

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

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MORNING EDITION PRAYAGRAJ Sunday, 16 Febuary, 2025 UNIQUE GIFT OF KRIYAYOGA ASHRAM AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE TO GIVE IMPETUS TO WORLD BUILDING AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.

Abscending PFI member arrested for RSS leader's murder in Kerala

NEW DELHI: A member of the banned Popular Front of India (PFI), who was wanted in connection with the murder of an RSS leader in 2022, was arrested from Kerala, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) said on Wednesday. Saheer K V was carrying a reward of Rs 4 lakh and was absconding since the murder of RSS leader Srinivasan on April 16, 2022 in Palakkad district of Kerala, a spokesperson of the federal agency said. Terming his arrest as a “major breakthrough”, the official said an NIA fugitive tracking team (FTT) traced him to a relative's house in Palakkad and arrested him. “Also a resident of Palakkad, Saheer was part of the PFI assault and protection team that had carried out the targeted killing. He was also responsible for providing protection to the main assailants of Srinivasan,” the spokesperson said. The official said the NIA investigations showed that the accused, who was PFI's Pattambi area president, was involved in various conspiracies of the PFI leaders to eliminate Srinivasan, as part of the banned outfit's bigger scheme to create terror among members of a particular community and to establish Islamic rule in India by 2047. On March 17, the NIA had filed a charge sheet against 59 accused, including the PFI as an organisation, in the murder case even as investigations are still continuing. Abdul Naser, had died on January 2, while efforts are on to track and trace the remaining 11 absconding accused.

Maha Kumbh rush: 3 children among 15 dead in stampede

NEW DELHI: The incident was triggered by a surge in the crowd of passengers waiting to board trains to Prayagraj, where the Maha Kumbh is underway, on platforms 14 and 15 of the station. Within 15-20 minutes, chaos broke out as passengers rushed forward, leading to multiple casualties and injuries. Eyewitnesses reported that the crowd surge was sparked by the delay of two trains, which led to an unexpected influx of passengers. As people rushed to board the special train, the situation spiralled out of control, with some passengers fainting amid the sudden surge. This sparked rumours of a stampede, leading to further panic. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday launched a scathing attack on the Centre over the stampede at New Delhi Railway Station on Saturday, demanding transparency and accountability in such situations. He called for immediate disclosure of the exact number of deaths and injuries and provided information about the missing individuals from the Centre. "We demand that the number of dead and injured be declared as soon as possible and the identity



of the missing people should also be ensured," Kharge posted on X. On New Delhi Railway Station stampede, NDRF Commandant Daulat Ram Chaudhary said: "Situation is normal now. All the injured have been evacuated. We received preliminary information from police control room that stampede broke out in Magadh Express on Platform No. 14, after which we came here. By the time we came, the injured had already been evacuated." We have expected the crowd, but it all happened in a fraction of time, and hence this situation occurred. The fact-finding will be done by the Railways... After inquiry, we will get to know the reason behind the incident. We have a tri-service office at the railway station. When I was returning after

my duty I couldn't go as there was a huge crowd... I tried to convince people and also made announcements appealing to people to avoid gathering on the platform in large numbers...The administration was working hard to prevent any mishap, but no one was listening... I also helped the injured people with the help of one of my friends. Delhi BJP President Virendraa Sachdeva visited New Delhi Railway Station and LNJP Hospital. Virendra Sachdeva stated that Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda has spoken to doctors and officials and has given appropriate instructions. The Chief Secretary of the Delhi Government has deployed a large medical team on duty at various hospitals, and the Railways has arranged three special trains for Prayagraj.

New tech and social changes reshaping democracy: CJI

NAGPUR: Democracy is being reshaped by new technologies and changing social dynamics, CJI Sanjiv Khanna pointed out Saturday while urging law graduates to use their degrees as tools for social change. Justice Khanna was speaking at the third convocation of Maharashtra National Law University in Nagpur. "Today, we face challenges our predecessors could have hardly imagined. Climate change threatens not just the



environment but the very fabric of human rights and social justice," he said. "Digital revolution raises unprecedented questions about privacy, security, and nature

of human interaction. These aren't just abstract problems but fundamental challenges to humanity and liberty that demand innovative solutions," he added. Sharing insights with the graduates, he said not all disputes were suited for courts and litigations. He asserted that mediation was the mode for redressal as it offered creative solutions beyond simple yes or no answers and strengthened relationships.

"Only those who deliver results will survive"

NEW DELHI: PM Narendra Modi said on Saturday today's politics has become performance-oriented and people have clearly stated that only those connected to the ground and delivering results will sustain. "Tikega wahi jo zameen se juda rahega (only those who show results on the ground and are aligned with people's

aspirations will survive)", said PM Modi. He referred to the outcome of Delhi polls where the BJP defied odds to storm to power after 27 years and said the results showed people are attuned to the goal of India becoming a developed country. He said govts must be sensitive to people's problems and noted that previous policy.

Union carbide waste unloaded at Pithampur

INDORE: The 337mt of Union Carbide waste that was transported from Bhopal in 12 trucks on Jan 2 this year was unloaded at a disposal facility in Pithampur, MP, on Thursday, five days before a HC hearing. Dhar district collector Priyank Mishra said offloading followed public consultations for transparency. The containers are now placed in batches of four on the premises of Pithampur Industrial Waste Management.

Court raps cops for 26-year delay in chargesheet

MEERUT: A court in UP's Bulandshahr has pulled up police for failing to file a chargesheet in a 26-year-old murder case despite arresting the accused, recovering the alleged murder weapon and even filing a separate chargesheet against him in an arms Act case. The lapse, which allowed the accused to remain a free man for over two decades, came to light only when the arms Act case was recently heard in court. Expressing



strong displeasure over the negligence, the judge ordered immediate filing of the charge sheet and an inquiry into why it had not been submitted earlier. Police are now scampering to find answers and frame a charge sheet. Accused's

lawyer: Murder case did not reach court. What can we do? In March 1999, 65-year-old Lakkhi Singh was murdered by unidentified assailants in Bulandshahr's Kotwali area. His son, Vijaypal Singh, lodged a police complaint, and an FIR was duly registered. During the investigation, police arrested Lakkhi's grandson and Vijaypal's nephew Kailash Chand, now 55 years old, accusing him of murder over a property.

