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Can't pick anybody randomly, ask for citizenship proof: Supreme Court

NEW DELHI: Noting that while Section 9 of the Foreigners Act outs the burden on an individual to prove he/she is not a foreigner, Supreme Court, in an important ruling, has held that this does not mean govt can pick a person at random, knock on their door, and demand they prove their citizenship. There must be some material against the person before proceedings under the law can be initiated, it stressed. A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Ahsanuddin Amanullah held that "in the absence of the basic/primary material, it cannot be left to the untrammelled or arbitrary discretion of the authorities to initiate proceedings", which have life-altering and very serious consequences for the person. It said, Section 9 could not be invoked on the basis of hearsay or bald and



NK Singh could be first Supreme Court judge from Manipur

NEW DELHI: Supreme Court collegium on Thursday decided to recommend to the Union govt to appoint J&K Chief Justice N Kotishwar Singh and Madras HC acting Chief Justice R Mahadevan as judges of the apex court. Justice Singh will be the first from Manipur to become an SC judge. After a four-hour marathon meeting, the collegium led by CJI D Y Chandrachud and comprising Justices Sanjiv Khanna, B R Gavai, Surya Kant and Hrishikesh Roy unanimously decided to give Manipur its first representation in the apex court after more than 50 years of its statehood. Justice Mahadevan belongs to the backward class and the CJI-led collegium has kept its promise. Section 9 of the Act empower the execu-

tive to pick a person at random, knock at his/her/their door, tell him/her/they/them 'We suspect you of being a foreigner'?... Obviously, the State cannot proceed in such a manner. Neither can we as a court countenance such an approach," the bench observed, while setting aside the order of the Foreigners Tribunal and Gauhati high court declaring a person from Assam an illegal Bangladeshi migrant. The bench accepted the submission of advocate Kaushik Choudhury who, appearing for the petitioner, submitted that Section 9 could not be used arbitrarily and settled principles of natural justice could not be given a go-by. "It needs no reiteration that a person charged or accused would generally not be able to prove to the negative, if he/she is not aware of the evidence/mate-which leads to the person being labelled suspect.

Biden's moment of reckoning in unscripted press conference today

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden's political future and legacy will be on line at a live 6.30 pm EST White House solo press conference on Thursday (4 am IST Friday). Although the primary subject matter of the engagement will be the just-concluded Nato summit, Americans of all hues and interested parties across the world will be watching every word and gesture to determine if the 81-year President retains the cognitive ability to run for a second term in the White House. Even a stellar performance at what's being described as a high-stakes moment in American politics, where optics will trump substance, may not be enough. Although the US President has defiantly said he plans to continue his re-election campaign and all talk of quitting should cease, it hasn't. The scuttlebutt in the capital is many of his



Bengaluru firm building 'in talks with Musk's SpaceX

BENGALURU: At a time India's aspirations of having a sustainable human presence in space is taking shape in the form of Gaganyaan and Bhartiya Antriksh Station (BAS) programmes, a Bengaluru start-up is proposing "expandable space habitat". The company — Akashalabdhii — recognised by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), has set its sights on creating the next generation of living quarters for astronauts, researchers, and potentially even space tourists. Having begun its work at IIT-Roorkee. The actor George Clooney, a big-time Democratic donor, was among those who channeled the "we love you grandpa, but it's time for bed" theme in a New York Times oped, writing, "I love Joe Biden..."

High court judge opts out of hearing plea for Yasin Malik death

NEW DELHI: Delhi high court judge Amit Sharma on Thursday recused himself from hearing a plea by NIA seeking death penalty for separatist Yasin Malik in a terror funding case. The matter was listed before a division bench headed by Justice Prathiba Singh after a change in roster of judges dealing with such cases. The J&K Liberation Front chief, who is currently serving a life term in the case, was virtually present from Tihar. On May 24, 2022, a trial court sentenced Malik to life imprisonment after holding him guilty for offences under UAPA. Malik had pleaded guilty to the charges and was convicted and sentenced to life term. Appealing against the sentence, NIA emphasised that a terrorist cannot be sentenced life term only because he has pleaded guilty and chosen not to go through trial.

'India's Govt e Marketplace to become world's largest public procurement platform this



NEW DELHI: India's Government e Marketplace (GeM) is all set to become the world's biggest public procurement platform this fiscal. Korea ON-line E-Procurement System (KONEPS) was the biggest platform with a turnover of \$85 billion last fiscal, of which almost 75% came from works contract. "GeM's turnover of goods and services alone (the Indian platform does not currently provide for works contracts) was \$50 billion. In current FY 2024-25, we will overtake KONEPS to become the world's biggest public procurement platform," said P K Singh, GeM CEO. The platform currently has over 3.7 lakh buyers and over 21 lakh sellers for nearly 12,000 product and over 320 service categories. While computers and phones are the biggest items to be transacted through it, in value terms service contracts top the charts. It closed last financial year with Rs 4 lakh crore in gross merchandise value (GMV), double of FY 23, with procurement of services surging by 205%. The Union commerce ministry's GeM has enabled small domestic entrepreneurs to participate in government tenders from anywhere at any time, breaking the "cartel" of established service providers. "We are using artificial intelligence in a big way and have become the first Govt agency to have a generative AI-based chatbox to resolve any query. In a bid to improve the ease of doing business, we have slashed transaction charges. Now orders between Rs 5 lakh and Rs 10 crore will see a transaction charge of 0.3% of order value.

RBI governor hints interest rates may stay higher for longer

NEW DELHI: RBI governor Shaktikanta Das on Thursday indicated that interest rates may remain higher for longer. With a 4.75% rise in retail inflation in May, Das said that inflation numbers for June - which will be announced on Friday - are expected to be close to 5%, according to surveys. "When we are at 5% and our target is 4%, I



think it is premature to talk about interest rate cuts," Das said in an interview with CNBC. The governor also said that rate cuts would adversely affect 'silent deposi-

tors'. Typically, there is a clamour for rate cuts from borrowers. Das emphasised on the cautious approach, saying that while some central banks provide guidance on when a rate cut is likely, the issue globally and in India is the prevailing uncertainty. He expressed his reluctance to give any forward guidance that might mislead market players, and said, "I would rather not give any forward guidance which would lead market players to board the wrong train." The approach intends to provide stability and reassurance to the market. The adverse impact of a rate cut on depositors is a new issue confronting RBI. The central bank had expressed concerns over bank advances outpacing deposit growth.

Manipur hands out 300 crore to 4 lakh under welfare schemes

NEW DELHI: Manipur govt on Thursday disbursed Rs 300 crore through direct benefit transfers (DBT) to four lakh beneficiaries under 46 state and central schemes. The primary focus of the drive was on internally-displaced people affected the ethnic conflicts that erupted in May 2023. This assistance included Rs 32 crore for those in relief camps and displaced



families from the Kuki and Meitei tribes. On Thursday, Rs 25,000 per family, totalling Rs 15 crore, was released as the first instalment of the recently announced 'special assistance of Rs 1 lakh per family'

for displaced families in relief camps, benefiting approximately 6,000 displaced families. Govt also launched the chief minister's Yarn Scheme to support handloom weavers and artisans by providing yarn at reasonable prices with govt subsidy. Additionally, the govt launched Sports persons Livelihood Guarantee Scheme, aimed at benefiting retired sportspersons.

Lung cancer hits non-smoking Indians earlier than Westerners

MUMBAI: A lung cancer patient in India is likely to be 10 years younger than a patient in the West and possibly someone who avoids smoking, a lifestyle factor associated with it. This typical, though unique, profile of an Indian patient has emerged in a special review of lung cancer cases in Asia in The Lancet, one of the most widely read medical journals in the world. Studies have shown that lung cancer presents approximately a decade earlier in India as compared to Western countries, with a mean age at diagnosis of 54-70 years. Lung cancer hits non-smoking Indians



earlier than Westerners. Written by a team of doctors, mainly from Tata Memorial Centre in Mumbai, the article, titled 'Uniqueness of lung cancer in Southeast Asia', said lung cancer was the third most commonly diagnosed cancer (18.5 lakh new cases or 7.8%) in this region in 2020, but it is the commonest cause of cancer mortality, causing 16.6 lakh or 10.9% deaths. The corresponding global figures are 22 lakh new cases (11.6%), causing 17 lakh deaths (18%). In India, lung cancer accounts for an annual incidence of 72,510 cases (5.8%) and 66,279 deaths (7.8%). Highlighting the "uniqueness" of Indian patients, one of the authors, Dr Kumar Prabash from Tata Medical Centre's medical

oncology department, on Tuesday told TOI that "over 50% of our lung cancer patients are non-smokers". The study said the important risk factors for lung cancer in non-smokers included air pollution (especially particulate matter PM2.5), occupational exposure to asbestos, chromium, cadmium, arsenic and coal as well as second-hand smoke at home. Factors like genetic susceptibility, hormonal status, and pre-existing lung disease could also play a role in the rising lung cancer incidence in never-smokers. Dr Prabash further said the proportion of cases here is lower than in the West.

Teen abducted, drugged & raped, rescued after 10 days

AGRA: Ten days after a 16-year-old girl was abducted and assaulted in captivity by three boys in Aligarh, police rescued her and apprehended the accused, among them a minor and a woman, officials said on Tuesday. The perpetrators had allegedly held the teenager captive, force-feeding her multiple sleeping pills every day to render her unconscious, and then gang-raping her. During this period, they even called the girl's family and demanded a ransom. Subsequently, a team of 24 police personnel traced the mobile location and reached the accused on Monday. The father of the survivor, resident of a colony in the Quarsi police station area, had filed a complaint on June 29, reporting the kidnapping.

Neighbours name & shame desis in US trafficking case

Vatika Times HYDERABAD: Neighbours of a house in a Princeton, Texas, street that is at the centre of an alleged human trafficking racket run by people of Indian origin have put up a poster bearing photographs of four PIOs - including three Telugus - that asks residents to be wary of human traffickers and "forced labour" racketeers in their neighbourhoods. The poster, which bears the message "Be careful neighbours! Human labour trafficking happened in OUR neighbourhood at the 1000 block of Ginsburg Lane (sic)" and photographs of the four accused - Santosh Katkooori, his wife Dwaraka, Chandan Dasireddy and Anil Male - was pasted on a wall in a public place in Ginsburg Lane, Princeton.

Katkooori and Dwaraka reside in Mattie Grey Lane in Melissa, while Male is a resident of Prosper, a suburb. Neighbours name & shame 4 PIOs in Princeton trafficking. The neighbours also reproduced on the poster a Princeton police press note regarding the arrests of the accused. On July 8, the four were charged with human trafficking and second-degree felony and 15 women were rescued from the Ginsburg Lane house. Police are continuing their probe, which began in March. Local media outlets, quoting the probable cause affidavit filed in court, said Katkooori, Gunda and Dasireddy were mentioned as Indian nationals, while there was no update on Male's nationality.

