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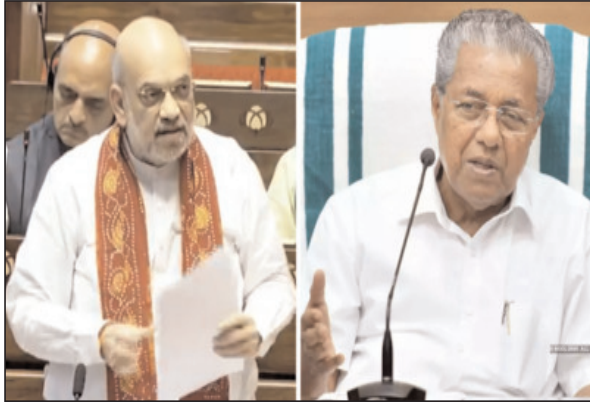
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UNIQUE GIFT OF KRIYAYOGA ASHRAM AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE TO GIVE IMPETUS TO WORLD BUILDING AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.

'Not the time for ... ': Kerala CM Vijayan on Amit Shah's 'early warning' remark over

NEW DELHI: Union home minister Amit Shah on Wednesday blamed the Kerala government for its delayed response to early warning systems regarding potential landslides in state, attributing the major losses to their lack of prompt action. In response, Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan hit out at Centre, saying, it's not the time for blame game.

'What did the Kerala govt do?' In a recent statement in the Parliament, Shah highlighted that on July 23, nine teams from the National Disaster Response Force were dispatched to Kerala following the early warning. "Under this early warning system, on July 23, at my direction, 9 NDRF teams were sent to Kerala considering that there could be landslides... What did the Kerala government do? Were the people shifted? And if they



Time to stand with the government and the people of Kerala

A lot could have been saved. But this is the time to stand with the government and the people of Kerala. Irrespective of the party politics, the Narendra Modi government will stand with the people of Kerala," Union home minister said. Kerala CM's response to Amit Shah's claims, Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan responded to home minister Amit Shah's claim that timely fre-

quent weather warnings had been given to the state, which were overlooked by the state government. Vijayan stated that it is not the time for a blame game. Massive landslides in Kerala's Wayanad district, Kerala, on Tuesday, raising concerns that hundreds may be trapped. The tragedy has claimed 185 lives.

'India has the most modern early warning

system' He further pointed out that the early warning system, initiated in 2016, has made major advancements, positioning India among the few countries capable of predicting natural disasters seven days in advance.

"The project of early warning started in 2016 and by 2023, India had the most modern early warning system... There are only 4 countries to predict 7 days in advance and India is one amongst them," Amit Shah said. 'Modi govt stands with the people of Kerala' Shah also underlined the importance of unity and support during this crisis, assuring that the central government stands firmly with the people of Kerala irrespective of party-lines. "Had they become alert the day the NDRF teams landed.

'It is important that we ... ': Rahul Gandhi's request to Centre over Wayanad landslides

NEW DELHI: Leader of the opposition and former Wayanad MP, Rahul Gandhi, urged the Centre to support the people of Wayanad during his address in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

"It is a huge tragedy in Wayanad and the military is doing a good job there. I think it is important that we support the people of Wayanad and I request the government to help the people of Wayanad," Rahul said. Wayanad: 170+ Killed As Dozens More Bodies Pulled Out; Rescuers Race To Save Buried Survivors

Rahul Gandhi also underlined the ecological issues in the region, referencing a similar past tragedy in Wayanad. "It is the second time this tragedy has taken place, this took place 5 years ago as well. It is clear that this area has an ecological issue, so this should be looked into and whatever hi-tech solution can be brought forward, will be good," Congress



SC grants bail to TMC leader

Anubrata in cattle smuggling case

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday granted bail to Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Anubrata Mondal, who was arrested by the CBI in a cattle smuggling case. A bench of Justices Bela M Trivedi and S C Sharma granted the relief to Mondal after noting that the trial in the matter would take time and he has been in jail for two years. The top court directed Mondal to cooperate in

the investigation and surrender his passport. Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing on behalf of Mondal, submitted that four charge sheets have been filed in the case and everybody except the TMC leader is out of jail. Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, appearing for the CBI, opposed the bail plea, saying Mondal is a very influential person and was involved in tampering with evidence.

leader said. Earlier today, Union home minister Amit Shah also addressed the issue in the Parliament, targeting

the state government and authorities for not taking prompt action despite early warnings, which led the crisis to over hundred deaths.

Article 370 a Trojan Horse ...: Sitharaman slams opposition's queries on J&K's budget

NEW DELHI: Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday hit back at the opposition's "Trojan Horse" remark in the backdrop of the Centre bearing Rs 12,000 crore towards Jammu & Kashmir police.

The opposition had expressed apprehension that the Centre financing the Jammu & Kashmir police might have been a part of a plan to "retain" the home affairs of Union territory with the central government -- calling the decision a "Trojan Horse" approach. Lashing out at the opposition during her reply to the Union Budget, Nirmala Sitharaman said if all there was a "Trojan Horse", it was Article 35 and Article 370 -- which kept J&K away from being integrated.

Gadkari asks FM Sitharaman to withdraw 18% GST on life, medical insurance

NEW DELHI: Union minister Nitin Gadkari urged finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman to withdraw the 18 per cent Goods and Services Tax (GST) levied on life and medical insurance premiums, calling it a "tax on the uncertainties of life."

In the letter addressed to the FM, Gadkari said: "Main issue raised by the Union is related to withdrawal of GST on Life and Medical Insurance Premium.

Both life insurance and medical insurance premiums attract a GST rate of 18 per cent. Levying GST on life insurance premium amounts to levying tax on the uncertain "The Union feels that the person who covers the risk of life's uncertainties to give some protection to the family should not be levied tax on the premium to purchase cover against this risk. Similarly, the 18% GST on medical insurance premium is proving to be a deterrent for the growth of this segment of business which is socially necessary. Therefore, they have urged withdrawal of GST as mentioned above," he added. The minister noted that the Union has put forth several suggestions, including the provision of Differential Treatment to Savings through Life Insurance policies. Additionally, they have advocated for the reinstatement of Income Tax deductions for health insurance premiums paid by individuals. Furthermore, the Union has proposed the consolidation of public and sector general insurance companies, with the aim of streamlining operations and improving efficiency.

NASA to launch 4 astronauts: Efforts continue to return Sunita Williams

NASA was preparing for the Crew-9 mission, which aimed to send astronauts Zena Cardman, Nick Hague, Stephanie Wilson, and Roscosmos cosmonaut Alexander Gorbunov to the ISS on a SpaceX Dragon spacecraft. The FAA had reinstated Falcon 9 rocket flights. Despite issues with Boeing's Starliner, NASA considered using Dragon for astronaut retrieval.



NASA to launch 4 astronauts: Efforts continue to return Sunita Williams

Space Station (ISS). This mission, which is part of NASA's Commercial Crew Program, is scheduled to launch no earlier than August 18, 2024. The Crew-9 team will travel aboard a SpaceX

Dragon spacecraft, which is designed to carry astronauts and cargo to and from the ISS. The upcoming Crew-9 launch comes after the Federal Aviation.

Paris Olympics: Lakshya stuns Jonatan Christie to enter pre-quarterfinals



NEW DELHI: India's badminton star Lakshya Sen advanced to the pre-quarterfinals of the Olympics men's singles competition on Wednesday with a straight-game win over Indonesia's world number 4, Jonatan Christie. Sen, a 22-year-old and a 2021 world championships bronze medalist, showcased his tactical brilliance to defeat Christie 21-18, 21-12. Sen's victory against Christie is

significant as Christie held a 4-1 head-to-head advantage over him before the contest. Paris Olympics: Swapnil Kusale qualifies for 50m rifle 3 positions final This win marks only the second time Sen has managed to beat Christie, the first being at the Badminton Asia Team

Championships four years ago. Live Updates: Paris Olympics Day 5 Christie started strong, taking an early 5-0 lead and extending it to 8-2. Sen quickly adapted, targeting Christie's weaker forehand and keeping the shuttle flat. This strategy allowed Sen to narrow the gap to 7-8 and eventually take the lead with a powerful forehand smash.

Tripura and Maharashtra top the list of toughest Board exams in India

NEW DELHI: A recent report by the National Council of Educational Research and Training's (NCERT) Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge Development (PARAKH) body has revealed significant disparities in the difficulty level of Class 10 and 12 board exams across India. Based on an analysis of English and Mathematics question papers from 17 school education boards, the report indicates that students face a more challenging examination environment.



Goa, Chhattisgarh, and West Bengal rounding out the top five. These states consistently presented students with a higher challenge, demanding a deeper understanding of concepts and problem-solving abilities. Boards with the Highest Proportion of Hard Questions S. No. Name of the Board Percentage of tough questions 1 Tripura Board of Secondary

Education (TBSE) 66.60% 2 Maharashtra State Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education (MSB-SHSE) 53.57% 3 Goa Board 44.66% 4 Chhattisgarh Board of Secondary Education (CGBSE) 44.44% 5 West Bengal Board of Secondary Education (WBBSE) 33.33% In the PARAKH analysis of the five educational boards, Chhattisgarh students fared better since their exams included a comparable percentage.

UP assembly amend Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act

LUCKNOW: The Uttar Pradesh assembly is on Tuesday scheduled to take up for consideration and passing a bill that seeks to amend the Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act to increase the maximum punishment to life imprisonment and fine of Rs 5 lakh for violators. Under the amended provisions of the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Bill, 2024, if a person threatens, attacks, marries or promises to marry or conspires for it, or traffics a woman, minor or anyone with the intention of conversion, then his crime will be placed in the most serious category. The amended bill provides for 20-year imprisonment or life imprisonment in such cases.

UPSC cancels provisional candidature of Puja Khedkar, debars her from all future exams

Vatika Times DELHI: The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on Wednesday cancelled the provisional candidature of Puja Khedkar, who was facing accusations of cheating and forgery. The UPSC found Puja Khedkar of violating rules and debarred her from all the future exams and selections. "The UPSC has examined the available records carefully and found her guilty of acting in contravention of the provisions of the CSE-2022 Rules. Her provisional candidature for the CSE-2022 has been cancelled and she has also been debarred permanently from all the future Examinations/Selections of the UPSC," the government said in a statement.

