Manish Garg said that former Divisional President Rotarian Dr. Pramod Kumar praised this cycle distribution program and congratulated President Shashank Jain.

On this occasion, Charter President Rotarian Ritesh Singh, Sanjay Singh,

Treasurer Vikalp Agarwal, Arvind Agarwal, Deepak Gupta, Rotary Allahabad Grand member Rotarian Ayush Agarwal and Rotary Prayagraj President Rotarian Ajay Agarwal along with other dignitaries and parents of children were also present.

Cultural program organized at AMACC Auditorium

PRAYAGRAJ: The festival of Navratri is an important cultural and religious festival in India. Which is celebrated to worship Goddess Durga. During this festival, many types of dances are organized in many cities of India. Of which Garba and Dandiya dance are considered prominent.

In this sequence, a cultural program was organized on 05th October 2024 at AMACC Auditorium by the women's doctor wing of AMA, which was conducted by AMA's cultural secretary Dr. Vinita Mishra.

Radha Krishna Raas was performed by Dr Lalita Shukla, Dr Rekha Khare, Dr Geeta Tripathi, Dr Sharda Chandra, Mrs Gunjan Arun, Dr Sushma Srivastava, Mrs Ruchi Khanduja, Dr Aparna Gupta, Dr Alka Das, Dr Ritu Agrawal.

Ma Durga Stuti was done by Dr Amita Tripathi Dr Chitra Pandey Dr Manisha Goyal Dr Ritu Sinha Dr Shalini Diwedi Dr Anjali Sinha Dr Shikha Maurya Mrs Namrata Maheshwari Mrs Sushma Nayak.

In Ganesh Vandana Dr

Laxmi Singh Dr Nalini Rastogi Mrs Neelam Bhushan, Mrs Priya Pandey, Mrs Sunita Chaudhary, Mrs Nivedita Singh, Dr Smita Singh, Dr Garima Trivedi, Dr Sanju Shukla, Dr Neelam Vaish, Dr Saumya Gupta, Dr Anjana Garimella, Dr Niharika Nigam participated

Kathak Fusion was performed by Dr Abhilasha Kumar, Dr Smriti Singh, Dr Poonam Agrawal, Dr Anuradha Verma, Dr Radha Kesarwani, Mrs Namrata Kumar, Mrs Anshu Verma. In Dandia Dr Rekha

Srivastava, Dr Deepti Varshney, Dr Shalini Sonkar, Mrs Archana Mishra, Dr Shreya Pandey, Mrs Tanu Agarwal, Dr Alpna Verma, Dr Kavita Chawla, Mrs Bharti Seth, Mrs Barkha Gaur, Mrs Sangeeta Kesarwani, Mrs Rani Mishra, Dr Amrita Aghari, Dr Rachna Gupta Dr Ritu Kapoor, were main participants.

Children also performed on the stage namely Prisha Mishra, Varchasva Mishra, Anandita Dwivedi, Druvika Agarwal, Anaisha Agarwal, Rohani Agarwal, Vayan

Srivastava, Prashasti Chaudhari, Anushree Gupta, Seher Agrawal, Arnesha Bhushan, Adrika Maurya.

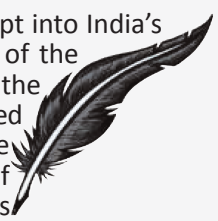
Dr Chitra Pandey Chairperson Women's Wing, Dr Taru Pandey Vice Chairperson Women's Wing, Dr Parul SAKSENA Secretary Women's Wing congratulated the participants on their excellent performances. Under the presidentship of AMA President Dr. Kamal Singh and secretary Dr. Ashutosh Gupta the function was a grand success.

Editorial

Anchored in Shivaji's spirit, India's naval operations get a desi touch in international waters

By carrying out back-to-back rescue operations in the past month, the Indian Navy has emerged as the bright spot in the otherwise unstable waters of the Red Sea. The Israel-Hamas war has not only thrown the Middle East into a flux but its effects are now also spilling over to South Asia and the wider expanse of the Indian Ocean Region. The worsening security concerns in the Red Sea due to constant attacks from the Yemen-based Houthis on cargo ships have further been exacerbated with Somali pirates also targeting the ships passing through this region. As the security situation in the Red Sea and also in the Arabian Sea has deteriorated, the Indian Navy has now emerged as the net security provider in the Indian Ocean Region. Indian Navy has always been exemplary in its duty and in particular, has always been proactive in benign causes like Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations. However, with the spill-over effects of the war in the Middle East threatening the security of the Indian Ocean Region, India is asserting its position as the resident power and as the primary stakeholder in the security architecture of the region. India's rescue operations and in particular the role of the Indian Navy not only correspond to the existing global order. The current security concerns may have pronounced the role of the Indian Navy. But there is also a strong civilisational undertone to India's naval operations. This undertone could be considered from decolonisation and indigenisation perspectives. The decolonisation narrative has been a major issue in the Indian political discourse for a long time. However, in the past few months, there has been a tangible and accelerated effort towards decolonisation and indigenisation across different spheres. Some important steps in this direction include the use of the name Bharat instead of India. This was the highlight when India hosted the G20 Summit in September 2023 as the placard in front of Prime Minister Narendra Modi displayed the name Bharat. Besides, three criminal justice laws, the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita, the Bharatiya Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya Act, recently passed by the Indian parliament also seek to replace the colonial-era Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act. The recent consecration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya is projected as one of the most prominent steps towards decolonisation. Also, the scope of the decolonisation narrative has now expanded. For decades, only the 200-year British rule in India was earmarked as the colonial period in the collective memory of the Indian people. Now the 200-year period is being replaced by a period of about 1,000 years which includes the Islamic invasions in India. This indigenisation process which is becoming visible in the political, legal and cultural domains is gradually gaining emphasis in the security domain as well. Just as the decolonisation debate had been restricted to British rule, the same principle was evident in Indian strategic thought as well for a long time. As one of the relics of British rule, the continental mindset had remained a norm in Indian strategic thought for a long time.

The continental mindset crept into India's security outlook as a legacy of the British who were engaged in the Great Game with Russia. It led to the British focusing more on the territorial aspect of security to stop Russia's advances against India. This included courting countries and regions.



The remarkable rise of Biharis in Delhi: From cheap labour to influential vote-bank

The emergence of the Purvanchalis/Biharis as the most influential electoral community is a story of a long journey of struggle and perseverance. During the watershed Assembly election in Delhi in 2013, the then Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit was looking forward to a fourth term. The confidence emanated from the development overhaul she carried out during the 2010 Commonwealth Games. Though the Congress government at the Centre was mired in allegations of corruption, Dikshit felt assured of steering clear of it. However, then Congress member of Lok Sabha from West Delhi, Mahabal Mishra, had warned Dikshit about an impending defeat and had suggested to her that she could gamble by giving a large chunk of tickets to the party workers from Purvanchal (migrants from east UP and Bihar). Dikshit, who was never comfortable with Mishra, saw it as a ruse on the part of the Purvanchali leader to create a claim for himself as a rival to her. As the results came out, she was dismayed that her development drive was drowned in the cacophony let loose by the Anna Hazare movement, whose product is the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). The arrival of Arvind Kejriwal and the AAP marked the beginning of a new



genre of politics. During the past three decades, Delhi has undergone a deep demographic change. The migrants arriving in the city, which is North India's El Dorado, have given a new character to its social and cultural life. From being poor tenants in the unauthorised colonies, they are now proud holders of plots but have been fighting with successive governments for the assertion of their civic rights. Their struggle has not been limited to the recognition of their housing plots. They eke out a living fighting various forces of corruption aka government. The Congress and the BJP all those years instead of holding their hand depended on poll malpractices, exploiting their poverty to get their mandate. The migrants from the eastern districts of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and some districts of Madhya Pradesh bordering these areas for

long looked for a role in the politics of the national capital. When Kejriwal, during the campaign in 2015, said to accept liquor and money from the Congress and the BJP but vote for him, he showed that he had his ear to the ground. In that poll, the AAP had put up Purvanchali candidates in 15 out of 70 seats and they all romped home. Today, Mahabal Mishra is AAP's candidate from West Delhi. His son Vinay is an AAP MLA from their traditional Dwarka seat. For the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, for which voting is scheduled in Delhi on May 26, the BJP has fielded one Bihari candidate Manoj Tiwari, the sitting MP from the North East Delhi seat. AAP-Congress has fielded three Biharis – Kanhaiya Kumar from North East Delhi, Somnath Bharti from the New Delhi seat and the veteran Mahabal Mishra from the West Delhi seat.