BJP recorded history in NN executive member election

BJP had fielded four of its candidates in election of Municipal Corporation

Prayagraj: Executive member and All four BJP candidates registered a historic victory. On this occasion, Mayor Umesh Chandra Ganesh Kesarwani and BJP Metropolitan President Rajendra Mishra garlanded all the winning candidates Councilor Gulab Patel, Councilor Gyanendra Mishra, Councilor Sunita Chopra and



Councilor Rammilan Pasi in the party office civil line. Congratulating the victory, he said that this victory is the victory of the ideas of Bharatiya Janata Party and the victory of taking Prayagraj Municipal Corporation forward. Among those who congratulated were Dr. Narendra Kumar Singh Gaur, MP Praveen Patel, Awadhesh Chandra Gupta, Uttar Pradesh Cooperative Bank. Director Upendra Singh, Councilor Kiran Jaiswal, Kunj Bihari Mishra, Varun Kesarwani, Ramesh Pasi, Rajesh Kesarwani Manish Kesarwani, Anand Vaishya Sudarshan, Vivek Aggarwal, Raju Pathak Girjesh Mishra, Raghavendra Singh, Sachin Jaiswal, Subhash Vaishya Rajan Shukla, etc. hundreds of workers.

Targeting Zillennials, Sonata launches new identity and product range

Varanasi: Sonata, the largest-selling watch brand in India from Titan Company Ltd, is set to revolutionize the market with its all-new identity and reimagined product line. The new identity is aimed at presenting a modern perspective on design that captures the growing segment of young professionals, especially those in urban and suburban areas at the start of their careers. With a sleek, contemporary look, the new Sonata seeks to enhance the brand's appeal and excitement, embodying a dynamic new identity that resonates with today's youth. Speaking on the new journey of the brand, Mr. Prateek Gupta, Head of Brand, Sonata said, "We are thrilled to introduce a newly reimagined Sonata which truly embodies the spirit of today's young dreamers. Our goal is to provide the young upstarts with timepieces that not only enhance their personal style but also serve as a symbol of their journey and accomplishments. We recognize the value they place on quality and style, and our new designs reflect this blend, offering sophisticated style without compromising on accessibility. By aligning with the aspirations and lifestyles of this dynamic demographic, Sonata continues to stand as a partner in their progress, celebrating every milestone and achievement along their journey".

As per the industry estimates, India has 260 number of zillennial consumers in India who are earning between 3-4 lacs per annum. Zillennials, bridging younger millennials and older Gen Z, are emerging as key economic drivers with their unique ambitions and values. This generation is challenging traditional norms and reshaping the future landscape, driven by a desire to carve their own success stories and understand a brand's purpose and vision. Leveraging these insights, Sonata has crafted a refreshed look and identity to meet the specific needs and preferences of this emerging group.

Flipkart expands digital payment offerings with new recharge and bill payment categories

Varanasi: Flipkart, India's homegrown e-commerce marketplace, today announced the launch of five new recharge and bill payment categories, including Fastag, DTH recharges, landline, broadband, and mobile post-paid bill payments on its app. These are in addition to the existing electricity and mobile prepaid recharge options. Flipkart has partnered with BillDesk, one of India's leading payment solutions companies, to help integrate the new services with Bharat Bill Payments System (BBPS), developed by the National Payments Corporation of India. As part of a limited-time deal, customers can redeem offers of up to 10% with SuperCoins by using Flipkart UPI. With the launch of these new categories, customers can make their bill and recharge payments while enjoying shopping on Flipkart.

Commenting on the launch, Gaurav Arora, Vice President, Payments and SuperCoins at Flipkart, said, "With a rapid surge in the digital payments industry, customers are increasingly opting for electronic mode for paying their bills. We have diversified our selection of services in-line with Flipkart's vision to simplify the digital payments journey for customers and further the government's vision of a cashless economy. From buying their favourite products to addressing digital payment requirements, this enhancement has created a one-stop destination for customers to fulfill all their needs anytime, anywhere in a secure and seamless manner. This initiative is another step towards bringing continued innovation for our customers while elevating the overall experience by making it more enriching and rewarding." Ajay Kaushal, Co-Founder and Director, BillDesk, said, "We are thrilled to extend BBPS services to Flipkart, our longstanding partner. This strategic expansion allows Flipkart customers to experience seamless bill payments, receive timely notifications, and check amounts due across their preferred billers, leveraging BBPS capabilities. This collaboration underscores the strong, long-standing relationship between BillDesk and Flipkart, built on a shared commitment to customer satisfaction and innovation."

Now students and professionals to learn foreign languages for free

Prayagraj: Yogi Government is bringing new programs to enhance the skills of the youth and connect them with employment. In this sequence, as per the intention of CM Yogi, Uttar Pradesh Skill Development Mission (UPSDM) took a unique initiative to provide training in foreign languages to the students of Lucknow, Kanpur, Gorakhpur, Varanasi, Azamgarh, Ayodhya, Prayagraj, Jhansi and Banda districts. Is. The objective of this program is to enable students and professionals to acquire proficiency in French, Spanish and German languages, so that they can add a new qualification to their profile and advance in their career

and get new employment opportunities in the country and abroad. This training will be given by the expert faculty of English and Foreign Languages University, Lucknow and its entire cost will be borne by the UP Skill Development Mission. Training sessions will be conducted in all these districts, the total duration of which will be 192 hours. These will be operated on weekends.

State Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Vocational Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Kapil Dev Aggarwal said that this program has been specially designed for those students and professionals who want

to enhance their language skills apart from their regular working hours. This includes graduate students of engineering, tourism and hospitality management and nursing and healthcare professionals seeking employment in French-speaking countries like France, Canada. Expert faculty of the university will visit the districts to conduct training sessions. Through this, students and professionals will get more employment opportunities and their skills will also increase. In the first phase, it is being started in 9 districts, but if demand increases, such courses can be conducted in other districts also.

Mission Director of

Uttar Pradesh Skill Development Mission, Abhishek Singh said that in view of limited availability of seats, this initiative is being initially launched in nine districts. To be a part of this, interested students and professionals can register online by visiting the UPSDM portal (upsdm.gov.in). He has requested the District Magistrates of all these 9 districts to encourage the students of the respective institutions to take advantage of this golden opportunity, so that they can get trained in foreign languages for free without spending any money or paying fees. We can be successful and make our future bright.

Inauguration of vocational training in KVK Shuats

Naini, Prayagraj: Home gardening, vegetable production and goat rearing training was inaugurated at the Krishi Vigyan Kendra of Shuats on Thursday by Chief Guest Prof. Dr. S.D. McCarty, Director of Research, Shuats Prayagraj. He gave detailed information to the farmer women about different varieties of wheat and paddy developed by SHUTS scientists. Dr. Mukesh P. Masih, in-charge, Agricultural Science Center, SHUTS, Prayagraj, in his address to the working and farmer women of the Agricultural Science Center, told that by making a home garden in the vacant space around the house, one can get additional benefits by producing vegetables throughout the year. Dr. Subodh Yadav gave information about goat rearing, management, breeding, breed balanced diet and prevention from diseases. He told that goat rearing is also called 5 star, meat, milk, leather, hair, dung all are used from goat rearing. Dr. Nimisha Natarajan gave detailed information to the farmer women about vegetables for home garden in Rabi and Kharif Zaid season. Dr. Rana Pratap Singh gave detailed information about vegetable production technology. 35 women from Prayagraj district participated in this training. Contemporary answers to the questions asked by them were given by scientists.



Fearful and stressful lifestyle reason for spreading cancer in society: Dr. Ajai Kumar Sonkar

Prayagraj: World famous scientist Padmashree Dr. Ajai Kumar Sonkar told that after many years of study, he has come to the conclusion that due to the fearful lifestyle in the society, deadly diseases like cancer are becoming common. He told that when someone comes under stress, the body's defense system reacts under which a hormone called cortisol is produced in the adrenal gland, which temporarily deactivates several organs like digestive system, reproductive organs, pancreas etc and stores a lot of glucose in the blood. Which is many folds higher than normal. To utilize the elevated glucose, the body needs many folds more oxygen in the elevated proportion. Which can be delivered to the body only through intense aerobic exercises. This includes running, which is practically not possible for any person in today's distorted lifestyle to run every time he gets stressed. As a result, the increased glucose in the blood stream cannot be utilized by the body, the amount of fat in the blood increases, which gives rise to heart disease.

There is a lot of extra burden on the beta cells of

pancreas due to which they are not able to work properly and the person starts suffering from diabetes. Due to lack of oxygen in the body, a condition called non-cellular arises due to which the glucose present in the cell gets fermented and the outer cover of such cells becomes hard, neither oxygen can enter it nor can waste materials come out from it, such cells are called malignant cells or cancer cells. The fermented sugar inside these cells keeps on fermenting the sugar of healthy cells as well, thus cancer spreads in the body.

He further told that thousands of years ago when man used to live in the lap of nature in the forest, he used to get scared when a cannibalistic creature came in front of him. The fear of losing his life used to create intense stress in him.

In the course of evolution, a special biological function was born in the body's defense system to deal with these dangers. A hormone called Cortisol was produced in the adrenal gland. Which in an attempt to save life, would put a lot of glucose in the blood by interrupting the biological activities of several organs that were not in use

for saving life from that acute danger, so that by using that glucose (energy) the person could save his life by

fighting or running away from that cannibalistic creature. In the race to save his life, the person would do physical labor beyond the capacity of his body due to which a lot of oxygen would reach his body and all the extra glucose would be consumed up. This way, man became more skilled and powerful and attained the age of hundred years.

This biological function of the body's defense system, which was born in the evolutionary process to save lives, has become a curse in today's lifestyle, which has put man in danger of deadly diseases like cancer. Today, in our developed and modern urban lifestyle, we are not in danger from cannibalistic creatures like lions or leopards. We have invented countless

unnatural reasons for stress, that are born out of fears, greed, competitions, fear of failure, feeling of gain and loss. We get stressed due to many such ill reasons while sitting in a safe air-conditioned room. Now, since the cause of stress is

not any cannibalistic creature in front of us, we do not even run around to escape. But our body's defense system reacts to stress in the same way. Cortisol is produced in our adrenal glands, which



switches off the organs and stores a big amount of glucose in our blood.

Due to a sedentary lifestyle, our body is unable to produce oxygen in proportion to the increased glucose. Due to which the body moves towards deadly diseases. Dr. Ajai told that we can divide stress into three types in our today's lifestyle. 1) Short-term (acute) stress, like getting stressed due to the possibility of missing a train or flight due to getting stuck in traffic, or similar short-term happenings.

2) Long-term stress (chronic stress), like stress arising from worrying about one's own or one's

children's insecure future, worry and stress due to a court cases going on for years, stress due to scarcity or less income than required, debt, stress due to constant bitterness in relationships, living in the fear of getting caught due to economic crime, etc. are some examples of long-term stress.

And the third one is Post-Traumatic Stress, the painful effect of any tragic incident that happened in the past is called Post-Traumatic Stress. The corrupt system is also largely responsible for the society living in the shadow of insecurity and fear. Today, if any person has to deal with any government department, it is a scary experience for him. The justice system is also cursed and long spanned.

People are living with the worries of uncertainty and insecure future. The government system does not give them a sense of security or protection, rather it gives them a punitive experience. Governments say that they have built so many hospitals or started health schemes, the truth is that these are not at all effective. If the administration is able to create a sense of security and calm-

ness in the society, then the need for eighty percent of hospitals will automatically end.

Today earning money and popularity, the news medias are relentlessly focused on crime and negative news only, due to which an atmosphere of fear is constantly created everywhere. Today most people have mobile phones in their hands, if someone's mobile suddenly goes switched off, then his parents tremble with fear, the fear of the possibility of inauspicious events engulfs them.