UPSC also said that in lone case of Khedkar, it could not detect her number of attempts primarily due to the fact that "she changed not only her name but also her parents' name". The UPSC affirmed that it is in the process of further strengthening the SOP to ensure that such a case does not recur in the future. "In the backdrop of the case of Ms. Puja Manorama Dilip Khedkar, the UPSC has thoroughly examined the available data of more than 15,000 finally recommended candidates of the CSEs from the year 2009 to 2023 i.e. for 15 years with respect to the number of attempts availed by them. After this detailed exercise, barring the case.

Anurag Thakur and BJP is desperate: Cong

Prayagraj: The Prominent Congressmen of City including UPCC former Spokesman Kishore Varshney, UPCC members Fuzail Hashimi and Harikesh Tripathi, Parvez Siddiqui and others have severally criticized the BJP MP Anurag Thakur for his ugly remark in Lok Sabha on Tuesday against LOP Rahul Gandhi for his caste issue. They send a letter addressed to the President of India Draupadi Murmu in this regard for stern action against Thakur who earlier openly said few years back that DESH KE GADDARON KO GOLIMARO SALO KO, now insulted Rahul Gandhi by certain remarks on caste basis. They blamed that Thakur asserted that Rahul is accidental Hindu and his knowledge of the Mahabharat is also accidental, shows nothing but frustration. Congress leaders also said it is clear that the Government has no intention whatsoever to conduct the census that was due in 2021.

This will prevent us from having up-to-date estimate of the population of the country, especially of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. They further condemned cine star turned politician and MP Kagana Ranaut for her alcohol and drugs remarks on LOP Rahul Ji and said both Thakur and Kagana are competitors to pretty gains of numbers for political heights. BJP's internal conflict is on top now may caused split and topples of Government at center.

Aarti Singh and Aditya Kumar have been selected for NIS Diploma

Prayagraj: International Taekwondo player Aarti Singh and national Taekwondo player Aditya Kumar have been selected for the South Central Bangalore branch of Sports Authority of India (SAI). Both the players have been selected for the "Diploma in Sports Coaching" course, which is conducted by the National Institute of Sports (NIS). Aditya Kumar and Aarti Singh are former Taekwondo NIS instructor (Deputy Sports Officer) Ranjit Yadav. Have received training. This diploma course is of one year duration, which includes 10 months of training and two months of internship. After successfully completing this course, one gets the qualification to become a trainer and the successful candidates are awarded a diploma. On this occasion, Sangh President Shivbhan ji, Vice President Nishant Mehrotra, Joint Secretary Sunny Singh, Satyadev Yadav, Shreya Singh, Sunil Kumar, Navneet, Vimal, Sushmana, Kamal Yadav, Suchitra Kumari, Aditya Kumar, Haseeb Ahmed, Mulayam Singh, Shreyash Chaubey, and Kaushalendra Singh and all the officials congratulated all the selected players and wished them a bright future. Public Relations Officer Atul Sonkar shared this information.



ADITYA KUMAR
12.08.2004

No announcement facility at Badshahpur railway station, passengers worried

Mungrabadshahpur. There is lack of modern facilities at Badshahpur railway station, whereas two thousand passengers travel through this station every day. The income of the station is one and a half lakh rupees daily. There is a total movement of eight trains. Still, due to lack of facilities here, passengers have to face many problems. Difficulties have to be faced. There are two platforms at this station. There is no announcement system on them. Due to which, due to lack of information to the passengers waiting

on one platform, the train passes by coming to the other platform. The train is about to be missed. What's more, there is no online payment facility for taking tickets and no mobile charging facility on both the platforms. There is no fan arrangement on platform two. Due to which the passengers have to face the scorching heat. There is also no proper arrangement for lighting. Due to which many passengers come and go by Kashi Vishwanath train in the morning. In the dark, they remain at risk of becoming victims of thieves. Mainly Dheeraj Jaiswal, Jogendra Yadav, Mukund Mishra, Sunil Yadav, Ashish Yadav, Amit Kumar etc. have worked in the concerned departments to get rid of these problems and increase modern facilities here. Station Superintendent Rakesh Kumar said that continuous efforts are being made to provide better facilities here.

Robin Hood Army to celebrate decade of existence

Prayagraj: Robin Hood Army celebrates 10 Years of RHA 15 - 26 August 2024 by providing 10 million meals to those in need and a Citizens Cup for 10,000 street children across all RHA chapters. Over the past 10 years, RHA has served 10 Million Meals: A dedicated army of 2.51 lakh Robin Hood Army volunteers (Robins) will come together to deliver nutritious food and rations to their fellow citizens, targeting the most economically deprived sections of rural and urban India and feed 10000 children. Citizen Cup organized for: Hundreds of cricket and football tournaments have been organized across the country for the children who call the streets their home. Prayagraj Robin Hood Army team will organize this campaign.

Minister Kapil Dev Aggarwal visits injured Nandi's son & daughter-in-law

Lucknow: Minister Kapil Dev Aggarwal, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Vocational Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship of the state, reached to know the condition of Cabinet Minister Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi's son and daughter-in-law. Kapil Dev Aggarwal, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Vocational Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, met Cabinet Minister Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi's newly married son and daughter-in-law at Medanta Hospital on Tuesday night. Inquired about the well-being of the daughter-in-law, who was recently injured in a road accident. He thanked God for her safe survival in the horrific road accident and wished for speedy recovery.

Memo handed over to Addl Director of Education Submitted a 3-point memo of students at counter of Commission

Prayagraj: On Wednesday, hundreds of competitive students staged a protest at the Public Service Commission and the Directorate under the leadership of Vicky Khan, President of the Competitive Student Front, in the heavy rain. The contestants also reached the Public Service Commission and raised their voice. The contestants, who were firm on their demands, wanted to talk to the competent officer, but it was not possible to talk to any competent officer. During this time, the police force lodged a 3-point protest against the students at the counter of the Commission. Memorandum submitted. Major demands of students, advertisement



should be released as soon as possible. Students, who have been expecting teacher recruitment for many years, presented their views to the Commission through advertisement. In which advertisement of LT (GIC) and Spokesperson (GIC) should be issued very

soon. Also demanded to declare the third remaining merit list of LT (GIC) - 2018. Also the students said that the advertisement year of the upcoming Block Education Officer should be fixed 02 years in advance. Because LT/Spokesperson (GIC) and Block Education

Officer. The Commission had already received the requisition 02 years ago. Due to the negligence of the Commission and the Government, it was not possible to release both these advertisements 02 years ago. Whereas during this period, thousands of competitive

Addl Director of Education gave assurance

When they came to know that Additional Director of Education (Government) Ajay Kumar Dwivedi was sitting in his office, the competitive students under the leadership of Vicky Khan also reached the Directorate and met the Additional Director of Education there. He informed that the resolution of the dispute regarding "combat qualification" of the three advertisements is in its final stages. As soon as this is resolved, the related requisition will be sent to the Public Service Commission.

Students to protest again on Aug 5

Contesting students have decided that on 5th August at 11:00 am. There will be a dharna again against the Block Education Officer. Kripashankar Nirankari, Ajay Awasthi, Lokendra Shukla, Pravesh Srivastava, Rajesh Kumar (Balaji), Usha Devi, Iftekhar Ul Haq, Rajesh Gupta, Sandeep Kushwaha etc. were present among those who staged the dharna.

students will be deprived of both the recruitments due to the age limit. Due to the hope of employment

will be lost. Competitors preparing for teacher recruitment are joining the ranks of the unemployed.

Due to the heavy rain, tree fell on wall of Rambagh Rly Station

Prayagraj: Due to the heavy rain that started on Wednesday morning in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, a tree fell on the wall of Prayagraj Rambagh Railway Station towards Malakraj, due to which the wall collapsed. On receiving information about trees falling on the wall, RPF-GRP and police personnel reached the spot and the work of removing the debris was soon completed. Doubling work of Prayagraj to Banaras railway section is going on at Rambagh railway station. The section is being constructed by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited. Due to heavy rain on Wednesday, a tree fell on the boundary of the railway station. Due to which the boundary collapsed, some vehicles were damaged due to the boundary collapse.

Questions raised on the Forest Department: Now the question is that it is the responsibility of the Forest Department to plant and prune the trees before the arrival of monsoon, due to which the trees become very heavy and their connection with the bottom of the trunks becomes weak. Some trees become so huge that their branches start hitting the ground, but if the forest department prunes those trees in time, such accidents do not happen.



Worship & service of parents symbol of revolution of universe: Satanandji Maharaj

Prayagraj: Organized under the auspices of Kartavya Path Parivar, on the rest day of the story of Shri Shiv Mahapuram at Munshi Ram Prasad's Bagiya Narayan Vatika in Mutthiganj, revered Shri Satanand Maharaj, while reciting the story of Lord Shiva, Describing the circumambulation of Lord Shiva and Parvati by Ganesha, he said that service to parents is a symbol of the revolution of the universe, that is why Lord Ganesha became the first worshipper. On this occasion,

Vyas ji described the story of Lord Ganesha's first Puri and his marriage. Told the importance of all the 12 Jyotirlingas, the main host of the story Sapna

Shivling were made. In today's Katha Aarti, Dnyaneshwar Shukla. There were hundreds of devotees like Rajendra Prasad Kesarwani, Mohit



Arya, Rajesh Kesarwani, Satish Chandra Kesarwani, Ram Ji Kesarwani, media in-charge Rajesh Kesarwani told that before the Katha, Maha Rudrabhishek and Parthiv

Kesarwani, Sadhna Chaturvedi, Urmila Kesarwani, Shailendra Gupta, Sai Baba, Pintu Kumar, Ajay Agrahari, Asha Kesarwani, Usha Kesarwani, etc.

Farewell ceremony held at Motilal Nehru District Hospital

Prayagraj: Farewell ceremony of District General Secretary Pramod Yadav ji was conducted under the chairmanship of Class IV State Employees Association Medical and Health and Family Welfare Unit Branch President Motilal Nehru District Mandali Hospital President Sujit Kumar Kanojia. In which District Minister Kanti Sharan Sharma, President of Women's District Hospital, Bhola Chaurasia and General Secretary Ranjit Kumar, all the Dis-



trict Branch Presidents and Ministers Tej Bahadur Sapru attended the farewell ceremony from TV Hospital and District Women's Hospital and Motilal Nehru was the chief guest. The farewell ceremony took place under the supervision of Murari Mohan Tripathi ji, Superintendent of the District Circle, who was the chief guest and all the employees and branch employees also participated in it like Congress leaders Irshad Ullah, Mahesh Pramod Maurya, Rajesh Rai, Mukesh, Subhash, Bhola, Parmanand, Rajesh, Ranjan, Rekha, Sahid Ahmed, and other employees participated.