While Kanhaiya Kumar and Manoj Tiwari are imports into the capital's politics, Mahabal Mishra and Somnath Bharti have grown politically in the national capital. One may recall that Mahabal Mishra was the first Bihari to win an electoral battle, winning a seat as a corporator from Nasirpur in Outer Delhi in 1996. Though before him, a Purvanchali, Lal Bihari Tiwari had won Assembly polls from the East Delhi seat of Ghonda and become a minister in the state BJP government. Later, Tiwari won three consecutive Lok Sabha polls in 1997 (bypoll), 1998 and 1999. However, there is a marked difference in the politics of Tiwari and the present-day Bihari politicians in the capital – from meek submission to that of aggressive assertion. According to the data released by the Election Commission, Delhi has a total of 1,47,42,145 voters – 79,98,652 male, 67,42,330 female and 1163 from the third gender. This is up by about 6.5 per cent from 1,38,46,482 in 2019. According to estimates, 33.5 per cent of the total 1.48 crore voters across the seven Lok Sabha constituencies are Purvanchalis. Their presence varies from 24 per cent in Chandni Chowk to 41 per cent in East Delhi. On the

North East Delhi seat, they constitute 40 per cent of the votes, while they account for 37 per cent of votes in New Delhi, 34 per cent in West Delhi, 31 per cent in North Delhi and 27 per cent in South Delhi. Today, there isn't a constituency in Delhi where the 'Chhath' festival of Bihar is not celebrated. But will the Biharis vote as a bloc or would have ideological preferences depending on their allegiance in the home state? This is something which the political parties, especially the BJP, would be accountable for. There are two other crucial seats – New Delhi and West Delhi, where the BJP needs to crack the Bihari pot to sail through. The selection of Bihari candidates for the Lok Sabha polls from Delhi by both the major formations – Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Aam Aadmi Party-Congress alliance clearly indicate that Purvanchalis, rather Biharis, have become a major political entity in the national capital. Today, they are not just at par but more influential than other major electoral blocks like that of Punjabis, Vaishyas, Gujjars, Jats and minorities. Numerically, the two formations together have fielded two Vaishyas, two Gujjars, two Punjabis, one Jat, three Scheduled Caste (two from reserved seats).

Why Iran, Israel avoided crossing red lines

Rewriting the rules of engagement is challenging, but undoubtedly both Iran and Israel have made a symbolic statement and managed the escalation cycle wherein they have played to the gallery as far as their domestic audience is concerned. On April 14, Iran launched its first direct military offensive against Israel. The attack consisted of over 300 Shahed drones, cruise missiles, and ballistic missiles. The launch was detected immediately, and the Israeli forces on high alert had approximately two hours of response time before the drones reached Israeli airspace. The strike was then taken apart as it moved across the Middle East by members of the US-led Middle East Air Defence Alliance, which included jets from the RAF, the Jordanian Air

Forces, and the US Air Force. Most of the surviving munitions were then intercepted by Israel's Air Defence Systems, which include the Iron Dome, David's Sling, and Arrow 2 and 3. At least five penetrated through these defences and struck targets in and around an Nevatim Air Base in the Negev Desert. These five hits resulted in no casualties and caused only structural damage. The world was on edge, and there was danger that a threatened Israeli retaliation would result in a regional, if not wider, conflict. Crude prices spiked, markets dropped across the globe, and gold reached new heights. For India, one of the major dangers of escalation was the blocking of the Straits of Hormuz, as it would result in disruption of both crude and

natural gas. The Israeli reaction took place within the week. On April 19, they struck a military airbase near the city of Isfahan, and Iranian officials also claimed to have shot down small drones near the northern city of Tabriz, but this was downplayed. Isfahan Province, in the centre of Iran, is home to significant Iranian military infrastructure, including a large air base, a major missile production complex, and nuclear facilities. As per reports in the Jerusalem Post, the Israelis were targeting an air defence radar site near Isfahan that's part of the protection of the Natanz nuclear facility. The choreography of missile strikes once again ensured that there were no casualties and, moreover, no targeting of Iranian nuclear facilities.

'Mind your own democracy'

When prejudiced opinion posts masquerade as journalism, it violates one of the four foundational pillars of democracy. As mainstream media is pivotal in shaping popular perceptions and helps the voter make informed choices in an election year, much of the Western observers' anti-India blitzkrieg must be discounted by the discerning voter due to its inherent bias and colonial mindset. A free, fair and thriving multiparty democracy is at work at the scale of 970 million, as Indians ready to exercise their franchise in the general elections. Stunningly ignoramus and half-informed foreign scribes that write for global media outlets, West's India watchers, activists and NGOs are on overdrive to undermine the integrity of the Indian democratic process. The woke brigade of journo who anoint themselves as upholders of liberal democracy are completely disconnected from the vox populi of the voting nation. Their feedback loops are through proxy, based on what they hear and perceive, and not by touring the expansive electoral terrain. The voter-on-the-ground, primarily comprising rural and urban middle classes, neither read the likes of The Economist, New York Times, UK Guardian, Chatham House, Le Monde France, La Croix International Catholic News etc., nor hear the views on BBC, CNN or Bloomberg. Besides, in a country with 80 per cent of the population comprising Hindus, the resurgence of Hindu nationalism renders the opinions of the elitist Western collective as redundant and powerless to influence or impact India's electoral outcomes. For too long, international institutions of the West have held sway in determining the pecking order of 170 nations, whether it is in determining their sovereign credit ratings or democratic credentials. In proportion to India's growing heft, and being the

largest democracy, it is a step in the right direction that India has set in motion the process of redefining the codes for an alternative 'Global Standard for Elections', and creating its own metrics of gauging the democracy ratings index in collaboration with the Observer Research Foundation. Much has transformed during Modi's decadal tenure. India has indeed emerged as the nation of the decade, and a critical player in just about every issue pivotal to playing peacemaker on geo-political tensions, or issues facing the planet. India's inclusive economic growth under Modi and its expanding global ascendance has made it a formidable global power. It is therefore no surprise that Modi as the front runner is poised for a successive third term, and is expected to return in a stronger avatar in 2024. Should that happen, the pace of economic reforms and saturation of flagship schemes is expected to accelerate. An industrial prime minister helming the fifth largest economy is an intimidating prospect for the US and Western nations, as the more the axis of economic power steadily shifts towards India, one expects negative news blitzes from foreign soil to further intensify. **Why West fears a stronger India** This is exactly what the Western mainstream media in cahoots with India's opposition parties, and external lobbyists are striking at. They would prefer an electoral outcome that throws up a rag-tag coalition with a weakened prime minister, one who would be subservient to their business and political interests in preference to a strong, assertive and nationalist PM who would pursue nation-first interests, undaunted by the US or the Western powers. We are living through a period of tumultuous change, as the global order crumbles, and the writ of multilateral institutions is ineffective in controlling geopolitical tensions.

Planting trees is a simple solution to counter air pollution

Planners and designers are reimagining cityscapes with verdant green corridors and tree-lined boulevards, weaving greenery seamlessly into the urban fabric. Image: Wikimedia Commons

As Delhi grapples with yet another harrowing bout of air pollution caused by Ghazipur landfill fires, the city, especially its eastern part, finds itself ensnared in a blanket of toxic smog, pushing its air quality index to alarming levels again. With readings skyrocketing to several times the World Health Organization's recommended limit, the severity of the situation has prompted drastic measures, including school closures and restric-

tions on construction activities. This onslaught of pollution not only poses immediate health risks but also casts a long shadow over the residents' quality of life, with projections suggesting a staggering reduction of 10 years in life expectancy. Health experts equate breathing this hazardous smog to smoking a staggering 14 cigarettes every day. Laden with nanoparticles capable of infiltrating the lungs and bloodstream, this lethal smog poses a grave threat, fueling respiratory ailments and health complications. In the face of this crisis, the urgent need for effective solutions to combat air pollution has never been more evi-

dent. It is no news that the scourge of pollution has seeped into every facet of our lives - the water we drink, the soil we rely on for sustenance, and the very air we breathe. This dire reality confronts millions in bustling metropolises across the globe, where densely packed populations are disproportionately exposed to harmful contaminants. As these pollutants infiltrate our environment, they accumulate, magnifying in intensity as they ascend the food chain. With urbanisation advancing at breakneck speed and our demands on natural resources escalating, we stand close to tainting the very essence of our existence.