This distorted situation of the society is directly responsible for the recent Hathras incident in which 121 people were killed. People have lost their wisdom and rationality due to fears and insecurity. Everyone is looking for supernatural support, due to which people easily give the status of God to any impostor. And the business of these fake Babas is flourishing everywhere like cucumbers. Our law enforcement institutions and government system seem helpless in front of them. Because the popularity of such fake Babas born out of superstition and hostility has been working as a lifesaver for political gains.

Zuljannah taken out in Imambara Safdar Ali Beg

Prayagraj: After the fourth majlis of Ashra of Mahe Muharram, the Shabih of Zuljannah, the faithful horse of Hazrat Imam Hussain Alaihissalam, was taken out in Imambara Safdar Ali Beg located in Shahganj Pandariba. The white sheet was smeared with red color and roses and jasmine were placed on it. Ziyarat was taken out after being decorated with flowers. Mirza Babar Baig and Mirza Jahangir read the Marsiya while Maulana Aamirur Rizvi Sahib Qibla mentioned the martyrdom of Imam Hussain and other martyrs. Anjuman Abbasia's Naukhawano Dr. Abrar,

Faiz Jafri, Hussain Mehndi Monu etc. read Purdard Nauha. In the same sequence, congregations were organized on the fourth Moharram in other localities including Rani Mandi, Chak Zero Road, Bakshi Bazaar, Rani Mandi, Karaili Karailabagh, Shahganj, Daryabad Roshanbagh and other lo-

calities. Kheraj Aqeedat was presented to the martyrs of. A procession was taken out from the Azakhana of Muzaffar Hussain with the coffin of Hazrat Ali Akbar. A procession on the fourth day of



Moharram was taken out from the Imambara of late Syed Muzaffar Hussain in Dariaabad with Aqeedat and Ahteraam. The procession passed through Kamal Khan's Tekra and stopped at Masjid Imam-e-Raza. Dargah was completed after reaching Hazrat Abbas. Before the procession, Zakir Ahlebait Ashraf Abbas

Khan addressed the Majlis. Naukhawans of Anjuman Hussainiya Qadeem Anjuman Mohafizeh Aza Qadeem participated in the procession reciting Purdard Nauha. Shabih-e-Taboot Ali Akbar and Alam also ac-

companied him. According to Anjuman Guncha-e-Qasimya spokesperson Syed Mohammad Askari, on the fifth Moharram Friday, at 2 pm in the day, Anjuman Guncha-e-Qasimya will present the Nazran of Nauha and Matam in the fifth Majlis of Imambara Safdar Ali Baig located at

Pan Dariba, before that at 11 am in the day at Chak Zero Road. Maulana Syed Razi Haider Rizvi Saheb at Imambara Deputy Zahid Hussain, after Qibla's speech, Anjuman Guncha-e-Qasimya will present Nauha and Pursa of mourning. After the Majlis at the Azakhana of Haider Ali Cricketer, located at Sabzi Mandi at 5 pm, Anjuman Guncha-e-Qasimya will present Bakshi Bazaar. Will present a scene of mourning and condolence. Imambara Abul Hasan located in Daryabad Pathanvalli where Majlis has been established since the time of Ghadar. The fifth Majlis of Ashra will be held at the same Imambara on Friday at 8 pm, which will be titled by Khatib-e-Ahlebait Raza Hasnain Advocate. Shabih-e-Zuljanah will be recited. After the presentation of Nauhakhawano of Anjuman Hashimaya, there will be mourning of chains armed with sharp knives by the members of Anjuman.

'Heritage Tree Garden' to come up

Prayagraj: As part of its efforts to preserve the rich cultural heritage of Uttar Pradesh, the Yogi government is going to set up a Heritage Tree Garden in Prayagraj. In the garden to be set up in Soraon tehsil, a plant, twig or branch propagated from a heritage tree will be mandatorily planted. The remaining plants will be species of local importance, informed officials of the state horticulture department. Approximately six to eight hectares of land will be needed for this initiative to be undertaken as part of the Vriksharopan Jan Abhiyan-2024, they added.

The heritage tree garden in Prayagraj will be part of 11 such gardens being set up across UP in different districts to raise awareness about the identified heritage trees among the state's residents. These gardens will be created in Gorakhpur, Ayodhya, Lucknow, Varanasi, Meerut, Bareilly, Mathura, Sitapur, Chitrakoot and Mirzapur besides Prayagraj. In all, 948 heritage trees including Prayagraj's Akshayvat have already been identified across the state through the Heritage Tree Adoption Scheme. Divisional forest officer of Prayagraj, Arvind Kumar said that Prayagraj range has the highest number of heritage trees in this list numbering 21. After this, Pratappur Range has 14 and Koraon Range has 7 heritage trees. Out of these 53 heritage trees, 42 are on public land, 6 on community land and 4 on defence land, he added. The oldest tree in the list of heritage trees in the region is Parijat or Kalpataru located near Ulta Qila in Jhansi, whose age is 700 years. After this, the age of Kalpataru present inside Chandra Shekhar Azad Park is 400 years. Akshayvat located inside the Allahabad fort on the banks of Yamuna has also been included in this heritage list, whose age is 300 years, the DFO said.

The Heritage Tree Garden in trans-Ganga area of Soraon is being constructed near Padila Mahadev. This garden is being prepared in about six hectares of land. Five species of trees to be preserved in the garden include Banyan, Peepal, Pakkad, Gular and Kusum. Around 750 saplings of these heritage trees will be planted in the garden this month. For this, pits have been dug at the designated places and gypsum and manure has been put in them, the official said.

Minister Nandi's re-birth anniv to be celebrated across UP

Rudrabhishek, worship to be held in ancient Shiva temple

Prayagraj: The birth anniversary of Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi, the Industrial Development Minister of Uttar Pradesh Government, who fought for the interests of entrepreneurs and businessmen, will be celebrated in the entire state on July 12. Minister Nandi's supporters, businessmen and entrepreneurs will organize various events in different districts of the state. Along with performing Rudrabhishek and worship, Prasad distribution and service will be done in the Shiva temples. Lord Bholenath will be prayed for the longevity and well-being of Minister Nandi.

It was the same day of July 12, 2010 when Uttar Pradesh Government Cabinet Minister Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi, who was

fighting for the interests of businessmen and entrepreneurs and challenging the goons and mafias, was fatally attacked with an RDX remote bomb in the street of Bahadurganj in Prayagraj. At the time of the attack, Minister Nandi was going to offer water to the ancient Manokamnapurti Shiva temple as usual. The attack on Minister Nandi was so strong that the entire city was shaken. In this deadly attack, a security personnel and a journalist were killed and Minister Nandi was seriously injured. After treatment that lasted for about seven months, Minister Nandi defeated death and returned with the love and blessings of thousands of supporters and fans.

Traders, entrepreneurs

and people of Vaishya community of Uttar Pradesh celebrate 12th July every year as Traders Courage Day. Because Minister Nandi not only raised his



voice against the hooligan tax collection and harassment of businessmen and entrepreneurs but also started actively working to resolve the problem of harassment. Due to which the

fear spread among the traders was ending rapidly. This seemed like a challenge to the mafia. Due to which there was a fatal attack on Minister Nandi.

Like every year, this year too, the birth anniversary of Uttar Pradesh Government Cabinet Minister Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi will be celebrated on July 12. Minister Nandi will offer prayers

to Lord Bholenath in the ancient Shiva temple located in Bahadurganj along with Rudrabhishek and worship.

Family life was full of struggles: Life of Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi, MLA from Prayagraj City South Assembly Constituency and Cabinet Minister, was full of challenges from the beginning. Born on 23 April 1974 in Bahadurganj locality of Allahabad, Nandi's father Suresh Chandra was a class IV employee in the postal department. Mother Vimala Devi used to do sewing and weaving at home. Despite financial constraints, his courage was strong and he always achieved that position with his struggle and his willpower, which became an inspiration for the people. Minister Nandi became fa-

mous as soon as he entered politics. Contested elections for the first time from City South assembly constituency and became an MLA, then became a cabinet minister. Since then, he has held the responsibility of MLA thrice and cabinet minister thrice.

Currently, as the Industrial Development Minister of the state, his efforts towards making Uttar Pradesh a one trillion dollar economy are being appreciated everywhere. Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Uttar Pradesh has emerged as the growth engine of India. In this, Nandi's activism and role as the minister of the concerned department is commendable.

In election of NN Executive Member, both candidates of SP got victory

In the election of Municipal Corporation Executive Member, one out of five candidates of BJP had to face defeat, while both the candidates of Samajwadi Party, Councillor Abdul Samad from Ward 93 and Ward 70 Councillor Prem Shankar Yadav got a historic victory. Metropolitan Media Incharge Syed Mohammad Askari said that BJP had increased one more candidate at the last moment but the Congress and Samajwadi Party alli-



ance created history by winning two councillor candidates. Metropolitan President Syed Iftekhar Hussain, Metropolitan General Secretary Ravindra Yadav Ravi, Abdul Salman, Sandeep Yadav, Shashank Tripathi, Tariq Saeed Aju, Piyush Patel, Saif Faridi, Neem Yadav, Saud Ahmed, Mashhad Ali Khan, Fasih Hussain, Congress leader Taslim Uddin, Parvez. A large number of SP leaders including Akhtar Ansari, Mumtaz Ansari sweetened each other's faces and congratulated them on the victory. Abdul Samad and Prem Shankar Yadav, who won from SP, were also congratulated by garlanding them.

Mahaprabhuji will be offered 56 types of dishes

Prayagraj: On 14th July, 56 types of dishes will be offered to Mahaprabhu Ji in the abode of Lord Jagannath Ji in Prayageshwar Nath Temple. Rath Yatra co-coordinator of the Trust, Rajesh Kesarwani said that the Trust will organize a huge Mahaprasad Bhandare of Lord Jagannath Ji on the coming Sunday, 14th July. Preparations are being made in which thousands of devotees will receive the Maha Prtfgybrasad of Mahaprabhu Ji and on this occasion, Mahabhog of 56 types of dishes will be offered to Mahaprabhu Ji and among these 56 types of dishes, mainly butter, sugar candy, rabri, cream, buttermilk, Curd, Malpua, Chhena, Rasgulla, Gulab Jamun, Murabba, Jalebi, Imarti, Moong Halwa, Thokwa, Nankhatai, Khurma, Ghevar, Laddu, Mahabhog, Moth, Petha, Sutpheni, Gujhinya, Kalakand Barfi, Chandrakala, Damalu, Crispy, mathri, roti, rice, kadhi, papad, pickle, raita, ripe jackfruit kova, ripe badhar kova, cashew nuts, almonds, raisins, pistachios, panchamrit, kheer, pakoda, betel nut, lassi, sherbet, puri, chutney. There will be dishes like (jackfruit, kokra and brinjal vegetable), porridge, mango, tamarind, banana, blackberries, apple, etc.



Non-CUET can seek admission at RTMM

Prayagraj: "Registration and admission of non-CUET girl students in offline and online mode started in BA and B.Com session 2024-2025 in Rajarshi Tandon Mahila Mahavidyalaya (RTMM) Constituent, Allahabad University. Girl students desirous of taking admission in BA and B.Com in Rajarshi Tandon Mahila Mahavidyalaya Constituent, Allahabad University, who have CUET those who have not given the CUET exam can take admission in the college by registering offline or online on the college website www.rtmml.ac.in. Admission starts from the session."

