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

Himachal CM Sukhu lives to see another day as mantri retracts move to quit

Deliberations with Congress observers, Vikramaditya declared in the evening that he would not push for his resignation.



SHIMLA: Himachal Pradesh CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu successfully quelled rebellion within his govt on Wednesday as Vikramaditya Singh, son of former CM late Virbhadra Singh, retracted his decision to resign from the council of ministers. Sukhu was in trouble following cross-voting by six Congress MLAs, enabling BJP to secure victory in Rajya Sabha polls in the hill state the previous day. The crisis intensified Wednesday morning when Vikramaditya, the 34-year-old son of state PCC chief Pratibha Singh, emotionally announced his resignation during a press conference at the assembly complex, citing humilia-

tion. Vikramaditya, flanked by Congress MLAs Nand Lal from Rampur and Mohan Lal Brakta from Rohru, levelled serious allegations against his own govt, including financial mismanagement and attempts to undermine his authority as PWD minister. He said he knew where to draw the "Lakshman Rekha". He lamented the lack of coordination within the cabinet over the past 14 months and highlighted

the neglect of Congress MLAs by Sukhu's govt. Vikramaditya also expressed disappointment over the disregard for his father's contributions and aspirations. Rajya Sabha Election 2024: Congress emerges victorious securing three seats, BJP bags one after deliberations with Congress observers, Vikramaditya declared in the evening that he would not push for his resignation. Emphasising the primacy of the organisation

over individuals, he expressed readiness to move forward and serve the people. "I want to forget the differences and move ahead," said the MLA for Shimla Rural constituency. CM Sukhu described Vikramaditya as his "younger brother" and reiterated his commitment to addressing the concerns raised by the minister, signalling a concerted effort to maintain unity within the party and govt.

Vessel with 3,200kg of narcotics seized off Gujarat coast

NEW DELHI: In the largest drugs haul on high seas in recent years, joint teams of Navy, Narcotics Control Bureau and Gujarat ATS seized a fishing vessel carrying over 3,200 kg of narcotics and arrested five crew members with suspected Pakistani links off the coast of Gujarat. Congratulating the teams for the 'grand success', home minister Amit Shah said the joint operation in making "the biggest offshore seizure of drugs" is a testament to Modi government's "unwavering commitment to making our nation drug-free". NCB director general S N Pradhan said the cache could be estimated to be worth anything between Rs 1,300-Rs 2,000 crore in the international market. Navy, in turn, said the operation



was significant not only in terms of the quantity and cost of seized contraband, but also underlined the collaborative efforts underway among different agencies to disrupt illegal narcotics smuggling routes that emanate from the Makran coast in Pakistan and flow towards various

Indian Ocean Region countries. The breakthrough was a result of months of surveillance under operation code-named "Sagar Manthan", officials said. NCB received information about an unregistered foreign fishing vessel which didn't have any automatic identification system

installed on it. The tip suggested that the vessel would be coming to Indian waters with large quantity of narcotics. A naval P-8I long-range maritime patrol aircraft spotted the "suspicious boat" near the international maritime boundary line in the Arabian Sea.

Indian team boycotts Thai representatives at WTO talks

ABU DHABI: A comment by Thailand's ambassador to WTO Pimchanok Vonkorporon Pitfield, accusing India of using 'subsidised' rice procured for the public distribution system for capturing the export market, has created a diplomatic storm with govt lodging a strong protest and Indian negotiators refusing to participate in some deliberations in groups where a representative from the southeast Asian country is present. The Thai ambassador's comment on Tuesday during a consultation meeting was cheered by some representatives of rich nations, angering the Indian delegation here. Thailand is seen to be fronting for the US, European Union, Canada and Australia, among others, which have blocked a permanent solution to public stockholding for over a decade. Officials said a strong protest has been lodged with the Thai govt and commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal took up the matter with USTR Catherine Tai and EU executive vice-president Valdis Dombrovskis, making it clear that the language and behaviour were unacceptable. Govt officials told the Thai ambassador had got all her facts wrong as only around 40% of the produce is procured by govt to meet food security obligations. A part of the remaining quantity, which is not procured by govt agencies, is exported from India at market price.

'Terms of trade favour rich nations'

In recent years, the share of Indian rice in the global market has gone up and the recent export curbs have angered western nations. Developed countries have been trying to paint a picture that India was distorting global trade by selling subsidised foodgrain in the international market, which was not the case. On the contrary, officials pointed out that the rules were framed in a way that the terms of trade favoured rich nations with the reference price for calculation of subsidy fixed.

Reliance, Disney announce merger; Nita Ambani to be chairperson

NEW DELHI: Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), Viacom 18 Media Private Limited, and the Walt Disney Company have officially announced a strategic joint venture, creating an \$8.5 billion entertainment juggernaut far ahead of rivals in the world's most populous nation. The collaboration aims to amalgamate the operations of Viacom18 and Star India, combining their



vast media portfolios. Nita Ambani, the businesswoman and wife of billionaire Mukesh Ambani, is set to assume the

role of Chairperson for the newly formed entity. Uday Shankar, a seasoned media executive, will serve as the

Vice Chairperson, providing strategic guidance to the joint venture. Reliance, led by Asia's richest man Mukesh Ambani, will infuse Rs 11,500 crore (~US\$ 1.4 billion) in the merged entity.

The combined entity, valued at Rs 10,352 crore, will see Reliance and its subsidiary holding a majority stake of 63.16%, while Disney will retain ownership.

Rapes, molestations unearthed at Gujarat National Law University

AHMEDABAD:

Incidents of molestation, rape, homophobia and discrimination have been reported on the campus of Gujarat National Law University (GNLU) by a fact-finding committee that submitted its report to Gujarat HC last week. Terming the report "really scary", a bench of Chief Justice Sunita Agarwal and Justice Aniruddha Mayee on Wednesday blasted GNLU for the incidents and said the varsity's administration was involved in suppressing voice of students. HC had taken suo motu cognisance of media reports following social media posts that a girl in



GNLU was raped and a queer student was sexually harassed and formed the committee headed by former HC judge Harsha Devani. Earlier, the ICC of the university and the registrar had brushed aside the allegations. "How come this university is a national

law university? And the registrar is filing an affidavit stating that 'nothing happened, close proceeding'. He had the audacity to say this in court when it was seized with the matter. How will these people protect the children?" the CJ remarked. The bench said the report revealed

there were not only two incidents of sexual harassment or rape as mentioned in social media posts, but there are incidents of molestation, rape, discrimination, homophobia, favouritism, suppression of voices, lack of existence of ICC, lack of info to students.

Manipur police commandos hold 'arms down protest' over attack

GUWAHATI:

Hundreds of Manipur police commandos went on an arms-down protest on Wednesday, in a symbolic demonstration denouncing the abduction and assault on an additional SP and indiscriminate firing by unidentified gunmen at the officer's home in Imphal the previous evening. Commandos from Imphal West, Thoubal, Kakching,



and Bishnupur districts participated in the protest, urging authorities to take decisive action against the attackers. Senior police officers held discussions with the protesters at their

respective bases. "Around 200 armed miscreants came in vehicles and attacked the residence of Imphal West district additional SP Moirangthem Amit Singh.

Centre extends ban on J&K Jamaat-e-Islami for 5 years

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Tuesday declared Jamaat-e-Islami, Jammu and Kashmir as an 'unlawful association' under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 for a further period of five years, citing its close links with militant outfits.

and its continuous support to extremism and separatism in the Union territory. "Pursuing Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji's policy of zero tolerance against terrorism and separatism, the government has extended the ban on Jamaat-e-Islami, Jammu Kashmir for five years.

The organisation is found continuing its activities against the security.

Two-child norm for govt jobs in Rajasthan gets Supreme Court nod

NEW DELHI: More than 21 years after upholding validity of the mandatory 'two-child norm' eligibility criteria for candidates contesting panchayat polls, the Supreme Court has now put its stamp of approval on an identical norm for public employment, debarring candidates who have more than two children from seeking govt jobs. A bench of Justices Surya Kant, Dipankar Datta and K V Vishwanathan dismissed the appeal filed by ex-serviceman Ram Lal Jat, who had retired from service in 2017 and had applied for a constable's post in Rajasthan Police on May 25, 2018.

His candidature was rejected as Rule 24(4)

of Rajasthan Police Subordinate Service Rules, 1989 that followed the norm set under the Rajasthan Various Service (Amendment) Rules, 2001, which provides that "no candidate shall be eligible for appointment to the job who has more than two children on or after June 1, 2002." He had unsuccessfully challenged the rejection of his candidature for constable post in Rajasthan high court, which in Oct 2022 had ruled that the fixation of norms squarely fell in the realm of policy, which could not be interfered with by the court. The Justice Kant-led bench said, "A somewhat similar provision.

Not the first time the Indian Navy has come to the aid of distressed vessels



NEW DELHI: Amid a series of attacks on cargo vessels, the Indian Navy once again swung into action after Iranian Fishing Vessel FV Al Arifi made a distress call. Responding to the distress call from the fishing vessel, the Indian Naval ship INS Shivalik Mission, deployed in the Gulf of Aden, rendered medical assistance including critical medical supplies to the 18 Pakistani crew onboard. "INS Shivalik is deployed in the region in consonance with the Indian Navy's mandate of Maritime Security Operations under the broader

ambit of the Prime Minister's vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region)," Indian Navy posted on X, formerly Twitter. This is not the first time the Indian Navy has come to the aid of distressed vessels. Earlier this month, an Indian Naval ship mission deployed in the North Arabian Sea for maritime security operations provided damage control assistance to the Iranian Fishing Vessel (FV) Ameen, with six Iranian crew onboard, operating East of Duqm. Medical aid was also extended to three injured crew members. The FV sus-

tained extensive damage, including a hull breach leading to water ingress. Earlier in January, Indian warship INS Sumitra rescued hijacked Iranian-flagged fishing vessel Al Naeemi with 19-member Pakistani crew off the east coast of Somalia. In the same month, the fire-fighting team of INS Visakhapatnam successfully controlled a fire onboard the merchant vessel Marlin Luanda. The Indian Navy's prompt response and collaboration with the merchant vessel's crew ensured the fire was brought under control.