Clean air to fill our lungs, uncontaminated food to nourish our bodies—these are not luxuries, but fundamental necessities for our survival. Can we, in good conscience, stand idly by as our cities succumb to this relentless march of degradation? The time for action is now. **What is pollution?** Before we unpack why pollution occurs or how to mitigate it, it is vital to ask, what do we exactly mean by pollution in our cities. Pollution occurs when high concentrations of substances persist in the environment due to human activities or natural events, which have harmful effects to the environment.

With 33+ Crore User Visits, Flipkart's Big Billion Days 2024 Kicks Off India's Festive Season

HARYANA : Flipkart, India's homegrown e-commerce marketplace, launched the 11th edition of its highly anticipated The Big Billion Days (TBBDD) 2024 on September 27, with early access beginning on September 26 for Flipkart VIP and Plus customers. Over 33 crore user visits were recorded on Flipkart during Early Access and Day 1 combined, reflecting festive enthusiasm from shoppers from across India. Early trends suggest a promising festive season ahead, with growing demand being observed across Mobiles, Food & Nutrition and Grooming categories.



Speaking on the 11th edition of The Big Billion Days, Harsh Chaudhary, Vice President - Growth, Flipkart, said, "Every year, the festive season in India kicks off with The Big Billion Days, which brings an entire ecosystem together to celebrate. This event is more than just a shop-

ping festival; it is an opportunity that fosters growth, innovation and collaboration at a national scale, while positively impacting the lives of diverse communities. Flipkart has laid the foundation for India's digitisation journey, with The Big Billion Days being a key

enabler. By deepening our engagement with consumers and ecosystem partners, we are pushing the boundaries of what is achievable, while setting new standards for customer satisfaction and business success. Some of the early trends indicate an increase in demand for categories that enable a lifestyle upgrade; and Tier 2+ cities have been showing growth in the run up to this year's festive season. At Flipkart, we believe in continuously raising the bar for what is possible in the digital economy, while empowering everyone in this journey." The 11th edition of TBBDD

reflects Flipkart's commitment to innovation, inclusivity and affordability, aligned with its mission to democratize e-commerce. This year, TBBDD is focused on maximizing value for sellers and brands, benefiting lakhs of MSMEs, artisans, kirana partners, and the broader ecosystem. By leveraging cutting-edge technologies like Metaverse, GenAI, and AR/VR, Flipkart is enhancing the festive shopping journey for customers, through personalized, immersive, and seamless experiences that engage millions across diverse geographical and socio-economic backgrounds.

The Satkarmic Mission Hosts Life-Transforming Seminar on Women Empowerment and Punjab

Chandigarh: The Satkarmic Mission, a renowned spiritual organization, organized a highly impactful and life-transforming seminar on "Women Empowerment and Punjab: Nurturing Societies" at Smt. Sakindra Sakindra Devi Multi Media Hall of Maharishi Dayanand Public School MDAV Bhavan, Daria, Chandigarh. The seminar was led by Bibi Harleen Kaur, the revered spiritual head of the mission, who is tirelessly working towards saving Punjab from the evils of religious conversion, drug addiction, and promoting spiritual growth for societal progress. The seminar witnessed an overwhelming participation of over 100 women from all walks of life, including teachers, housewives, professionals, students, and social activists. The diverse gathering reflected the mission's commitment to empowering women



across various segments of society. Bibi Harleen Kaur delivered a thought-provoking and inspiring lecture, emphasizing the pivotal role women play in fostering family, community, and societal progress.

She passionately emphasized women's pivotal role in combating Punjab's pressing challenges - religious conver-

sion and drug addiction. Bibi Harleen Kaur's engaging and interactive approach included anecdotes, participatory activities, and daily tasks for self-celebration, encouraging participants to embark on a journey of self-discovery and empowerment. The seminar also featured by esteemed guest speakers.

Home loan outstanding rises Rs 10 lakh cr

Delhi: Household debt has skyrocketed in the past two years. According to RBI's 'Sectoral Deployment of Bank Credit' data, housing sector credit grew by about Rs 10 lakh crore in the last two fiscals to a record Rs 27.23 lakh crore in March. Experts credit this to a significant home market recovery following COVID-19. Buyers who delayed buying homes during the pandemic are now buying. Government efforts to provide affordable

housing have also driven this increase. An analogy: Imagine a house loan pool. This pool has risen dramatically in the past two years, signaling a homebuying boom. People catching up on delayed purchases and government affordable housing schemes may explain this. While the pool will undoubtedly increase, its rate may slow. Home ownership remained one of the top three goals in 2023, according to the BankBazaar

Aspiration Index. Despite rising interest rates, bank loan books exceeded Rs 21 lakh crore as housing demand rose. Bankbazaar's average house loan ticket size in 2023 was Rs 28.19 lakh. Metros had an average house loan ticket size of Rs 33.10 lakh and non-metros Rs 22.81 lakh. Existing customers can move to lower home loan rates and prepay a portion of the loan to minimize the strain of rate spikes.

FII's Saint Capital Fund, AG Dynamic Funds, Others Pick up stake in MOS Utility Ltd.

Chandigarh: MOS Utility Ltd. (NSE: MOS) is one of the leading fintech companies, offering different types of Fintech and Utility Payment Solutions services to businesses and individuals. With a customer-centric approach, MOS Utility Limited is committed to delivering seamless and secure fintech solutions that enhance accessibility and drive financial inclusion.

As per bulk deals data available on NSE, FII's Saint Capital Fund, AG Dynamic Funds Ltd., Minerva Ventures Fund, Nexpect Ltd. and Bridge India Fund have picked up stake in MOS Utility Ltd on 26 September 2024. Saint Capital Fund picked up 15,40,000 shares, AG Dynamic Funds picked up 2,69,600 shares, while Bridge India Fund picked up 5,49,600 shares. MOS has rich and varied experience with reputed Giant corporations in India, MOS is conglomerate of various businesses web & App based banking / travel/ utility services, etc. MOS has associated with renowned actor Mr. Nawazuddin Siddiqui to amplify its mission of financial inclusion.

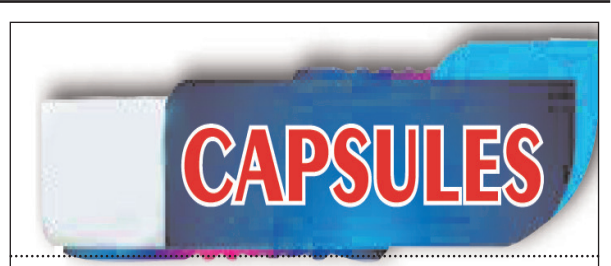
Through this strategic collaboration,

MOS aims to highlight the convenience and accessibility of its financial services, showcasing how they cater to the diverse needs of individuals across India. Mr. Siddiqui's relatable and humble personality seamlessly aligns with MOS's customer-centric approach, resonating with the masses. By tapping into his massive fan following spanning urban and rural India, MOS seeks to bridge the financial divide, promoting economic empowerment and social mobility. The association will feature Mr. Nawazuddin Siddiqui in various Branding campaigns showcasing MOS's comprehensive services, leveraging his followers on various social media platforms and broader fan base. MOS's association with Mr. Nawazuddin Siddiqui seeks to amplify brand recognition, attracting new customers and Bollywood fans.

This collaboration leverages Mr. Siddiqui's vast fan base and esteemed reputation, bolstering MOS's presence in the market.