Central Railway Electrification Organization should not be closed: Ujjwal Raman Singh

MP wrote letter to Railway Minister, had telephone conversation with Railway Board Chairman

Prayagraj: MP Ujjwal Raman Singh, in a telephone conversation with Railway Board Chairman Jaya Verma, said that instead of closing the Central Railway Electrification Organization, the work of 2x25 KV upgradation, which is worth Rs 32 thousand crores, should be handed over to the department. Giving this information, SP State Secretary Vinay Kushwaha said that MP Ujjwal Raman Singh wrote a letter and talked to Union Railway

Minister Ashwini Vaishnav and Railway Board Chairman Jaya Verma over telephone and demanded that the Railway Electrification Organization should not be dissolved because the organization had 50 Excellent work has been done since last year, due to which railway electrification has taken place in most parts of the country, due to which the trains which used to run on diesel engines and used to consume a lot of diesel due to which



a lot of foreign exchange was lost, have reduced a lot, which has helped the

Railways. This department had a leading role in providing direct benefits, so there is a need to reward such a department further. He said that Railway Board Chairman Jaya Verma, in reply to the MP, said that complete electrification of Railways has been done and adjustment of all the employees of Railway Electrification Organization. By doing this, the railway electrification work will continue to perform excellently on ECP mode.

Ego is the path of a person's downfall: Madhukarji Maharaj

Prayagraj: On the occasion of the fifth day of Shrimad Bhagwat Katha organized by Shri Jagannath Ji Mahotsav Committee Trust and Kshatriya Sonar Yuvak Samiti and Mahila Samaj at the Dham of Prayageshwar Nath Lord Jagannath Ji in Kashiraj Nagar, to the devotees. While narrating the story, Puja Shri Vinay Priya Tripathi Madhukar Ji Maharaj said that the devotees can attain Sachchidananda Shri Harinarayan with unwavering love and the more a person suffers from ego, the more he moves away from the Lord. He had broken the ego of Indra by lifting the mountain and had killed the arrogant Kansa Shishupala, hence remember that ego leads a man towards downfall. Before this, Vyas ji had done Krishna Bal Leela, Pootna Uddhar, Namkaran Sanskar, Butter theft, Gocharan, Kalidah, Leela, Chirharan, Govardhan Leela, Rasleela, and Kansa's killing, the incident was described. Rath Yatra co-coordinator Rajesh Kesarwani said that on this occasion, the marriage festival of Lord Shri Krishna and Mata Rukmani ji was celebrated with great pomp. On this occasion, Gopi songs and a magnificent tableau were presented. The main host of the story, General Secretary of Kshatriya Sonar Yuvak Samiti, Indresh Nath Verma. And his wife Sadhna Verma was present on this occasion. Former councillor Umesh Chandra Jaiswal, Shashikant Jaiswal Pappu, Durga Prasad Gupta, Rohit Verma, Jai Ram Gupta, Women President Poonam Gupta, Kanhaiyalal Gupta, Rajesh Kesarwani, Triloki Kesarwani, Amar Rastogi, Indresh Nath Verma, Shivam Soni, Mrs. Kranti Johari, Rachana Verma, Asha Soni, Rath Yatra co-coordinator Basant Lal Azad conducted the Aarti on this occasion Preeti Gupta, Arun Sahu, Sunil Arora, Shubham Agarwal, Happy Kaseria, Pawan Gupta, Ramlal Garg, Arun Sahu, Ajay Agrahari, etc.

Voter felicitation ceremony of BJP City North Assembly organized

Prayagraj: Bharatiya Janata Party Voter felicitation ceremony of City North Assembly was organized at BJP office Civil Lines. On the occasion, the chief guest of the program, MP Praveen Patel expressed his gratitude towards the BJP workers and voters and said that we have won on the basis of the hard work of the workers. We will not let their hard work go waste and will work hard day and night to fulfill the hopes and expectations of the voters. Will do and will strengthen the Bharatiya Janata Party and said that in this election, Congress had spread the business of lies in collaboration with anti-national forces but they could not succeed and the people of the country responded to Prime Minister Narendra Modi by forming the government for the third time. Has given and said that Congress has spread the lie of changing the Constitution and misled the country in the name of 'Khatkhat' which the public will not

forgive and where the election of Phulpur has been won not by us but by the people of Phulpur and the workers of BJP, he said. That we will take the problems of the people raised by the workers to the Lok Sabha and will leave no stone unturned to make Allahabad a historical Prayagraj and said that we do not have to sit, we have to get involved in the by-election of Phulpur Assembly and answer the opponents by blooming lotus.

On this occasion, former minister of Uttar Pradesh, Dr. Narendra Kumar Singh Gaur said that even though we have won the Phulpur Lok Sabha elections, we should have won by more votes, hence we will have to assess ourselves and start preparing for the upcoming assembly elections. For this, we have to work among the people so that we can form the government of Uttar Pradesh with full majority. On this occasion, Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani said that we

have to come out of the mentality of slavery and make India invincible and said that in the life of Bharatiya Janata Party, only sacrifice and penance are visible for the nation. We have to fulfill the dreams

Awadhesh Chandra Gupta said that Congress has done the work of deceiving the public by spreading lies in the name of 'Khatkhat' in the Lok Sabha elections, hence we have to take their lies to the public and Con-

gress leader Rahul Gandhi should stop Hindus by calling them violent. For the insult we have done, we have to be defeated in the upcoming assembly elections. Presiding over the program on this occasion, BJP Metropolitan President Rajendra Mishra said that we have to increase the influence of Bharatiya Janata Party and defeat Congress

to the people and solve their problems so that we can give a befitting reply to the opponents. Apart from this, Shashi Varshney, Ramesh Pasi, Sanjay Gupta, Rajesh Kesarwani said that due to the hard work of the workers, we could win the Phulpur Lok Sabha elections and the voters believed in us. I express my gratitude to them for this. Program Coordinator and Operation Kunj Bihari, Mishra thanked Ramesh Pasi on this occasion Mrityunjay Tiwari, Raghavendra Singh, Anand Jaiswal, Rajesh Kesarwani, Vivek Mishra, Anand Vaishya Sudarshan, Raju Pathak, Vijay Srivastava, Sachin Jaiswal, Geeta Kanojia, Rajesh Gond, Sanjay Srivastava, Rajesh Singh Patel, Anupam Hundreds of workers like Malviya, Councillor Shiva Tripathi, Rajesh Sonkar, Nawab Khan, Rita Singh, Saroj Gupta, Bharat Nishad, Anil Bhatt, Pawan Mishra, Bhola Singh, etc. were present.



of our great men. We have to work with determination only for the glory of Mother India and we have to fulfill every need of the society. We have to do this and we have to work 4 times harder to convert defeat into victory and form the BJP government in the upcoming Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections.

Regional Vice President

Police open history sheet of Atiq's lawyer Vijay Mishra

Prayagraj: After opening the history sheets of slain mafia politician Atiq Ahmed's sons Ali, Umar and his aides, Prayagraj police have now opened the history sheet of Atiq's other lawyer Vijay Mishra who is presently lodged at Naini Central Jail. Vijay Mishra is the sixth accused in lawyer Umesh Pal murder case whose history sheet has been opened by police. Earlier, the police

opened history sheets of Umar, Ali, lawyer Khan Saulat Hanif and Ashraf's brothers-in-law Saddam and Zaid Master. Police officials said that the history sheet of Vijay Mishra has been opened at Cantonment Police station and its number is 22-B. Mishra is an accused in lawyer Umesh Pal murder case and a charge sheet has been filed against him at the court. Police have charged him for

being involved in conspiracy of murder of Umesh Pal who was killed outside his residence at Sulem Sarai on February 24. Police have claimed that Khan Saulat confessed during interrogation that Vijay Mishra had alerted Asad and other assailants through internet call when Pal had left the district court on February 24. A resident of Kakra Kotwa in Sarai Inayat area, Vijay Mishra has nine cases

registered against him at different police stations. In 2010, three cases were registered against him at Mutthiganj police station, including Arms Act and Gangster Act. In 2017, a case of fraud was registered against Mishra at Kareli police station. In 2023, Atarsuiya police lodged an FIR against Mishra for demanding extortion from a trader.

A police team arrested

Vijay Mishra from Lucknow where he had allegedly gone to finalise a land deal the same year. It is worth mentioning that history sheet of Vijay Mishra has been opened under B category which cannot be closed till his death. Police will keep a strict watch on his activities even if he comes out on bail and he will have to produce himself at the police station regularly.

Ph.D. degree awarded to Pooja

Prayagraj: SHUATS scholar Pooja Jagannath Sonpakar was awarded PhD degree in education after completing her research work on Vedic education at Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Science (SHUATS). The chairperson in the final viva of Pooja Sonpakar was Professor (Dr.) Anshuka Srivastava while the external examiner was Prof. Pratibha Upadhyay former Head, Department of Education, University of Allahabad. Pooja Sonpakar's PhD guide was Dr. Anupama Mehta. Pooja's research title was Re-emergence of Vedic Education in Modern Era". Her thesis gives comprehensive information of ancient texts which can be decoded and can be used in present scenario. Associate Dean Dr. Samala S. Masih, SFMC Deed Dr. Ashish Alexander, Dr. Niharika Dennis, Dr. Anupama Mehta, Dr. Avis Chintamani, Dr. Prem Prabha, Dr. Chetna Pandey, Dr. Sangeeta Alfred, Dr. Kirti Cutting, Dr. Syeda Sara Aziz, Dr. Jyotsna Jaiswal, Dr. Prakashobh, Dr. Anjani Saxena etc. were present in final viva voce exam.



Editorial

Fiscal capacities in national growth

Ritu Walia

India's economic progress is a composite reflection of the growth trajectories of its states. Given the federal structure of the country, each state operates with a degree of autonomy in implementing policies that drive their individual economies. This results in a broad spectrum of growth rates across states, highlighting significant disparities. For the nation to achieve holistic growth, it is imperative for all states to experience economic advancement. Despite this, there is a notable discrepancy in the attention paid to fiscal matters at different levels of government. The Union Budget, detailing the central government's finances, often garners substantial scrutiny and debate for its potential impacts on the nation's economic direction. In contrast, state budgets, which are crucial for addressing local needs and fostering regional development, do not attract a similar level of public and analytical scrutiny. Fiscal capacity, the government's ability to generate revenue from available tax and non-tax bases, is crucial for several reasons. First, it underpins a government's ability to provide essential public goods and services. These range from healthcare and education to infrastructure and defense, which are fundamental for the welfare of the citizenry and the smooth functioning of the economy. Without adequate fiscal capacity, governments may struggle to maintain these services at levels that meet public demand and expectations, potentially leading to social unrest or a decline in the quality of life. Second, fiscal capacity is vital for economic development and growth. Governments need resources to invest in infrastructure projects like roads, bridges, and digital networks, which are critical for enhancing productivity and competitiveness. Such investments not only improve current living standards, but also set the stage for future economic expansion. The Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) in 2017 and the World Bank in 2015 highlighted the risk of economies falling into a 'middle-income trap' where they are unable to transition to high-income status due to inadequate fiscal capacity among other factors. Moreover, fiscal capacity is essential for macro-economic stability. It allows governments to manage economic cycles more effectively, applying fiscal stimulus in downturns and restraint in booms to maintain economic stability. The Covid-19 pandemic's impact on Indian states underscored this point, as reduced fiscal capacities constrained their ability to respond effectively to the crisis and its economic repercussions. Finally, a robust fiscal capacity enables equitable social development. It allows for redistributive policies that can mitigate income inequality and fund social safety nets for the vulnerable. Studies have shown that factors such as high per capita income, education levels, and low corruption contribute to higher fiscal capacity, which in turn can be used to foster a more inclusive society. Given that state governments account for over 60 per cent of general government expenditure in India, enhancing their revenue-generating capacity is imperative for the needed investment in areas such as education, research and development, and skill development. The Reserve Bank of India recently released a report on state finances, which gives an insight into the state budgets of 2023-24. It has some important findings. First, revenue mobilisation in Indian states comprises both tax and non-tax revenues, with a significant portion coming from state's own tax revenues (SOTR). Over the years, there has been a noticeable increase in SOTR, growing from 5.7 per cent of GDP in 2003-04 to 6.9 per cent in 2022-23. This growth, particularly in the post-GST era, reflects a shift in the composition of tax revenues. with the State Goods and Services Tax (SGST) becoming a predominant source.