NEW DELHI: India will strongly oppose a China-led proposal for an investment facilitation pact besides pressing for finding a permanent solution to public stock holding of grains for food security and protection of the interests of fishermen at the WTO ministerial meeting beginning Tuesday. The Indian delegation is led by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal. The four-day 13th ministerial conference (MC13) will start on February 26 in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Trade ministers of 164 member countries of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) are meeting against the backdrop of the uncertain global economic situation due to the Red Sea crisis, the Ukraine-Russia war and the Israel-Hamas conflict. The key issue of India's interests at the meeting relates to finding a permanent solution for its minimum support price (MSP) issue for food security, agricultural reforms, fisheries subsidies, e-commerce moratorium on import duties, dispute settlement, and WTO reforms. **Food security issues** The public stock-holding (PSH) programme is a policy tool under which the government procures crops like rice and wheat from farmers at MSP, and stores and distributes

WTO meet: India seeks permanent solution to food security



foodgrains to the poor. India stresses the need for PSH for its large, vulnerable population and wants a permanent solution from the MC13. Food procurement, stockholding, and distribution are crucial to India's food security strategy. MSP is normally higher than the prevailing market rates and sells these at a low price to ensure food security for over 800 million beneficiaries. However, the WTO's Agreement on Agriculture limits the ability of a government to purchase food at MSP. Under global trade norms, a WTO member country's food subsidy bill should not breach the limit of 10 per cent of the

value of production based on the reference price of 1986-88. As part of the solution, India has asked for measures like amendments in the formula to calculate the food subsidy cap. Developed nations are of the view that such programmes distort global trade prices of food grains. **Joint Support Initiatives (JSIs) or plurilateral agreements** India opposes this move being pushed for certain nations. For example, India is strongly opposing efforts of a group of countries led by China to push a proposal on investment facilitation for development agreement at the WTO. The country has maintained

that this agenda falls outside the mandate of the global trade body. According to experts, the attempt of the group to integrate the proposal into the WTO has systemic concerns for the organisation and it would impact developing nations in pursuing their interest in future. **Agricultural reforms** India's stance is to protect farmer livelihoods and ensure equitable market access. However, developed nations are pushing to reduce domestic support and increase market openness irrespective of the fact that they themselves provide large subsidies to their rich farmers.

'It's being addressed': US diplomat Richard on action against Pannun

NEW DELHI: The US deputy secretary of state, Richard Verma, has assured that the United States will take action against India-designated terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun and his associates if they cross the line. In an interview with ANI on Tuesday, Verma said, "I'm not going to get into specific cases, but I just go back to what I said about operating within the law. When people cross that line, they will be held accountable." Verma also said, "When people say things, and we each have different rules when it comes to free speech. We have to assess where the line crosses into conduct, but we won't tolerate any violence or any kind of harassment directed at officials, and we will crack



down on it where the law allows us to do it, and we have done it, and we will continue to do it." Regarding the alleged involvement of India in the attempted assassination of Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, the US deputy secretary of state said, "Look, we raised the concerns with the Indian government at the most senior levels. They took it seriously. They've launched an investiga-

tion, and we look forward to continuing to hear back from the Indian authorities about what they've found, but it's a very important issue, and it's being addressed." Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, an India-designated terrorist holding American and Canadian citizenship, has been charged with murder-for-hire. The US Justice Department revealed that an Indian national, Nikhil Gupta, has been charged for attempted 'murder-for-hire' of Pannun. The US government is waiting for the committee of inquiry set up by India to provide updates on the investigation. Verma said, "Well, as I understand, there is a committee of inquiry that's looking into this and investigating.

Rumors of Navjot Singh Sidhu rejoining BJP

Delhi: Navjot Singh Sidhu's comeback to the BJP and Yuvraj Singh's Gurdaspur parliamentary constituency nomination are causing a stir. Even though Sidhu has criticized the Centre's farmer policies, rumors persist. Sidhu, known for his oratory, has been at odds with the Congress's Punjab leadership and hosting his own rallies, defying party orders. BJP leaders in Majha believe Sidhu might rejoin his parent party and run for



Lok Sabha from Punjab, despite his close relations to Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. He stated BJP leaders and possible candidates are dis-

However, Congressman Raman Bakshi denied Sidhu joining BJP. "A leader who keeps hopping from one party to another loses his charm and credibility," remarked. Congress may field Sidhu from a constituency other than Amritsar, sources added. BJP may field former cricketer Yuvraj Singh from Gurdaspur to replace Sunny Deol. "A recent indication of this is his meeting with Union minister Nitin Gadhari," Sharma said.

CJI paid rich tributes to eminent jurist Fali

NEW DELHI: Legal luminaries led by CJI D Y Chandrachud paid rich tributes to eminent jurist Fali S Nariman and recalled his immense contribution to the judicial system. Before initiating court proceedings, the CJI said, "We mourn the sad demise and passing away of Fali Nariman. He was a great giant of an intellectual. It's very sad." In a condolence message, former CJI N V Ramana said Nariman would be remembered as an "ethical giant" for generations to come. "Never known for mincing words, Fali S Nariman has been a conscience keeper for judicial institutions. Through his arguments in courtrooms, widely read newspaper columns, public lectures, parliamentary interventions and televised interviews, he has educated generations



of legal professionals and general public alike," he said. Solicitor general Tushar Mehta said it was a loss not only to the legal fraternity but the country had lost "the epitome of what righteousness stood for." "A doyen, paragon and a legend in his own lifetime has left us, leaving jurisprudence enriched by his immense contribution. I have always learnt something new by merely appearing even against him. Sharing home-made buttermilk brought by

me from my home in Supreme Court corridors while he regaled all of us with anecdotes in Gujarati is a cherished memory. There cannot be and will not be another Fali Nariman" he added. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal said, "A great son of India passes away. Not just one of the greatest lawyers of our country but one of the finest human beings who stood like a colossus above all. The corridors of the court will never be the same without him.

● "On March 1, there would be a meeting of all incumbent as well as former MLAs and ministers from the community. to take a public stand in favour"

CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR: Reservation activist Manoj Jarange on Wednesday said either the 'sage soyare' (blood relation) law be passed in two days or else the Maratha community would launch a statewide 'Adarsh' rasta roko agitation from Saturday. He also threatened a massive roadblock as a show of strength across the state and Mumbai on March 3. He said community members would go on a hunger strike from Thursday next week if the demands were not met by then. On March 1, there would be a meeting of all incumbent as well as former MLAs and ministers from the



community. They would be told to take a public stand in favour of Maratha reservation. All statements were made during Jarange's public meeting, which lasted two hours on Thursday at Antarwali Sarati village in Jalna. The activist, who has been on a hunger strike since Feb 10, stressed on ensuring a 'peaceful' agitation. He came down heavily on chief minister Eknath Shinde, deputy minister Devendra Fadnavis and cabinet minister Chhagan Bhujbal. Jarange said the reservation given by state govt through the special session was of the kind that had

already been rejected by courts." "The state must either pass a law recognising 'sage soyare' or pass a govt resolution that Marathas and Kunbis are one," he said. He warned the state govt that roads in every possible village, taluka, town, district and city as well as state and national highways would be blocked every day from 10.30 am to 1 pm and 4 pm to 7 pm from Saturday. He said HSC and SSC students heading to and returning from exam centres would not be troubled. He told his supporters to help the examinees reach their centres in time.

Ex-Congress strategist helped stitch up Ashok Chavan's exit plan

A week ago, former CM Ashok Chavan joined BJP in the presence of deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis, his archival of several years. It was found that Chavan had been planning to join BJP for a long time, and his plan was given the final shape at a meeting with Fadnavis at the residence of political activist Ashish Kulkarni. Kulkarni, once a trusted aide of Shiv Sena chief Bal Thackeray, had ditched Sena, along with Narayan Rane, for Congress. For a brief period, he worked in AICC as a strategist for Digvijaya Singh. During Chavan's tenure as CM, Kulkarni pulled out all the stops to take over Mhada, but when that didn't work out, he left Congress and joined hands with Fadnavis for better political prospects.

India's Largest Corrugated Packaging Machinery Expo Commences on 7 March

New Delhi : The Corru Pack Print India Expo 2024, an exhibition dedicated to the Corrugated Packaging Machinery Industry, is set to unfold from March 7 to March 9 at the India International Convention and Expo Center in New Delhi. Jointly Organized by the Indian Paper & Packaging Machinery Manufacturers Association (ICPMA) and the Futurex Group, this event stands as the singular exhibition facilitated by India's foremost Corrugated Packaging Machinery Association. This expo will feature leading manufacturers in the Corrugated Packaging Machinery sector, showcasing their latest products with live demonstrations of cutting-edge machines. The event aims to bring together the entire spectrum of the Corrugation Industry, presenting a comprehensive display of



products that cater to the Packaging and Corrugated Industries. With 300+ exhibitors and 800+ participating brands, attendees can expect a dynamic array of offerings and opportunities. From groundbreaking technologies to innovative solutions, the event will feature over 1,000 products and services, providing a comprehensive overview of the latest advance. Anticipating the presence of over 10,000 trade visitors, this gathering promises to be a vibrant hub for networking, collaboration, and knowledge exchange. Among the distinguished speakers present at the press conference of this significant event were Mr. Hitesh

Nagpal, President of ICPMA and MD of Natraj Industries; Mr. Jatinder Singh, Secretary of ICPMA and Director of Surjeet Engineering; and Swami Prem Anveshi Ji, Managing Director of Futurex Group and Mr. Namit Gupta, Director of Futurex Group. In his statement, Hitesh Nagpal Ji, the President of ICPMA, highlighted the unique significance of Corru Pack Print India as a specialized event catering exclusively to the corrugation segment. He emphasized that this exhibition marks a pioneering effort by the association, making it the first of its kind to bring together Corrugated Packaging Machinery manufacturers.

R K SWAMY LIMITED INITIAL PUBLIC OFFER TO OPEN ON MARCH 4, 2024

GURUGRAM : R K Swamy Limited (the Company or the Issuer), proposes to open on Monday, March 4, 2024, an Initial Public Offering (IPO) of up to Equity Shares of Face Value of ₹ 5 each ("Equity Shares") for cash at a Price Band from 270 to ₹ 288 per Equity Share (including a share premium) (the Offer Price) (the Offer) Bids can be made for a minimum of 50 Equity Shares and in multiples of 50 Equity Shares thereafter. (the "Price Band"). The Anchor Investor Bidding Date shall be Friday, March 1, 2024. The Bid/Offer will open Monday, March 4, 2024 for subscription and close on Wednesday, March 6, 2024. (the "Bid / Offer Period") The Offer comprises a Fresh Issue of Equity Shares aggregating up to ₹ 1,730 million ("Fresh Issue") and an Offer For Sale of up to 8,700,000 Equity Shares (the "Offered Shares") (the "Offer For Sale" and



together with the Fresh Issue, the "Offer"): comprising Up To 1,788,093 Equity Shares by Srinivasan K Swamy; up to 1,788,093 Equity Shares by Narasimhan Krishnaswamy; up to 4,445,714 Equity Shares by Evanston Pioneer Fund L.P.; and up to 678,100 Equity Shares By Prem Marketing Ventures LLP (collectively, the "Selling Shareholders"). The Net Proceeds from the Fresh Issue are proposed to be used as follows: Funding working capital requirements of the Company Rs. 540.00 million; Funding capital expenditure to be incurred by the

Company for setting up a digital video content production studio ("DVCP Studio") Rs. 109.85 million; Funding investment in IT infrastructure development of the Company, and Material Subsidiaries, Hansa Research Group Private Limited ("Hansa Research") and Hansa Customer Equity Private Limited ("Hansa Customer Equity") Rs. 333.42 million; and funding setting up of new customer experience centres ("CEC") and computer aided telephonic interview centres ("CATI") of the Company Rs. 217.36 million; and general corporate purposes.