After 300 deaths, our call has been accepted: Congress

NEW DELHI: Blaming BJP for violence in Manipur, Congress Thursday said its demand for President's rule in state has finally been accepted, but after a lapse of 20 months which has resulted in killing of 300 people and massive displacement. It blamed home minister Amit Shah for failing to manage Manipur, and criticised "globe trotting" PM Narendra Modi for refusing to visit the state and begin the process of reconciliation. Party spokesman Jairam Ramesh said, "President's Rule imposed in Manipur. This has come after what SC called 'absolute breakdown of constitutional machinery.

Forces put on alert, to stage flag marches in Manipur capital

NEW DELHI: Security agencies in Manipur are on high alert to counter potential disruptions by banned terror groups following the imposition of President's rule. With a heavy deployment of forces and flag marches scheduled in Imphal, security has been tightened after CM N Biren Singh's resignation. Over 250 lives have been lost in nearly 21 months of ethnic violence. IMPHAL: Security agencies are on high alert in Manipur to counter any mischief by banned terror groups following imposition of President's rule in the state, officials said on Thursday. There is a heavy deployment of forces within the Imphal valley areas which have seen attacks on police by cadres of Arambai Tenggol group, they said, adding, Assam Rifles and



other paramilitary forces will be conducting flag march in Imphal city to ward off any untoward breakdown of law and order. They said security was beefed up in the state, especially the valley, after CM N Biren Singh's resignation on Feb 9, after nearly 21 months of ethnic violence that has claimed over 250 lives so far. Four days after his resignation, President's rule was imposed in strife-torn Manipur on The state assembly.

Army & IAF intensify hunt for advanced anti-drone systems



tems, 10 mobile micro munitions-based anti-swarm drone systems and 100-200 vehicle-mounted counter-UAS. Among other systems, IAF will begin inducting 200 radio frequency jammer guns from next month under a contract inked a year ago, while Army is getting around 30 vehicle-based drone jammers. "But much more advanced anti-drone systems, with multiple 'soft-kill' and 'hard-kill'

options as well as much longer interception ranges, are urgently needed," a senior officer said. These systems range from jamming, spoofing and blinding systems that disrupt the satellite or video command-and-control links of drones to laser-based directed energy weapons (DEWs) for hard-kills. A major problem, however, is that India is way behind other countries in indigenously

developing such complex technologies. After DRDO developed anti-drone systems with 2-kilowatt to 10-kilowatt lasers, armed forces ordered 23 such systems for around Rs 400 crore. "DRDO is developing DEWs with higher power. Many domestic private firms are also tying up with foreign companies for advanced anti-drone solutions. Let's hope they work out," another officer said. The Modi-Trump summit, incidentally, welcomed the new partnership between US company Anduril Industries and Indian Mahindra Group on advanced autonomous technologies to co-produce an "advanced AI-enabled counter-UAS".

Govt to stop duty-free import of yellow peas this month

NEW DELHI: New Delhi: Government will not extend duty-free import of yellow peas beyond February, food and consumer affairs minister Pralhad Joshi said Thursday. Government had allowed duty-free import of yellow peas in Dec 2023 and subsequently extended it thrice till Feb 28 to tide over the increase in prices of tur dal. "We are stopping the duty-free import of yellow peas," Joshi told reporters. Sources said the issue of duty on yellow peas is likely to be taken up by Group of Ministers (GoM) headed by home minister Amit Shah next week. The food ministry has given its comments and a final decision will be taken by GoM, Joshi added. India Pulses and Grain Association (IPGA) chairman Bimal Kothari said govt.

Replace Urdu with Sanskrit: Rajasthan education department to govt school

JAIPUR: Rajasthan education department has directed a govt school in Jaipur offering Urdu as a third language to suspend classes in the subject and introduce Sanskrit as an option. The February 10 order to Mahatma Gandhi Govt School (RAC Battalion) states that the decision was based on a letter addressed to the department from the office of Jai Narayan Meena, special assistant to education minister Madan Dilawar.



"The minister has ordered the creation of Sanskrit teachers' posts and close down Urdu (classes). Therefore, make sure to send the complete proposal for opening Sanskrit as a third language in your school to this office," the order states.

Meena didn't respond to texts and calls from TOI, which has a copy of the directive. Dilawar's OSD Satish Gupta said the order was issued because not enough students in that school had Urdu as their third language to justify teachers being deployed full-time. Amid protests by the teachers, the education minister's media coordinator claimed Thursday that no such order was issued.

Kamal Saxena expresses pain of love via ghazal on Valentine's Day

Prayagraj/Bareilly: A poetry symposium was organised under the aegis of Lekhika Sangh in collaboration with Seema Saxena near the old bus stand. Senior writer and poet Nirmala Singh presided over the event. The poetry symposium was inaugurated with the Vani Vandana of Kiran Kaithwal.

Senior poet poet Himanshu Shrottriya Nishpaksh said, Tell me, will you be able to see the sights during the day? You will see the effects of love all day long. If the one you love like Majnu, if Ghazala

tary Kiran Kaithwal said, "I roam around infamous in the city of love. I roam around openly taking your name."

While reciting her poem, patron Nirmala Singh said, "Don't think of me as a small pebble, I may stumble upon you and climb up to your head, you may get injured, be careful while walking and save me."

Meera Mohan said, Mother's love and affection is boundless, there is no support like father. Both are the lamps of life. They illuminate the world of happiness. ", This is why Uma



becomes your wife, you will be able to see the stars during the day.

Senior lyricist Kamal Saxena expressed the pain of love in his ghazal on Valentine's Day and said, "Even if it was from a disloyal person, we did get love. The pain of the heart got some relief for a few moments. Someone's friendship destroyed all the peace, still we are proud that we found a friend." Rajesh Gaur while satirizing the politicians said that, "You have come to power by eating the dust of the village streets. Do not forget the soil from which you were born. Deepti Pandey Nutan, president of the organization, said, "I have left everything. Do not create obstacles in my freedom. Listen you wretched person. Organization secre-

Sharma read her poem on the Pulwama incident. Seema Saxena Aseem said, Say something, listen to something, only silence is never good. Indradev Trivedi read his poem like this,...