Movements were either crushed badly by this government which suppressed democracy

This time, the first phase of voting for the Lok Sabha elections is to be held on April 19 and the entire BJP lobby including the Modi government at the Center is trying to win more than 400 seats. But it seems that by giving the slogan of 'This time we cross 400', BJP does not want to win so many seats but wants to snatch them. Otherwise, any government would not only get nervous due to so many protests from different sections of the people all over India, but would also try to pacify the angry people and also accept their legitimate demands. But despite opposition on many issues across the country, not only the Modi government at the Center and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, but even a single BJP worker is not ready to bow down. Not only this, the Modi government at the Center is eager to come to power at the Center for the third time by crushing every protest, every movement and every person who opposes its policies like an intoxicated elephant. In fact, if we look at the two tenures of the Modi government at the Center in the last 10 years, we find that it has not refrained from crushing any movement, any protest or any opposition. Be it the movement by ex-servicemen demanding One Rank One Pension, be it the movement of farmers, be it the



movement of the country's daughters and women wrestlers, or any demonstration by unemployed youth demanding jobs, Be it the movement of women employees of Anganwadi centres, or the protests against EVM Tehelka, or the movements in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh to the North-Eastern states. In this way, if we look at the last 10 years of the tenure of the Modi government at the Centre, about twenty types of movements took place at various places; But most of the movements were either crushed badly by this government which suppressed democracy or they were suppressed to such an extent that their voice could not reach the country and abroad. The remaining work in ending these movements was done by a special group of Modiya and those people who have got contracts for various odd jobs in the country. However, if we look

at the movements going on in the country in the last 10-12 years, then first of all we have to look at the protests that took place across the country against the Anna movement and the Nirbhaya incident, due to which the UPA central government was ousted. However, the UPA central government of that time also tried to crush both types of movements; But not to the extent that the Modi government at the Center has done anything to crush all the movements. If we talk about the time after Prime Minister Narendra Modi came to power at the Centre, then the Patel movement of Gujarat, Maratha movement of Maharashtra, farmers movement of Maharashtra, farmers movement of Tamil Nadu, Anganwadi movement, teachers' movements in different states.

Apart from the movement of unemployed youth and the movement of

women wrestlers, all the farmers' movements across the country and the farmers' movement that started in the year 2020 have been crushed by the Modi government at the Center and the BJP state governments. Their demands and problems have been ignored. And the agitators and protesters have been kicked and water cannons have been used. In the first farmer movement against the three agricultural laws, an attempt was made to end the movement by putting all kinds of pressure on the farmers, and this time, when the central government did not fulfill its promises, the farmers decided to march to Delhi. So the attack on them was intensified. Attempts were made to harm them in every possible way, which again led to the martyrdom of 16 farmers. There is still a ban on farmers coming to Delhi as if they are not food providers but terrorists. Recently, Section 144 was imposed in Delhi for more than a month to stop the farmers and even today Section 144 is applicable at some protest sites in Delhi. For example, after the protest by women wrestlers was crushed at Jantar Mantar, Section 144 is still in force and no victim can sit there and raise his voice. Recently, regarding crushing the farmers' movement, Rajasthan's Jat leader Hanuman Prasad Beniwal

wrote on Twitter handle '@narendramodi ji, the way he arrogantly wrote on India ls!

Let me remind you that you did not fulfill the promise made to the farmers during the farmers' movement. Therefore, the step to agitate again for the farmers and their rights was forced to be taken. On one hand you say that violence has no place in democracy. Farmers are being shelled at the behest of the other government, keeping in mind the current situation after the Rashtriya Lok Dal, which fought for the farmers of Western UP, joined hands with the BJP, it is your utmost responsibility to Take cognizance yourself and agree to the demands of the farmers! L

leader of the main opposition Congress, Rahul Gandhi has spoken many times about suppressing the voice of the people by the Modi government at the Centre. Fearless and impartial journalists and intellectuals of similar nature are also unhappy with this attitude of the government.

Experts and scholars belonging to the rural context are also continuously opposing the policies of the government. But the government does not care about all this. In fact, now even the police pick up people sitting in any protest and put them in jail, even if.

Why China Blocks the Dalai Lama's Sri Lanka Visit

China has been blocking His Holiness the Dalai Lama's visits to Sri Lanka. Recently, a renowned Sri Lankan Buddhist monk revealed this in a media interview. When asked about China's view on the Dalai Lama, the most venerable Dr. W a s k u d u w e Mahindawansa said, "We respect him and invited him to Sri Lanka, but China did not like that. China pressed against our government as well, we don't like that. He is a Buddhist leader, he has freedom, and we have the freedom to invite." This incident wasn't an exception; China has been blocking His Holiness the Dalai Lama's visits to Sri Lanka since 2015. In fact, China has never expressed its displeas-

ure whenever the Dalai Lama moves from one place to another or meets any person of repute. For China, the Dalai Lama, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989, is a 'separatist'. China has even called him 'wolf in monk's robes'. Why does a benevolent exiled leader agitate an aspiring superpower so much? The answer lies in the complex history of Tibet and the Chinese subjugation of the same over the last 70 years Tibet lies in the confluence of Central, South and East Asia. It has a recorded history dating back to 602 AD when Namri Songsten became the first king of Tibet, uniting the central Tibetan states. There are records of conflict between China and Tibet, which was ended by the China-

Tibet Peace Treaty 821 AD. The treaty famously mentions, "Tibetans shall be happy in Tibet, and Chinese shall be happy in China." After more than 700 years, China and Tibet both sustained subsequent Mongol invasions. In the latter half of the 16th century, Altan Khan, the Mongol ruler, gave the title of Dalai Lama to Sonam Gyatso, leader of the Gelugpa school of Buddhism. In return, the Dalai Lama decreed that Altan Khan be reincarnated as Kublai Khan, which gave legitimacy to his rule. This event marks the founding of modern Tibet. For the next two hundred years Chinese tried to take hold of Tibet but could not succeed, and their influence declined in the first half of the 20th century.

Iran's counter-attack last week wasn't exactly unpredictable

"Unprecedented" is the adjective used in almost every global newspaper's description of Iran's retaliatory attack against Israel on 14 April, which the Benjamin Netanyahu government responded militarily by firing missiles at an Iranian airbase in Isfahan morning. Iran's counter-attack last week wasn't exactly unpredictable—Tehran made it pretty clear it would respond to a suspected Israeli attack on its consulate in Syria on 1 April that killed two of its senior military commanders. It named its operation "True Promise", reflecting its vow to punish those who attacked its diplomatic mission. But the barrage of Iranian drones and missiles—approximately 300—had no precedent. Neither did the suspected Israeli strike near an Iranian military base that followed. It was the first time, after 45 years of an icy shadow war, that we saw a direct confrontation between the regional archenemies. And that is why the new arc of violence in the Israel-Iran conflict, now marked by direct confrontation, is ThePrint's Newsmaker of the Week. Some view Iran as dealing the first hand or lighting the first match. But certain analysts suggest Tehran's calculation involved not just sending a message to Israel but also to its own proxies in the region. Sanam Vakil, Director

of the Middle East and North Africa programme at the Chatham House think tank, told The Guardian: "Iran's calculation was that if [it] didn't respond, Israel will keep trying to push back and degrade the axis of resistance across the region. This was about reinforcing its red lines and some measure of deterrence." For five days, the world waited with bated breath for Israel's response. The German and British foreign ministers flew into Israel earlier this week in efforts to prevent an escalation of the conflict, but it was clear that Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu was going to strike back. It was just a matter of when and how. By launching direct attacks on each other's soil after decades of covert operations, cyber attacks and proxy wars, Israel and Iran have diverted from long-standing foreign policy strategies. On the one hand, Iran had always followed a policy of "strategic patience", which involves propping up proxy forces in the Middle East to fight off Israel and its Western allies, while also projecting power in the region. Hezbollah in Lebanon is a prime example of this. In 1982, when Israel invaded Lebanon to expel the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) sent in

what was known as the "Prophet Mohammad Corps" to Syria, which was then sent to Lebanon to fight against Israeli forces. This was the birth of Hezbollah. "The Islamic Republic is a survivalist regime," explains Arman Mahmoudian, a lecturer of Russian and Middle Eastern Studies and a PhD candidate in politics and international affairs at the University of South Florida, in an article for Gulf International Forum.

"Hezbollah's foundational purpose raises the question: why has the militant group thus far avoided confrontation? The brief answer is that Hezbollah is too valuable an asset to be deployed recklessly," he adds. By launching 300 drones and missiles into Israel, Tehran effectively abandoned this policy and any previous reluctance it had in attacking Israel directly. Similarly, Israel seems to have diverted from its "reverse periphery doctrine". Previously, under Israel's first prime minister David Ben-Gurion, Israel followed the "periphery doctrine" in a bid to end its isolation in the Middle East. The idea was to pursue relations with non-Arab states at the 'edges' of the Middle East, mainly Iran and Turkey. With Iran and Israel diverting from their traditional strategies, the big question is whether an all-out war is on the horizon.

Beyond Politics: Protecting Sanatana Dharma from Misguided Extremism

What this means is that Sanatana Dharma has allowed for differences of opinion within its fold, including trenchant criticism of some aspects of it, by its own followers. The Hindu faith had not one but six systems of philosophy attempting to understand the truth behind the vast and bewildering plurality of the cosmos. Each of them had a different interpretation. In addition, there is the Lokayita Charvaka school, which cogently argued the materialist school of thought, denied the existence of God,

and considered the Vedas, regarded as Shruti or revealed texts by many Hindus, as devoid of all sanctity. But the Charvakas were not ostracised, or worse, beheaded for blasphemy. Instead, they enriched the dialogic debate within Hinduism and were countered in a civilised manner by those opposed to them. In the 8th century CE, Adi Shankaracharya, who is considered the 'reviver' of Hinduism, could say without fear: na manro na teertham na veda na yajnah: neither mantras, nor pilgrimages, nor the Vedas or yajna (rituals),

matter. What matters is: Chidananda roopam, Shivo hum, Shivo hum: bliss and awareness, I am Shiva, I am Shiva. In many religions, the declaration of equating oneself with God would be considered blasphemy. For instance, in Persia, a Sufi mystic, Al Hallaj (858-922 CE), almost contemporaneous with Shankaracharya, was put to death for having the temerity to say: 'Ana' I Haq: I am the Truth'. But not so in Sanatana Dharma. The basic point is Sanatana Dharma is eternal for the grandeur of its philosophical vision, and not only

for its religious practice; it is eternal for the diversity it allows for in thought, and not necessarily its rituals. Therefore, narrowing the interpretation of Sanatana Dharma to exclude all differences of opinion is distorting its greatness and, indeed, the very reason for survival. Unfortunately, this is precisely what we see happening today. Anybody and everybody is 'hurt' by anyone who does not blindly endorse everything that is deemed by the 'hurt' to be a part of Sanatana Dharma, including those ills that urgently need reform.