'Women can't become leaders in Congress': Tamil Nadu MLA Vijayadharani joins BJP

CHENNAI: In a setback for Tamil Nadu Congress, party's Vilavancode MLA S Vijayadharani on Saturday resigned from its primary membership and joined BJP in New Delhi in the presence of Union minister of state for fisheries L Murugan. Vijayadharani expressed displeasure over recent appointment of S Rajesh Kumar, Congress MLA from Killiyur constituency, as TN Congress Legislative Party (CLP) leader.

"At present, women cannot become leaders in Congress. I was chief whip of Congress in (Tamil Nadu) assembly and even then, I was refused post of CLP leader. The post was given to an MLA, who is junior to me. I was feeling discontented for a long time," she said.

Chauffeurs of VIPs must retake driving test: Min

Hyderabad: Transport minister Ponnamp Prabhakar on Saturday said the govt has decided to hold driving and fitness tests for drivers working with ministers, MPs, MLCs, MLAs, IAS, IPS officers and other VIPs. "It could be due to inexperienced drivers, some VIPs lost their lives in road accidents in the past. The rules to obtain a driving licence would be implemented effectively here after," the transport minister said. The decision to hold driving tests for drivers of VIPs was taken following the death of BRS MLA Lasya Nanditha in a road accident on Friday morning. "We are writing letters to all the ministers, MLCs, MLAs, MPs, IAS, IPS and other VIPs that the state government.

SikhLens : Sikh Art and Film Festival 2024' concludes amid authors, filmmakers, exhibitors and artists

Chandigarh: A day-long fifth edition of 'SikhLens: Sikh Art and Film Festival' featuring literature, films, art exhibitions, cultural events, thoughts exchange by intellectuals and writers, youth inspiration, historical heritage concluded at Tagore Theatre, Sector 18, Chandigarh. The event was organized by the SikhLens Foundation in collaboration with Pinaka Mediaworks and Rolling Frames Entertainment. The event was also supported by the Department of Cultural



Affairs, UT Administration and the United Sikh Mission. The program was inaugurated by Bikki Singh & Gurpreet Kaur Singh, founders of SikhLens (India), Festival Director and National Film Award - Rajat Kamal awardee Ojaswwee Sharma among other dignitaries. After the Divine Orchestra performance led by the students of Eternal University, Baru Sahib (Sirmour, HP),

the event witnessed the screening of short films which includes Apna Farz, Lord and Lady Singh, Breaking Barriers, The Standard Dhingra Story, Maa, The Invite, Sacred Threads in Lima, Sat Shri Akal, The Guardian Committee and Bruce Singh's The Lumberback, 'Legend of 1972, Life Hockey, Beyond' and 1947: Brexit India, American Sikh, The Stevia King, The Sikh Soldier, Resilience of Faith, Deems, Muntazir, Connecting the Dots and Sikh Community Voices

Harpic launches Loocator app, empowers women on-the-go with access to usable public toilets to prevent pee paranoia

GURUGRAM : Harpic, India's leading lavatory care brand, announced the launch of an innovative app-based solution 'Harpic Loocator' ("Harpic Loocator App") to empower everybody and most importantly women with access to public toilets on-the-go. To initiate conversations around this unvoiced matter, the brand has also released '#BeFreeToPee' campaign, highlighting the lifestyle compromises made by women due to lack of knowledge and accessibility of public toilets, while they are on-the-go. This



breakthrough launch is in response to solve an underlying problem of finding public toilets in India. A recent survey conducted in Delhi revealed alarming facts that 70% women struggle to find a toilet in public, when in

need. It also states that they spend 60 mins on average, searching for a hygienic restroom*. Many women limit their water intake while travelling or outdoors, which might pose serious health risks like dehydration, or UTI.

The survey also stated that 78% of women acknowledge avoiding field jobs or extended travels to avoid public restrooms*. Additionally, 81% of the women confirmed refraining from drinking water to avoid the need to use the public toilets*. Recognizing this pressing issue, the Harpic Loocator App not only discovers public toilets nearby, but also empowers everybody and most importantly women to rate and add more toilets on the app, helping communities at large. Commenting on the launch.

Courts cannot direct states to implement particular schemes

NEW DELHI: The scope of judicial review in examining policy matters of the government is very limited and the courts cannot direct the States to implement a particular policy or scheme on the grounds that a "better, fairer or wiser" option is available, the Supreme Court has said. The observation came while disposing of a PIL seeking formulation of a scheme on setting up of community kitchens to combat hunger and malnutrition. The top court refused to pass any direction in the matter observing that the National Food Security Act (NFSA) and other welfare schemes are being implemented by the Centre and states. A bench of Justices Bela M Trivedi and Pankaj Mithal said legality of the policy, and not the wisdom or soundness of the policy, would be the subject of judicial review. "It is well



settled that the scope of judicial review in examining the policy matters is very limited. The courts do not and cannot examine the correctness, suitability or appropriateness of a policy, nor are the courts advisors to the executive on the matters of policy which the executive is entitled to formulate. The courts cannot direct the States to implement a particular policy or scheme on the grounds that a bet-

ter, fairer or wiser alternative is available," the bench said. The apex court said it was open to states and union territories to ensure implementation of alternative welfare schemes. "When the National Food Security Act (NFSA) with a 'right based approach' for providing food and nutritional security, is in force and when other welfare schemes under the said Act have also been framed.

Chief Minister should apologize for bad language against MLA Geeta Bhukkal: Pradeep Choudhary

Kaithal: Chief Minister Manohar Lal should apologize for the abusive language used against MLA Geeta Bhukkal. The above words were uttered by Congress State Executive Member and former Chief Minister of Haryana Ch. Leader Pradeep Kumar Choudhary, a special supporter of Bhupendra Singh Hooda, said this while addressing the villagers while promoting the policies of Congress in various villages of the constituency. Pradeep Choudhary said that the way the Chief Minister spoke to former minister and MLA Geeta Bhukkal in a foul language and threatening tone in the Assembly is highly condemnable. Which is C.M. Reflects anti-women and anti-Dalit



thinking. He said that C.M. How can one publicly threaten a woman MLA in the Assembly? Which law has given them this right?, Congress state executive member Pradeep Choudhary said that Geeta Bhukkal was talking on a very important point in the assembly, but as soon as the name of minister Sandeep Singh, accused of molesting a lady coach, came up, the Chief Minister crossed all limits of indecency and he started issuing threats to the respected MLA in the House. This is not the first

time that the Chief Minister has behaved like this. During his Jan Samvad programme, he had similarly abused an elderly Dalit woman in Sirsa. The issue of the death of her young son due to drug intoxication was raised by CM.

The woman demanded that action should be taken against the drug dealer, so that no other mother like her has to lose her young son. But instead of taking action against the drug dealer, C.M. He had publicly insulted a Dalit woman. After this, similar incidents

were seen with two more women. Congress leader Pradeep Choudhary said that Chief Minister Manohar Lal, who has many times made objectionable comments about women. This clearly shows that the slogan of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao of the BJP government is just a hoax and the BJP government is not concerned with the interests and dignity of daughters and women. The Chief Minister had also made a very low level comment on the incidents of rape, in which he had said that most of the rape cases are false. Therefore, our demand is that Chief Minister Manohar Lal should not only apologize for his language style, but he should also change his anti-women thinking.

Fast-food giant replacing cheese with cheaper vegetable oil: FDA

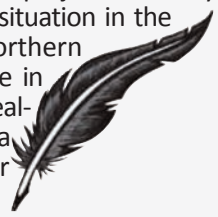
MUMBAI: Maharashtra FDA has cracked down on fast food giant McDonald's, slamming it for a cheesy deception - using substitutes in burgers and nuggets instead of real cheese. It has suspended the license of a McDonald's outlet in Ahmednagar, prompting the chain to erase the word "cheese" from various items.

FDA is pushing the chain to extend the corrective action state-wide & even nationally. Cheese alternatives, or cheese analogues, are designed to replicate taste, texture, and functionality of traditional dairy cheese. The substitutes, allegedly identified in several McDonald's items, typically replace milk or dairy fat with cost-effective vegetable oil.

Editorial

Modi govt did for India-Greece ties what others didn't in 40 years

Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis will be the chief guest at the annual Raisina Dialogue held in New Delhi from 21 to 24 February 2024. This would be the third consecutive year of having a European guest at the summit — Delhi hosted European Commission president Ursula Von der Leyen in 2022 and Italian PM Georgia Meloni in 2023. The business delegation accompanying Mitsotakis will visit Mumbai and Bengaluru as well and is likely to explore economic opportunities in sectors such as construction material manufacturing, food and beverages, defence, renewable energy sources, high technology, agriculture, shipping, and tourism. Mitsotakis' visit marks a significant upgrade to India-Greece bilateral ties. It also builds on Delhi's strategic outreach to Southern Europe and the Mediterranean within the expanding diplomatic footprint in Europe at large. India and Greece are among the world's oldest democracies, both being ancient cultures and civilisations that reinvented their ethos through various epochs. Early Greeks knew of the river Ganges and called it Phison and the great Greek political philosopher Plato knew of the Indian tradition of mystic meditations. The latter's celebrated work *The Republic* concludes with a reflection on the transmigration of souls, which has an indelible mark of Indian spiritualism. From Mauryan-era trade to the fascinating chronicles of Alexander the Great, linkages with Greece were significant in ancient India. Despite sharing such a rich history of economic and cultural exchanges, the ties between the two countries never moved beyond a point. PM Narendra Modi has carved the space to upgrade the ties between the two countries to a strategic partnership that's suitable to today's fast-changing geopolitical context. His efforts have opened up newer pathways of cooperation amid fresh challenges. From India's perspective, Greece was the only natural ally with whom strategic cooperation had not been given the same attention as Cyprus, Italy, Spain, and France. For the first time in 40 years, an Indian PM visited Greece when Modi went to Athens in August 2023, where he was rightly conferred with Greece's Grand Cross of the Order of Honour, the country's second-highest civilian honour. This upgradation to a strategic partnership was built on the groundwork laid by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in 2021 when he paid an official visit to Greece. The following year, the Greek parliament ratified the International Solar Alliance (ISA), a treaty-based organisation that was proposed by Modi in 2015. In March 2022, Jaishankar's visit was returned by his then-Greek counterpart Nikos Dendias. This slew of developments has been instrumental in enhancing ties between the two countries. It opened new vistas to expand areas of convergence in not only trade and joint military exercises but also connectivity projects, which could help in the full utilisation of Greece's strategic location as a gateway to Europe for India and the Gulf countries. The much-touted India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) was conceived on the same logic of connecting diverse geographies of South and West Asia to Europe through Haifa in Israel and Piraeus in Greece. The region is a prospective yet contested pathway for new, competing intercontinental connectivity corridors. Many wrote off the IMEC when Hamas' brutal attack on Israel on 7 October 2023 put the normalisation process on hold. But remarks made by Indian finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Parliament and Modi in the United Arab Emirates have roused fresh interest in the project. It is likely to be back on track once the situation in the Middle East improves. Northern Cyprus declared independence in 1983 with Turkish support, sealing the fate of the region in a perpetual disquiet — the power balance in the Eastern Mediterranean has been fragile ever since.