Amazon Prime Day 2024 biggest ever event in India

Varanasi: Amazon India announced that Prime Day 2024 was the biggest Prime Day shopping event ever, with record sales and more items sold during the two-day event than any previous Prime Day event. Not just that, the 8th Prime Day witnessed the highest number of Prime members who ever shopped during any Prime Day. 24% more Prime members in India shopped vs Prime Day 2023, making it the highest ever Prime member engagement during the event. Prime Day 2024 also witnessed the highest ever Prime membership signups in the two and half weeks leading up to Prime Day.

Akshay Sahi, Head of Amazon Prime, Delivery and Returns Experiences, India and Emerging Markets said, "We would like to thank our sellers, brands and bank partners for help-

ing us deliver the biggest ever Prime Day in India. Prime members purchased more items than any previous Prime Day shopping event, and we recorded the highest number of same day deliveries. We love helping our customers save big, and Prime Day is the ulti-



mate celebration of value, fast deliveries, great deals, new launches and blockbuster entertainment that the Prime membership provides."

Prime members shopped from thousands of new products launched by over 450+ top Indian & global brands such as Intel,

Samsung, OnePlus, Honor, iQOO, Bajaj, Agaro, Ecovacs, Crompton, Sony, Mokobara, ITC, Fossil, Puma, Motorola, and Boat to name a few and 3,200+ new product launches from small and medium Indian businesses like Behoma, Dream of Glory, Orika Spices and others. Prime

members from across India shopped for cross category products like shoes, clothes, smart phones, top load washing machines, pet foods, groceries, etc. Interestingly, 2 out of 3 Prime members shopped from non-metro cities.

This Prime Day interesting customer trends and consumption patterns emerged across categories. Over 70% of the demand for Smartphones came from Tier 2 & 3 cities, Apple iPads

saw 23x growth in sales and Samsung Galaxy Tabs saw a surge of 17x in sales vs previous Prime Day. Home Entertainment witnessed 26% growth in sales vs last Prime Day as members enjoyed shopping from brands such as Sony, Samsung, Xiaomi, TCL & LG. In Amazon Fresh, Muesli, Eggs, Seeds & Dry Fruits emerged as the top breakfast choices for India with a 1.6x growth YoY vs last Prime Day. Customers couldn't get enough of Beauty offers on Prime Day deals, with makeup and skincare brands spiking upto 3X YoY, led by brands like Sugar Cosmetics, Lakme and Maybelline. Quirky colors, multi-functional travel luggage bags saw a 10X growth from D2C brands and across like Mokobara, Nasher Miles, Safari and American Tourister etc.

Invisible plastic particles are dangerous for lives on earth: Dr. Ajai Kumar Sonkar

Before determining the treatment for a disease, it is very important that we identify the disease correctly. When we talk about the problem of plastic and its solution, the administrative order banning single use plastic is seen as a big step. It indicates that we are still unaware of the real magnitude of the problem. The real danger to us is from that plastic which is not visible to eyes, it is in our air, in drinking water, in our food, through which it has reached our blood and tissues. These plastic particles are so fine that they reach the clouds in the sky with vapors, and rain down in remote glaciers, mountains jungles. Due to the

presence of these plastic particles in irrigation water, it has reached our fruits, vegetables and grains. Plastic rocks have started being found in the oceans which are called Plastiglomerates. This unnatural substance manufactured by man is making every pore of this Earth sick, the lives of those creatures who have nothing to do with this plastic are also in danger. Today news is coming from all over the world that this plastic has been found in someone's liver, someone's heart and someone's genitals. Blood flows in every organ, so whatever is in the blood is bound to be found in other body parts.

Plastic is found everywhere not only in India but in all developed countries. Perhaps you won't find even a drop of drinking wa-



ter that is not trapped in a plastic bottle in developed countries. Not just water but every beverage and food items are wrapped and in contact with plastic.

One day while working

in my tissue culture laboratory I found plastic particles in the mantle tissue of a marine oyster through a microscope. The body's defense system had formed a circle around those plastic particles which looked like tumors.

In search of the source of the plastic particles I collected water samples from rivers, ponds, seas etc. and found that plastic

particles were present in every sample. One day I put a drop of tea made from a teabag under a microscope and found that there were millions of plastic particles present in them too. Plastic

is found everywhere in any form is dangerous. For example, a plastic chemical called 6PPD is added to the rubber of vehicle tires to make them Tires and shoes contribute to 50% of micro-plastics in the environment stronger. Similar chemicals are also added to shoe soles. This chemical is extremely toxic.

A study conducted at Vienna University of Austria states that such tires and shoes contribute 50% of micro-plastics in the environment. The steps taken to save the earth from this terrible disaster are negligible, not only single use plastic is a danger, but every plastic is a curse on life on earth, the nature of plastic

is that it loses its flexibility with time and becomes brittle and breaks down to micron and nano size, this process of plastic breakdown accelerates in sunlight and corrosive environment. Thus, plastic lying in the open environment has reached the air we breathe, water, our food chain. The awareness of the public is also insufficient to deal with this

disaster, because what can they do, they have no option, their every essential item is in the grip of plastic only. Governments will have to take strict steps to prevent the use of plastic and its reaching the environment by making strict provisions.

Entire city turned into pond as a result of PDA's inconsistent activities

Prayagraj: Due to the irregular work of Prayagraj Development Authority, the entire city became a pond. Not taking enough water from Gaughat STP was also a major reason for water logging. Shankar Lal Bhargava Road was completely covered due to 2 hours of rain on 31st July, Triveni Road, Kotha Parcha Road, Hatia Road, Muthiganj Road, ECC Road and its surrounding internal streets were submerged in waterlogging and people were imprisoned in their homes due to waterlogging for more than 6 hours. Councillor and Chief Whip of BJP in Municipal Corporation Kiran Jaiswal said that Prayagraj is at these places. The development authority is doing the work of making a drain. It has left debris and ballast sand at various places which has filled the sewer line. Blocks have been in place for more than



three months to break the old drain in Shankar Lal Bhargava Road and make a new drain. Due to which water is not coming out, even after complaining repeatedly, PDA officials are not ready to listen anything. Letter in this regard to Chief Minister, Respected Shri Yogi Adityanath ji along with Principal Secretary, City Development, Kumbh Mela Officer and Divisional Commissioner. It has been sent that the public is very much troubled by their irregular works. People are unable to go out of their houses or open shops due to digging of drains at various places. The construction of the drain is also not as per the estimate and map. Councillor informed that Bairahana Dot. The line contains the drain of Rambagh and the surrounding sewer which meets the STP of Gaughat

Ghat. The dot line was broken a decade ago in Mutthi Ganj due to which there is sufficient water in the STP operated by the Ganga Pollution Unit at Gaughat Ghat. Water is not able to flow. There is waterlogging in the surrounding area. Even after repeatedly asking the Kumbh Mela officer and the Jal Sansthan officials, the new dot line going to the STP has not been made. This negligence in the public interest on the part of the Kumbh Mela officer and the officials is to be conveyed to the public. It is causing huge problems and the image of the BJP government is continuously getting tarnished. Councillor Kiran Jaiswal has appealed to the concerned officials including the Chief Minister to lay a new dot line from Bairahana to Gaughat bridge and to regularize the work of Prayagraj Development Authority.

Congmen burnt effigy, protest RaGa's insult

Prayagraj: On the call of Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee, under the leadership of City Congress Committee Prayagraj City President Pradeep Mishra Anshuman ji, the way BJP leader Anurag Thakur made derogatory remarks towards the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Honorable Rahul Gandhi in the Lok Sabha House and the Congress people have protested against the disgusting mentality of BJP by burning effigy and shouting slogans against the words used. In this context, City Congress President Pradeep Mishra Anshuman said in his statement that Bharatiya Janata Party instead of debating on the issues of need and necessity in the country, the people want to remain busy in the politics of running away from it and by talking about caste, Anurag Thakur has proved what a disgusting mentality and humanist ideas the BJP has. And the way Anurag Thakur has

shown his petty mentality in the House of the country, Anurag Thakur should publicly apologize to the leader of the opposition, Honorable Rahul Gandhi. Inside the House of the country, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Honorable Rahul Gandhi When Gandhiji took up the responsibility of

keep the people of the country astray from the real issues. And due to the wrong policies of the Bharatiya Janata Party, today the farmers, businessmen, The youth are completely troubled and this is their rule in which examination papers have been continuously leaked, on which when the leader of the op-



upliftment of the deprived and poor of the country, the leaders of Bharatiya Janata Party got angry and started abusing Rahul Gandhiji inside the House. This has proved that BJP is the only one It is a party which always gets irritated when talking about the interests of poor farmers, youth and businessmen. And wants to

position, Honorable Rahul Gandhiji, raises questions in the House, it is the people of BJP who give their voice in the Parliament of the country. But the leader of the opposition, Honorable Rahul Gandhi, is such a leader whose voice has never been suppressed by anyone and will never be able to be suppressed.

New strict anti-paper leak ordinance is enforced in UPPSC exam

Prayagraj: The Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission (UPPSC) has implemented the newly introduced stringent Uttar Pradesh Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Ordinance-2024 in its recruitment exams, beginning with the Staff Nurse Allopathy (Female/Male) Main Examination-2024. This recruitment exam is scheduled to be held on July 28 for recruitment against 2240 vacant posts. The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024 that has provision for up to five years' imprisonment and a fine of up to Rs. 1 crore for malpractices and organised cheating in government recruitment exams, was notified by the Union government to come into effect from June 21.

The Yogi government on June 30 then approved the Uttar Pradesh Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Ordinance 2024 and notified it

on July 1. It provides for up to life imprisonment and a maximum penalty of Rs. 1 crore for those involved in unfair practices and paper leaks in public examinations.