"The melody of the notes is spring, the melody of the mind is spring. I experienced this from my heart, the spring melody of hearts." The fragrant winds have woven colourful dreams,

Clouds frolic, the clouds sing the spring song. Apart from this, Meena Agarwal, Avinash Agarwal, Alpna Narayan and Chitra Johri also recited poetry. In the end, Seema Saxena Aseem's book 'Sunhari Yaadein' was released. The poetry session was conducted by Indradev Trivedi.

Sri Mandir Joins Int'l Temples Convention & Expo

Varanasi: In a landmark collaboration, Sri Mandir, India's leading devotional tech platform, has been named the Official Temple Technology Partner for the International Temples Convention & Expo (ITCX) 2025, the world's largest conclave dedicated to temple administration and management. ITCX 2025, organized by Temple Connect in association with Anthyodaya Pratishtan, is set to witness hybrid participation from over 1581 devotional institutions from 58 countries under one roof at Asha Conventions, Tirupati, from February 17 to 19. The event, hailed as the 'Mahakumbh of Temples', will showcase 111+ speakers, 15+ workshops and knowledge sessions and 60+ stalls, with a sharp focus on digital transformation, sustainability, and progressive temple management.

"Sri Mandir's vision is to make devotion accessible to everyone, ensuring that no devotee is limited by physical, geographical, or logistical barriers. With over 30 million devotees already connected through our platform, We are dedicated in supporting every devotee on their devotional journey. Our partnership with ITCX 2025 marks a significant milestone in this journey, enabling temples to embrace digital transformation, enhance global reach, and create a more immersive and inclusive spiritual ecosystem for millions of devotees worldwide." said Prashant Sachan, Founder of Sri Mandir

Giresh V Kulkarni, Founder of Temple Connect & International Temples Convention & Expo (ITCX), added, "The International Temples Convention and Expo will bring together temple managers and administrators engaged in the operations, maintenance, and enhancement of the temple economy. This year's event will host participants from across India as well as international guests from around 17 countries. The convention aims to enhance collaboration around modern technologies, innovative ideas, and smart concepts, significantly boosting the temple economy through value-added services and creative innovators like Sri Mandir. Sri Mandir is a unique and innovative platform that bridges the gap between devotees and their faith by offering virtual puja and chadhava services conducted at various temples. It offers devotees greater convenience and delivers an end-to-end spiritual experience right at their fingertips. At this year's ITCX, it will play a pivotal role by partnering closely with temples to emphasizing the importance of temple interface and exploring ways to elevate it to the next level. Through the Sri Mandir platform, pujas and rituals conducted at various temples can be seamlessly executed, bringing temples and devotees closer. We hope this convention adds immense value and fosters meaningful collaborations with innovators like Sri Mandir. Together, our aim is to strengthen the temple economy and fulfill Prashant Sachan's vision of creating a more robust and interconnected spiritual ecosystem."

Just bathing in Ganga and worshipping is not devotion: Jiyar Swami

Hundreds of male and female devotees adopted Sanatan Dharma

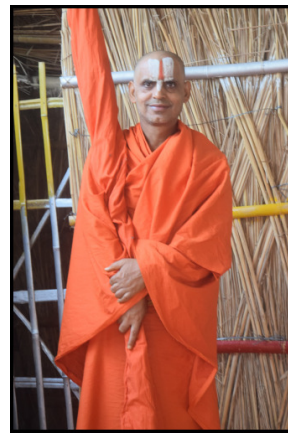
AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: A large number of men and women adopted Sanatan Dharma in Jiyar Swami Maharaj's camp in Sector Number Eight of Maha Kumbh. Jiyar Swami Maharaj said that Sanatan Dharma is the best religion in the world. There is no religion other than this. Swami Maharaj's media in-charge Akhilesh Baba told that Swami Maharaj will leave for Bihar from Prayagraj on February 16, after which he will visit all the states of India and spread the Sanatan Dharma. For which a special team has been formed. He said that spreading the Sanatan Dharma is the best

devotion to God. And the one who worships God does not face any problem in his life. Although happiness and sorrow are both parts of life. Happiness and sorrow keep coming but one should not leave God even in adverse circumstances. Only then a person becomes great.

He said that devotion is not just bathing in the Ganga and worshipping in the temple, but also singing praises of God, doing good deeds, serving one's son, husband, husband, society and humanity. Shri Jiyar Swami, while discussing the Naimisharanya episode

under the Srimad Bhagwat Katha, said that about six thousand years ago a religious conference was held there. Shaunak Rishi had organized a ritual that lasted for a thousand years. Long rituals are not important in Kaliyug, because the possibilities of mistakes and errors are high. He said that devotion was born in the Dravid region of Tamil Nadu, became young in Maharashtra and grew old in Gujarat. He said that devotion is the simplest way to attain God. God does not differentiate between rich, noble, old, child, human and animal among his devotees.



By showing mercy on poor Sudama, child Prahlad, mother Sevri and Gajraj, he has given the message of devotion to the world. Swamiji said that one has to

suffer the consequences of good and bad deeds in life. If any sin is committed knowingly or unknowingly, it can be washed away by going to a saint or a pilgrimage, but it is not possible to wash away the sins committed at pilgrimages and saints. He said that by doing good deeds under the shelter of devotion and God, the effect of one's sins can be reduced, but it cannot be completely eliminated. A lamp can be protected from glass in a storm by an umbrella or a raincoat in the rain, but rain and storm cannot be stopped. This is the effect of devo-

tion and good deeds. Destiny or destiny cannot be completely destroyed. One has to suffer the consequences of destiny. It has been said in the scriptures that destiny is inevitable. The intensity of destiny can be reduced by devotion to God or saint-sadguru. If it is written in the fate of a person that he will be crucified due to his misdeeds in his previous births, then the crucifixion of destiny can take the form of a spear by the devotion of God or the grace of the Guru in this birth. Destiny cannot be erased, its effect can be reduced.