Respect for other faiths doesn't weaken yours

India and the UAE have cultivated a deep connection, ranging from official diplomatic engagements to vibrant cultural exchanges at the grassroots level. As both nations navigate the complexities of modern diplomacy, their historical ties serve as a sturdy foundation upon which to build a future of prosperity and friendship. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's inauguration of the first Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi on Wednesday marks yet another milestone in this journey. During my childhood in Abu Dhabi with my parents, we, as Muslims, did not feel any lack of religious fulfilment. However,

despite the city's cosmopolitan atmosphere, there were moments when the spiritual needs of non-Muslims seemed overlooked. My mother often recounted tales of our Hindu friends yearning to visit temples, especially during festivals and special occasions—a sentiment I found deeply saddening. Coming from India, where minorities are afforded dignity and their rights, including religious freedom, are respected, it was disheartening to witness this disparity. India boasts lakhs of mosques despite the minority status of Muslims, so it felt strange and sorrowful to see that the UAE lacked similar provisions for people of other

faiths, even if they were expatriates rather than citizens. The contrast left one questioning the UAE's stance toward religious tolerance and diversity. However, the scenario has been improving slowly. In contrast to other regions in the UAE, Dubai's Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed al Maktoum took a significant step in 1958 by allowing a place of prayer for Hindus to be built. This temple was established on the first floor above a maze of traditional shops in Bur Dubai. Unfortunately, this historic temple closed its doors last month, and relocated, along with the gurudwara at the Bur Dubai complex, to another site

in Jebel Ali. For decades, this temple stood as the solitary sanctuary for Hindus, who constitute roughly 6.6 per cent of the UAE's population. Therefore, witnessing the inauguration of the Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS) temple in Abu Dhabi this week filled me with joy as an Indian Pasmanda Muslim. This event not only marks a significant moment for the Hindu community in the UAE but also reflects a shifting attitude towards other religions and their followers in the region. In 2016, the UAE established the Ministry of Tolerance.

India and the problems with Chinese manufacturing

Manufacturing overcapacity is a cause of concern for any economy. However, it has wider global ramifications. For instance, the US steel industry also went through this phase. In the 1970s and 1980s, the US steel industry experienced significant overcapacity. Despite declining demand for steel in the United States due to various economic and technological changes, steel manufacturers continued to produce at high levels. This overproduction led to a glut of steel in the market, causing prices to plummet and profits to erode. The industry's overcapacity resulted in severe consequences, including widespread plant closures, job losses, and a long period of economic hardship for communities reliant on steel production. The situation was exacerbated by the industry's slow response to global competition and technological innovation, which made it difficult to adjust to the changing market conditions. Relating this to the current situation of manufacturing overcapacity in China, we see parallels in the potential for economic disruption. Like the US steel industry, China's aggressive expansion in manufacturing capacities, particularly in green goods like EVs and solar panels, is creating a surplus that exceeds both domestic and global demand. This overcapacity



risks leading to similar outcomes as those experienced by the US steel industry, including price pressures, reduced profitability for manufacturers, and potential trade tensions as other countries respond to the influx of cheap Chinese products. The situation is compounded by subsidies and state support, which can distort market signals and lead to inefficient allocation of resources. But why is this happening now? The answer is simple. Chinese lending is shifting from the property sector to manufacturing, leading to concerns about overcapacity. Within a span of less than four years, Chinese banks have transitioned from granting over one trillion dollars in new loans annually to the property sector to observing a net reduction in outstanding debt for the first time since records began in 2005. In contrast, the third quarter of 2023 saw these banks extend nearly \$700 bil-

lion in new loans to the manufacturing sector, often at interest rates below market levels. This surge in lending has facilitated the rapid expansion of new manufacturing facilities across China, specializing in products like electric vehicles (EVs) and batteries. However, with domestic consumption not being able to fully absorb this increased production, there are reports of China dumping this overcapacity in the international markets. In the lithium-ion battery cell industry, for example, the expansion has surpassed demand, leading to predictions of industry consolidation. The utilisation rates of gigafactories, which are crucial for battery production, were at 45 per cent in 2022 and have further declined in the first half of 2023, highlighting the extent of the overcapacity problem. The oversupply has led to drastic price reductions in key components, such as

lithium carbonate, a critical material for rechargeable batteries. Prices have plummeted more than 80 per cent from their peak, which has had a significant impact on the profitability and sustainability of companies within the sector. It's becoming increasingly evident that this maneuver may not be merely an economic realignment but could also be construed as a calculated move by China to unsettle global market dynamics. This development demands a closer examination, as its repercussions extend beyond national borders, challenging the equilibrium of international trade and industry competition. In fact, the US has recently warned Beijing against dumping goods on global markets as it fears China would be easing domestic overcapacity with cheap exports. However, addressing overcapacity has become a persistent challenge within Chinese industrial strategies. This issue, akin to a resilient virus, proves tough to eradicate and necessitates ongoing efforts to manage. Typically, this involves state-led consolidation of industries, which results in the elimination of less competitive firms. The survivors, having weathered the storm, emerge stronger and more aggressive, particularly in international markets, there-

by intensifying the original problem. BYD is greatest example. It has become world's largest EV company, overtaking Tesla. The impact of this overcapacity is multifaceted. In Europe, the influx of cost-competitive Chinese EVs, for example, is threatening the continent's nascent EV production, prompting the European Commission to launch anti-subsidy investigations into imports of Chinese-made passenger battery electric vehicles. Similar concerns are arising in other green technology sectors, with potential for further trade disputes and investigations into China's dominance in clean energy supply chains, including wind turbines and heat pumps. Moreover, the situation in China's manufacturing sector is characterised by heightened volatility, with industries like steel and automobiles experiencing significant fluctuations in demand and profit margins. This volatility, exacerbated by the uncertain global economic environment since 2008, makes planning difficult for China's manufacturers, who are facing challenges from rising labor costs and the need to achieve manufacturing excellence amidst slowing growth. For global manufacturers, this presents a complex problem. On one hand, the overcapacity in China might

The verdict came ahead of the Lok Sabha elections

The verdict came ahead of the Lok Sabha elections expected to take place in April or May this year and was immediately welcomed by opposition parties. The Supreme Court struck down the Centre's 2018 electoral bond (EB) scheme of political funding, declaring it to be "unconstitutional" because it completely anonymised contributions made to political parties and added that restricting black money or illegal election financing — some of the articulated objectives of the scheme — did not justify violating voters' right to information in a disproportionate manner. Ordering full disclosure of donors and recipients of EBs issued since April 2019 on the website of the Election

Commission of India (ECI) by March 13, a five-judge Constitution bench, headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, ruled that amendments made in the Representation of the People Act, Income Tax Act, and Companies Act through the 2017 Finance Act violated the constitutional right of the electors to access information on the funding of political parties "which is necessary to identify corruption and quid pro quo transactions and governance information".

The verdict came ahead of the Lok Sabha elections expected to take place in April or May this year and was immediately welcomed by opposition parties — since the inception

of the scheme, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), in power at the Centre since 2014, has received 54.8% of the electoral bonds purchased in this period — and civil society activists. Welcoming the verdict, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the party had called the scheme "opaque and undemocratic" when it was launched. Subsequently in its 2019 manifesto, he added, the Congress promised to scrap the "Modi government's dubious scheme". "We welcome the decision of the Supreme Court which has struck down this 'Black Money Conversion' scheme of the Modi Government, calling it 'Unconstitutional', Kharge said in a post on X.

Maybe RAW agent Tiger can be asked to save democracy

Kashmir Day and Valentine's Day fall. Mix both and you get sugar, spice, and a fight. With Hrithik Roshan's *Fighter*, you get a well-spent national holiday with a side of halwa puri. In this 2 hours and 40-odd minutes, we relive the 2019 India-Pakistan saga with a tadka of green eyes, red nose, kohli, flirting enemies and the usual baap hum hain, aap-janab starter pack. This is not Border; this is not Gadar. *Fighter* starts from where the great battle of Baghpat with crazy uncles ended in 2021. Of course with dandas minus the warplanes and a kiss. No wonder that the film's director has been complaining how 90 per cent Indians have never flown in an airplane so they never understood a thing. And if they had, Patty would be flying in and out of Pakistan on an airbus with 90 per cent Indians onboard. A potential plot for *Fighter 2*: how to make Akhand Bharat in your dreams. Here Patty aka pretty Indian Air Force officer in a tight one piece, not a bikini, wows in thousand punches: "POK ka matlab hai Pakistan Occupied Kashmir. Occupy tumne kiya hai, malik hum hain." Definitely not quoting from Pakistan's school textbooks. It would be scary if it was somebody else and not Hrithik Roshan warning that if India comes

down to badtameezi, Pakistan will become "India Occupied Pakistan". Given the current account deficit, Pakistan might just take Patty up on his offer! WE becoming part of YOU will only be your headache. The fact that there was no Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman in *Fighter* and hence no mention of the world-famous "tea is fantastic", was a bummer. What is an India-Pakistan conflict without that cup of chai offered to Abhinandan? The receipt and mug of Abhinandan is now displayed at Pakistan Air Force museum for posterity. How do you make a film without such crucial details? What Pakistan now celebrates every 27 February as its victory of downing an Indian jet and capturing a soldier. Of course, we find out that *Fighter* is only loosely based on real events; when it gets fictional, 80 per cent of the film has ended. Since the known Pakistan and Indian history of this episode (and the four wars fought) varies, they say they killed terrorists in Balakot. We say there were some pine trees and one crow. But at least both sides agree there were warplanes involved. Red Nose, a Pakistani sorma wearing officer and the one-red-eye jihadi will give you a red

heartache if not an attack. Heartening to see here that the Pakistani pilot has more time to come up with the best verbal comebacks and collect girl gossip on his adversary. The team of his Indian adversaries, meanwhile, is busy dancing to Aaj sher khul gaey amid a high volatile border tension. Looks like the red nose character is inspired from former director general of military PR, Asif Ghafoor, whose boastful tweets kept us all entertained in those blue days. In this multiverse, imagine Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar as the jihadi villain Azhar Akhtar but with Keratin hair treatment and a conjunctivitis-like red eye who walks in and out of the offices of Pakistan military at will. Almost like he lives in GHQ. He tells these Generals what needs to be done, as if he owns them. But what do we know? If Emraan Hashmi (as Aatish Rehman) can be in a proverbial lip lock with Pakistani Generals against Pakistani politicians in *Tiger 3*, then anything is possible in love and films. Maybe RAW agent Tiger can be asked to save democracy in Pakistan in the aftermath of the 2024 election results, which have created more turbulence. The single super success of ISI in a year has been.