Philippine have allowed international medical graduates to obtain licenses

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



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

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

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



How Does Widespread NCERT Textbook Adoption Benefit Indian Students?

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

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

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

Sindhu beat Ongbamrunghan to reach the Malaysia

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



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

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

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

The US is the top study abroad location for Indian students

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

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

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

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

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

was able to contain Belgium and keep the lead.

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

Low-pressure area over Bay of Bengal-IMD

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

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

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

Indian women's compound team wins third straight Archery World

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



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

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

HC overturns JNV's admittance denial

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



IIT-Delhi launches high school girl STEM mentorship program

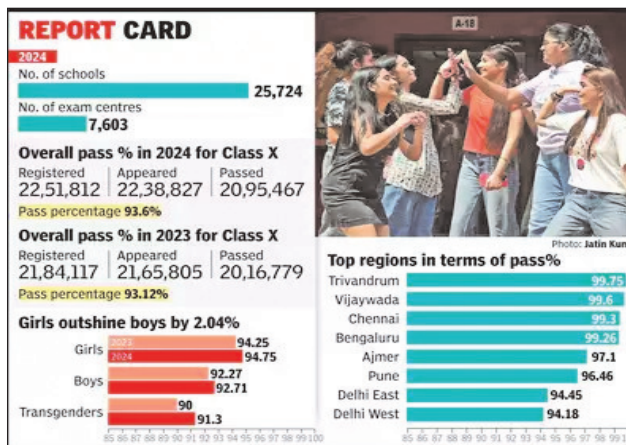
Delhi: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT-Delhi) launched its third STEM mentorship program for Class 9 and 11 high school girls. Over 200 nominations were received from Delhi government, Kendriya Vidyalaya (Delhi-NCR), and private schools this year. The third batch had 100 candidates. Three sections will comprise the STEM Mentorship Program. A 9-day program will be held from May 14 to 24 during the "summer phase". Expert lectures, laboratory demonstrations, and hands-on problem-solving will immerse learners in STEM. In addition, IIT Delhi's Maker Space program will give students DIY project experience. Between July and November 2024, participants will attend the monthly Saturday Sci-Tech Spins lecture series in the "At the school" phase. Interactions with IIT Delhi students will enhance learning. A "winter phase" in January 2025 will include STEM leadership lectures, entrepreneurship, and interactions with accom-



plished IIT Delhi alumni. First batch of 10 girls launched in December 2021, followed by "successful completion" of second batch of 32 schoolgirls in June 2023 under IIT Delhi's Office of Academic Outreach and New Initiatives. The mentorship program, led by Prof. Rangan Banerjee, Director of IIT Delhi, inaugurated its third phase to inspire and encourage young people to pursue STEM careers in a supportive atmosphere. "We want gender balance in our institute. IIT Delhi Prof. Rangan Banerjee said this program allows women students to explore STEM careers and make informed decisions based on their interests and passion.

Southern regions retain their Class X lead with over 2L pupils scoring 90%

Delhi: Success rates for the Central Board of Secondary Education's Class X exams rose from 93.1% in 2023 to 93.6% this year. CBSE reported that 47,983 Class X students, 2.1% of the total, scored above 95% and 2.1 lakh, 9.5%, got over 90%. Over 95% and 90% were achieved by 44,297 and 1.1 lakh students last year. Girls pass Class X examinations at 94.8%, while boys pass at 92.7%. Thiruvananthapuram had the highest success rate at 99.8%, followed by Vijayawada (99.6%), Chennai (99.3%), Bengaluru (99.3%), Ajmer (97.1%), and Pune (96.5%). Guwahati had the lowest pass rate at 77.9%. Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti had the highest pass rate at 99.1%, while government-aided schools had the lowest at 83.9%. The compartment had 1,32,337 students, 5.9% of the total and down from 6.2% in 2023. This year, CBSE didn't disclose the toppers' list to avoid "unhealthy competition". However, the board will award merit certificates to the top



Girls succeed again in CBSE 12th, 91.5% to boys' 85%

Delhi: The Central Board of Secondary Education Class XII exams, 2024, finished with an 87.9% success percentage, up from 87.3% last year. A total of 24,068 pupils scored above 95%. The number of candidates who got over 90% in aggregate increased from 1.12 lakh to 1.16 lakh, or 8% of the total, despite fewer candidates. Girls had 91.5% success compared to 85.1% for boys. The highest girl pass rates were in Panchkula (93.9%), Patna (89.1%), Noida (87.1%), and Dehradun (88.4%). Thiruvananthapuram led the 17 CBSE regions with 99.9% pass rates, followed by the newly founded Vijayawada, Chennai, and Bengaluru. The capital, separated into Delhi West and Delhi East, enjoyed 95.6% success. Applications are only accepted for theory papers. Applications for their marks for Rs 500 per question. Applications are only accepted for theory papers. Applications for their marks for Rs 500 per question. Applications are only accepted for theory papers.

Jasmine to retake 57kg quota after Hooda suspension

Delhi: The International Testing Agency (ITA) sanctioned 57kg boxer Parveen Hooda for 22 months after her three whereabouts failures between April 2022 and May 2023. BFI verified in an official release that Parveen's ban is 14 months starting May 17, 2024, due to the eight-month backdate. Her punishment ends on July 16, 2025, therefore she will miss the Paris Olympics.

We did our hardest to get the greatest result, but unfortunately. Parveen's lawyer, Vidushpat Singhania, said they saved 10 months of her career despite the maximum penalty of 24 months. Players in WADA's Registered Testing Pool



(RTP) must report their locations periodically. As per WADA, "any combination of three whereabouts failures

(filing failure and/or missed test) within a period of 12 months constitute an anti-doping rule violation, for which the applicable sanction is 2 years' ineligibility subject to a reduction to a minimum of 1 year depending on your degree of fault." "Ms. Hooda failed to accurately and consistently input her whereabouts information because she lacked the skills and technical know-how to operate the Anti-Doping Administration & Management System (ADAMS) platform. In this case, Ms. Hooda failed to comply due to her lack of ADAMS platform knowledge and technical comprehension," Singhania added.

Class 12 pass rate in Delhi govt institutions rises to 96.9%.

Delhi: Delhi government schools had a 96.99 pass rate in the Class 12 CBSE exams, faring higher than the national average of 87.98%, according to results. Delhi government schools had a Class 10 pass rate of 94.2, up 8.36 percentage points from the previous year and better than the national average of 86.7%. Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal praised the kids and education workers for their performance.

He said on X: "Delhi government schools scored 96.99% in Class 12 CBSE exams. This beats our previous year's performance and the CBSE average. Congratulations to students, teachers, parents, and the education department on this amazing performance..." This year, 151,429 Delhi government school students took Class 12 board exams. The exam was passed by 146,885. The pass rate rose 5.4 points to 96.99% from 91.59% previous year. This exceeds Capital private schools' 94.18% pass rate. Delhi government authorities claimed 307 Delhi Government schools scored 100% in the Class 12 board exams this year, more than two-and-a-half times more than previous year's 118. Officials said 863 schools scored over 90% this year, up from 647 last year.

For PhD admissions, DU will take UGC-NET scores into account

Delhi: Delhi University will begin using the results of the National Eligibility Test (NET) for associate professor and junior research fellowship for admitting students to its PhD programs in the academic year 2024-2025. The University Grants Commission has produced a circular in accordance with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which the university confirmed its adoption of. This move is allegedly being taken in order to eliminate the several entrance tests that are administered by different universities throughout the nation for PhD programs. The UGC circular states that the test results of NET-qualified candidates will be given 70%

weighting in the admissions process under this new structure, with the interview component receiving the remaining 30% of the weight. Three types of UGC-NET qualified candidates would be available for PhD admissions under the amended guideline. Maya John, an assistant professor at DU and member of the academic council, stated, "It is highly objectionable that the university has adopted this measure, especially without deliberating on its myriad implications in the University's statutory bodies like the Academic Council." The National Testing Agency (NTA) will close the UGC NET June 2024 application window. To apply for the University Grants

Commission National Eligibility Test 2024, candidates need to go to ugcnet.nta.ac.in. Exam fees must be paid by May 16, 2024, at the latest. For the UGC NET June 2024 exam, the National Testing Agency (NTA) is ending the application registration window today. Until May 10, qualified applicants may submit their applications on the official website. The notification contains information about the exam's eligibility requirements, application procedure, syllabus, and other topics. The exam is scheduled for June 18, 2024. Candidates can now apply online on the official website as the National Testing Agency (NTA) has extended the registration deadline for UGC NET

Interview dates for Schengen visas are hard to come by this summer

Delhi: Schengen nations had the third-highest absolute demand for visas in India last year, with 9.7 lakh applications—44% more than 6.7 lakh in 2022—than Indian citizens. According to the European Commission, India witnessed the second-highest growth in applications among the top five nations in percentage terms, following China. India was followed by Morocco and Turkey in this order. Despite the increase, many Indian travelers' plans were derailed by the lack of available visa interview dates. China and Russia share a history of varying for-

tunes. In contrast, China, whose borders were only opened to foreign travel last year due to a massive backlog of demand, shot to the top of the table in 2022 from number 22. The largest rise was observed in 2023, with 1,104% more applications than in 2022—ten times more than in 2022. Refer to the box. In contrast, Russia dropped from second place in 2022 to fifth place in 2023, mostly as a result of the sanctions that followed its conflict with Ukraine. Over these two years, there was a 25% decrease in Russian applications for Schengen visas. Travel experts feel

that the real demand for India is considerably larger than the official statistics. But many Indians who wished to travel were unable to apply for Schengen visas due to the lack of available slots for visa interviews. There are just not enough appointments available with most Schengen nations. July is the earliest available date if you would like to visit Germany and Italy during the summer. For travelers, this is making things very tough. By law, applicants must submit an application to the consulate of the nation that would serve as their main European destination.

Delhi CUET UG 2024 postponed to May 29

The NTA informed that the Delhi CUET-UG, scheduled on May 15, will be moved to May 29. All 258 capital city testing centers are affected by this change. Candidates affected by this modification will receive amended NTA admission cards. Unavoidable circumstances specifically for the Delhi locations prompted the postponement, according to NTA Senior Director Sadhna Parashar. Chemistry (306), Biology (304), English (101), and the General Test (501) were postponed. The exam will continue on May 15 in Gurugram, Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Noida, and other Indian and international cities. May 16, 17, and 18 exams, including Delhi ones, will go on as planned. The CUET-UG, which admits undergraduates to 261 central, state, deemed, and private universities in India, is in its third year. The exam's importance in education is shown by its 13.4 lakh registrations. The 2024 CUET-UG will be completed in seven days in a single shift, unlike its 2022 predecessor, which had technical issues and required score normalization owing to numerous shifts. The remaining 48 subjects will be assessed using computers, while 15 will be tested using pen-and-paper.