Kumbh city resonated with soothing voice of folk singer Malini Awasthi

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: The colourful presentations of regional folk dances, rich in the fragrance of the soil of India, indigenous folk songs and mesmerizing singing spread the cultural splendor of the whole of India in Kalagram. Attractive costumes, decorated faces attracting the attention of art lovers and the sound of ghungroos ringing from the feet, when artists from different states danced in this style on the grand stage of Kalagram on Saturday, it seemed as if the confluence of folk arts started to ripple. The entire atmosphere of the audience gallery became pleasant. The audience danced a lot to the jugalbandi of folk dance and folk song in the cultural Kumbh organized by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. The

cultural evening on Saturday was in the name of famous folk singer Padmashree Malini Awasthi.



The audience welcomed her with thunderous applause on the stage. Overwhelmed by the welcome, Malini Awasthi bowed to Mother Ganga and started her program with Saraswati Vandana or Devi Sarvabhuteshu Shakti-

Rupen Sansthita and Om Namah Shivay Om Namah Shivay. After this, she first connected with the audi-

Bhavani Aayi Re Chaunaak Puraon Aur Maati Rangao', 'Raja Janak Ke Dware Bheed' and 'Holi Khele Masane Mein...'. The people sitting in the audience gallery kept dancing to one song after another including 'Reliya Bairan Piya Ko Liye Jaye', Anadi Devi Ambike Tumhein Satat Pranam Hai, Neemiya Tale Dola Rakh De Musafir.

Artists from different states introduced the audience to their culture by presenting folk dances. The audience was mesmerized by the presentation of Ghanta and Mridang dance of Odisha, Oliyattam dance of Tamil Nadu, Kachi Ghori dance of Rajasthan, Mog dance of Tripura and Bhangra of Punjab. The program was conducted by Sanjay Pursharthi.

ence in her familiar style and then started decorating the stage with her tunes. Folk singer Malini Awasthi enthralled the audience by presenting many songs one after the other. She received a lot of applause for her performances of 'More Angna

Rajnikanth hails Seva Satkar Bhandara for devotees

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: Rajnikanth, provincial co-convenor of Bharatiya Janata Party NGO cell, said that on the occasion of Mahakumbh, social organizations are organizing Seva Satkar Bhandara. The devotees are being served by Hindustan Yuva Utthan Samiti. Aasha Publicity Institute has made arrangements for tea, biscuits and the poha for the devotees. Bhandara has been organized at various places in Naini Chakdodi Chakra Raghunath. Volunteers and citizens serving the devotees like Puri, Kachori, Dum Aloo, Khichdi, Halwa and Tea are serving the devotees. Rajnikanth Satyam Shukla, Banwari Lal, Kamlesh Kesharwani,

Amrish Kant, Sawan Jaiswal, Raghavendra Srivastava, Raju Kumari Mamta, Swati Jaiswal, Khushboo Pandey, Kumari Riddhi Harsh Kumar, Anoop Kumar, Mrs. Ila, Pawan Srivastava, Ashutosh Tripathi, Atul Dubey, Pravesh, Vikas Srivastava, etc. are performing their social duty. Thanks to all those who have increased the pride of Prayagraj. A simple request to the people of Prayagraj is to help the devotees as much as possible according to their capacity. If possible, organize a Bhandara and become a part of the fullness. Whatever Maa Ganga has given you, welcome the devotees of the mother in the same. Worshipers say Jai Maa Ganga.

Prez of Akhil Bhartiya Udyog Vyapar Mandal takes holy plunge at Sangam

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: On the occasion of Maha Kumbh, National President of Akhil Bhartiya Udyog Vyapar Mandal Sandeep Bansal (former minister) reached Prayagraj with a huge convoy to take a dip in the Sangam to earn merits by taking a dip in the Sangam. Senior officials of the state and the country and their families took a dip in the Sangam with a happy heart. All the traders who came to Prayagraj were welcomed by regional in-charge Vipin Gupta, District President Lalit Mittal, Metropolitan President Animesh Agarwal, Ganga Paar President Rajendra K Shivani Pappu Bhairya, Senior Vice President Raman Gupta, General Secretary Ganga Paar Sumit Kesarwani, President of Phaphmau Market Ajay Jaiswal and his wife Sangeeta Agarwal and members of the Mahila

Mandal. All the officials welcomed all the guests according to the Sanatan tradition by offering kumkum, dushala, garlands and performing their aarti. As soon as the convoy entered the district boundary, they were welcomed in the markets at various places. On the way, Phaphmau President Ajay Jaiswal and his team welcomed them and allowed them to enter the fair area. The officials from the country and state who came with their families took the blessings of Mahamandaleshwar Avdheshanand Ji Giri and took refreshments and prasad there itself. Mandal in-charge Kashi region Vipin Gupta made everyone acquire discourse and Amrit gyan at the camp of Mahamandaleshwar Umakant ji. For the first time in the Kumbh Mela area, a huge camp of All India

Udyog Vyapar Mandal was organized in Sector 13. Bhandara has been going on continuously in the

ers were blessed by bathing in Sangam. While telling about the arrangements, he said that this is a

is a very wonderful occasion, everyone from the country and abroad is coming here and earning full

prasad with love.

Business leader Sandeep Bansal invited everyone to the camp of All India Industry Trade Board located in Mahakumbh area and said that hundreds of traders have come here and earned merit so far. District President Lalit Mittal, Ganga Paar President Rajendra Kesarwani, Sumit Kesarwani, Raman Gupta and all the team members invited traders from the country and state and said that any trader can come to the camp from anywhere and stay and eat for free. Metropolitan President Animesh Aggarwal has opened his newly built four-storey building for the service of the traders of the Vyapar Mandal free of cost. The facility of accommodation and food is being provided to the traders free of cost on the occasion of Mahakumbh, courtesy of the Vyapar Mandal.



camp since January where food prasad is being given free of cost to the devotees and medical assistance is also provided if required.

National President Business Leader Sandeep Bansal said happily that his family and the group of trad-

very good arrangement, without paying attention to any kind of negative rumors, in the remaining time all the traders should definitely earn the benefits of virtue by coming to Prayagraj with their families in Maha Kumbh Kumbh. It

benefits.