5 students of Akash Byjus Bhiwani achieved more

Bhiwani: Akash Byju's is proud to announce the remarkable achievement of its 5 students from Bhiwani who have scored above 99 percentile in the first session of Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) Main 2024. 11 students scored more than 98 percentile. 21 students achieved more than 95 percentile. 27 students achieved more than 90 percentile. A student scored 100 percentile in Physics. The National Testing Agency had declared the results last Tuesday. Among the notable achievers, Manuj secured 99.95, Piyush secured 99.58, Tanishk secured 99.47, Saksham Wadhwa secured 99.34 and Anuja Gupta secured 99.16 percentile. Top percentage of students show their unwavering commitment and academic excellence in one of the most renowned competitive examinations of India. The National Testing Agency today unveiled the results of Session



1, the first of two scheduled joint entrance examinations for engineering this year. Congratulating the students, Parmeshwar Jha, Regional Director, Akash Byju's, appreciated, "The remarkable performance of the students reflects Aakash Byju's commitment to empowering students with comprehensive coaching and innovative learning solutions, enabling them to crack competitive examinations. Can achieve excellence. We wish him all the best for his next endeavor as well as his future endeavours." Moreover, in the

recently declared NSE results, 8 students from Bhiwani scored above the Minimum Admissible Score and 1 student has been selected for the Indian National Olympiad 2024. JEE (Mains) is structured into two sessions to provide students with multiple opportunities to increase their scores. While JEE Advanced facilitates admission exclusively into the prestigious Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), JEE Main serves as a gateway to many National Institutes of Technology (NITs) and other centrally-aided engineering college.

'I love challenging myself...': Yashasvi Jaiswal credits his success to insights from Rahul and Rohit

NEW DELHI: Yashasvi Jaiswal's remarkable journey in Test cricket has reached new heights, with the young batsman emerging as the leading run-scorer in the ongoing series between India and England. Since his debut last year, Jaiswal's performance graph has been a roller-coaster ride, marked by resilience and adaptability. In a recent conversation with broadcasters ahead of day three's play in the fourth Test at the JSCA International Stadium on Sunday, Jaiswal shed light on his approach to the game, emphasizing the impor-



tance of playing for the team's cause in varying match situations. He credited his success to the valuable insights gained from discussions with cricketing stalwarts Rahul Dravid and Rohit Sharma. "It's been really nice and really challenging to play on different types of pitches," Jaiswal

remarked, highlighting the dynamic nature of Test cricket. "I speak a lot with Rahul Dravid and Rohit Sharma about how I can change my style throughout the innings and try to make sure that I am always playing for the team and what the team needs," he added.

New Zealand Cricket to send security delegation to Pakistan ahead of T20I series

NEW DELHI: New Zealand Cricket (NZC) is set to dispatch a security delegation to Pakistan in preparation for their upcoming five-match T20I series scheduled for April this year. A reliable source within the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB)

revealed that the delegation will comprise private security expert Reg Dickason, along with Heath Mills, a senior official of the NZ players association. Dickason, a seasoned security consultant, has previously worked with the International

Cricket Council (ICC) and various cricket boards during high-profile tours to Pakistan in recent years. "The delegation is due in early March to visit Lahore and Rawalpindi where the matches will probably be held," the source stated.

Discussions on Innovative treatments for Burn Management at NABICON 2024

GURUGRAM: The National Academy of Burns organized the NABICON 2024 - a platform to exchange knowledge and explore the recent advances in all aspects of burn prevention, burn wound management, burn reconstruction, rehabilitation and research. The event witnessed a stellar line up of speakers comprising dedicated Burn & Plastic surgeons and burn care specialists from India and across the globe. Some of the key topics covered in the Conference included Training in Burn Management,



Advances in Keratinocyte Delivery In Wounds, Post Burn Deformities Correction, Setting Up Of An Ideal Burn Unit And Awareness In Burns, and many more. Several experts presented scientific and medical papers on relevant topics on management and burn care.

The conference is being held in Ranchi, Jharkhand under the leadership of Dr Anant Sinha, President of NABI & Organizing Secretary of NABICON 2024. Speaking on the sidelines of NABICON 2024, Alok Khettry, COO- India Business, BSV, said, "Despite the daunting toll burns

take globally, there is a light at the end of the tunnel." He emphasized the power of modern burns treatment, to uplift survivors both physically and emotionally. Burn Survivors are often stigmatized with scars (dead tissues) and other deformities that remain a life-long emotional and physical challenge. However, with scientific advancements in burn treatments, burns survivors can now be hopeful of overcoming these challenges without any intrusive surgeries. BSV, known for empowering women.

Hardwyn India Ltd. Reports Stellar Earnings for Q3FY24, PAT Jumps 191%

CHANDIGARH: Hardwyn India Ltd. (BSE: 541276, NSE: HARDWYN), a leader in architectural hardware and glass fittings, has announced stellar earnings for the quarter and nine months ended 31 December 2023. For the quarter ended 31 December 2023, (Cons), the company reported a 25% growth QoQ in its revenue from operations, rising from Rs. 31.94 Crores (Q2FY24) to Rs. 39.90 Crores (Q3FY24). The EBITDA grew 185% QoQ, from Rs. 2.36 Crores (Q2FY24) to Rs. 6.72

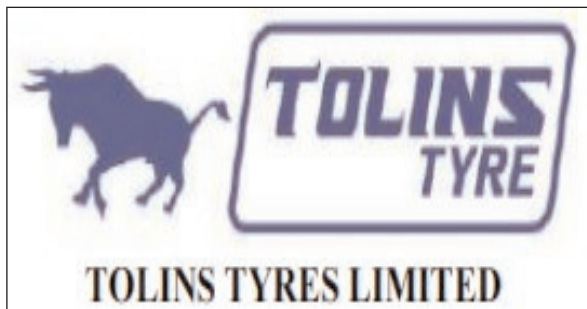
Crores (Q3FY24). EBITDA margins grew 944 bps from 7.37% in Q2FY24, to 16.81% in Q3FY24. PAT jumped 191% QoQ, from Rs. 1.48 Crores (Q2FY24) to Rs. 4.31 Crores (Q3FY24). PAT Margins increased by 616 bps, from 4.62% in Q2FY24 to 10.78% in Q3FY24. For the nine months ended 31 December, 2023 (Cons), the company reported its revenue from operations, at Rs. 108.70 Crores (9MFY24). The EBITDA was reported at Rs. 10.86 Crores (9MFY24). PAT stood at

Rs. 6.90 Crores (9MFY24). Earlier, the company had announced that its newly formed Subsidiary 'Slim-X' has unveiled a range of innovative products. The new brand, with cutting-edge technology, now plans to generate revenue of Rs 100 crore in the next two years, leveraging the growth potential of innovative products-ultra-slim, high-performance aluminum profiles- for industries. Hardwyn India Ltd. is a leading brand among the architectural hard-

ware manufacturers in India. For over half a century, Hardwyn India Ltd. has been redefining perfection in the realm of architectural hardware. The company offers comprehensive solutions for residential and commercial structures as an unwavering manufacturer of architectural hardware and glass fittings. Through rigorous testing and relentless research and development practices, Hardwyn has earned a stellar reputation for benchmark quality through a customer.

TOLINS TYRES LIMITED FILES DRHP WITH SEBI

GURUGRAM : Tolins Tyres Limited, a company based in Kerala and one of leading player in the Tyre & Treads industry with all India presence, has filed its Draft Red Herring Prospectus ("DRHP") with market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI"). The Company's initial public offering comprises a fresh issue of up to ₹200 Crores and an offer for sale (OFS) of Equity Shares aggregating upto ₹30 Crores by selling shareholders. The offer for sale comprises of Equity Shares aggregating up to ₹15 Crore by Dr. Kalamparambil Varkey Tolin, Promoter, Chairman and Managing Director and Up to ₹15 Crore by Ms. Jerin Tolin, promoter, Non-Executive & Non Independent Director. The company proposes to utilize the 62.5 Crores of Net Proceeds from the offer towards



the repayment/prepayment of certain outstanding loans (including foreclosure charges, if any) availed by the Company, ₹75 Crores towards augmentation of long-term working capital requirements of the Company, and 24.3 Crores towards investment in their wholly owned subsidiary, Tolin Rubbers Private Limited to repay and/or prepay, in full, certain of its short term and long term borrowings and augmentation of its working capital requirements; and balance amount will be used for general corporate purposes. Tolins Tyres Limited com-

menced their operations in 1982 as a proprietorship concern for manufacture of tread rubber, incorporated in 2003 and commenced production and sales in the year 2005 by Dr. Kalamparambil Varkey Tolin, Promoter, Chairman and Managing Director and Mr. Sankar Krishnan Ramalingam, Whole Time Director. Since 2004 Ms. Jerin Tolin, promoter, Non-Executive & Non Independent Director. The tyre retreading solutions provider operates its business from three manufacturing facilities, of which two are in Kalady.