UP schools promise extra credit, money to encourage voting

Delhi: Lucknow schools have devised creative awards for children whose parents get tattoos on May 21, the election day, taking incentives to a whole new level. Staff members who participate in the election process will receive an additional day's remuneration from St. Joseph's College in Lucknow, in addition to 10 bonus marks for students whose parents exercise their right to vote.

IT hiring is improving, but firms are wary



Delhi: LinkedIn and other leading job sites said that top IT services companies' active hiring rose to 82,000 in March from 50,000 in January, the first growth in 20 months. However, due to declining attrition, the top IT services businesses' collective gross hiring declined 4-6% QoQ in the quarter ending March, according to Xpheno's study for ET based on talent movement patterns in January-March. Wipro, Infosys, TCS, HCL, LTI Mindtree, L&T Technology Services, Tech Mahindra, and Cognizant were exam-

ined. "While gross hiring (attrition refills and fresh hiring) has been low and declining for eight quarters, the current rise in active demand denotes a return of hiring for capacity in the ITS cohort," Anil Ethanur, co-founder of X Gross hiring volume for the quarter ending March 2024 may be the lowest in over two years due to the 4-6% reduction.

Despite the drop in gross hiring, fewer exits will result in a lower headcount degrowth than last quarter "and IT sector consultants said FY25

discussions are still focused on bench dilution, automation, efficiency, and targeted hiring in niche areas like AI and GenAI due to macroeconomic uncertainty and few signs of demand recovery.

"IT services bellwethers will be cautious in FY25 talent acquisition as they focus on profits. Even if some regions are showing signs of improvement, overall demand signals are poor and do not indicate a spending comeback in the next two quarters.

Will invest if EV GST stays 5% for 10 years: Mercedes-Benz

Delhi: Mercedes-Benz, one of the first major carmakers to show interest in the government's new EV policy, said it would invest \$500 million "provided it gets an assurance that the current 5% GST regime for electrics will continue for a decade." "We must determine its logic. The tax advantage of 5% GST on EVs must last ten years for investments to be made "Mercedes India MD & CEO Santosh Iyer. "We'll start with a business case.

No commercial case exists today." Mercedes was one of the first multinational automakers to invest in electric



mobility in India and is developing six green automobiles. The company's electric lineup comprises the EQS limousine, EQB MPV, and EQE SUV. Cars are made in its plant outside Pune. The company is introducing its smallest electric SUV, the EQA, and planning the EQS Maybach and electric G Class green SUVs. Iyer said the company

hopes the government would use tax incentives to promote green mobility in India. "On our part, we will do everything possible to accelerate the transition to EVs through our six models." Iyer said firms and service providers must work together to build a dense EV charging network. In addition, like the telecom industry and cell tower sharing, electric charger infrastructure may be common and pooled.

Iyer said the government should encourage EVs as India goes toward carbon neutrality.

Small business payment rules to change by centre

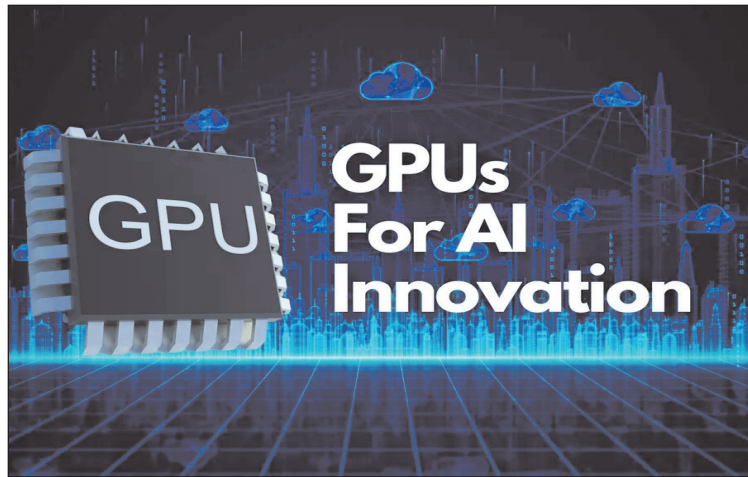
Delhi: An exporter in Chennai with multiple units was forced to deregister one of its entities on Udyam, the portal for micro, small, and medium enterprises, because some large buyers did not want to be caught in a government mandate requiring actual payment of

all dues to MSMEs within 45 days to claim tax deduction for expenditure. Several small businesses across the country are protesting that the government's well-intentioned attempt to ensure prompt payments is being used against them since they have little leverage in

negotiating with large enterprises that set pricing and payment terms. Others argued the standards were against business practices in particular sectors or in specific parts of the country where 60-90-day payments are common.

Government contemplating 25K GPUs

Delhi: According to media reports, the Indian government is considering a public-private partnership (PPP) to set up a cluster of 25,000 GPUs (graphic processing units) for Indian companies working on AI and other emerging technologies that require high computing capacity. The Ministry of Electronics and IT is debating the INR 8,000-10,000 crore plan at the highest levels. Indian AI startups, corporations, and CEOs have urged the government to invest in scarce and expensive processing resources. Experts say the proposal will keep Indian data sovereign. They added many in the business have been using foreign clouds because GPUs are scarce in



India. One of Meity's seven AI working groups recommended a 25,000 GPU cluster, reports said. Data and people capital are abundant in India due to many digital changes, according to experts. India needs at least 25,000 GPUs for supercom-

puting to compete in the global AI race. The 75th fastest supercomputer in the world, India's 'Airawat' at C-DAC in Pune, has 640 GPUs. Worldwide, the fastest supercomputers have over 30,000 GPUs. The official said the government

will invite private companies to set up GPUs here through the usual tendering process after finalizing the project.

If they had a 1,000 GPU cluster instantly, AI businesses in the country may attract more funding, experts claimed. While the government considers this suggestion, recent agreements between Nvidia, Reliance Jio, and Tata Sons may provide entrepreneurs with computing infrastructure. Experts also said India needs fast supercomputers, and companies are looking at government programs to develop gigantic supercomputers and enterprises to train large language models (LLMs) in numerous Indian languages.

Optiemus plans to invest Rs 140 crore to expand drone manufacturing

Delhi: To grow and provide drone manufacturing services to the agriculture, mapping, and allied industries, Optiemus Unmanned Systems, a subsidiary of Optiemus Infra, a contract maker of electronics, would invest Rs 140 crore. According to chairman Ashok Gupta, the company is localizing parts and components in order to reach 75% indigenization by the end of the fiscal year. If interest rates

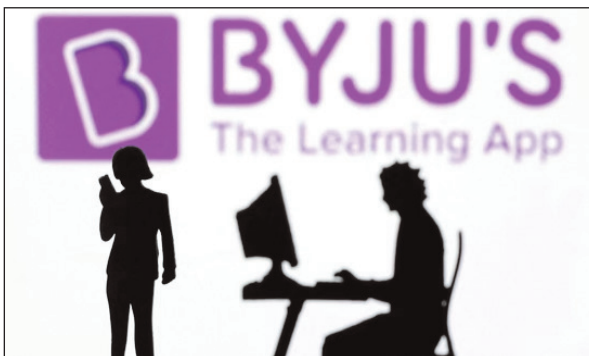


were high right now, would you invest your money in a long-term fixed deposit? "We are set to leverage our

expertise in drone technology to offer a cost-effective and efficient solution for agricultural and defence needs," Gupta stated.

NCLT tells Byju's: Show lack of funds or face audit

Delhi: The National Company Law Tribunal advised Byju's to have its finances reviewed to determine if it can pay its employees. The court ruled that Byju's is still operating and must generate revenue to pay salaries while hearing a group of employees' request for unpaid wages. The court ordered the firm to establish its incapacity to pay or face an audit. The remarks were part of the arguments, and no decision has been made. Byju's didn't comment. Several Byju employees haven't been paid for February and March. In an earlier letter to staff, founder and CEO Byju Raveendran stated a few investors' deci-



sion to prevent the company from using rights issue funds had delayed salary payments. Byju's laid off 500 workers and closed most of its offices in April.

In an interim order in late February, the NCLT ordered the company to keep all \$200 million rights issue funds in a separate escrow account and not withdraw them until the mismanagement and oppression suit filed by a section of

investors against the company's management was resolved. Since the start, Byju's investors Prosus, Peak XV Partners, Sofina, and General Atlantic have opposed the rights offer and are believed to have appealed the Karnataka high court's recent decision to lift the NCLT stay on its second rights sale. Discover how frozen accounts affect employee compensation at Byjus in Karnataka.

Air cargo from India increases amid Red Sea crisis, aiming for 10 mn tonnes by 2030



Delhi: Air freight from India has more than doubled since the Red Sea crisis, allowing the country to reach its 2030-31 goal of transporting 10 million tonnes (MT) of air cargo. India's air freight peaked at above 3.5 MT in 2017-18 and has recovered from COVID-19. President of the Air Cargo Forum of India (ACFI) Yashpal Sharma stressed the significance of minimizing trans-shipment carriage times and allowing foreign freighter

aircraft to reach numerous Indian destinations. Air transport accounts for less than 2% of worldwide freight. A half-percent adjustment will improve aviation cargo volumes after the Red Sea crisis. India has a huge chance but must address the hurdles, especially speeding up trans-shipment, which takes 2-2.5 days "Sharma stated Thursday at the ACFI Annual Conclave 2024 in New Delhi. India's air freight sector is unique, with foreign

imports, exports, and domestic cargo each accounting for one-third of volume. Less than 15% of aviation cargo is carried by freighters; most is in passenger planes' bellies. Freighter aircraft numbers fluctuated, according to aviation ministry senior economic advisor Piyush Srivastava. Before COVID, India had six freighters. This number grew to 28 during the pandemic as airlines shifted passenger planes to cargo.

Google to face South Korean regulator over YouTube bundling allegations



Delhi: South Korea's antitrust regulator is poised to punish Google (NASDAQ:GOOGL) for improperly bundling YouTube's music service with its premium membership program, authorities. Since February last year, the Fair Trade Commission (FTC) has conducted an on-site investigation into whether the tech giant violated fair transaction rules by offering YouTube Music to Ad-free YouTube premium members without further charges. After a

months-long inquiry, the FTC presented a review report calling for Google's punishment before a plenary meeting, Yonhap News Agency reports. Officials said the examination focused on whether Google abused its market dominance by deploying such a technique and limited fair competition in the industry. Some argue that bundling has increased YouTube subscribers but limited consumers' choices and unfairly hurt other music streamers.

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375 million subscribers' details are reportedly for sale, however Bharti Airtel disputes any data breach

Delhi: In the midst of accusations of a significant consumer data leak, telecom giant Bharti Airtel has denied any security system compromise. A claim has surfaced suggesting that there has been a compromise of Airtel customer data. This is nothing more than vested interests' desperate attempt to damage Airtel's brand. An Airtel representative clarified the rumors of a data breach that has been circulating since yesterday, telling Moneycontrol, "We have done a thorough investigation and can confirm that there has been no breach whatsoever from Airtel systems." Unverified claims claimed that the Aadhaar number, phone number, email address, and address of 375 million Airtel subscribers were out for grabs on the dark web. Moneycontrol was unable to confirm the veracity of the report on the data leak. A database was purportedly offered for sale on a dark web forum by a threat actor going by the handle "xenZen," who apparently demanded \$50,000 for the material.