Deputy secretary of UPPSC Virendra Mani Tripathi on Friday released the information for the Staff Nurse Allopathy (Female/Male) Main Examination-2024 which is to be conducted for 171 vacant posts of staff nurses (male) and 2069 vacant posts of staff nurses (female) in Prayagraj and Lucknow at various centres from 9.30am to 12.30pm on July 28. The information confirms that the Uttar Pradesh Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Ordinance-2024 would cover it.

The commission had released the admit cards for the recruitment examination on July 23. The strict step follows the leaking of the question paper of Review Officer/

Assistant Review Officer (RO/ARO) Preliminary Exam-2024 of UPPSC that was conducted on February 11, 2024, and the UP Police Constable Recruitment Exam-2024 held on February 17-18 and their cancellations.

Under the new ordinance brought by the Yogi government, apart from jail terms and fines, provisions have also been included for attaching the properties of those found involved. It also criminalises distribution of fake question papers and creation of fake employment websites, with the crimes recognised as cognisable and non-bailable. The Ordinance covers exams conducted by the UP Public Service Commission, UP Subordinates Service Selection Board, UP Board and state universities as well as authorities, bodies or agencies nominated by them. It also covers exams for regularisation and promotion in government jobs.

Prof. (Dr.) Ved Prakash raising awareness on World Lung Cancer Day

Prayagraj/Lucknow: World Lung Cancer Day draws global attention to the prevalence and impact of lung cancer. The day was first recognized in 2012 through a collaboration between the Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS) and the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC). Since then, it has become an important global event celebrated annually on August 1. The theme of World Lung Cancer Day 2024 emphasizes the fact that lung cancer disproportionately affects disadvantaged communities. By ensuring affordable and accessible lung cancer screening, diagnosis, and treatment options for everyone, we can close the care gap and ensure everyone has a fair chance to fight lung cancer.

Once lung cancer is accurately diagnosed and the stage is determined through various tests, appropriate treatment is done by deciding on surgery, chemotherapy etc. Lung cancer prevention: Quit smoking Avoid passive smoking Avoid occupational hazards Air pollution Reduce - Support policies and practices

that improve air quality, thereby reducing vehicle emissions and industrial pollutants. Healthy diet: A diet rich in fruits and vegetables may help reduce the risk of lung cancer. The an-

lung cancer. Radiation therapy: Radiation therapy to target and kill cancer cells. It is often used when surgery is not an option. Chemotherapy: Medicines are used to kill cancer cells, used

cancer and support people affected by lung cancer. Through various activities and campaigns, World Lung Cancer Day has successfully promoted the importance of ongoing re-

Additionally, the department offers advanced procedures such as rigid bronchoscopy and cryo-biopsy and airway stenting to address complex cases such as central airway obstruction. Committed to providing state-of-the-art care, the department administers the latest treatments for lung cancer, including chemotherapy, targeted therapy and immunotherapy, in line with the latest guidelines. In this press release, Prof. Ved Prakash, Head of the Department of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, Prof. Rajendra Prasad Past Director VPCI, Prof. R.A.S. Kushwaha, Respiratory Medicine, Prof. Vijay Kumar, Department of Surgical Oncology, Prof. Rajeev Gupta, Department of Radiation Oncology, Prof. Shailendra Kumar, Department of Thoracic Surgery, Dr. Chanchal Rana, Additional Professor, Department of Pathology, Dr. Shiv Rajan, Additional Professor, Department of Surgical Oncology, Dr. Isha Jafa, Assistant Professor Medical Oncology, Dr. Sachin, Dr. Arif, Dr. Atul, Dr. Mritunjay, Dr. Anurag, Dr. Deepak, Dr. Shubhra, Dr. Sandeep, Dr. Aparna etc. participated.



toxidants and other nutrients in these foods may support overall lung health. Regular exercise Screening for high-risk individuals: CT scans can detect lung cancer early in high-risk individuals Treatment of lung cancer: Lung cancer Treatment depends on several factors, including the type and stage of the cancer as well as the patient's overall health. Surgery: Surgery may be done for early-stage

for advanced stage lung cancer. Targeted therapy: Used for certain types of lung cancer, usually for cancers with specific genetic mutations. Immunotherapy: Uses the body's immune system to fight cancer.

On World Lung Cancer Day, cancer relief organizations, health care professionals, researchers across the world unite in their efforts to raise awareness, promote early detection of

search and innovation in the fight against lung cancer. The Department of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at King George Medical University, UPLucknow is proudly celebrating World Lung Cancer Day. This prestigious department is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities including Bronchoscopy, Thoracoscopy and EBUS Ultrasound, ensuring accurate and timely diagnosis of lung cancer.

Leadership skills develop in children through Chhatra Sansad: Sheetal

Prayagraj: Chhatra Sansad develops leadership skills in children. In future, no matter which field they live in, it develops decision-making skills in them and they are already ready to get justice for the people. These things were said by Sheetla Prasad Gaur (Sheetal), Chief Standing Counsel IV of Uttar Pradesh Government in High Court Allahabad, the chief guest at the oath taking ceremony of the newly elected office bearers of Chhatra Sansad, Kanya Bharti and Shishu Bharti held at Saraswati Vidya Mandir Higher Secondary School Shastri Nagar Sadiapur on Wednesday.

He said that to move ahead in life, we all should perform our duties. The goal can be achieved only with the right guidance and duty fulfillment. He said that Vidya Bharti's school is a school for character build-

ing. Here children develop in all aspects.

The newly elected office bearers were sworn in by Chief Standing Counsel IV Sheetla Prasad Gaur (Sheetal). The newly elected office bearers include Prime Minister Aditya Sharma



from the Chhatra Sansad, Deputy Prime Minister Aryan Jaiswal, Kanya Pradhanmantri Diksha Mishra from Bharti, Up-pradhanmantri Aastha Maurya and Adhyaksh Satyam Singh, Mantri

Prakhar Malviya, Commander Shyam Sundar etc. from Shishu Bharti took the oath of office and secrecy.

The chief guest administered the oath to the newly elected office bearers of the Chhatra Sansad, Kanya Bharti and Shishu

Bharti and wished them to continue working in the interest of the school and the nation and to achieve the highest post in the future. The program was presided over by the school's treasurer Ajay Khurana. Before

this, the chief guest, former state general secretary of the Bar Council and chief permanent advocate Sheetla Prasad Gaur and other guests inaugurated the program by lighting a lamp and offering flowers to the picture of Maa Saraswati. The guests were introduced and welcomed by the school's principal Dinesh Kumar Dubey. The school's management head Indra Narayan Shukla and Neeraj Pandey honored the guests by giving them a bouquet, angavastram, and a souvenir. Senior Acharya Rajesh Mishra presented the program's report. Permanent advocate Saurabh Trivedi, advocate Manish Dwivedi, city incharge Abhinav Srivastava, etc. were present on this occasion. The vote of thanks was given by the principal Dinesh Kumar Dubey. The program was conducted by a student of the school.

All India Youth Khatri Samaj to hold array of events to mark PD Tandon b'anniv

Prayagraj: On Thursday, 1st August, the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Rajarshi Purushottam Das Tandon ji, the grand finale of dance, mehendi painting competition, essay, art, needle thread button competition of school children is being organized in the birth anniversary fortnight organized by All India Youth Khatri Samaj at Lajpat Shishu Bihar Kalyani Devi. In which Honorable Justice Shri Shekhar Kumar Yadav will be the chief guest, under the guidance of National President Shri Krishna Bahl, National Vice President Anand Ji Tandon (Pappan Ji), State President Brijesh Sidana (Bittu Bhaiya), Mrs. Gargi Khanna Ma'am, Dr. Neeta. Seth, Mrs. Shobha Darbari, Mrs. Neelam Bahl, Mrs. Nisha Kaushal, Mrs. Shivani Jaiswal, Mrs. Manjusha Singh, Mrs. Shafaz Fatima, Manish Kapoor TV Babes (Actor), Vipul Mehrotra, Mrs. Darshika Mehrotra, Mrs. Rita Srivastava, Mrs. Lata Shradha Upadhyay, Subhi ma'am, Mani Mehra, Arvind Chandra, Neeraj Tandon, Mr. Vishwajit Banerjee of Domus Color India, etc. played an important role in making the program successful.

Jute training and cultural prog launched by Bhavini Institute

Prayagraj: Under the joint auspices of Bhavini Institute and Baroda Employment Development Institute, a 6-day jute training program was organized from July 26 to 31. Regional Chief, Arun Kumar Gupta, Bank of Baroda Kalindipuram Prayagraj inaugurated the cultural program by garlanding the Saraswati statue and lighting the lamp. Special guest Ashutosh Srivastava, Director, Baroda Self-Employment Development Institute, Muthiganj, D. D.M, Naward, Anil Sharma, attended the meeting and gave all the information for the bank's scheme and employment. They motivated women with disabilities. Everyone was welcomed by the Secretary of the Institute, Poonam Singh, by giving them bouquets. The Secretary also informed about the activities to be held in the year related to Bhavini Institute and Bhavini Day Care. On this occasion, R. M. Mr. Arun Gupta Jute items

made by children were also purchased by the institute. Sanchita Srivastava and Mahi Singh also presented dance on welcome songs, Kajri etc. in the cultural program organized by the institute. All the disabled women were given certificates, dresses, caps, eye glasses by the regional manager. Was

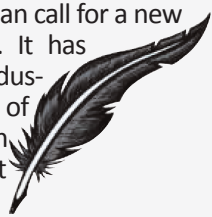


also honored by giving a card. The training was also monitored for 6 days by Ms. Reena Kushwaha. Mrs. Poonam Singh (Master Trainer) gave 6 days of training to the disabled women. The program was conducted by Ruchi Rai. In the program Special contributions were made by Vartika ji, Sarita Pal, Shilu Sonkar, Krishna Choudhary, Chhavi Raj.