Advocating for the inclusion of experienced batter Pujara

NEW DELHI: Former England seamer Stuart Broad has voiced his opinion on India's batting lineup for the ongoing five-match series against England, advocating for the inclusion of experienced batter Cheteshwar Pujara in the absence of former captain Virat Kohli. Kohli's absence from the series due to personal reasons has left a void in the Indian batting order, prompting Broad to express his views. "With the experience & world-class talent of Kohli missing, would there have been temptation to bring back Pujara into this India batting lineup? Or is his international career over? Feels like he could have brought some consistency and an anchor," Broad shared



on X, highlighting Pujara's potential role as a stabilizing force in the team. Pujara, renowned for his solidity in the middle-order, boasts an impressive Test record, having amassed 7,195 runs at an average of 43.60 in 103 matches. Despite his recent struggles, particularly since India's historic tri-

umph over Australia at The Gabba in January 2021, where he played a pivotal role, Pujara's experience and track record cannot be overlooked. Since the Gabba victory, Pujara's form has witnessed a decline, managing only 1,084 runs at an average of 29.29 in 22 Tests. However, his consistent performances in

domestic cricket, notably in the Ranji Trophy where he scored 783 runs at an average of 71.18, suggest he still has plenty to offer at the international level. Meanwhile, in the ongoing Test match between India and England, England posted a respectable total of 353 in their first innings, anchored by an unbeaten century from captain Joe Root. In response, India ended day two at 219/7 in their first innings, with Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shubman Gill making significant contributions with the bat. However, England spinners Shoab Bashir and Tom Hartley dominated proceedings, leaving the Three Lions with a lead of 134 runs heading into the next day's play.

Soreness rules David Warner out of final T20I clash with New Zealand

NEW DELHI: Cricket Australia on Saturday announced opener David Warner will not be participating in the third and final match of the T20 series against New Zealand in Auckland due to adductor soreness. The 37-year-old, who will retire from all forms of international cricket after the T20 World Cup in June, was also absent from Friday's 72-run victory over the Black Caps as the Australians secured consecutive wins. "Warner will require a brief recovery period, which is not expected to affect his availability for the upcoming Indian Premier League leading into the ICC Men's T20 World Cup," Cricket Australia said in a statement. Warner hit 32 runs off 20 balls in the opening win over New Zealand in Wellington on , but was booed off the field by the home fans in what was his final appearance in the bilateral international series.

Shoppers Stop brand showcase their clothes in Beyond the Runway, BTR an initiative by PB EVENTS



New Delhi: Beyond the Runway brand was inaugurated by renowned Bollywood actress Ritu Shivpuri, television cinema actress Anuradha Sharma and Ustad Kamal Sabri. India's renowned designers Ashwini Persaud, Parul Aggarwal, Arijit Kumar, Vineet Chaubey, Syda Parveen and Wasim Sahil Khan presented their designer clothes as part of Beyond the Runway (BTR) an initiative by PB EVENTS.

Delhi Sports School will host state and lateral entry camps

Delhi: In 2025-26, Delhi Sports School, a flagship school under the Delhi government's Schools of Specialised Excellence program, will welcome Class XI pupils. The school is using lateral entrances to attract outstanding athletes and foster inclusion. Students without the entrance exam can acquire admission by winning national sports medals. Senior school administrator Sanjeet Sangwan emphasized the sports-focused curriculum and in-house training and development facilities in all courses.

In Beyond the Runway, famous models Pratik Soni, Shreya, Ronika Singh, Shanawaz Malik, Komal Janshi appeared as show



stoppers for clothes presented by various designers. Special thanks are due to Show Director Mohit Rastogi and Designer Waseem Sahil Khan for curating the BTR. Talking about the new initiative by PB EVENTS, Co-founder Archana Gaur said that under the BTR, designer shows will

be organized in which famous fashion designers of India and abroad can present their dress collection in front of the guests. On this occasion, she expressed her heartfelt gratitude to all the models and designers who participated in the BTR. She also thanked all the people who supported this initiative by PB EVENT. Special Guests of the BTR: Jaishigh Kataria, Poonam Kalra, Abhishek Bachchan,

Subhash Jindal, Gaurav Gupta, Navneet Rai, Ramesh, Anju Tikko, Ran Singh Chaudhary, Seema Sharma, Raju Punjabi, Zenab Khan, Gaurav Mallik, Kamal Raj, Ashwini Persaud, Anil Arora, Sanjeev Sharma, Vishwa Mohan Ashutosh, Kamal Bansal, Puneet Bansal, Mohit Bansal, Vivek Hoon, Diwaker Biduri, Surrender Bhati, Deepak Gupta, Vicky, Ashma Begum were present on this occasion.

CAPSULES

Bharat Mahotsav" Festival Illuminates London, celebrating 'Amrit Kaal: Realising New India's Vision 2047'

New Delhi:

Confluence, a beacon of cultural exchange, successfully hosted the grand "Bharat Mahotsav" festival from February 15th to 17th, 2024, at The Bhavan in London. The festival served as a platform to celebrate 'Amrit Kaal: Realising New India's Vision 2047,' bringing together a diverse array of talents, dignitaries, and performers. The festival was hosted by Lord Raj Loomba, the Lord Loomba CBE Member of the House of Lords Lord Temporal. The chief guest for the event was Dr. Sandhya Purecha, Chairperson of the Sangeet Natak Akademi, Government of India. The guests of honour for the event were: Mr. Dusty Lane, Producer, Actor, Camera, and Electrical Department; Ms. T.J. Myers, Hollywood Actress, Producer, and Director; Dr. Gaurav Grover, Chairman of NDSWA; Mr. Mahendrasinh C. Jadeja (Dada), International Business Consultant and Social Activist; Mr. Darshan Singh Grewal, BJP Vice President (Overseas) and former mayor of Hounslow; Mr. Devinder Tyagi, Entrepreneur and Hotelier; Ms. Crystal Daiva, Entrepreneur Perfumes and Swarovski Jewellery Maker, among others. The media partners for the event.



BJP fires 'revenge' jibe as Congress gives Bharuch seat to AAP

NEW DELHI:

After Congress on Saturday announced giving away Bharuch seat in Gujarat to AAP as part of its seat-sharing deal, BJP said it showed Rahul Gandhi's "use and throw" policy and 'revenge of Prince' in what was seen as a hint at differences between the Gandhi scion and late Ahmed Patel. The seat-sharing arrangement and giving up Bharuch, which is Patel's legacy seat, didn't go down well within a section of Congress as well, with Patel's daughter Mumtaz expressing disappoint-



ment on social media. Patel's son Faisal too said party workers were not happy that the seat had been given to AAP. Former Congress leader and now BJP spokesperson Jaiveer Shergill said: "Handing over long standing stronghold of Ahmed Patel, who gave his life to Congress, to AAP is revenge of

'Prince'!" BJP's IT-cell head Amit Malviya shared Mumtaz's post in which she apologised to local party workers for not being able to hold Bharuch. In Gujarat, Congress has agreed to give Bhavnagar to AAP besides Bharuch. Malviya said: "In Congress, one dynasty

is more equal than others. Everyone knows of differences between late Ahmed Patel and Rahul. Giving away Bharuch to AAP is Rahul's attempt to erase his legacy and humiliate the family. Gandhis believe in use and throw." Mumtaz wrote, "Deeply apologise to our district cadre for not being able to secure Bharuch Lok Sabha seat in alliance. I share your disappointment. Together, we will regroup to make @INIndia stronger. We won't let @ahmedpatel 45 years of legacy go in vain."

Self-love is not Selfish

Maya was known for her kindness and compassion, always offering a helping hand to those in need. However, there was one person she neglected to show the same kindness to: Herself. Maya had grown up with the belief that putting others before herself was the ultimate act of love. She would tirelessly devote her time and energy to her family, friends, and community, often neglecting her well-being and dreams in the process. As the years passed, Maya's selflessness began to take its toll. She found herself exhausted, unfulfilled, sad, and lost. One day, while taking a solitary walk through the village, she stumbled upon an old, wise woman sitting by a small hut. The wise woman, sensing Maya's inner turmoil, beckoned her to sit beside her.



Story by Avinash Mashani

With a gentle smile, she spoke, "Child, I see your heart is full of love for others, but have you forgotten to love yourself? Tears welled up in Maya's eyes as she realized the truth in the wise woman's words. She had indeed forgotten to love and care for herself. With an open heart, Maya listened intently as the wise woman shared her wisdom. "True love encompasses oneself as well. Just as you nurture the flowers in

your garden, you must also tend to your soul. Embrace your dreams, honor your needs, and allow yourself the same kindness you extend to others." Those words resonated deeply within Maya. From that moment forward, she embarked on a journey of self-discovery and self-love. As beautiful as it is to love and show kindness to others, we should learn to prioritize our well-being. We should love ourselves enough to

say "no" when necessary. Showing love and care to ourselves isn't selfish, self-love isn't selfish. We can only give genuinely and abundantly when we have learned to fill our cup first, this will, in turn, bring a positive impact on our relationships and overall happiness. So as you celebrate others, *celebrate yourself too,* as you love others, *Love YOU too.* As you give *others*, give *yourself.* So dear friend, treat yourself with love, kindness, and respect cos you deserve it. Doing so is not being selfish, it is called SELF-LOVE and is very essential to your physical and mental well-being. So I conclude my story with these beautiful lines SELF-LOVE IS NOT SELFISH; YOU CANNOT TRULY LOVE ANOTHER UNTIL YOU KNOW HOW TO LOVE YOURSELF

Understanding and Meeting Your Child's Needs



By Sheetal Solanki - Certified Master trainer and Educationalist

The early years of a child's life are crucial for their overall development and well-being. As parents, understanding and fulfilling your child's needs during this period is essential for fostering a strong foundation for their future. This article aims to provide insights into how parents can better comprehend and meet their child's needs during the early years.

Observe and Connect: Begin by closely observing your child's behavior and cues. Infants and toddlers communicate through non-verbal cues, such as facial expressions, body language, and cries. Paying attention to these signals helps you understand their basic needs like hunger, fatigue, or discomfort.

Establish a Routine: Young children thrive on routine and predictability. Establishing a consistent daily schedule helps them feel secure and reduces anxiety. Set regular meal times, nap times, and playtimes to create a sense of stability in their lives.

Physical Needs: Ensure your child's physical well-being by pro-



viding a safe and stimulating environment. Regular health check-ups, a nutritious diet, and sufficient sleep are essential for their growth and development.

Emotional Needs: Early emotional bonds with parents or caregivers significantly influence a child's emotional development. Offer plenty of love, warmth, and affection. Respond promptly to their cries and provide comfort to build a secure attachment.

Encourage Exploration: Create an environment that stimulates curiosity and exploration. Allow your child to engage in age-appropriate activities that promote sensory exploration and motor skill development. Play is a vital tool for learning during the early years.

Communication: While infants may not articulate their needs verbally, older toddlers often begin to express themselves through simple words and gestures. Encourage communication by responding to their attempts, and gradually introduce language-rich activities to foster language development.

Provide Independence: As your child grows, encourage autonomy and independence. Simple tasks like dressing themselves, picking out

toys, or feeding contribute to their sense of competence and self-esteem.