NCP's Amol Mitkari Attacks Mahayuti

Delhi: The BJP and Shiv Sena are fighting for Mahayuti alliance domination, while the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) is being marginalized. Ajit Pawar adviser proposed he form an alliance with Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) president Prakash Ambedkar for the assembly elections, fueling the flames. This proposal has raised concerns about the NCP leaving Mahayuti. NCP spokesperson Amol Mitkari openly criticized Mahayuti and hinted at internal discord. "Some want Ajit Pawar to leave Mahayuti. He is being singled out for the alliance's Lok Sabha performance. According to a viral video, Mitkari said this will revolutionize Maharashtra politics. His comments have raised suspicion about Ajit Pawar leaving the Mahayuti to run in the assembly elections alone."



Eight US publications sued OpenAI and Microsoft for copyright infringement

Delhi: OpenAI and Microsoft are being sued by eight US newspapers for "purloining millions" of copyrighted news stories to train its artificial intelligence chatbots. New York federal court received the lawsuit from the Daily News, Chicago Tribune, Denver Post, and others. The MediaNews Group and Tribune Publishing executive editor Frank Pine wrote, "We've spent billions of dollars gathering information and reporting news at our publications, and we can't allow OpenAI and Microsoft to expand the Big Tech playbook of stealing our work to build their own businesses at our expense." The lawsuit also names MediaNews Group's Mercury News, Denver Post, Orange County Register, St. Paul Pioneer-Press, and Tribune Publishing's Orlando Sentinel and South Florida Sun Sentinel. Alden Global Capital owns all publications. Microsoft declined comment. A request for comment from OpenAI was delayed. The New York Times sued OpenAI and Microsoft in December for Copyright infringement in ChatGPT's construction and training. Teams of wealthy lawyers seeking to stop us from publicizing their stories. Lobby groups with unclear funding that debunk climate emergency and other science. Authoritarian regimes that disregard press freedom. Bad actors propagating online falsehoods to subvert democracy. Something powerful is on our side. We got you. The Guardian is funded by Indian readers like you, and our editor selects what we publish. This week is the 31st World Press Freedom Day, a time to reflect on free expression as the foundation of all rights. It's also a chance to assist independent media worldwide.

—a healthy democracy needs a free press. We welcome you to join our goal to spread independent, worldwide news.

Children under 12 must sit with parents on flights without charge

Delhi: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has ordered airlines to seat children under 12 with a parent or guardian. This change follows many complaints from consumers, particularly group travelers, who were seated separately from their children after opting out of extra seat selection expenses. Under the new rule, airlines must seat children under 12 with their parents or guardians on the same booking reference. The DGCA stressed the need of recording seating arrangements for compliance. "Airline shall ensure that children upto 12 years are allocated seats with at least one of their parents/guardians, who are travelling on the same PNR. A record of the same shall be maintained," a revised DGCA rule stated. Passengers can opt out of opt-in services including premium seating and meals.

Godrej & Boyce to own Godrej land bank exclusive construction rights

Delhi: According to sources and regulatory filings, Jamshyd Naoroji Godrej and his sister Smita Crishna Godrej-controlled Godrej & Boyce will have exclusive construction rights over a vast land bank, including a prime 3,000-acre property in Mumbai, they received as part of the family agreement that split the

Godrej empire. Deal splits the 127-year-old organization into two groups commanded by Adi Godrej and his brother Nadir and their cousins Jamshyd and Smita. The former would oversee Godrej Industries Group, which includes listed firms Godrej Industries Ltd, Godrej Consumer Products Ltd, Godrej Properties Ltd, Godrej Agrovet Ltd, and Astec

Lifesciences Ltd. Jamshyd Godrej, 75, will manage Godrej Enterprises, which includes Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Co., which operates in aerospace, aviation, defense, energy, construction, IT, and software. His niece Nyrika Holkar will be executive director. Both groups will use the Godrej brand, but they have a six-year.

Wrong section, delay in blood sample

NEW DELHI: As the investigation into the Pune Porsche car crash intensifies, several lapses in the police investigation have come to light. This includes allegations of the teen accused of driving the luxury car under the influence of alcohol getting preferential treatment, being served pizza at the police station, and more. Commissioner of police Amitesh Kumar on Friday said the authorities are determined to ensure a thorough investigation and a 'watertight' case against the accused.

Who is Vishal Agarwal? All you need to know about father of teen involved in Pune Porsche crash case 'Sent driver with son': Father of Pune crash accused on why he should

get bail Meanwhile, two officials from the Yerawada police station have been suspended for neglecting their duties. The case has also now been transferred to the crime branch. So what were the lapses in the initial investigation of Pune police?

1. Late reporting: Two officials from the Yerawada police station were suspended on Friday for neglecting their duties related as they failed to inform the wireless control room.

about the accident on May 19. Inspector Rahul Jagdale and assistant police inspector Vishwanath Todkari were suspended for "late reporting" and "dereliction of duty". 2. Delay in

Sultan Jadoula is getting huge public support, he is continuously moving towards victory

Pundri: Congress candidate from Pundri Assembly constituency Sultan Singh Jadoula is getting continuous public support from 36 communities in every village of the constituency and is moving towards victory day by day with the blessings of the people. Today, accelerating his election public relations campaign, Congress candidate Sultan Singh Jadoula addressed election meetings in Pundri, Dherdu and Kaul villages of the constituency and appealed to the people of 36 communities to vote in his favour by campaigning door to door. In village Dherdu,



MLA Randhir Singh Golan along with Sultan Jadoula appealed to the villagers to vote in favour of Sultan Jadoula. On reaching all the villages, people of 36 communities welcomed Sultan Jadoula with a grand welcome by garlanding him with flowers, putting a turban on him and weighing him in laddus and announced their open support. Sultan Jadoula also participated in the

refreshment function organized at hundreds of places in village Kaul and appealed to the people to vote in his favour. Addressing the villagers, Congress candidate Sultan Jadoula said that I will remain indebted for the entire life for the continuous support, blessings and cooperation of the 36 communities of the constituency. I will always respect the turban, a symbol of respect worn

by the people. Taking every section along, no stone will be left unturned to make Pundri the number one area in the state in the path of development and employment.

I have dedicated my entire life in the service of the people of the constituency and will continue to do so. The doors of my house are open for the people of the constituency 24 hours a day. I will be among them as before on the call of the people. Congress candidate Sultan Jadoula said that under the able leadership of the future Chief Minister of Haryana, Chaudhary.

2021 post-poll violence: 'Showing as if there is hostile environment in whole Bengal,' SC tells CBI

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on pulled up the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) seeking transfer of West Bengal post-poll violence cases on the ground that there is a "hostile environment" in the state courts. The top court rapped the central investigation agency's remark, saying not liking a particular state "does not allow them to cast aspersions on the entire state judiciary". "Mr Raju (additional solicitor general) what kind of grounds are taken in this? That all courts in West Bengal have hostile environment? Blanket averment that courts are illegally granting bail. This is casting aspersions that the entire judiciary is under hostile environment," Justice Abhay Oka was quoted as say-



ing by. Additional solicitor general SV Raju, representing the CBI, said the application was badly drafted and withdrew it. Several incidents of violence were reported at various places after the announcement of the assembly poll results on May 2, 2021. After the incident, the Union home ministry sought a detailed report from the Bengal government on the "post-election violence targeting opposition political workers in the state" that left 11 people dead by the

evening of the result day. BJP reported six deaths in the alleged backlash, including of a party worker in Kolkata who was lynched soon after he posted videos on Facebook narrating how goons killed his pet dogs, and of an elderly woman in North 24-Parganas trying to save her son from a mob. Trinamool said it lost four workers in the wave of alleged political vendetta even as CM and party chief Mamata Banerjee appealed for peace. The ISF, which partnered

Core sector growth drops to 6.3% in September

In the eight key industries grew 6.3% year-on-year, down from 6.7% in mostly due to weaker steel, refinery products, and crude oil output, the commerce ministry. Core sector growth was 5.2% in May 2023. As a sequential measure, core sector output grew 3.7% in May. May output usually rises from April. In the preceding 12 years, the month-on-month growth averaged 6.8%, but this year it was lower. "A combination of factors, including the heat-wave over parts of the country and the phased parliamentary elections, could have curtailed