Editorial

Verge of a cascade of conflicts

The world today appears to be on the verge of a cascade of conflicts. Over two years since it started, the Russia-Ukraine war does not seem to be heading towards an imminent settlement. Likewise, despite calls for a ceasefire, the Israel-Hamas conflict appears unlikely to abate anytime soon. And now, events over the past month involving Israel and Iran have demonstrated the potential for a wider regional conflict. While the wars in Eurasia and the Middle East may seem disjointed and seeped in their own historical and political contexts, they are also interconnected in a broader sense of the emerging great power competition for the future of the world order. What we are witnessing today is an era of great power competition in an increasingly multipolar world. The US and China are the chief protagonists in this new order, although each is constrained by its domestic politics and capacities. This creates a certain power vacuum, but also space for autonomy of action, balancing and bandwagoning, and even adventurism by middle powers. In this environment, while there are no distinct blocs that have emerged, there are certain alignments that are becoming more prominent. For instance, NATO seems to have found a fresh purpose following Russia's assault on Ukraine, but there are deep concerns related to American policy continuity. Likewise, there is the emergence of a Russia-Iran-China axis based on common interests and grievances with the West. But there are limits to the nature of support that each lends to the other. After years of mutual antagonism, Israel and Iran now appear to be on the brink of a new conflict. The proximate cause for this can be traced back to Israel's frustration with what it argues is Iranian support for Hamas, and other groups such as the Hezbollah, the Houthis, the Syrian government and groups in Iraq. Over the course of the past month, the two countries have engaged in a cycle of attack and counter-attack. Neither seems to desire a major escalation. But the ladder of escalation often follows its own logic, which can put the best-laid plans to waste. Two strategic outcomes can be observed amid these recent events. First, the persistence of the war in Gaza and the emerging spillovers have exposed the limitations of American and Chinese power, particularly since the situation does not necessarily serve either's strategic interests. Second, there is a clear alignment, albeit with increasing friction, between the US and Israel. The US has been at the forefront, supporting Israel in its war against Hamas, and led its defence amid the recent Iranian strikes. It is interesting to note that this effort was supported by regional actors like Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Jordan. In addition, options to coerce Iran economically are being discussed in both the European Union (EU) and the US. On the other hand, China and Russia have been critical of Israeli actions since October 2023. Amid the Iran-Israel tensions, Beijing has backed Iran and sought to preserve its tenuous effort at reconciliation between Saudi Arabia and Tehran. Russia, meanwhile, has become Iran's largest military backer since 2022 and threw its diplomatic weight behind Iran's "retaliatory measures" on April 14 against Israel. On the other side of the world, the war in Ukraine is well into its third year. The conflict has fundamentally reshaped European geopolitics and geoeconomics. The war has re-energised transatlantic unity for the moment. However, the direction of American domestic politics has a significant bearing on this momentum. Beijing has sought to straddle the line in Europe by trying to appear neutral while backing the Russian call for a new regional security architecture. It has supported Russia's defence industrial complex with the supply of dual-use items, but has been cautious to avoid direct weapons support. Russia, meanwhile, has economically become more dependent.



There was no Google in those days

I was born in the Indian Railways township of Tundla, a major junction on the historic Delhi-Howrah trunk route, in the heartland of Uttar Pradesh. The town had a population of just 30,000 then, divided almost equally between the railwaymen and their dependents and 'the townwallahs', as the others - shopkeepers, traders, professionals and some farmers - living there were fondly called. Tundla was like a microcosm of India, with people from all parts of the country, representing all religions, faiths, languages, traditions, colours and festivals, living there. Ramlila, Durga Puja and Guru Parva festivities always fascinated me, as did the sombreness of the

Muharram processions. Nobody ever asked me my caste or, for that matter, my religion. My parents were refugees, thanks to the unfortunate Partition. My father had to leave behind his ancient village in the Frontier, bordering Afghanistan, and my mother had to flee from Mianwali in western Punjab. But it did not matter to our neighbours or friends. It was a childhood full of carefree joy, play and happiness. The whole town was like a family, which would transform into a big mela (a fair) on occasions like Diwali, Durga Puja and 'chhabbis janvary' (January 26, the Republic Day of India). I did not know anything about caste. Two families living opposite our house

were Dalit, which I had heard - mostly in whispers - from the priest of our local temple, but we all prayed together, celebrated together, and often ate together. I am sure the caste fissures were all there, and probably profoundly, but they were under the radar, never paraded nakedly. Caste was a reality, a big social cleavage in villages just outside our microcosm, but I also know for sure that most even in those villages would have wanted to be like us. Honestly, I did not know - and did not care to know - my caste until I was already settled, had travelled all around the world, married and even had the first child. The 1990 violence over the implementation of the Mandal

report shattered me. Suddenly, everybody was asking each other about their caste. If you used only 'Kumar' or 'Singh' or 'Bharti' as your last name, people were careful not to offend you, staying neutral on the Mandal debate in social gatherings. It was in such an atmosphere and anxiety I called up my father one evening to ask him about our 'caste'. He was baffled. All he managed to say was, "We are Hindus, Panjabi Hindus." I persisted, "That I know, but what is our caste ... I mean caste?" I listed out all the four varnas and asked him to tick the right box. He said, "We are Arora. I do not know beyond that." There was no Google in those days.

Impact of mobilization of caste panchayats on voting



In the this Lok Sabha election, a large number of Jat voters were seen missing in Western UP, called Jatland. Rajputs and Thakurs have also opened a front against the BJP governments in the entire northern region of India. Their Panchayats are being held and despite the persuasion of many big Rajput and Thakur leaders, their opposition is not calming down. In this way, the disappointment shown among the voters in Western Uttar Pradesh, known as Jat Land, on April 19 and the number of voters who came to vote at the booths till almost noon, has given rise to disappointment that whether this time Are voters so angry with the attitude of one party governments that they do not even want to exercise their voting rights? But what is this resentment that if people are angry with the governments of one party, then they should not vote, this will only increase the problem. The way Jats are disappearing from the Panchayats, and the Rajput community and other castes also want to establish their dominance by doing Panchayats and want to show the ruling party that not only Jats, but also Rajputs and Thakurs live in the area. The government is feeling scared because of it, but the unity seen in the Panchayats of these three

big castes will be affected in some way or the other. In such a situation, when these three castes have tried to create an opposing wave through Panchayats, then they need to remain united to get their demands met. In western Uttar Pradesh, there is evidence of unity of Aijars i.e. Ahirs, Jats, Gurjars and Rajputs. In a way, Thakur is also a caste of Rajputs, so it is counted in it. These four farmer communities are not only hardworking but also honest. And these four communities can tolerate everything, but do not tolerate fraud. Although I believe that all the farmer communities or should we say all the farming communities are honest and hardworking, the Jat and Rajput communities have always been at the forefront in taking decisions in the Panchayats, taking everyone along and history is witness to this. These communities have always resolved all

small and big disputes in the villages through their Panchayats. Apart from this, the kindness among the farming communities, especially the big farmers, is so much that no one can go through their doors without eating and drinking. About four years ago, when the Corona epidemic was spreading globally and there was chaos all around, people suffering from Corona were dying and villagers living in cities were returning to their homes on foot hungry and thirsty, then the farmers He had opened the stores of his house and helped such helpless travelers a lot. Not only this, almost all the works were closed at that time, but the farmers kept the country's GDP intact by working day and night in their fields. At that time, only one or two leaders would have come forward to help the people, the rest of the help was either done by the farmers,

or by those who were sons of farmers and were in jobs. But the way farmers have been ignored in this country for the last few years and especially what has happened to them during the farmers' movement, it is clear that the resentment of Jats, Rajputs and other big castes was bound to come to the fore. But it is not wise to stay away from voting and separate from each other. However, if we talk about reduction in voting, we will see that while 69.2 percent voting took place in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, this time only 55 to 66 percent voting took place at various booths. If the voting percentage remains the same in future, then it will be a big warning not only for the democracy of the country but also for the Election Commission about the dissatisfaction of the voters. Because voters are the basis of elections and if voters do not vote, then how will governments be elected? The fewer voters will vote, the easier it will be for the political parties to manipulate them in their favor and it will also be easier to win, because the mood of the voters is such that the angry voters do not vote or Those who vote for a particular party get burnt on NOTA, whereas those who vote only for a particular party come to vote in any circumstances

and in this way, even if the voting percentage is low, that party can also win, due to which a large number of voters are attracted. The section should be angry. But this is not even 100% true. Because many times people come out in large numbers for anti-voting and those voters get angry, who are stuck to one party and are angry with that party for some reason. But they do not get angry and vote for other parties, rather they prefer to sit at home and protest against voting. If we want to see such examples, we will see that in the 2018 assembly elections in Rajasthan, the Rajputs there had opened a front against the BJP and the result was that the BJP had lost in Rajasthan. Despite being less in number than other castes, the opposition of Rajputs proved too much for BJP and after two five-year plans, BJP could return to power in Rajasthan in the year 2023. This time, the way the resentment of Rajputs has come to the fore in the northern region of India after the Jats from Western Uttar Pradesh, anything can happen. In fact, for the last one year, BJP has been continuously trying to target every caste in the country except Muslims, which have good numerical strength. , for the Lok Sabha elections. But as elections approached.

There's A Deeper Problem

According to the India Meteorological Department's (IMD) latest forecast, India is expected to receive above-normal rainfall during the upcoming June-September southwest monsoon season. This is great news after a gap of eight years; 2016 was when India last experienced decent rain. The country's dependence on monsoon can be gauged from the fact that it receives about 70-90% of its annual rainfall in the four months of June-September. Normal monsoon has a direct impact on the country's economy. Evenly distributed rainfall is crucial for the 61% of Indian farmers who are dependent on monsoon for agriculture. A positive monsoon enhances agricultural production, which in turn boosts the country's economy and

enhances food security. Over the last few decades, dwindling resources have led to overuse of groundwater. According to the Central Groundwater Board of India, 18% of India's groundwater assessment units are overexploited or critical, meaning that the rate at which water is extracted is higher than the rate at which the aquifer can recharge. The overuse of groundwater for agriculture has increased since the 1960s, especially after the Green Revolution. To fulfil requirements, a largely ungoverned groundwater irrigation economy has mushroomed in rural areas. Increased availability of borewells and free or subsidised electricity have allowed farmers to withdraw groundwater at will, leading to the resource's overexploitation. The practice raises concerns given

that about 75% of the annual groundwater recharge takes place during the southwest monsoon. With climate change altering monsoon patterns, these recharge cycles can get disrupted, consequently leading to high crop failures. The IMD's latest monsoon prediction is music to not only farmers but also lakhs of people in Indian cities that have been battling water-related crises. Bengaluru is foremost among them these days. It has two major sources of water - while Cauvery water takes care of 60% of the city's water needs, the rest is fulfilled by borewells handled by Bengaluru's water supply authority.

Two large lakes in the metropolis, VARTHUR and Bellandur, have been lying empty for the last four years due to desilting work.