Be Attuned to Developmental Milestones: Keep track of your child's developmental milestones, both physical and cognitive. Understanding what is developmentally appropriate for their age helps you support their growth and identify any potential concerns early on.

Create a Supportive Network: Building a support network with other parents, caregivers, or professionals can be beneficial. Sharing experiences and gaining insights from others going through similar situations can offer valuable support and guidance.

Adapt to Changing Needs: Children's needs evolve as they grow. Stay attuned to these changes and adjust your parenting approach accordingly. Flexibility and adaptability are key components of effective parenting during the early years.

Conclusion: Understanding and meeting your child's needs during the early years is a continuous and evolving process. By fostering a loving and supportive environment, paying attention to cues, and adapting to their changing requirements, you can lay the foundation for a healthy and happy childhood, setting the stage for a successful future. Remember, every child is unique, so being attuned to your child's individuality is paramount in providing the best possible care and support.

LG inaugurates island fountains, storm water channels



Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Tuesday inaugurated island fountains and storm water channels (SWC) 2 and 5 in Dwarka. The rejuvenated channels will provide a green and clean, refreshing environment for the public to go out for walks, jogging, cycling and daily commute to and from work. This is as per the commitment of the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) to develop world class infrastructure along with green space and beautify the Dwarka sub-city.

West Delhi MP Parvesh Sahib Singh and South Delhi MP

Ramesh Bidhuri, and other senior officials of the DDA were also present. The project has been completed by DDA at the cost of Rs 300 crore. The SWC 2 has capacity of 7 MLD and SWC 5 has 9.5 MLD capacity to treat sewage. The rejuvenation of storm water channels 2 and 5 to address the issue of drainage system, provide green space, add to the public amenities and beautify the Dwarka sub-city. SWC2 and SWC5 Channels pass through many sectors (8, 9, 20, 23, 19, 24 and Sectors 3, 13, 14, 16) of Dwarka before merging with Najafgarh drain which further

falls into River Yamuna. SWC2 has length of 5.2 Km and SWC5 has a length of 3.8 Km. Over the past few years, these channels have been subjected to discharge of domestic waste waters from adjoining colonies and other areas lacking sewerage facilities. The channels became open sewers and resulted in inhospitable situations in the nearby areas. To address these pollution issues and boost the overall environmental wellbeing, DDA executed this project to rejuvenate the channels by sewerage interception and treatment along with area development.

RIL-backed AI model set to launch in March

A consortium backed by Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries and the country's top engineering schools aim to launch its first ChatGPT-style service next month, a big step in the country's ambitions to become a player in the field of artificial intelligence. The BharatGPT group - encompassing an arm of India's most valuable company and eight affiliated universities - offered a sneak peek of the large language model on Tuesday during a technology conference in Mumbai. In a video played before delegates, a motorcycle mechanic in southern

India queried an AI bot in Tamil, a banker conversed with the tool in Hindi, and a developer in Hyderabad used it to write computer code. If successful, the model - dubbed Hanooman - will represent an advance for India in the accelerating race to develop potentially transformative AI technology. BharatGPT envisions the model working via 11 local languages in four main fields: health care, governance, financial services and education. It developed the model in collaboration with the IITs including in Bombay, backed by wireless carrier Reliance Jio

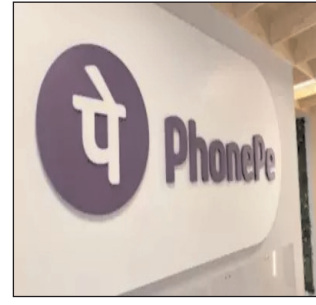
Infocomm and govt.

A swath of startups such as Sarvam and Krutrim, backed by prominent VC investors such as Lightspeed Venture Partners and billionaire Vinod Khosla's fund, are also building open-sourced AI models customised for India. While Silicon Valley companies like OpenAI are building ever-larger LLMs, those efforts involve workarounds because of computational constraints and simpler models affordable to smaller businesses and govt departments. "It's a different genre of LLMs," said Ganesh Ramakrishnan.

PhonePe sets up app store for Android

MUMBAI: Walmart's PhonePe launched an Android app store on Wednesday. The firm's homegrown Indus Appstore is betting on localisation to differentiate itself in the space dominated by tech giants Google and Apple

To get more developers on board, a factor that



will be key to its growth, Indus Appstore will allow them to

choose any third-party payment gateway for in-app billing and they will also not be charged any commission if they use an external payment gateway. In recent months, local app developers and Google have been engaged in a tussle over Play Store policies and commission fees.

BML Munjal University drives Startup and Entrepreneurship Ecosystem through Propel

Gurugram : BML Munjal University (BMU), a Hero Group initiative, further solidified its commitment to fostering entrepreneurship within higher education by successfully concluding Propel Pitchfest24 on February 15-16, 2024. Hosted by BMU's Atal Community Innovation Centre (ACIC), the event served as a dynamic platform for emerging entrepreneurs from across India to showcase their innovative ventures, engage with industry veterans, and compete for vital funding opportunities. Running parallel to Pitchfest was the second



instalment edition of the Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Social (EIS) conference, which delved into the intricate landscape of societal challenges and sought to uncover groundbreaking solutions through social enterprises, burgeoning startups, and social innovation, all amidst the backdrop of today's rapidly evolving

digital era. The collaborative synergy between Pitchfest and EIS aimed to unlock the growth potential of startups spanning various sectors, including deeptech, mobility, MedTech, and more. With participation from over 500+ startups nationwide, the grand finale on February 16, 2024, witnessed a panel

of investors evaluating 12 shortlisted startups based on their live presentations and their capacity to address societal challenges through social enterprise and innovation. The top 12 ideas across segments like sustainability, e-mobility, manufacturing, and automation, under both pre-revenue and revenue tracks, earned the opportunity to incubate their ventures at Propel Incubator @BMU. This year's edition placed a heightened emphasis on women-founded startups, as well as those driving sustainability and social impact.

Minor raped, thrown off bridge in Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior

BHOPAL: A minor girl was allegedly raped and thrown off a bridge in Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior district. The incident was reported from the Dabra area, where the victim is fighting for her life in a hospital with severe injuries including spinal and leg fractures. Locals found her in an unconscious state 30 feet down the bridge and alerted police, said sources.

Subsequent investigations led to the identification of two suspects, who have been charged with assault, kidnap-



ping, attempted murder, and rape. According to initial reports, the survivor was en route to her coaching class on

Monday morning when she encountered Bobby Rawat (19) and Satendra Kushwaha (28), known acquaintances.

The suspects allegedly coerced the minor onto a bike and took her to a secluded area near Saharai bridge. It was there that one of them raped her before callously throwing her from the bridge.

According to police, the girl was accosted by Rawat and Kushwaha while on her way to coaching.

Despite her resistance, the suspects forcibly took her to Saharai bridge, where Rawat perpetrated the assault. They threatened to harm her family as well.

Fintech loan defaults drop to pre-Covid level: Report

MUMBAI: Loans provided by fintech companies through digital platforms, which are overdue for more than 90 days, constitute 3.6% of their total portfolio as of Sept 2023, according to a study released by Fintech Association for Consumer Empowerment. The delinquency ratio has shown improvement since reaching a peak of 11.1% in March 2021 and is now better than the pre-Covid level of 3.9% as of March 2020. West Bengal has the highest delinquency rate for digital loans at 4.3%, followed by Rajasthan at 4%, and Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra tied for the third spot at 3.9%. Tamil Nadu has the lowest 90-day delinquency rate of 3.1%. Interestingly, urban and metro areas have the lowest default rates of 3.3%, while

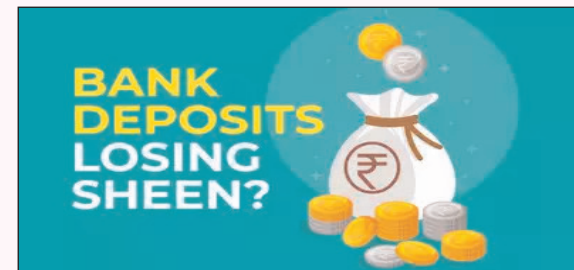


rural areas have a higher default rate of 4.1%. Female borrowers are less likely to default at 3%, compared to male borrowers at 3.7%. Out of the 12 crore outstanding personal loans totalling Rs 11.9 lakh crore as of Sept 2023, fintech NBFCs account for Rs 55,353 crore, NBFCs for nearly Rs 2 lakh crore, and banks for Rs 9.4 lakh crore. Although fintech NBFCs have disbursed 4.15 crore loans compared to banks' 4.9 crore loans, their average loan value is only Rs 13,328, whereas banks' average loan value is Rs 1.9 lakh. Like the overall personal loan market, fintech personal loans

have witnessed steady growth. The report said that the emergence of fintech loans has played a transformative role in bringing a new market segment to formal credit by sanctioning over 18 crore personal loans, crossing Rs 2 lakh crore since April 2018. In the first half of FY 2023-24, more than a third of the sanctioned value went to borrowers from tier-3 cities and beyond. For every 10 loans in H1 FY23-24, four were granted to borrowers from tier-3 cities and beyond, which witnessed a three-fold increase in their overall share in sanctioned value from FY18-19.

Bank deposits losing sheen? Why more savers are moving to higher-yielding investment options

One of the reasons for the decline in CASA ratios could be the increase in bank fixed deposit rates. Bank deposits losing sheen? Indian banks are facing a significant challenge as the preference of urban savers shifts towards higher-yielding investment options like mutual funds and direct stock ownership. This trend is eroding the banks' biggest strength - access to low-cost current and savings account deposits. The rise of technology and the increasing familiarity with Dalal Street (the Indian stock market) among rural savers are further intensifying the



struggle for deposits in the banking industry. This democratization of technology is fundamentally changing the dynamics of financial savings, to the disadvantage of traditional high-street banks. As of September 2023, the collective CASA ratio (current and savings account deposits) of all commercial banks in India stands at 40.5%, down from 43.1% in March 2023

and 45.2% in March 2022. This is a decline of nearly 5 percentage points in 18 months, according to report. One of the reasons for the decline in CASA ratios could be the increase in bank fixed deposit rates. State Bank of India's CASA ratio dropped to 41.18% as of December 31, 2023, a decline of 330 basis points compared to the previous year. P R Rajagopal, executive

director of Bank of India, highlighted the shift in savings patterns, particularly in urban areas. Digitization has provided savers with access to alternative savings products like mutual funds, reducing their reliance.

on banks for deposits. The latest data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) reveals a surge in inflows into equity mutual funds. In January, inflows reached a 22-month high of Rs 21,781 crore, marking the 35th consecutive month of net inflows. Additionally, assets under management in the pooled funds.