Today in the camp, all the officials of Prayagraj along with all the senior officials prepared food with their own hands in their camp. Everyone sat on the ground in the lap of Mother Ganga and took the food

NSDC Building a Future-Ready Healthcare Workforce

Varanasi: India's care sector is at a crucial juncture, requiring a strengthened workforce to meet both national and global demands. In a summit - Transforming the future of the skilled workforce in the care sector - organised by NSDC international in Chandigarh, Shri V.K. Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog, emphasized the need to expand skilling initiatives beyond traditional medical education, balancing quality with quantity.

Talking about skilling initiatives, Shri Paul said that the NSDC International is playing a pivotal role in this effort, ensuring care professionals trained in India are globally employable. He highlighted the importance of evolving curriculum, strengthening regulatory frameworks, and scaling up skill-based training programs to address workforce shortages, including in specialized areas such as geriatric care. He said, "The private sector collaboration is essential to bridge the skill gap. With structured policies and strong industry-academia partnerships, India can enhance its healthcare skilling eco-

system and emerge as a key contributor to the global workforce."

The summit witnessed participation of vice chancellors from 50 institutions and around dozen AIIMS chief working towards a stronger healthcare ecosystem.

Shri Paul further said, "India's healthcare workforce is a critical asset to both the nation and the world. With increasing global demand for skilled professionals, structured skilling initiatives play a pivotal role in equipping our workforce with the expertise required to meet international standards. The efforts of NSDC International in developing a highly trained Care talent pool have significantly contributed to this vision, enabling professionals to excel in diverse healthcare environments. By strengthening skill development and placement pathways, we are not only addressing workforce requirements domestically but also enhancing India's position as a trusted provider of skilled Care professionals across the globe."



Innovatiview India Limited files DRHP with SEBI

Varanasi: Innovatiview India Limited, a technology-driven company providing automated ancillary security and surveillance solutions for examinations, elections and large-scale events pan-India has filed its Draft Red Herring Prospectus ("DRHP") with market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI"). The Company plans to raise funds through initial public offering of equity shares (face value ₹5 each) comprising Offer for Sale aggregating up to ₹20,000.00 Million [₹2000 Crore]. Innovatiview India Limited is the largest player in examination integrated security solutions in India, with a market share of 73.7% in terms of revenue in Fiscal 2024. In the examination security and surveillance industry, its market share has grown at 69.07% year-on-year in Fiscal 2024. (Source: F&S Report). The Equity Shares that will be offered through the Red Herring Prospectus are proposed to be listed on the BSE Limited ("BSE") and National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("NSE"). DAM Capital Advisors Limited, ICICI Securities Limited, JM Financial Limited, Motilal Oswal Investment Advisors Limited and Shannon Advisors Private Limited are the Book Running Lead Managers to the issue.

Sanatana Dharma will elevate the nation to new heights: Piyush Goyal

Mahakumbhnagar: Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, visited Triveni Sangam on Saturday to take a holy dip. Calling Mahakumbh a priceless example of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, he expressed happiness at witnessing the deep faith of people from across the world. "Our Sanatana Dharma is safe, and it will lead the country to new heights," he said. During his visit to Prayagraj, the Union Minister also met Swami Chidananda



Saraswati, head of Parmarth Niketan Ashram (Rishikesh), and sought his blessings.

Union Minister Piyush Goyal, speaking to the media, described his visit to Mahakumbh as an emotional moment. "Getting the opportunity to come to Mahakumbh is like a blessing," he said, calling it a remarkable example of India's collective spirit. He highlighted that over 50 crore people from India and abroad have participated so far, showcasing India's growing influence on the global stage.

Sharing an interesting anecdote, he said, "When I was in Belgium, I learned that Chris Martin of Coldplay wanted to visit Mahakumbh. I immediately spoke to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and arranged for his visit. He was thrilled by this unique experience." Goyal added that Mahakumbh will continue to spread the message of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' across the world. Earlier, upon his arrival at Prayagraj Airport, he was welcomed by State Government Minister Nand Gopal Gupta 'Nandi'.

Service camp concludes

Prayagraj: The ongoing service cooperation camp organized by Bhardwaj Mandal was concluded. On this occasion, the chief guest, outgoing MP Dr. Rita Bahuguna Joshi said that under the leadership of outgoing Mandal



President of Bhardwaj Mandal, Anil Bhatt, tea, water and light snacks were being provided continuously at various places for the bathers and devotees, which was concluded today, but the service and support to the bathers and devotees will continue. On this occasion, Rajesh Kesarwani, Shubhankar Singh Thakur, Vijay Srivastava, Manoj Srivastava, Bhola Tiwari, Ajay Singh, Bhola Singh, Harish Paswan, Rakesh Bhartiya, Sandeep Yadav, Sandeep Goswami, Gyanendra Gupta, Balendra Tripathi, Brijesh Chandra Srivastava etc. were present.

Mayor presented Ganga water to M'ashtra CM

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani presented Ganga water from Triveni Sangam to Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis while he was leaving Prayagraj. On this occasion, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis invited Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani for the Nashik Kumbh to be held in 2027. On this occasion Rajesh Kesarwani, Pramod Modi, Councilor Mukesh Kasera, Girjesh Mishra, Ayush Agrahari, Ajay Agrahari etc. were present.



JEE Mains qualifier Saanvi Gupta reveals her success mantra

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: The result of JEE Mains Session One, one of the prestigious exams of the country, has been declared. Only a few candidates have been able to qualify in this. Only they will get a chance in the next stage. But, this success is not easy. For this, hard work day and night and a preparation planning play an important role. Without this, a success story is not made. We talked to such JEE Mains qualifier. Let's know her story...