Ola leaves Google Maps and relocates to its own Maps Ola

Delhi Divya: The ride-hailing company Ola has replaced its Google Maps integration in its app with its own internal map system, Ola Maps, according to a statement made by CEO and founder Bhavish Aggarwal. Aggarwal claimed in a post on X that the action had allowed the business to save Rs 100 crore a year. "We have completely moved away from Google

Indkal Technologies to Launch Smartphones under the Acer Brand in India

Hisar/Ambala: Indkal

Technologies, a leading technology company in India, today announced its foray into the smartphone market under a trademark licensing agreement with Acer Incorporated, a global ICT giant, known for its innovative technology and exceptional products. Under this agreement, Indkal will design, manufacture and distribute smartphones under the Acer brand in India. This strategic deal marks the introduction of Acer-branded smartphones into the Indian market, heralding a new era of innovation and expansion. Indkal Technologies will launch a wide range of smartphone models under the Acer brand in mid-2024, expecting to quickly build strong momentum and a significant market share. This effort highlights Acer's brand strength and Indkal's commitment to delivering premium-quality products to Indian consumers, featuring robust specifications, cutting-edge hardware and advanced software technologies.

Anand Dubey, CEO of Indkal Technologies, expressed his excitement, "Acer smartphones are something we have been working on for a couple of years and we are ecstatic to finally announce the foray. With Acer smartphones, we are certain that Indian consumers are in for a treat. Our customers will experi-



ence exceptionally well-designed smartphones with high end processors, top notch camera technology and a host of premium features across the range. The best part is that all Acer-branded smartphones will be designed and manufactured in India, which is also a unique achievement for Indkal". Jade Zhou, VP of Global Strategic Alliances at Acer Incorporated, added, "Since its establishment in 1987, the Acer brand mission has always been to break barriers between people and technology. We are excited that Indkal Technologies will further this mission in India by providing a wide range of smartphones under the Acer brand that expand end user choices and enrich their experience in the India market." This venture signifies the entry of a major computing brand into the India smartphone market, highlighting the segment's immense growth potential. With a focus on smartphones priced between 15,000 to 50,000 rupees, this market will now see strong competition.

Poster Making Competition Organised on World Population Day



Chandigarh: Maharishi Dayanand Public School, MDAV Bhavan, Daria, Chandigarh organized a poster making competition in collaboration with Environment Department Chandigarh Administration on the occasion of World Population Day in collaboration with the Environment Department, Chandigarh. The children expressed through the posters that continued increase in population could result in imbalance in the environment. Students

said that a small family was essential for a clean environment. They conveyed the message that glaciers were melting due to the continuous human population on Earth. This would threaten the existence of humans in danger. The environment is being adversely affected due to continuous cutting of trees. Students said that if the population was low then the environment would remain clean. They also stressed upon more planting of trees for a cleaner and safer environment. In Junior category

Abhay, Abhimanyu, Luxmi and Jyoti received first, second and third prizes respectively while in Senior category Ragini, Kajal and Anjali got first, second and third prizes respectively. On this occasion, the school Principal Dr. Vinod Kumar said that the masses were affected by the population. Due to population growth, men were cutting trees at a fast speed. Due to this ignorance, he is endangering his life and others. Control on increasing population is necessary.

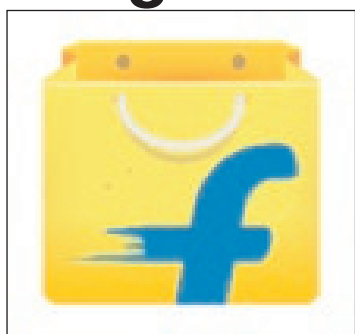
CAPSULES

Rallis India launches "Dhaan ka Powerplay" campaign in Punjab & Haryana

KARNAL / SONIPAT : Rallis India Limited, a Tata enterprise and a leading player in the Indian agri-inputs industry is actively raising awareness about crop care in the early stages of paddy cultivation through its farmers' campaign, "Dhaan ka Powerplay," across Haryana and Punjab. Paddy crops significantly contribute to the farmers' income in these markets. As an organization committed to providing farmers with advanced Agri solutions and to sensitize them about the importance of paddy crop health and nourishment in its early stage, Rallis India initiated the 'Dhaan ka Powerplay' campaign. This campaign facilitates direct farmer engagement through field visits, demos, one-on-one farmer meetings across Punjab and Haryana. "Rallis India's comprehensive crop care solutions are designed to support the farmers of Punjab and Haryana in maximizing their paddy yields. Through this campaign, we aim to drive deeper awareness and adoption of our innovative granular products such as Zaafu, Ralligold GR, Zygant, and Nayazinc that deliver tangible benefits in the crucial initial stage of the crop cycle. It has been Rallis India's constant endeavor to ensure that farmers are well-informed about the benefits of its products which are tailored to address the specific needs of the region's paddy varieties," said, S Nagarajan, Chief Operating Officer, Rallis India Limited. The objective of 'Dhaan ka Powerplay' is to educate farmers on the advantages of using Zaafu, Ralligold GR, Zygant, and Nayazinc, together which are highly suitable for application up to 30 days from the time of transplanting.

Flipkart expands digital payment offerings with new recharge and bill payment categories

GURUGRAM / KARNAL : Flipkart, India's homegrown e-commerce marketplace, today announced the launch of five new recharge and bill payment categories, including Fastag, DTH recharges, landline, broadband, and mobile postpaid bill payments on its app. These are in addition to the existing electricity and mobile prepaid recharge options. Flipkart has partnered with BillDesk, one of India's leading payment solutions companies, to help integrate the new services with Bharat Bill Payments System (BBPS), developed by the National Payments Corporation of India. As part of a limited-time deal, customers can



redeem offers of up to 10% with SuperCoins by using Flipkart UPI. With the launch of these new categories, customers can make their bill and recharge payments while enjoying shopping on Flipkart. In FY2024, Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) processed approximately 1.3 billion transactions across India, a number expected to

grow to over 3 billion by 2026. With 20+ bill categories and over 21,000 billers active in the BBPS ecosystem, more than 70% of bill payments are now conducted electronically. With the launch of new categories, Flipkart has opened more avenues for customers to pay their bills electronically in a seamless manner while tapping into the growing demand in this space.

Commenting on the launch, Gaurav Arora, Vice President, Payments and SuperCoins at Flipkart, said, "With a rapid surge in the digital payments industry, customers are increasingly opting for electronic mode for paying their

bills. We have diversified our selection of services in-line with Flipkart's vision to simplify the digital payments journey for customers and further the government's vision of a cashless economy. From buying their favourite products to addressing digital payment requirements, this enhancement has created a one-stop destination for customers to fulfill all their needs anytime, anywhere in a secure and seamless manner. This initiative is another step towards bringing continued innovation for our customers while elevating the overall experience by making it more enriching and rewarding."

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

Delhi: With an influx of 11,730 crore rupees, foreign investors have made a spectacular return to the Indian equities markets. For the past several months, foreign investors have been dumping their equity in Indian markets. When Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) made investments in the Indian equity market the week before, the pattern shifted. May had the highest amount of equity sold by FIIs in any month of 2024—more than

40,000 crore rupees. As of June 14, the Net FIIs outflow for the month was 3,064 crore rupees, based on statistics from depositories. Between June 3 and June 7, foreign investors sold 14,794 crore rupees in shares. Rather than equities, they choose the debt market. FIIs has invested 5,700 crore rupees in the debt market as of June 14 this month. It has been beneficial that there is now more interest in Indian markets.

Insurance firms can't deny claims without documents.

Delhi: The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) said that general insurance companies cannot deny claims for "want of documents". When issuing coverage, insurers must gather all essential papers. Importantly, the regulator

Mohan Lal Baroli becoming BJP state president will strengthen the party: Amarjeet

Kaithal: Haryana Rice Millers Dealers Association State President and senior BJP leader Amarjeet Chhabra expressed happiness on Rai MLA Mohan Lal Baroli being made the Haryana BJP State President and said that with Mohan



Lal Baroli becoming the State President, the party will get strengthened and the BJP organization in the state will also become stronger and more powerful at a faster pace. He said that Mohan Lal Baroli is a struggling, honest leader who runs the organization strongly and has old experience of running the organization. His experience will work to strengthen the party organization. While talking here, Amarjeet Chhabra said that the BJP High

Command has expressed confidence in Mohanlal Baroli and making him the State President of Haryana BJP, there is a wave of happiness among the workers. BJP leader Amarjeet Chhabra thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP National President J.P. Singh on Baroli being made the BJP State President. Expressing gratitude to Nadda, Chief Minister Naib Singh Saini, State In-charge Dr. Satish Punia, Assembly Election In-charge Dhamendra Pradhan, Assembly Election Co-In-charge Surendra Nagar and BJP High Command, he said that with Mohanlal Baroli becoming the State President, Haryana BJP organization will become stronger and new enthusiasm.

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Through this campaign, we aim to drive deeper awareness and adoption of our innovative granular products such as Zaafu, Ralligold GR, Zygant, and Nayazinc that deliver tangible benefits in the crucial initial stage of the crop cycle. It has been Rallis India's constant endeavor to ensure that farmers are well-informed about the

benefits of its products which are tailored to address the specific needs of the region's paddy varieties," said, S Nagarajan, Chief Operating Officer, Rallis India Limited.

The objective of 'Dhaan ka Powerplay' is to educate farmers on the advantages of using Zaafu, Ralligold GR, Zygant, and Nayazinc, together which are highly suitable for application up to 30 days from the time of transplanting.

These products play a pivotal role in enhancing soil health and plant vigor during the crucial initial growth phase of paddy cultivation. Rallis India's extensive distribution network and farmer connect initiatives ensure widespread accessibility and adoption of such solutions across Punjab and Haryana.

Dumping ash garbage in a corner and preventing vehicles

Delhi: A month after opening its first engineered landfill in Tehkhand, Municipal Corporation of Delhi assigned its operation and maintenance to an experienced agency. The civic authority noted that managing the leachate treatment facility, maintaining the green space, and most significantly, leveling ash from two waste-to-energy plants—Okhla and Tehkhand—requires competence. The site can hold 10 lakh tonnes of ash, and 12,000 tonnes have been dumped. "While the horticulture department has planted a 30-meter strip around the designed landfill, the weighing bridge, roads, and drains need a dedicated system for maintenance.

Leachate treatment plant operation will also be monitored by the agency "official. Three approach roads allow trucks to easily transfer rubbish to the landfill site. The peripheral boundary wall is 3.5 meters high. MCD will submit a maintenance plan for approval after the model code of conduct is lifted.

MCD constructed a 7.5m-deep trench over 15.5 acres and covered it with 500 mm of soil and five layers of geosynthetic material before dumping ash to prevent leachate percolation and groundwater contamination at the designated landfill. "We're dumping ash garbage in a corner and preventing vehicles from entering the pit. To prevent stacking damage, automobiles are driven carefully.

Once a corner is filled, we gently scatter and layer ash "Source The landfill's operating and maintenance terms require MCD to deploy a liner every time ash is added to reduce dust pollution. "An constructed landfill cost Rs 42.3 crore and was inaugurated last month.