Jharkhand moves contempt plea against Centre in SC for delay in appointing CJ

NEW DELHI: In a first, Jharkhand government has moved Supreme Court seeking contempt of court action against the Centre for its "deliberate and wilful" delay in implementing the SC collegium's July 11 resolution recommending appointment of Justice MS Ramachandra Rao as chief justice of the state, reported. In its petition, the Hemant Soren govt

Supreme Court's YouTube channel hacked, streams videos promoting cryptocurrency

NEW DELHI: The official YouTube channel of the Supreme Court of India was hacked on Friday. The channel, which is typically used to live stream hearings of Constitution Bench cases and matters of public interest, is now showing videos promoting XRP, a cryptocurrency developed by the US-based company Ripple Labs. The incident came to light when a blank video titled "Brad Garlinghouse: Ripple Responds To The SEC's \$2 Billion Fine! XRP PRICE PREDICTION" went live on the channel. Brad Garlinghouse is the CEO of Ripple Labs, a company that has been in legal disputes with the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The hackers also seem to have made earlier videos of Supreme Court hearings private. This comes as the SC was scheduled to hear several crucial cases including a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) that seeks a fixed time limit for the



Centre to notify the appointment of judges recommended by the SC Collegium. Another important case on the docket is SpiceJet's plea against a Delhi high court verdict grounding three of its aircraft engines due to payment defaults. Additionally, the Court was set

to hear a plea from the Muslim side contesting an Allahabad high court order, which rejected their challenge on the maintainability of cases filed by Hindu parties related to the Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah dispute. Recently, Supreme Court also live streamed hearing in the

sensitive RG Kar hospital and college rape and murder case. SC started live streaming proceedings of all constitution bench hearings following a path-breaking verdict on the matter in 2018 in a unanimous decision taken by a full court meeting headed by then CJI UU Lalit.

Fire those responsible: Anna Sebastian Perayil's parents to EY officials after daughter's tragic death

KOCHI: The officials of Ernst and Young (EY) visited the home of late Anna Sebastian Perayil in Kangarapady, Kochi. In the meeting held on Wednesday, Sebastian's parents made an appeal to the company to terminate the employees who were

responsible for their daughter's untimely demise. Sibi Joseph, Sebastian's father, said, "Four EY officials had come here, and we reiterated our concerns to them." According to Joseph, the letter penned by his wife was sent as a personal email to the

head of EY India immediately after their daughter's passing. He said neither he nor any other family member had disclosed the letter's content to the public. "The letter was leaked from EY's Pune office, which means there are many people similarly

suffering in the company who want the letter to be out in public," Joseph remarked. Joseph clarified that the letter's purpose was to raise awareness among the company's top executives to prevent similar incidents from occurring in the future.

Smt Smriti Irani Launches 24/7 Violence Helpline for Women

Delhi: Smt Smriti Zubin Irani, Former Union Minister for Women and Child Development, inaugurated the National Commission for Women's 24/7 helpline number 7827170170 today to improve women's safety and security nationwide and advance the Union Government's goals. The helpline supports women afflicted by vio-

lence 24/7 online by referring them to police, hospitals, District Legal Service Authority, psychological treatments, etc. Smt. Irani praised the NCW and the new helpline at a virtual launch. In times of need, this digital helpline assures women that their government and Commission would support them.

The preparation process, called 'dittam', dictates the specific ingredients

NEW DELHI: The 'laddu prasadam' offered at the sacred shrine of Lord Venkateswara in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, renowned for its unique taste, is cherished by devotees across India and beyond. These iconic laddus are meticulously prepared in the temple's kitchen, known as the 'Potu.'



Distribution

Making of Tirupati laddus The preparation process, called 'dittam', dictates the specific ingredients and their quantities. The recipe has only been altered six times in its history. According to a 2016 TTD report, the laddus have a divine fragrance. Initially, the boondi made from besan and jaggery syrup was created to increase the prasadam's shelf life. Later, almonds, cashews, and raisins were added to enhance both flavor and nutritional value.

'3 Lakh laddus, Rs 500 crore sales'

Each day, TTD prepares and distributes around 3 lakh laddus at Tirumala, earning approximately Rs 500 crore annually from laddu sales. Each day, TTD prepares and distributes around 3 lakh laddus at Tirumala

History The offering of Tirupati laddus dates back over 300 years, starting in 1715. In 2014, the Tirupati laddu received GI status, preventing anyone else from selling laddus under that name.

Quality control A state-of-the-art food testing laboratory ensures the quality of each batch of laddus,

which must contain precise amounts of cashew, sugar, and cardamom, and weigh exactly 175 grams. TTD was paying Rs 320 per kg for ghee from the blacklisted contractor, but now procures it at Rs 475 per kg from Karnataka. Presence of foreign fats In July, lab tests revealed the presence of foreign fats in the ghee supplied by AR Dairy Foods, leading TTD to blacklist the contractor and switch to Karnataka Milk Federation. Earlier, TTD was paying Rs 320 per kg for ghee from the blacklisted contractor, but now procures it at Rs 475 per kg from Karnataka.

SUV being driven on the wrong side on Golf Course Road in DLF 2 early on Sunday morning

GURGAON: A 23-year-old man died after his bike had a head-on collision with an SUV being driven on the wrong side on Golf Course Road in DLF 2 early on Sunday morning. The SUV driver was detained and later released on bail. Police said biker Akshat Garg was from Pochanpur in Dwarka. The SUV driver, Kuldeep Kumar Thakur (25), is a resident of Ghitorni and the co-founder of a PR company. According to police, Garg and his friend Pradyuman Kumar (22) left Dwarka early on Sunday morning for a ride on separate bikes. The duo first went to DLF Downtown, following which they planned to meet a group of riders at Ambience Mall. Kumar said Garg had taken all precautions and was wearing a helmet and other safety gear. Kumar was following him on another motorcycle on Golf Course Road when the accident happened near Belvedere Towers around 5.25am. A Mahindra XUV 300 car, driven by Thakur, suddenly appeared and Garg's bike collided head-on with it, Kumar said. Thakur was driving the car in the wrong direction on the one-way lane, he added. "I was around 100ft behind Garg and witnessed the accident. I rushed to him. While some passersby caught hold of the SUV driver, others called up the police and an ambulance. I was with Akshat trying to remove his helmet and waiting for the ambulance. But by the time it arrived, he had stopped breathing," Kumar said. Kumar alleged that Thakur was driving on the wrong side of the road at a high speed, leading to the death of his friend. "The SUV also had a sticker of a BJP candidate. Police didn't accept footage of the accident recorded by my GoPro camera, which I had installed on my helmet as evidence.

'Stripped, tied my legs, threw me into room': Army captain's fiancée shares 'torture' story

BHUBANESWAR: An Army officer's fiancée who was allegedly tortured by cops at Bhubaneswar's Bharatpur police station on Sept 15, recounted her horrifying ordeal after being released from jail. The 32-year-old restaurateur-cum-lawyer broke down and alleged that the inspector-in-charge (IIC) Dinakrushna Mishra and four other personnel, who were suspended



on Wednesday, stripped her and kicked her. "The IIC's barbarism crossed all limits. He made inappropriate gestures at me," said the victim, who was arrested by police on charges of attacking a

lady police officer. The five policemen have denied all charges and are now facing a probe by the crime branch. The victim said police framed her in the false case and arrested her to save their own skin.

The Orissa high court granted her bail on Wednesday. According to the woman, she and her fiancé were returning home after shutting her restaurant late at night on Sept 15 when they were waylaid and assaulted by hooligans. Woman seeks arrest of IIC, other cops They immediately went to Bharatpur police station to file a complaint, but instead of receiving help, they were treated like criminals.