Suspicion and allegations on the use of EVM

Another election, another round of suspicion and allegations on the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). The voting machine has always been mired in controversies, with debates heating up around the time of elections. The Election Commission of India (ECI) has repeatedly defended EVMs as non-tamperable, citing technological measures and security measures taken by the poll body. Unfortunately, S. Rangarajan, the man who designed the EVM, is no longer here to defend the device that has drastically reduced the time taken to count votes. However, he was more popularly known as 'writer Sujatha' - among the most prolific writers in Tamil - who wrote thrillers, science fiction, human drama, critiques on Tamil classics, and explained science and technology. He also wrote screenplays that went on to become hugely successful. If alive, he would have turned 89 on May 3 this year. He passed away on February 27, 2008. Rangarajan was an electronic engineer at Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), where he led the team that designed such machines. After their experimental use in 1989, followed by other successful exercises during elections, about one million EVMs were deployed in the 2004 elections. In 1977, S.L. Shakkhar, the then Chief Election

Commissioner (CEC), during a tour to Hyderabad, requested the Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL) to study the possibility of using an electronic device for conducting elections, writes Anil Maheshwari and Vipul Maheshwari in 'The Power of the Ballot: Travail and Triumph in the Elections. In 1979, a prototype was developed, and its operation was demonstrated by the Election Commission of India (ECI) before the representatives of political parties in August 1980, they add. Meanwhile, BEL, a Defence Ministry PSU, had also developed a microcomputer-based voting equipment, which they had used for the elections for the various unions of the company, say the authors. In January 1981, BEL approached the ECI for a contract for manufacturing EVMs, and on July 29, 1981, the ECI held a meeting with the representatives of BEL, ECIL, the Ministry of Law, and the CEOs of some states regarding the use of EVMs in elections. But since its introduction, some parties have raised doubts over the possibility of EVMs malfunctioning or being tampered with to register votes in favour of a particular candidate or party. Even the introduction of the Voter-Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) has not been able to satisfy

machine is attached to the main EVM, which, as soon as a button is pressed, prints out a piece of paper with the voter's choice. The printed slip is visible for seven seconds. These slips are used later by officials to verify the votes cast in randomly selected polling booths. It was with the very idea of introducing more transparency into the election process that the concept of VVPAT was proposed in 2010. Following discussions with political parties and others, the idea was referred to the ECI's Technical Expert Committee. Finally, VVPAT machines were attached to EVMs and trials were conducted in some constituencies during the 2013 assembly elections.

Following that, the ECI decided to introduce VVPAT in a phased manner, and in the 2019 General Elections, all EVMs were used with VVPAT machines. Let me point out two things. Firstly, it was precisely to remove doubts regarding the EVMs that VVPAT machines were introduced - to provide voters with a means to verify that their vote was cast correctly and for the audit of stored electronic results. Using these machines, voters can review a physical ballot to confirm their electronic vote. Secondly, it was the VVPAT machines that malfunctioned in the recent by-polls, and not the EVMs," writes former.

Jay Shah, who may run for chairman

Delhi: Sri Lanka, 220 delegates from 108 ICC member countries will attend the four-day International Cricket Council (ICC) annual conference. However, like all cricket these days, the spotlight will be on the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and its influential administrator Jay Shah, who may run for chairman. 'Capitalising on the Olympic Opportunity' and 'Cricket's victorious return at LA28' are among the gathering's topics. Before cricket moves forward in the US, the T20 World Cup's poor performance will be reviewed. A \$20 million overrun, inadequate pitches, and high ticket prices plagued the USA part of the 2024 T20 World Cup co-hosted by West Indies. ICC director Pankaj Khimji has requested a detailed budget audit from the board. Two senior ICC executives, including head of events Chris Tetley, have resigned.



The issue will likely be discussed under 'Any other business', where most major conversations occur. The ICC will consider India's 2025 ODI Champions Trophy trip to Pakistan and Pakistan Cricket Board's planned itinerary (Feb 19-March 9). Indian matches in Lahore will be meaningless until the government allows its team to travel to Pakistan. According to a BCCI official, this is unlikely.

Even if PCB seeks clarity in the ICC boardroom, progress may be slow. The BCCI wants a hybrid event with UAE or Sri Lanka as co-hosts. But that process may be delayed too. On Jay

Shah's interest in the ICC Chair, the BCCI secretary wants to go, not because it's a bigger office but because the constitution requires a cooling-off period after two three-year terms. His BCCI term ends in late 2025, while ICC elections are in November. Shah may want to act now, but he hasn't been forthcoming. Another theory is that Barclay might use the amended ICC constitution, which now allows two three-year terms for the chairman instead of three two-year terms. Shah can take over in 2025 if the ICC elections are delayed. ICC board members 'refuted' this idea for now.

Sourav Ganguly ahead of the 2024 season, boosting the Indian Racing

Delhi: The Kolkata Royal Tigers Racing team will be owned by former India cricket captain and BCCI president Sourav Ganguly ahead of the 2024 season, boosting the Indian Racing Festival's third season. Racing Promotions Pvt. Ltd. launched the Indian Racing Festival to attract India's growing motorsport fanbase. The event features the Indian Racing League (IRL) and Formula 4 Indian Championship (F4IC), promising an exciting season of high-speed racing. Kolkata, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Delhi, Goa, Kochi, and Ahmedabad will compete from August to November this year. Kolkata debuts this year. Sourav Ganguly, nicknamed as the 'Prince of Calcutta' and 'Dada,' is an Indian cricket icon. As Kolkata Royal Tigers owner, he brings excitement and reputation to motor racing in West Bengal and eastern India. Ganguly is expected to increase cricket's appeal and make the Kolkata Royal Tigers a force in the Indian Racing Festival. "We are happy



to announce Sourav Ganguly as Kolkata franchise owner. His creative leadership and dedication to perfection, forged by decades of cricketing success, give the Indian Racing Festival unmatched energy. "RPPL Chairman and Managing Director Akhilesh Reddy said Ganguly's legacy will ignite passion and propel future motorsport lovers in India to greatness. He stated that Ganguly's engagement is expected to raise awareness of the Indian Racing Festival (IRF) and secure its place as India's top motorsport event.

"I am thrilled to join the Kolkata team in the Indian Racing Festival. I've always loved motorsports, and this chance lets me help Kolkata's motorsport expand and

promote excellence and sportsmanship "Ganguly. "Together with the Kolkata Royal Tigers, we aim to build a strong legacy in the Indian Racing Festival and inspire a new generation of motorsport enthusiasts, making the Kolkata Royal Tigers a formidable force in the festival," he said.

The former Indian cricket captain, who played 113 Tests and 311 ODIs, is noted for developing fresh talent and winning games. His ownership of ATK Mohun Bagan and involvement in the Indian Racing Festival demonstrate his dedication to sports in India. He encouraged spectators to attend the races in big numbers and support the drivers, assuring an exciting experience.

CAPSULES

The Delhi government provides funding of Rs 100 crore to 12 DU colleges

Delhi: The Delhi government has resolved to put teacher and student welfare first, even in light of financial mismanagement issues that have revealed at 12 Delhi University campuses recently. The government has granted Rs 100 crore to these colleges under its funding. According to Minister Atishi, "Many issues of financial mismanagement have come to the fore in these colleges in the last few years, but the Kejriwal govt has decided that the teachers and students at those colleges should not suffer due to the mistakes of the management and administration." She stated: "Keeping in mind the welfare of teachers, their medical benefits and pension benefits which were struck due to financial mismanagement, Delhi govt is releasing a fund of Rs 100 crore in the second quarter for these 12 colleges." The minister went on, saying, "Kerry's government concentrated on higher education in addition to schools, opening three new universities and expanding existing ones. Delhi's higher education system is significantly influenced by the 12 Delhi University colleges that receive full government funding." The minister has authorized the release of the second quarter installment, according to the government. Additionally, the Kejriwal government has budgeted roughly Rs 400 crore for these financed universities in 2024-2025, according to a release. "Ever since the Kejriwal govt came to power in Delhi, the budget given to these colleges has been increased more than three times, which shows the government's commitment towards education," it stated.

Hardik Pandya's Fitness, Workload Management Cost Him T20I Captaincy

Delhi: The BCCI named Suryakumar Yadav India's T20I captain for the three upcoming matches against Sri Lanka, bypassing Hardik Pandya. The apex board chose SKY over Pandya, who worked as Rohit Sharma's deputy at the T20 World Cup and led India in Rohit's absence. The five-match T20I series against Australia last year, directly after the ODI World Cup 2023, was captained by Suryakumar. Indian won the series 4-1, and many players reportedly wanted SKY to captain India when Rohit retired from T20I. ESPNcricinfo reported that Hardik Pandya was snubbed for replacing Rohit due to fit-



ness difficulties and workload management. This comes after new coach Gautam Gambhir suggested that a good player play all three formats. "Professional cricketers, your span is small. You desire

to play as much as possible for your country. "Play all three formats when you're in good form," Gambhir told Star Sports. Sportsmen suffer injuries. If you play all three formats, you get injured, heal,

but you should.

I don't believe in identifying players and saying, "We'll keep him for Test matches and manage his injury and workload", he said. Given Pandya's injury issues, it was a direct message. After overcoming back troubles, Hardik missed the entire ODI World Cup 2023 due to an ankle injury. BCCI may be right to favor Suryakumar Yadav over Hardik Pandya due to his injury record. While only six matches remain until the Champions Trophy 2025, Hardik Pandya has sought the BCCI for a sabbatical during the ODI portion.

From Mumbai trouble child to India T20 leader

Delhi: Shams Mulani's rise to national prominence has been arduous. The left-arm spinner has taken 180 wickets in 38 first-class matches, 82 in 55 List A games, and 52 in 45 T20s in Ranji Trophy. The 27-year-old awaits his big break. Suryakumar Yadav, his club team Parsee Gymkhana, and IPL franchise Mumbai Indians' changing rooms inspire him to keep going. Mulani saw Surya's struggle to break into the Indian squad before receiving his cap at 30. Everyone saw Surya's extraordi-



which inspires me. As Mumbai players attempt to break into the national team, his late India debut inspires us. We look up to Surya, who has given many Mumbai players like Tushar Deshpande (29).

nary batting talent in juniors. He scored 73 on his Ranji debut at 18 in 2010 and 754 in nine games the following season. He worked for approximately 12 years before making his India debut in March 2021. His presence has been obvious. The No.1 T20 hitter helped India win the World Cup,

Mulani, who was the highest Ranji wicket-taker in 2021-22, second in 2022-23, and had another remarkable 35 last season, feels the hardship and grind are crucial. After a late start, Surya has risen quickly in the past three years and was selected T20I captain this week.