Inspiration from Grandfather: Saanvi Gupta, who studies in MV Convent Inter College, Sulem Sarai, has surprised everyone by scoring 99.30 percentile in JEE Mains in the first attempt itself. Her mantra of success is consistency. She says that she has never deviated from her goal. She took the help of coaching along with school classes. She studied for several hours daily. Made notes from famous books and revised repeatedly. Her grandfather was an engineer and taking inspiration from him, she has chosen this line. She wants to study engineering from Computer Science branch. Her father Rajesh Gupta is a restaurant owner and mother Amrita Gupta is a housewife. She did not take the help of online classes and never missed offline classes. She gives only one tip to those who want to give JEE Mains and that is to never lose courage. Just being engaged in preparation is the mantra of success. She says that one should never miss classes.

Eye-opening initiative at Maha Kumbh: Awareness initiative around diabetes-led vision impairment

Access to free eye tests, diabetes screenings, and distribute prescription glasses

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Mahakumbh Nagar: Underscoring their commitment to combating diabetes-led vision impairment, the Eyebetes Foundation, led by renowned Mumbai-based eye surgeon Dr. Nishant Kumar (a three-time Guinness Record holder), has launched a large-scale charitable health initiative at the Maha Kumbh 2025. This transformative mission is designed to provide life-changing eye care and diabetes screenings to tens of thousands of devotees and frontline personnel attending this sacred event. With a dedicated team of 100 professionals, Eyebetes Foundation aims to offer free vision and diabetes screenings to

over 20,000-30,000 pilgrims and over 5,000 uniformed personnel, ensuring that preventable blindness and undiagnosed diabetes do not hinder the lives of those who have embarked on this deeply spiritual journey.

Founded in 2016, Eyebetes Foundation is driven by a mission to combat two of India's most pressing health concerns - diabetes and preventable blindness. An estimated 21 million Indians suffer from Diabetes-led vision impairment. To date, the foundation has served over 175,000 people through its free screening and awareness programs, including its widely recognized annual initiative during Mumbai's



10-day Ganpati festival. Now, at the Maha Kumbh, the foundation sees an unparalleled opportunity to extend its reach and serve those who may not otherwise have access to quality healthcare.

The Maha Kumbh is a sacred confluence of faith, tradition, and devotion, drawing millions of seekers in pursuit of spiritual awakening. Eyebetes Foundation recognizes this gathering as an opportunity not

just for prayer, but for profound transformation through service. Located at Sector 23, Arai Ghat, the foundation's medical camp offers essential healthcare services, including free random blood sugar tests, comprehensive vision screening, AI-powered retinal imaging, prescription glasses for uniformed personnel, bifocal glasses, and UV protection sunglasses for frontline officers.

Understanding the critical role of uniformed personnel in ensuring the safety and order of this grand event, Eyebetes Foundation is extending its care beyond pilgrims to the very people who protect them. The foundation is

conducting dedicated screenings for diabetes, cholesterol, and vision impairments, ensuring that these frontline officers can continue to serve without health-related hindrances.

Speaking on this initiative, Dr. Nishant Kumar, said "Maha Kumbh is a rare and extraordinary gathering of millions for a spiritual purpose, making it the perfect opportunity to provide life-enhancing medical support. Our mission is simple - to ensure that no one suffers from preventable blindness or undiagnosed diabetes. Through this initiative, we aim to connect healthcare with spirituality, reinforcing the idea that service to humanity is the highest form of devotion."

Kumbh Mela: Cycle Pure Agarbatti brings together tradition and innovation

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: NR Group, the manufacturer of the famous Cycle Pure Agarbatti, maintaining its 76-year legacy, is enhancing the spiritual experience for millions of devotees at Maha Kumbh Mela 2025 through innovative initiatives. As the world's largest Agarbatti company, Cycle Pure has implemented several impressive measures to meet the growing demand for puja products and support devotees on this auspicious occasion.

Major initiatives at Kumbh 2025: 50 Akhand Jyotis: Representing unwavering devotion and purity, these eternal flames will illuminate the Kumbh area,

spreading a sweet fragrance and creating an aura of spirituality and hope. The first 6 feet long agarbatti was lit at the inauguration by the head priest of Agarne or Hanuman Padhi Manav Raju Das and religious guru Mahant Murali Darani Mahamatra-Prayagraj by Divya Nandgiri Maharaj at the Plat Baba Ashram.

10 Co-Branded Battery Rickshaws: To make it easier for devotees to purchase Agarbatti, Cycle Pure has introduced Battery Rickshaws, which will provide a unique way to participate during the festivals. Paint-

ing the town Yellow: From shop branding to poles, parking areas and direction board branding, Cycle Pure is ensuring a comprehensive and attractive presence to help devotees and enhance their experience.

Arjun Ranga, Managing Director, Enkar Ghus said, "Mahakumbh Mela 2025 is not just a spiritual gathering but a testimony to India's rich cultural and religious heritage. At Cycle Pure, we feel honoured to be a part of this divine journey. Our initiatives are aimed at enriching the spiritual experience of millions of devotees, while adhering to our commitment towards

sustainability and innovation." Additionally, Cycle Pure has experienced a surge in demand for its puja products during the Kumbh period. Products such as Shri Sunandan Sahni, Angthi, Dhoop Cones and Pure Cow Ghee Diyas have gained unprecedented popularity, reflecting the shift towards healthier and eco-conscious options.

Sabal Shornagarbatti, a symbol of devotion, continues its trail of spreading positivity and hope through its products. With these initiatives the brand reaffirms its position as a trusted partner in every devotee's spiritual journey.

Rajju Bhaiya Univ team to participate in chess competition in Haryana

Inter-Univ chess competition to be held at Om Sterling Global University Hisar

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Naini, Prayagraj: The chess team of Prof Rajendra Singh (Rajju Bhaiya) University, Prayagraj will participate in the North Zone Inter-University Chess Competition (Men) to be held on 20-23 February at Om Sterling Global University Hisar (Haryana). Former Under-25 UP Champion Dheeraj Saxena has been appointed as the manager/coach of the team under whose guidance the team will participate. Sports Secretary Dr. Bhaskar Shukla issued an authority letter and said that after the trials held at Naveen Mahila Seva Sadan the selection of Yash Naveen Bhatt, Divyanshu Tiwari, Sparsh Yadav, Arwaz Khan and Indra Shyam Singh have been made in the team of Rajju Bhaiya University. Dr. Bhaskar Shukla wished all the players for excellent performance.