When 'future stars' Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli scored 'identical' hundreds against Australia in 2008

NEW DELHI: Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, two of India's greatest modern-day cricketers, began their international careers around the same time, and both had humble beginnings before rising to global stardom. Their early career journey together is marked by a mixture of learning, growth, and moments of brilliance. Rohit made his ODI debut in June 2007, just

before the inaugural T20 World Cup in South Africa. He gained attention during that T20 World Cup when he played a crucial knock of 50* against South Africa in a group match and was part of India's title-winning squad. However, despite early promise, Rohit struggled with consistency in his initial years, often batting in the middle order. Virat made his debut a year later in

2008 after leading India to a U-19 World Cup victory earlier that year. He initially came into the team as a replacement for senior players and showed glimpses of his talent but, like Rohit, took time to establish himself. Kohli's first few years saw him used mostly in the middle order, and his performances were up and down as he adapted to international cricket. The Australian cricket

team toured India in 2008 for the Border Gavaskar Trophy. India won the series 2-0, their biggest margin of victory over Australia in a Test series at the time. The series marked the retirement of Anil Kumble, one of India's greatest bowlers and captain during the first three Tests. It also witnessed the farewell of Sourav Ganguly.

AAP slams BJP for winning crucial MCD standing committee seat

"Sunder Singh Tanwar won all 115 councillor votes for the BJP. No one voted for AAP's Nirmala Kumari"

Delhi: The BJP won the final seat on the Municipal Corporation of Delhi's 18-member Standing Committee after AAP and Congress councillors boycotted the election. Sunder Singh Tanwar won all 115 councillor votes for the BJP. No one voted for AAP's Nirmala Kumari. Tanwar praised party leaders for believing in him after his victo-



ry. Despite filing their nomination, AAP may not have trusted their councillors and decided to run away from the election. "AAP departed the battleground knowing they would lose the floor test. Lying is AAP's forte. He stated the court constantly pulls them up when they get to court. Delhi Municipal Corporation's top decision-making body is the standing committee. After today's poll, the

BJP has 10 panelists and the AAP 8. After the BJP candidate won the last seat, AAP supremo Kejriwal claimed the BJP wrongly overwhelmed the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and stole the mandate. Kejriwal told the Delhi Assembly that the lieutenant governor modified the regulations to allow an additional commissioner of the civic body to convene MCD House meetings.

AAP, BJP Agree on Bus Marshall's Return

Delhi: AAP and BJP lawmakers approved a combined motion in Delhi Assembly requesting the reinstatement of over 10,000 bus marshals who were fired last year. In a heated debate, AAP MLAs attacked BJP and the LG for firing bus marshals and delaying their salaries for months. Delhi BJP lawmakers accused the government of betraying bus marshals. The two parties decided to send lieutenant governor VK Saxena a joint resolution to reinstate them. Delhi minister

Saurabh Bharadwaj, who ended the debate, accused BJP's opposition leader Vijender Gupta of backtracking by refusing to meet the LG and AAP legislators on Oct. 3 to implement it. All civil defense volunteers may be fired at the end of October until decided. The majority of civil defense volunteers were bus marshals and some worked for district and sub-divisional magistrates. Gupta also suggested a house resolution to reinstate bus marshals and give them "permanent" positions.

Dera chief requests parole again; poll panel questions reasoning

Delhi: Dera Sacha Sauda founder Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh, who is serving 20 years for raping two of his pupils, has again requested a 20-day parole just days before the October 5 Haryana assembly elections. Singh, who returned to Rohtak's Sunaria jail on September 2 after a 21-day furlough on August 13, has been accused of trying to sway his Haryana-based supporters' election votes. According to sources, Singh's request for 20 days of parole has been sent to the election department, which has asked the jails department to explain the "compelling emergent reasons" (as required by the Election Commission). Political commentators said the Dera chief is crucial in poll season since he followed the notorious Sirsa-based sect commander.

Prof Ashutosh

Parole over the years



"Prof Ashutosh Kumar, a political scientist at Panjab University, Chandigarh, claimed politicians of all stripes had sought his "blessings" during elections. Singh was entitled to 91 days of temporary release per year, thus his request for 20 days parole was legal"

Kumar, a political scientist at Panjab University, Chandigarh, claimed politicians of all stripes had sought his "blessings" during elections. Singh was entitled to 91 days of temporary release per year, thus his request for 20 days parole was legal, according to a Dera spokeswoman. "He has used 50 parole and 21 furlough days. In a year, he gets 20 more parole days. As the year ends, he must

use his 20-day release or it will expire, the spokeswoman added. The Haryana Good Conduct Prisoners (Temporary Release) Act allows convicted prisoners (excluding hardcore convicts) to be freed on regular parole for up to 10 of 52 weeks in a year, in two halves. In addition, condemned prisoners are entitled to three weeks of furlough, which cannot be taken in parts.

After ISBT rule change, more buses use terminal

Delhi: An official claimed the Delhi government will shortly announce amended bus norms at the Inter State Bus Terminal at Kashmiri Gate. After inspecting the Maharana Pratap ISBT, L-G VK Saxena announced the terminal renovation. Private and government inter-state buses will pay the same parking and bus bay fees under the new plan. Private buses are charged more, therefore they park unauthorized and pick up passengers on roads outside the ISBT facility, causing gridlock and



revenue loss. To reduce bus turnaround time, time-based parking charges will be implemented. This will speed up bus circulation and reduce passenger wait times. Under the new rules, buses will be penalized for overstaying. A bus parked for 30-35 minutes will be fined Re 200 plus GST. A Rs 250 plus GST punishment

applies to times over 35 and 40 minutes. The official stated that exceeding 40 minutes will cost Rs 300 plus GST, while over 45 minutes will cost Rs 350 plus GST for five minutes incrementally. Fastag-less buses will not be allowed into the terminal, but a facility will be available outside for them to receive them.

Transport department proposes guidelines to simplify new vehicle RC

Delhi: Delhi's transport department released new guidelines to speed up registration certificates (RC) from auto dealers for newly purchased automobiles after concerns about delays. They must designate dedicated workers to enter buyer details on the central VAHAN portal and maintain their printing devices.

Transport minister Kailash Gahlot also received delays complaints and ordered the department to remedy them. An investigation found that multiple vehicle dealers used the same data entry person, causing work overload, approval delays, and RC printing and delivery delays. District officials have been instructed by the

transport department to collect Aadhaar-related credentials from all self-registered dealers' employees for VAHAN portal data filling. The VAHAN portal's National Informative Centre (NIC) has been instructed to use Aadhaar-based data entry staff log-in to prevent the same person from working for several dealers.

Training in robotic-assisted surgery at AIIMS



Delhi: All India Institute of Medical Sciences Delhi and Intuitive, a biotechnology business that makes robotic-assisted surgical devices, have inked an MoU to create a new robotic-assisted surgery training center. Surgeons and care teams from all specialties will receive full da Vinci technology training at the centre. Initiative will open its fourth RAS training center in India and first in a government medical college. The AIIMS da Vinci RAS training centre will teach surgeons and care teams robotic-assisted surgery in urology, gynaecology, general surgery, and more. More surgeons will receive cutting-edge robotic-assisted surgical training from this industry-academia partnership in India. All India Institute of Medical

Sciences Delhi Director Dr. Srinivas remarked, "We are happy to work with Intuitive to develop this da Vinci-equipped robotic-assisted surgical training center. Cancers, urologic, and gynaecological disorders requiring soft tissue surgery are increasing in India, driving the need for new technology like robotic-assisted surgery and accompanying training.

The da Vinci system improves surgical accuracy, recuperation time, and patient outcomes through precision, flexibility, and control. The company has three training centers across India as part of its ongoing endeavor to build robust robotics programs. Over 850 Indian surgeons have been educated on da Vinci technology, helping to increase its acceptance.

CM Atishi inspects Okhla as part of govt's repair drive

NEW DELHI: Delhi CM and AAP leader Atishi on visited Okhla in southeast Delhi to inspect condition of the roads in the area. The visit was part of the Delhi government's road assessment and repair plan in which all the ministers have been designated with the task of identifying roads that are in poor condition in the next week, after which the Public Works Department (PWD) will carry out repairs. "The city will be free of potholes after all damaged Public Works Department (PWD) roads are repaired by the end of October, Atishi had said on Sunday. It was decided that starting Monday, all ministers will inspect roads in their designated areas for a week to identify those in need of repair. "For two days, Arvind Kejriwal and I inspected the roads of Delhi and found that the condition of roads is very bad.