Delhi Skills University "revokes" EWS, SC/ST fee concession; no clearance in place

Delhi: On July 9, a second-year Scheduled Caste student at Delhi Skills and Entrepreneurship University (DSEU) requested a fee waiver from the academics department. The student, enrolled in the Bachelor of Business Administration (Facilities and Hygiene Management) study at the main campus in Dwarka, was advised to pay the same course fee as 2022-23 students without a waiver. "SC students paid Rs 45,140. We must pay Rs 56,700 (the 2022-23 batch's standard fee)," the youngster said. This BBA course costs this year. Students, reeling from a significant cost spike across most programs, claimed DSEU has abolished the 10% fee concession for EWS students and 20% for



SC and ST students, which the institution disputed. Students' group Aawaz protested by posting posters on 22 campuses asking: "Why does DSEU revoke aid for SC, ST and EWS students... (sic)." According to DSEU Vice-Chancellor Prof Ashok Kumar Nagawat, "SC/ST and EWS students do not currently receive fee concessions. The finance committee will decide on concessions, but until then, no action can be made because of audit objections."

The V-C declined to comment on how concessions from last year were approved. "Waivers will be discussed in the meeting," Nagawat said. Professor Gagan Dhawan, Registrar, said, "On February 14, the Board of Management discussed not charging students the recovery charge (of previously waived sums). The fee waiver previously lacked official approval, so the government is ensuring that the concession is offered after proper approval.

Non-teaching faculty can now be HoD in government hospitals



Delhi: In a major change from the usual, the health ministry now allows non-teaching professors to become department heads at government hospitals and medical colleges. "Non-teaching specialists and GDMO (General Duty Medical Officer) cadre officials working in the concerned department are also eligible to become HoD (Head of Department)," the

rule adds. It applies to three Delhi-based central government hospitals and medical colleges: Lady Hardinge Medical College and Sucheta Kriplani Hospital, Vardhman Mahavir Medical College and Safdarjung Hospital, and Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Medical Sciences and Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital. In the event of a non-teaching/GDMO HoD, academic activ-

ities must be supervised by the senior most teaching faculty. Most medical schools and hospitals follow the National Medical Commission (NMC) guideline that a potential department head must have at least 10 years of teaching experience as a professor or associate professor, including five years as a department profes-

Delhi Cyber Crime DCP recommends schooling on cyber safety



Delhi: A top police officer said cyber crime awareness should be taught in schools since virtual frauds and thefts don't shock the public as much as street and house muggings and robberies. Cybercrime has increased in the past 1.5 years and may continue to rise. "Crime against cyber property will see a rise and a time may come when each district will have more cyber police stations than traditional crime police stations," stated. Also Read: Delhi High Court orders city chief secretary to expedite Rs 387 crore hybrid hearings sanction. Thieves are shifting online as more individuals do business online and store money on phones and PCs. However, the average person seems unaware of cyber fraud's potential. Tiwari said awareness is needed, not legislation change. Cybercrime awareness is low. "In a crowded train, you check your purse because pick pockets could steal it, but not in cyberspace," Tiwari remarked. AAP protests BJP office over 1,100 trees destroyed in Delhi's southern ridge. Tiwari added that most people don't know they may lock their Aadhaar cards. "Even I was not aware about it but when a case came in our unit, I got to know that one can lock it," remarked. Tiwari said a cheater might get an Aadhaar account and commit fraud. "Locking your Aadhaar card prevents misuse.

Blood donation camps were held by Sant Nirankari Mission in Vijay Vihar (Rohini), Shalimar Bagh, and Najafgarh



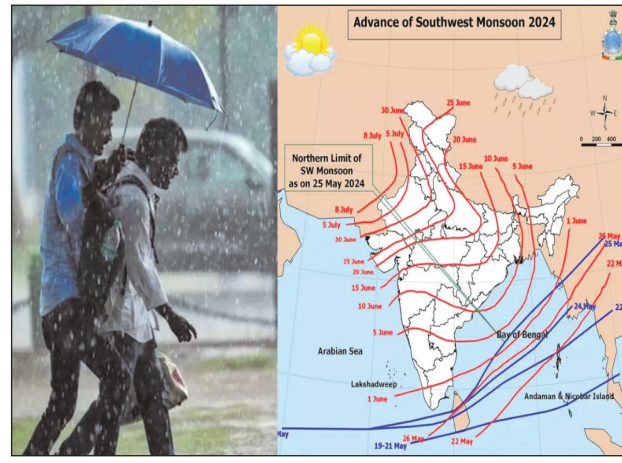
Delhi: Under the auspices and divine direction of Nirankari Rajpita Ramit Ji and Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj, the Sant Nirankari Charitable Foundation, the social arm of the Sant Nirankari Mission, organized blood donation camps at Branch Rohini, Shalimar Bagh, and Najafgarh, where 185 Mission devotees generously gave their blood for the good of humanity. To gather blood, medical professionals and members of the AIIMS blood bank team visited the camp. Smt. Rajwasdev

Singh Ji, the Deputy Head of Sant Nirankari Mission, gave the camp its opening. She gave all of the blood donors who took part in the blood donation camp encouragement and recognition for their unselfish devotion and priceless contribution to the wellbeing of the populace. The CPAB Department Convener, Hon. Shri S.L. Garg ji, officially opened the Shalimar Bagh camp. He urged everyone in the camp who was donating blood, saying that giving blood is the greatest kind of giving. In addition, the

esteemed Mrs. Raj Kumari (Mami ji), Member Incharge of the Publicity Department, officially opened the Najafgarh camp. She also urged everyone who volunteered to give blood, emphasizing that we should do it at all times for the good of humankind. Upon completion of the blood donation camp, Mr. Vinod Khanna, the local coordinator, conveyed his sincere appreciation to all the dignitaries, blood donors, medical professionals, and their support staff.

When Will Delhi Get Monsoon

Delhi: Delhiites are eagerly awaiting Southwest Monsoon, but relief may not arrive until June. The monsoon arrived over the Bay of Bengal three days early, on May 19, according to the IMD. IMD anticipates above-average June-September rainfall at 106% of the long-term average. This is likely due to La Nina and good Indian Ocean Dipole circumstances. Although there may be more rain, some forecasts expect powerful bursts with dry spells in between. The IMD expects the monsoon to reach Kerala by May 31, with a four-day delay. This matches the typical June 1 start. "Not early. Near regular date" IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra



said. The weather agency also reported that the monsoon will reach the Bay of Bengal and Andaman on May 19, Karnataka on June 3-8, and Maharashtra on June 9-16. Delhi should get some relief from the heat on June 27. IMD issued a red signal on Sunday, May 19, expecting two days of high

heat in several sections of Delhi.

The temperature in Delhi reached its highest point of the season on Saturday, and it is projected to soar further. The southwest monsoon arrives in Kerala around June 1. It surges northward and covers the country by July 15.

Kejri will begin his Pb campaign

Delhi: Till the conclusion of the state's election campaign for the June 1 Lok Sabha elections, Delhi Chief Minister and AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal will campaign in Punjab. Party leaders have stated that Kejriwal will travel from Delhi to Amritsar and then to Ferozpur to address a town hall meeting. He

will later conduct road shows in Bathinda and Hoshiarpur for party candidates. He has scheduled campaign events in each of the state's 13 seats while he is camped there through May 30. It is probable that he will engage with various voter demographics, such as attorneys and business owners, at the

town hall meetings. Other than that, the chief minister is the focus of this election campaign, which goes by the slogan "Sansad Mein Bhi Bhagwant Mann," according to an AAP official. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has been the focal point of the AAP's Lok Sabha campaign in the state.

Studies show polluted air increases Type 2 diabetes risk

Delhi: Air pollution may increase Type 2 diabetes risk. Air pollution, especially PM2.5, is known to cause chronic lung ailments, heart attack, stroke, and cancer, but the diabetes argument is gaining ground. Several research from the US, Europe, and China have shown the association, but a new two-city study from India found that even a 10 g/m3 increase in PM2.5 exposure raises blood sugar. Mumbai-based JAPI (Journal of Association of Physicians of India) published an editorial headlined, 'Air



Pollution: A New Cause of Type 2 Diabetes?' this month. Diabetes specialist Dr. V Mohan from Chennai wrote, "We now know that PM2.5 is an endocrine disruptor that affects insulin secretion and also leads

to insulin resistant." Due to summer, the air quality index has been low in recent weeks, but air pollution is becoming one of urban India's largest problems, killing 20,000 in Mumbai and 50,000 in Delhi annual-

ly. Dr. Mohan and Public Health Foundation of India researchers published the first PM2.5-diabetes study a few months ago. 'BMJ Open Diabetes Research & Care' found links between short-, medium-, and long-term PM2.5 exposure. "A 10 g/m3 increase in monthly average exposure to PM2.5 was associated with a 0.4 mg/dL increase in finger pick blood test and a 0.021 unit increase in HbA1c test," claimed the study. The HbA1c blood test measures blood sugar over three months. The study followed

Delhi: Official sources said India will promote Ayushman Bharat, public health emergency preparation, and digital health changes at the World Health Assembly in Geneva from May 27. At the annual WHO event, it will display the Arogya Maitri Disaster Management Cube, an indigenous portable hospital with novel features to improve disaster response and medical support. Geneva will host the 77th World Health Assembly (WHA) from May 27 to June 1. The Indian Ministry of Health and Family Welfare delegation



is led by Union Health Secretary Apurva Chandra. Participants from 194 nations will shape the global health ecosystem. This year's WHA theme is "All for

Health, Health for All". WHA proceedings are held in Plenary, Committee A, and Committee B. Sources say health ministers/heads of delegation from 194

nations will attend the Health Assembly plenary session. India will chair Committee A, which will tackle universal health coverage, public health emergency preparedness and response, antimicrobial resistance, climate change, sustainable WHO financing, etc. Committee B handles internal and external audit, budget, financing, and the WHO secretariat. At least 14 side events and various strategic roundtables will be held on the sidelines of WHAT to discuss diverse health problems and the global health architecture.