Premature move on monetary policy front could undermine

MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank of India's job to bring down inflation is not over, and any premature move on the policy front could undermine the success achieved so far on the price situation, according to RBI governor Shaktikanta Das. According to the minutes of the February Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting released by the central bank on Thursday, Das had said at this juncture, monetary policy must remain vigilant and "not assume that our job on the inflation front is over". He stressed that the MPC must remain committed to successfully navigate the "last mile" of disinflation that can be sticky. Das made the remarks while voting for status quo in the key interest rate earlier this month. "As markets are front-running central bank.

Previous govts were sympathizers of rioters, conspired to abolish PAC units in the state: CM

Lucknow

In a scathing attack on the previous opposition party governments of Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that they were sympathizers of rioters and conspired to dismantle the Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC), which played crucial role in handling communal riots and violence in the state, by abolishing 54 of its companies. Yogi added that his government has reorganised the disbanded units of the PAC. Inaugurating and laying foundation of 144 infrastructural development projects worth Rs 2310 crore for the Uttar Pradesh Police at a formal ceremony at Lok Bhawan on Wednesday, CM Yogi stressed the crucial role of UP Police in the changed perception of the state. He remarked: "As a result, Uttar Pradesh has now emerged as the biggest investment destination in



the country. The state is experiencing prosperity with the blessings of Goddess Lakshmi. The contribution of UP Police towards the transformation of UP's image is crucial. Everyone can feel the hard work of UP Police in the state's changed perception." The Chief Minister announced that a special security force will be formed in UP soon. He also mentioned the establishment of the SDRF, Forensic Lab at the zone range levels and Forensic Institute in UP, adding that the

SSF is also in charge of ensuring security at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. CM Yogi appreciated the changes in the behavior of UP Police, pointing out that speaking politely while in uniform has a very positive impact. He emphasized the importance of following zero-tolerance policy for anti-social and anti-national elements as well as professional mafias, while adopting a sensitive approach towards common citizens and providing justice to them.

Investment of Rs 60,000 cr in food processing sector to generate thousands of jobs in UP

Lucknow

The GBC 4.0, organized by the Yogi government recently, saw initiation of an investment of over Rs 60,000 crores in the food processing sector of Uttar Pradesh, of which the top five projects are expected to generate over 3,000 employment opportunities, in Bijjor, Muzaffarnagar, Sandila, Bareilly, and Baghpat districts. Besides, various major companies are investing in food processing in other districts as well, which will create thousands of job opportunities in the state. The Yogi government's objective behind giving impetus to the food processing industry is to capitalize on the widespread love for Uttar Pradesh's authentic dishes among people from across the country and at the same time transform the industry into a major source of livelihood for the people of Uttar Pradesh. Coca-Cola is establishing its largest

bottling SLMG (Sugar Syrup, Juice Manufacturing, Pulping Extraction, and Bottling) unit in Uttar Pradesh. This project, valued at Rs 509 crores, will create about 275 jobs in Bijjor. Similarly, a sub-group of the renowned Reliance Group, known as Reliance Beverage Private Limited, is setting up its beverage manufacturing unit in Muzaffarnagar at the cost of Rs 600 crores, which will generate 500 jobs. through its beverage manufacturing facility in Muzaffarnagar. The project is associated with the development of a beverage manufacturing facility near Purkaji in Muzaffarnagar, under the joint venture of Bharatiya Beverages Pvt. Ltd. and Reliance Retail Ventures Limited. Furthermore, Balaji Wafer is investing Rs 500 crores to set up its integrated food processing unit for the production of potato wafers and

traditional Indian snacks in the industrial sector of Sandila, Hardoi, which will lead to creation of 1500 jobs in the region. Meanwhile, Dhamapur Bio Organics is setting up a new distillery plant at the cost of Rs 350 crores, which will generate 100 jobs in Bareilly. Likewise, Grupo Bimbo, through its subsidiary company Ready Roti India Pvt. Ltd., is establishing an integrated manufacturing unit to provide consumers with high-quality, convenient bread products. The company is investing Rs 200 crores for the plant located in Baghpat, creating over 600 jobs. Other groups that are also investing in the state, include: Dharam Pal Satya Pal Ltd., Bikanervala Foods Pvt. Ltd., Happy International Pvt. Ltd., Haldiram Snacks Manufacturing Pvt. Ltd., Susteen Ltd., Fair Experts (India) Pvt. Ltd., Fortune Rice Ltd., Brindavan Agro Industries Pvt. Ltd.

CAPSULES

Vector-control tips for college students

Kolkata: Zoology students at Scottish Church College received a lesson on mosquito breeds, the diseases they spread and vector-control measures at a workshop conducted by the KMC on Friday. The students visited the KMC lab, where civic vector-control chief Debasish Biswas and other health officials helped them identify various types of mosquito larvae and spoke about how to prevent dengue and malaria. "We hope they will create awareness and help us fight dengue, malaria and other vector-borne diseases," said Biswas. Scottish Church principal Madhumanjari Mandal, who had approached KMC deputy mayor Atin Ghosh to arrange for the lesson, said, "We have requested them to allow our students to do their internship there." KMC plans to hold more such workshops.

NCW chairperson leads delegation to Kolkata amidst unrest in Sandeshkhali

KOLKATA: A delegation led by the National Commission for Women (NCW) chairperson Rekha Sharma has left for Kolkata ahead of her Sandeshkhali visit. The area has been witnessing unrest for over 10 days as women protestors seek justice against alleged atrocities committed by TMC leader Sheikh Shajahan and his aides. Speaking to ANI, the NCW chief expressed her concern about the injustice done to women and her intention to visit every street and talk to the women to assure them of her support.

BBMP lists out 58 'stressed' areas, lines up water tankers

BENGALURU: Alarm bells are going off at 58 locations across the city, which according to BBMP have begun reporting drinking water scarcity in the run-up to summer. These locations are largely concentrated in the tech corridors of Mahadevapura and Bommanahalli along with RR Nagar, Yelahanka, and Dasarahalli zones. The challenges faced by residents of these localities (mostly on the city's periphery) took centre stage at a coordination committee meeting convened by Rakesh Singh, additional chief secretary of urban development department, with BBMP and BWSSB officials. While the situation is grim in these 58 locations,



including those dotted with another 257 points across upscale apartment complexes, Bengaluru have been identified.

Govt to ensure timely, error-free payment of pensions to the elderly:

Lucknow

Uttar Pradesh Finance and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna, on Wednesday, said that the government would ensure resolution of all the issues facing pensioners, including timely and error-free payment of pensions to them. Inaugurating the new building of the Pension Directorate at the Institute of Financial Management Training and Research campus in Indira Nagar, Lucknow, Khanna said that it will help in enhancing facilities for



pensioners of the state. The Finance Minister stated: "Ensuring timely disbursement of pensions to pensioners should be our top priority. Pensioners must not face any kind of

trouble. We have got the opportunity to serve the elderly and we must perform our duty", he added. Addressing the treasury, Suresh Khanna urged them to develop

a fool-proof mechanism to ensure that there are no errors in the pensions provided to pensioners or their dependents and the designated amounts are paid on right time to the right beneficiaries. "We must avoid complications like recovery due to incorrect disbursement", he pointed out. The Pension Directorate was established on June 2, 1988, to get the pension cases of government employees settled within the state instead of at the Accountant General's.

National Green Tribunal (NGT) has taken suo motu cognisance of a report

New Delhi: After 11 people died in a paint factory in Alipur, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has taken suo motu cognisance of a report and issued notices to Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), Directorate of

Industrial Safety and Health, District Magistrate (north Delhi), and Central Pollution Control Board for a report in the matter. The report 'Paint factory fire in Delhi's Alipur claims 11 lives, 4 injured' was published on Feb 16. The tribunal observed that the news item raised substantial issues relating to non-compliance with environmental norms. "As per the news item, a massive fire broke out at a paint factory at Dayalpur market in north Delhi's Alipur, in which at least 11 people died and four others were injured. As per the news item, apart from the paint factory, a few shops and a rehabilitation centre running inside the structure have also

collapsed, and in the factory there was no firefighting equipment," said the bench headed by Justice Prakash Shrivastava in an order dated Feb 19. The copy of the order was shared on Feb 24. The tribunal said the incident seemed to have involved hazardous substances and violated the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991. The tribunal has directed the respondents to file their responses specifically covering the issues relating to the cause of the incident, payment of compensation to the victims, compliance with environmental norms by the unit in question, and action taken against the unit for violation of environmental norms, if any.

The number of Anganwadi centres in the state has doubled in the last 7 years

Lucknow

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Wednesday that the number of Anganwadi centres in the state has doubled over the past seven years. Handing over appointment letters to 3,077 newly selected Anganwadi workers in a program organized as a part of Mission Rozgar at Lok Bhavan, the Chief Minister emphasized the pivotal role of Anganwadi workers in reducing maternal and child mortality rates over the past seven years. Highlighting data from the National Family Health Survey, CM Yogi noted a considerable decline in maternal and infant mortality rates. "The



maternal mortality rate in the state was 285 per lakh in 2014, which has come down to 167 whereas the infant mortality rate, which was 48 per thousand in 2014, has reduced to 38 per thousand," he added. Additionally, he laid the foundation stone

for 1,459 new Anganwadi center buildings across 31 districts being built at a cost of Rs 173 crore. The CM said, "Today, the double-engine government is providing 'hot-cooked meals' to children through women's self-help groups and

Anganwadi workers." Praising the dedication of Anganwadi workers, ANMs, and Asha workers during the global pandemic, the Chief Minister said, "These field workers were tasked with screening the COVID-infected people as well as providing them medicines. This proactive approach significantly contributed to the state's success in containing the spread of the virus." "Today, there are no deaths due to encephalitis in the state, a testament to the diligent efforts of our field workers. Their exemplary work has become a benchmark for the nation", he added. He said that Anganwadi workers

India go down to Oz in shoot-out

Kolkata: For the first time in this edition of the Pro League, Australia failed to register a win as India held them 2-2 in regulation time in Rourkela on Wednesday. But Australia did prevail 3-0 in the shoot-out to grab the bonus point as Johan Durst denied all the Indian attackers from sounding the board. On the other hand, PR Sreejesh failed to make a single save. As for India, who were leading 2-1 at half-time, they did get a couple of chances to increase their lead in the third quarter but on both the occasions Durst did well to deny them. And one of them was just too good. Abhishek took a reverse hit, not too far away from the right, and Durst dived on his right and kept the ball out with his stick. On the other occasion, he kept out the ball after a brilliant run by Hardik Singh down the right flank. In the other match of the day, Ireland went down to Spain 0-7. India took the lead.