Expect Chandni Chowk night cleanup shortly

Mayor Shelly Oberoi, local councillor Punardeep Singh Sawhney, and MCD personnel examined Chandni Chowk for cleanliness and sanitation. Oberoi reported receiving many complaints from homeowners and vendors about the poor cleanliness between Lal Quila and Fatehpuri Masjid Road. For the first time, she ordered MCD officials to assign a team to clean the Chandni Chowk market road at night in addition to morning and afternoon shifts. This should begin next week. I presented a three-point strategy to improve Chandni Chowk's sanitation. She said she would hire a night shift staff to clean the area thoroughly, submit a proposal within a week for sophisticated cleaning equipment, and undertake surprise inspections to supervise night-shift cleaning. The mayor stressed the importance of public space cleanliness and health.

Government portal to ease business now Ready

Delhi: The Delhi government will implement a single-window system to speed up trade and make conducting business easier. The online platform would speed up investors' business setup applications, approvals, clearances, compliance rules, and timetables. Industries minister Saurabh Bharadwaj will inaugurate the beta single-window site, the government stated. Officials said the site would reduce duplicate documentation and applications for huge clearances. Bharadwaj said the single-window system will make investors more comfortable with 59 services spanning 12 departments. "The platform aims to streamline pre-operation approvals, reduce compliance, promote sector-specific reforms, shorten project timelines and enhance ease of starting and doing business in Delhi," he said. Since the portal was being tested, the minister said 37 services from seven departments—labour, MCD, Delhi Pollution Control Committee, weights and measures, DJB, power discoms, and industries—were included in the first phase, while 22 services from five departments—drug control; trade and taxes; excise, entertainment, and luxury tax; DSIIIC, and GSDL—were added later He stated that 27 portal services are "live" now.

Govt block on account of 'Hindutva Watch' not justified, X tells Delhi HC

NEW DELHI: Social media giant X (formerly Twitter) has told Delhi high court that the Centre's decision to block the account of Hindutva Watch (@HindutvaWatchIn) was "unjustified and disproportionate". X was replying to a petition by Raqib Hameed, a J&K journalist who has challenged the January 2024 blocking as the tracker's founder. The HC will hear the matter next on October 3. 1x1 polls

Delhi AAP raises minimum salaries across bands

Delhi: Delhi chief minister Atishi raised the monthly salary of unskilled, semi-skilled, and skilled workers in the Capital to help them cope with inflation before the holidays. The higher rates take effect October 1, officials stated. Atishi reported on X that the minimum wage rates for workers have increased from 17,494 to 18,066 for unskilled workers, 19,279 to 19,929 for semi-skilled workers, and 21,215 to 21,917 for skilled workers. Some BJP-ruled states have minimum wages half that of Delhi. In contrast, Arvind Kejriwal's Delhi takes every step to give the common guy a dignified living, Atishi

remarked. In response, the BJP called the measure a ploy before the Delhi assembly elections. At a news conference at the Delhi secretariat, the CM declared Delhi has the highest minimum wage. "Minimum wage earners are poor laborers. The Delhi government has raised the minimum wage to a record high to end their exploitation. BJP consistently opposed the poor. "Deep collusion between contractors and the government causes corruption in Delhi government and MCD," Chandolia said. The Delhi BJP also asked the CM to guarantee that contractual staff receive their 30-day payout.

Atishi prepares \$1,000/month program for underprivileged women

"Atishi announced the Mukhyamantri Mahila Samman Yojana in the yearly budget as finance minister"

Delhi: The new AAP government under CM Atishi has accelerated the work on its ambitious plan to provide Rs 1,000 to women aged 18-60 and may launch the initiative after Haryana polls. Sources said the policy for women with a



family income of less than Rs 2.5 lakh is being finalized and may be presented to the cabinet in 2-3 weeks. Atishi announced the Mukhyamantri Mahila Samman Yojana in the yearly budget as finance minister. Officials expect 50 lakh women to profit. The Delhi government allo-

cated Rs 2,000 crore for the initiative in 2024-25. A day after taking office, Atishi met with all ministers and staff to review government operations and strategy.

The government was now planning for the next three to four months, and implementing the Mahila

Samman Nidhi Yojana was a major priority, sources added. Delhi women and child development (WCD) minister Kailash Gahlot, who took over his ministry, said he will meet with authorities to finalize the draft scheme. Women who work for the government, pay taxes, or own a car will not receive financial aid.

The system is for married, divorced, and abandoned women. Atishi has stated the initiative may debut in September or October. Once cabinet-approved, the policy will be sent to the LG for approval and announced.

Sebi approves Hyundai's 25 IPO and Swiggy's 12,000 IPO

Delhi: Hyundai Motor's Rs 25,000-crore IPO's draft red herring prospectus has been approved by Sebi, setting the stage for India's largest IPO. After several recent public offerings, the IPO is likely to debut in October. This June, the company filed its IPO prospectus. Hyundai's IPO will exceed LIC's Rs 21,008-crore IPO, which closed in May 2022 as the largest. After LIC's raise, One97 (parent of Paytm)'s Rs 18,300-crore IPO in Nov 2021, Coal India's Rs 15,199-crore offer in Nov 2010, and Reliance Power's Rs 11,563-crore offer in Feb 2008 followed. Hyundai India's IPO will be a sale by Hyundai's Korean parent, not a share issue. The offer might dilute 17% of the company's shares. The \$3 billion bid for a 17% share is likely to value the company



at \$18 billion, or Rs 1.5 lakh crore. According to BSE data, Maruti Suzuki, India's largest automaker, has a market worth of Rs 4 lakh crore, M< Rs 3.8 lakh crore, and Tata Motors Rs 3.6 lakh crore. Before the IPO, Hyundai wanted to boost its yearly output in the country to one million units by 2025, focusing on inexpensive electrics it would locally make. The has raised Rs 32,000 crore for India developments, including the Maharashtra facility it acquired from GM last year.

Swiggy plans 10k cr 4 IPO for Diwali

Delhi: Swiggy, a food and grocery delivery company, filed papers for an IPO of \$1.2 billion (Rs 10,000 crore), the largest Indian startup IPO since Paytm's Rs 18,300 sale in 2021. In a shareholder meeting next week, sources expect the IPO to be increased to \$1.4 billion (Rs 11,700 crore). According to Swiggy's latest draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) the Bangalore-based company plans to issue new shares

BluSmart is in talks to partner with MG

Delhi: Electric ride-sharing business BluSmart may be in negotiations with JSW MG about numerous alliances. According to auto industry sources, the startup has discussed adopting JSW MG's goods in its fleet numerous times. Sources further suggest JSW MG is considering buying a small interest in BluSmart Mobility. BluSmart Mobility and JSW MG said: "We don't discuss market speculation. We disagree with the information in your question." India's largest full-stack EV ride hailing service is BluSmart. New investors include Zurich-based responsAbility



Investments, MS Dhoni's Family Office, and ReNew founder-CEO Sumant Sinha invested Rs 200 crore (\$24 million) in BluSmart's pre-series B investment round in July. It stated that it has secured \$200 million in long-term EV asset financing. In two Series A rounds in May 2022, the business raised \$51 million. It operates

about 7,500 electric vehicles in India with approximately 10,000 drivers. It manages 4,000 EV chargers in 35 Indian charging hubs. Parent firm Gensol Engineering has bulk-ordered electric vehicles from Tata Motors and MG. The company also struck a multi-year power purchase arrangement with Tata Power this year.

Centre relaxes non-basmati rice export ban

Delhi: The director-general of international trade said that all varieties of white rice can be exported again, but at a minimum export price of \$490 a tonne. Foreign purchasers cannot buy products below MEP. The goal is to check heavy exports cheaply. In recent years, weather-driven export limitations have been lifted in India

to reduce high food inflation. August consumer inflation fell to 3.65%, a five-year low. Food inflation dropped to 5.35% from 9.94% in the same month last year. On September 14, the administration eliminated a \$950 basmati export MEP. Authorities abolished a \$550-per-tonne MEP on international onion sales. Last

December, the world's largest onion producer restricted foreign sales to strengthen domestic supplies after uneven rains in key areas cut output by 20%. Shipping began on May 4, 2024, with an MEP plus 40% tax. "We are now considering whether to allow such exports as the country has sufficient food grain stocks.