Accused sentenced to 1 yr imprisonment in cheque bounce case

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: In a case of not returning the amount of Rs 10 lakh borrowed from an acquaintance for business about 10 years ago and the cheque bouncing after returning the money through cheque, the accused Mohammad Zeeshan Ahmed alias Asif has not got any relief from the court. After examining the file and hearing the lawyer of the opponent and the complainant's lawyer Naseem Ahmed Siddiqui, Judicial Magistrate Palash Ganguly has sentenced the accused Mohammad Zeeshan Ahmed alias Asif to one year imprisonment and a fine of Rs 10 lakh. Along with this, an order has also been given to give Rs 9 lakh 50 thousand from the fine amount as compensation to the complainant MH Usmani. In the said court, the complainant MH Usmani resident Atarsuiya had filed a case against the opponent Mohammad Zeeshan Ahmed alias Asif resident Dodipar police station Shahganj and told the court that the complainant had good relations with the opponent. On the basis of this relationship, the opposite party had borrowed Rs. 10 lakh from the complainant for his business in 2015 and had promised to return it in 6 months. After 6 months, when the complainant asked for the money, he started making excuses and was not returning the said amount. Then, on the mediation of some people and in front of witnesses, a cheque of Rs. 5 lakh was given on 27 March 18. When it was deposited in the bank for payment, the bank dishonoured it due to insufficient funds in the account.

Protecting environment shared responsibility of all of us: Abhishek Gupta

Massive cleanliness drive at the holy Sangam

Mahakumbh Nagar: In a historic initiative to fight plastic pollution, Abhishek Gupta, CEO, Ekavo Agro Daily Pvt Ltd has launched a massive cleanliness drive at the holy Sangam Ghat in Prayagraj. The initiative aims to make the world's largest religious gathering, Sangam Maha Kumbh, polythene free. Realising the urgent need for environmental protection, Abhishek Gupta gave his organisation's employees two days off so that they could actively participate in this cleanliness drive. Hundreds of volunteers enthusiastically participated in this drive, working hard to remove plastic waste and spread awareness about the dangers of pollution.

The initiative coincides with the Swachh Bharat

Abhiyan, which is committed to making Maha Kumbh 2025 plastic-free. The government has set ambitious

site and promote sustainability.

The campaign has received widespread public



targets to reduce plastic usage as around 25,000 tonnes of waste is expected to be generated during the Maha Kumbh. Reducing this environmental footprint is an important step to maintain the sanctity of the holy

support, with the local community and devotees joining hands to ensure a clean and safe environment. Many have praised this collaborative effort, calling it a model of environmental responsibility. Abhishek

Gupta said "This is an important step towards protecting our environment and keeping our holy rivers clean. This initiative is an exemplary model of corporate social responsibility and community involvement. As awareness grows, more and more stakeholders are expected to contribute to sustainable solutions to environmental challenges." A call to action on a global scale: This initiative highlights the importance of collective efforts in solving global environmental issues. With the participation of crores of people in Maha Kumbh, this campaign sets an example for other large-scale events to adopt sustainable waste management practices. Protecting the environment is a shared responsibility of all of us.

Handloom exhibition becomes center of attraction at Mahakumbh

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Mahakumbh Nagar: The Uttar Pradesh government has organized a grand Handloom Exhibition at Triveni Marg Parade Ground, Sector 1 in Kumbh Nagari, which has become a major attraction for visiting pilgrims. The exhibition showcases a remarkable collection of handloom products, drawing significant interest from visitors. Pilgrims are exploring an exquisite range of handloom-based products, including sarees, salwar suits, kurta-pajamas, jackets, and home decor items such as curtains and sofa covers.

The exhibition was inau-

gured by Rakesh Sachan, Minister for MSME, Khadi, Village Industries, Silk Production, and Textiles, Government of Uttar Pradesh. It will continue until February 26, featuring 77 stalls displaying a variety of handloom products.

During the inauguration, Rakesh Sachan highlighted the efforts of the Uttar Pradesh government in promoting the Chief Minister's Handloom and Power Loom Industry Development Schemes. Under these initiatives,

power loom weavers receive financial support, with 60% of the loom's purchase



price-up to Rs. 75,000 for one loom and Rs. 1.5 lakh for two looms-being provided as a loan.

The minister also em-

phasized the challenges faced by the handloom industry, including a lack of effective marketing strategies, insufficient infrastructure, rising yarn prices, low productivity, and difficulties in modernizing the sector. He stressed that the handloom industry plays a crucial role in providing livelihoods to millions in Uttar Pradesh, making its preservation and development essential.

Handloom weaving is

not just a tradition of India's weaver communities but also a representation of the country's socio-cultural heritage and a key contributor to rural economic development.

The exhibition features traditional woven textiles from different states, crafted using various looms such as pit looms, frame looms, backstrap looms, fly shuttle looms, and Chittaranjan looms. A variety of handloom weaving techniques, including plain weave, twill weave, and satin weave, are also showcased. Some of the prominent handloom products on display include mats, car-

pets, rugs, bedsheets, cushion covers, silk scarves, bed linens, toilet linens, and kitchen linens.

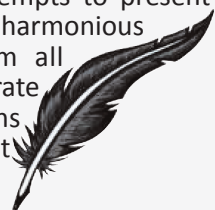
India is globally recognized for its rich handloom heritage, and the exhibition features some of the country's finest handloom products, including: Kanchipuram Silk Sarees, Maheshwari Sarees, Bagh Print Sarees, Chanderi Silk Sarees, Tussar Silk Sarees, Banarasi Silk Sarees,

Cotton Dress Materials and Khadi Garments. Additionally, stalls displaying Khadi and Village Industries products have been set up to promote locally made sustainable goods.