Indian traditional knowledge and genetic resources are further protected by a new patent agreement

Delhi: A new treaty finalized by members of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) requires patent applicants to reveal the nation of origin or the source of genetic resources if the claimed invention is derived from those materials or related traditional knowledge. One of the main demands of the developing world, led by India, is the treaty that will offer extra protection for Indian genetic resources and traditional knowledge, including yoga, sidhi, and ayurveda. The agreement was finalized by the Geneva-based agency that is in charge of developing regulations pertaining to patents and trademarks. This will force some nations to revise

their domestic laws. Rather than trying to register patents to take advantage of the immense traditional knowledge and genetic resources, India has asked that the world's largest corporations give credit to these resources. Even while there is protection against misappropriation in India and other nations without disclosure requirements, the disclosure standards will offer protection internationally.

Currently, there are disclosure requirements in 35 countries, the majority of which are voluntary and lack the necessary legal framework to be implemented successfully. For the first time, the knowledge and wisdom that have long underpinned

economies, civilizations, and cultures will be recognized by the WIPO treaty on intellectual property, genetic resources, and related traditional knowledge. These resources are now part of the global intellectual property system. "As a source of traditional knowledge and wisdom and a reservoir of biodiversity, India has championed these historic achievements. is a huge victory for India and the nations of the global south," a government official declared. The fact that it took 150 nations and two decades of negotiations to reach an agreement is indicative of the resistance from nations like the US and transnational corporations.

District Courts receive instructions to facilitate smooth case hearings via VC

Delhi: the Delhi High Court directed the national capital's district courts to follow a number of guidelines to guarantee that video conference equipment functions properly during court sessions.

The Delhi High Court's Acting Chief Justice Manmohan issued the following directives. The video conference must remain active throughout court hours.

At the court end, the video will be turned on. According to the office order of June 5, 2023, it will be made sure that the video conference at the court's end won't be kept silent unless the court orders otherwise. According to the office order of June 5, 2023, it will be



made sure that the video conference is not locked and that litigants, counsel, and members of the public can all attend without difficulty, unless the court orders differently. Each Court is required to make certain that the item number is visible

throughout the video conference.

Every court must make sure that, in accordance with Office Order of June 5, 2023, a message appears on the video conferencing screen when the court retires, is not in session, is on leave, or when instructions

are given to restrict the proceedings. According to the ruling, the Principal District & Sessions Judges are required to provide a report on the video conference to the Registrar General's office of this Court using the stipulated format.

Record bank earnings benefit poor, MSME loans

Delhi: Modi said record bank profits in FY24 would enhance credit to the poor, farmers, and MSMEs, celebrating the revival of financial institutions that were plagued by bad loans. Modi posted on X that the banking sector had a remarkable comeback in the last 10 years' with net profit topping Rs 3 lakh crore in FY24. Due to UPA's phone-banking policies, our banks had large NPAs and losses when we took power. The underprivileged were denied bank accounts "Modi remarked. "This improvement in the health of banks will help improve credit availability to our poor, farmers and MSMEs," he said Modi's X comments on the banking sector's FY24 milestone earnings. Public sector banks made a record Rs 1.4 lakh crore in net profit in FY24, up 34% from Rs 1.05 lakh crore. Private banks grew 42% faster, raising their net profit to Rs 1.7 lakh crore from Rs 1.2 lakh crore a year earlier.

CAPSULES

New Mahipalpur STP forthcoming

Delhi: Delhi Development Authority informed the National Green Tribunal that it had given Delhi Jal Board land in Mahipalpur for a sewage treatment plant. DJB promised to finish the plant quickly after land ownership. Vasant Kunj Sector E-2 residents wrote to the green tribunal in 2022, alleging that wastewater in the open drain on the northern side of the DDA Legal Housing Complex Society wall was stagnating and sewage was seeping through the boundary wall into the society. DDA informed DJB to pay Rs 708.5 per acre to finalize land assignment in its NGT report. They stated DJB officials had submitted the payment request for approval. Priority will be given to land payments after approval. The DDA indicated that purified water will be used to maintain south Delhi's plantations and waterways after the STP is built. Another DJB report to NGT stated, "Currently, the allotment process is ongoing, and the construction will be completed within a reasonable time after obtaining possession of the land."

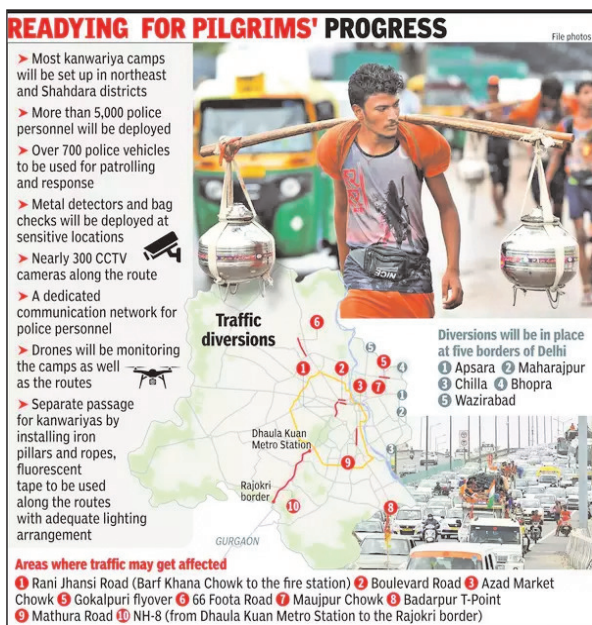
Government standards for spice export quality

Delhi: An official stated India has detailed procedures to prevent EtO (ethylene oxide, a hazardous chemical) contamination in spices for export. The official noted that the government tests spices exported to Singapore and Hong Kong as a precaution. The precautions are important after MDH and Everest goods were recalled in Singapore and Hong Kong due to EtO residue in spices.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Must use tech to speed justice

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



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

Technology could assist relieve court staff shortages, the justice

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

No FASTag on windshield, twice cost.

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



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

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

Used truck prices rise as logistics companies slash costs

DOUBLE TROUBLE: OVER AND UNDER THE GROUND

GROUNDWATER SITUATION AT DELHI'S THREE LANDFILLS

Location	TDS (mg/l)	Chloride (mg/l)	Hardness as CaCO ₃ (mg/l)
Desirable limit for drinking water	500	250	300
Ghaziपुर landfill site, near entry gate	1,370	1,540	490
Bhalswa landfill site	500	250	300
Bhalswa landfill site	5,280	2,390	1,060
Bhalswa dairy	3,330	1,495	900
Okhla landfill site	500	250	300
Okhla landfill site	1,990	965	1,090
Okhla bus depot	2,880	990	1,150

DPCC report shows groundwater near the three landfill sites is contaminated. Experts say the unsegregated waste at the landfill sites is leaching into the soil and contaminating groundwater. DPCC has submitted the report to the water ministry. TDS: Total Dissolved Solids, CaCO₃: Calcium carbonate.

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

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

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

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



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

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

PWD cancels Delhi's Najafgarh-Phirni flyover

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

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

Kanwar Yatra guidelines issued, but Delhi citizens skeptical

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



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

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

will take the Kanwar Yatra through the city. Entrance from Apsara border leads to Seelampur flyover, Kashmir Gate, Rani Jhansi Road, Upper Ridge Road, Dhaula Kuan, and exit from Rajokri border in Haryana. Kanwariyas can also enter Delhi via the Bhopura border and escape via the Outer Ring Road via Tikri or Singhu for Haryana. East Delhi's other major highways are Maharajpur and Ghaziपुर, and Kanwariyas pass through Kalindi Kunj and Badarpur.

Airport liquor store operating 24/7 in Delhi

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

Hotel and lodging house police license manual

Delhi: Delhi Police has published a guidebook covering the main aspects of the Delhi Police Act, standing orders, and terms and conditions for hotel and lodging house license holders to increase transparency and understanding. The commissioner of police can license or control public amusement or entertainment venues including restaurants and hotels under the Act. Union Ministry of Home Affairs' single platform accepts all lodging and boarding license applications and renewals. The special commissioner of police (licensing & legal) released the manual to help hotel and lodging house operators obtain and maintain licenses. An officer claimed its main purpose is to raise stakeholder awareness for easier business and improved city safety compliance. "The licensing unit has created this handbook to ensure that hotel and lodging house operators have access to clear, concise and accurate information regarding the regulatory requirements and best practices for obtaining and maintaining their licences," said joint CP Bhola Shanker Jaiswal. "This handbook aims to simplify the licensing process, provide step-by-step instructions, necessary forms and valuable insights into the legal and operational standards that must be met.

The government intends three woodlands to green the city

Delhi: Delhi government's program aims to boost green cover. The "Prakriti ke Paas-Parivaar ke Saath" initiative will create three world-class city woods in Garhi Mandu, Lal Kuan, and Ujwa. The government said these green retreats will allow Delhiites to appreciate nature while encouraging sustainability. Minister Gopal Rai stressed that these city woodlands will be developed sustainably without altering their structure. The government wants to give Delhi residents a place to connect with nature and teach kids about it. "The Kejriwal government is ready to further improve the city forests of Delhi and develop them based on ecological security," he said. Rai added that Delhi has long struggled with pollution. However, under CM Arvind Kejriwal, the government has sought to reduce city pollution, he said. Delhi's pollution levels have been progressively falling and its green cover has increased due to these measures, he said. According to Rai, the Kejriwal government's efforts boosted Delhi's green area from 20% in 2013 to 23.06% in 2021. "Delhi residents should help plant trees. The government gives Delhi residents free medical herbs for this reason. Delhi government nurseries are giving away medicinal plants so residents can plant trees in their houses to promote the city's green space," Rai stated.

RML opens 23 OPDs, 3 waiting areas

Delhi: Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Medical Sciences (ABVIMS) & Ram Manohar Lohia (RML) Hospital has added 23 OPD registration counters to improve patient care and comfort. The hospital also features three waiting areas for patients and their attendants.

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.

CAPSULES

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 Maps after leaving Azure last month. Would you invest your money in a long-term fixed deposit given the current high interest rate environment? We used to spend Rs 100 crore a year on this, but now we spend nil," he said.

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 have 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.

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 'Arawat' 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 hear-



ing 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' decision 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.

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 allow-

ing 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.

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.