Hyundai Motor India gets SEBI approval for IPO

Delhi: Hyundai Motor India Ltd., the Indian affiliate of South Korean automaker Hyundai, gained Sebi's approval to float an IPO, sources said. The Indian car industry's first initial share-sale in almost two decades, following Maruti Suzuki's listing in 2003, is noteworthy. According to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) submitted in June, Hyundai Motor India's proposed IPO is an OFS of 142,194,700 equity shares by promoter Hyundai Motor Company, with no fresh issue component. The South Korean parent is diluting stakes through OFS. The IPO will not benefit Hyundai Motor India Ltd., India's second-largest carmaker after Maruti Suzuki India, because it is an OFS. Hyundai Motor India received a Sebi email sanctioning its IPO, according to sources. Hyundai Motor India stated in its draft documents that listing the equity shares "will enhance our visibility and brand image and provide liquidity and a public market for the shares". Sources confirmed in February that the South Korean automaker wants to raise at least USD 3 billion through an IPO. Sources said it may dilute 15-20% shareholding to raise USD 3.3-5.6 billion.

Reliance Industries gets Centre's channel transfer approval

Delhi: The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting approved RIL's transfer of non-news and current affairs TV channel licenses. The channels held by Viacom 18 Media Pvt Ltd will be transferred to Star India Private Limited. This merger will follow CCI guidelines. This decision is part of Reliance Industries Ltd. and Disney's strategic partnership. RIL stated that the government approved the media release "Reliance and Disney Announce Strategic Joint Venture to Bring Together the Most Compelling and Engaging Entertainment Brands in India." The CCI authorized RIL and Disney's Indian media assets' Rs 70,350-crore merger.

FPIs buy Rs 57k crore stocks in September, flows hit 9-month high

Delhi: Foreign investors have poured Rs 57,359 crore into Indian equities in Sept, making it the highest inflow in nine months, mainly driven by a rate cut by the US Federal Reserve. With this infusion, foreign portfolio investors' (FPIs) investment in equities has surpassed the Rs 1 lakh crore mark in 2024, data with the depositories showed. FPI inflows are likely to remain robust, driven by global interest rate easing and India's strong fundamentals. However, the RBI's decisions, particularly regarding inflation management and liquidity, will be key in sustaining this momentum, Robin Arya, smallcase manager and founder & CEO of research



analyst firm GoalFi, said.

Top Rs 1 lakh crore

According to the data, FPIs made a net investment of Rs 57,359 crore in equities until Sept 27, with one trading session still left this month. This was the highest net inflow since Dec 2023, when FPIs had invested Rs 66,135 crore in equities. Since June, FPIs have

consistently bought equities after withdrawing Rs 34,252 crore in April-May. Overall, FPIs have been net buyers in 2024, except for Jan, April, and May. Several factors have contributed to the recent surge in FPI inflow into Indian equity markets, such as the start of the interest rate cut cycle initiated by the US Fed.

Accenture's hiring drive may push other companies

BENGALURU: Accenture's recent disclosure of their recruitment targets for FY25 has set a positive tone for Indian technology companies who're set to report their Sept quarter earnings next month. "We are hiring primarily in India, as we are hiring more in technology. This also addresses our pyramid structure. We hire all over the world and in technology, which is a big driver for growth as we see for FY25. We will be hiring more in India," Accenture CEO Julie Sweet told analysts in a recent earnings.

SpiceJet clears pending employee salaries

Delhi: SpiceJet employees received their July and August salaries and the remaining June salaries. This follows months of delays caused by a financial issue that harmed the airline's workers. The wage disbursement relieves many employees who were struggling financially due to inconsistent payments. SpiceJet struggled to meet wages for months, frustrating and confusing employees. For months, the airline has struggled

with financial flow, causing delays. Despite wage payments, employees face other financial issues. For nearly two and a half years, the airline hasn't made provident fund (PF) contributions or remitted the government TDS from employees' monthly salaries. These difficulties increase employee financial stress and raise questions about the airline's compliance and long-term financial health. SpiceJet is working to address these issues, which have been exacerbated by airline sector disruptions and increased expenses, to improve its finances. The airline announced plans to raise Rs 3,000 crore through Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP) on September 23, 2024, to strengthen cash flow. Another Rs 736 crore from a prior funding round will bolster the airline's finances. SpiceJet will be able to pay its obligations and prepare for growth with this fresh investment.

Rafale fighter jets for Indian Navy

Delhi: After evaluating both Boeing F/A 18 Super Hornet and Rafale M, the Indian Navy selected the latter on technical grounds.

Rafale fighter jets for Indian Navy

India and France are nearing a deal for the acquisition of Rafale Marine fighter jets for Indian aircraft carriers. The Indian Navy requires 26 fighter jets

capable of operating anti-ship weaponry from its aircraft carrier and long-range fuel



ers. After several rounds of negotiations, the price offer has been significantly reduced, and the deal will be benchmarked on the 2016 deal for 36 Rafale jets acquired for the Indian Air Force. The acquisition is likely to be discussed during National Security Advisor Ajit Doval's visit to Paris this week, along with an order for three additional Kalvari class submarines to be built in Mumbai.

Sources indicate that, in addition to being compatible with the Air Force fleet, the naval jets will be outfitted with specialized

tanks for maritime operations. They will also feature the Meteor beyond-visual-range air-to-air missiles, the most advanced in the region.

Rafale deal for Indian Navy

After evaluating both Boeing F/A 18 Super Hornet and Rafale M, the Indian Navy selected the latter on technical grounds. Commercial discussions between India and France have been ongoing for more than a year, with the deal being processed under the government-to-government route, similar to the previous

Government eyes foreign investment review mechanism

Delhi: Government is considering setting up a foreign investment regulatory mechanism for post-investment review and monitoring in the country, according to sources. At present, the consideration is at the discussion level only, they added. "It has been observed that all countries do oversight on the FDI (foreign direct investment), which is coming into their country. People suggest that in India also, there should be an oversight mechanism. It's a kind of oversight on money, which is coming up in the country as FDI," one of the sources said. It can help ascertain that the FDI coming into the country is beneficial to the economy and originates from legitimate sources. India is a major destination for foreign



direct investments given its 1.4 billion market, stable policies, demographic dividend, good investment returns and skilled workforce.

Government has taken a series of measures to attract overseas investments like promoting ease of doing business through simplifying procedures and significantly reducing compliance burden for the industry.

Government has also eased FDI norms in several sectors, such as space, e-commerce, pharma, civil aviation, contract manufacturing, digital media, coal mining, and defence, besides rolling out the

production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for 14 sectors like electronics and white goods. The official added that the measures to improve ease of doing business, zero tolerance for corruption and the focused effort on emerging sectors like electronics have helped promote 'Make in India' and boost domestic and foreign investments in the country.

The 'Make in India' initiative was launched on Sept 25, 2014, to facilitate investment, foster innovation, build world-class infrastructure, and make the country a hub for manufacturing, design.

Nokia will help Vodafone Idea expand its Indian 4G and 5G networks

Delhi: Nokia stated that Vodafone Idea Limited (VIL) has awarded it a three-year contract to deploy 4G and 5G equipment in India. The businesses will build 5G networks in important cities. Nokia is a significant supplier to VIL's 4G network, which will be modernized and expanded.

The deployment should give 200 million VIL customers superior connection. "5G will provide seamless high-speed connectivity and increased capacity for citizens and businesses. This would enable unparalleled innovation and efficiency across sectors, said VIL CEO Akshaya Moondra. Nokia will use its energy-efficient ReefShark System-on-Chip technology to install its industry-leading 5G AirScale equipment. Nokia will also upgrade VIL's 4G network with 5G-compatible multi-band radios and baseband technology. Nokia President of Mobile Networks Tommi Uitto stated this continues their 30-year cooperation. "They will benefit from the very latest products and innovations from our industry-leading, energy-efficient AirScale portfolio that will bring premium quality capacity and connectivity to their customers," added Uitto. The telecom operator signed a \$3.6 billion three-year network equipment deal with Nokia, Ericsson, and Samsung last week to expand its presence. The deal begins the company's revolutionary \$6.6 billion three-year capex plan.