Editorial

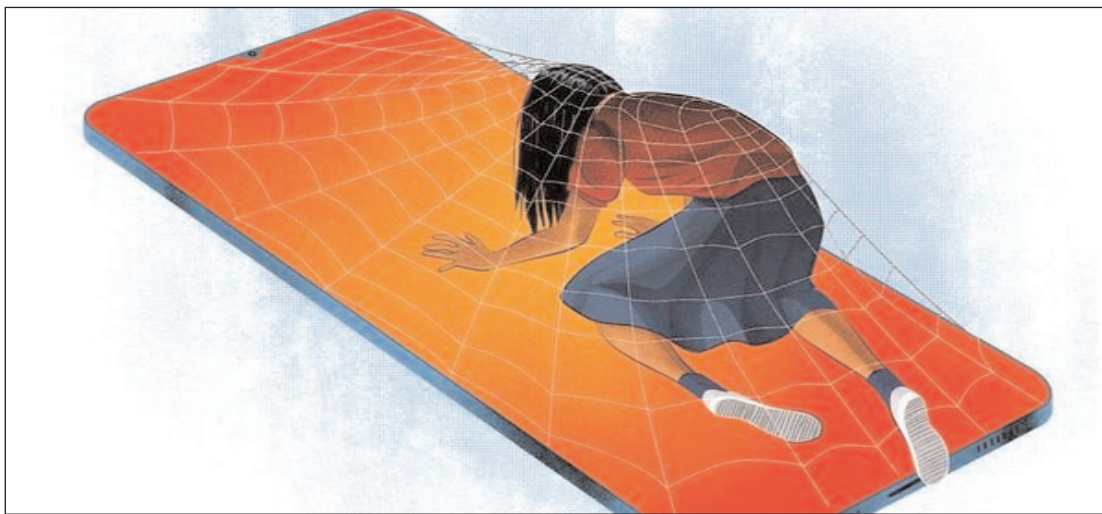
Women-Led Businesses To Social Events, The Surprise That Is New Saudi

Saudi Arabia is changing. You have to see it to believe it. Saudi Arabia with strict gender segregation, tough Islamic laws, and dress codes, no longer exists. It's a new country that is open, just, welcoming and rising. With Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman's Vision 2023 as its compass, the kingdom is making great strides and is dropping the shackles of the past, very fast. Roam around Riyadh, the capital, and you see it buzzing with young and aspirational Saudis making the most of the newfound freedoms and opportunities. According to the 2022 census, 63% of Saudis are under the age of 30. And the regime's policy changes are guided with this key statistic in mind. The biggest beneficiaries of the new openness are the Saudi women, who never had it so good. The Kingdom's inclusive Vision 2030 aims to diversify and strengthen the nation's economy. According to a World Bank report, Saudi Arabia is now ranked at the top in terms of economic and social progress for women out of 190 economies. The country's women are now truly in the driver's seat. The lifting of restrictions on their movement and choices has meant that Saudi women are steering the social, cultural and economic transformation of their country. Till a few years ago, they had to look to their fathers, husbands and brothers for even the basics like permission to travel or work. With Vision 2030, female workforce participation has gone up to nearly 40% now compared to about 15% a few years ago. This progress is evident in the increasing number of women receiving advanced degrees, enrolling in STEM fields, and owning 40% of small and medium-sized startups. Right from the moment you land in Riyadh, you see women taking up key jobs. From immigration counters to shopping malls to government offices, Saudi women are everywhere. I saw women making presentations at key government events, doing camera work, running stalls at local markets. The presence of women in the workforce has also meant increased intermingling of genders and rewriting of many social norms and gender behaviours. A big focus of Vision 2030 is also the cultural and social integration of all those living and working in Saudi Arabia. The Media Ministry's Global Harmony project is aimed at enhancing understanding and collaborations between diverse groups that call Saudi home. According to the Saudi Deputy Minister of Media, Dr Khaled Bin Abdulqader al Ghamdi, the Global Harmony project aims to make expats feel more at home. But more than that, it aspires to make local Saudis understand better the various communities that live among them. So, during the Riyadh Season, which starts in September and continues till February-March, you see a host of public cultural and social events to bring communities together. It's a true celebration and appreciation of diversity. Even among the expats, special attention is on Indians, who are the largest expat group in Saudi Arabia. At present, 2.6 million Indians live in the Kingdom, working in the domestic sector as well as private jobs, and running both start-ups as well as big companies. Recognising the role of India, Dr Khaled calls the community "an integral part of the Saudi story". This year, the Media Ministry dedicated the Suwaidi Park festival exclusively to India. The 10-day festival saw a celebration of Indian culture, food, music and art. People from all communities streamed into the vast Suwaidi Park to savour a slice of India. The Global Harmony project attempts to present Saudi as an inclusive and harmonious society where people from all backgrounds live and celebrate their own cultures, traditions, and festivals. And, it's not just some civil society gig.



Youth getting caught in the web of addiction

Recently, news of school going children taking drugs has come to light in Gujarat. And this matter came to light when parents took two children to the doctors after their strange behaviour and their sleeping at home after tuitions, when the doctors got the urine test of both the children done. Actually, these children used to drink coffee somewhere while returning from tuitions, after which they used to hit the bed and sleep as soon as they came home. These children neither ate food on time, nor studied properly, nor talked to anyone properly, nor listened to anyone in the family. On this, the family members showed them to the doctors and then it was found out that both of them take drugs. Living in a tower of Jhanda Lal Chowk, they were caught stealing bicycles in school uniform and it was revealed that they had started taking drugs, they were stealing to buy drugs. Actually, about a week ago, Gujarat Police arrested 5 people with about 500 kg of cocaine under a joint operation. Earlier in June this year, hybrid ganja and other drugs worth about Rs 3.5 crore were hidden in children's items in Gujarat, which were seized by the police. And before that, more than 3 thousand kg of drugs worth crores were recovered from Gujarat at Adani Port. Similarly, drugs worth crores are recovered every year in Gujarat and apart from arresting a few people, the police or AIIMS department is unable to take any action that can completely stop it. And



today, not only in Gujarat, but in other states as well, the business of drug smuggling is increasing. The question is who is behind this? And the second question is why children, especially those studying in schools, are being made victims of drugs? Till a few years ago, it was seen that only children who pick garbage take drugs? But now the cases of children from well-off families taking drugs and other types of intoxication are increasing. The increase in the number of child patients coming to de-addiction centers is no small matter. In the year 2022, the Modi government of the Center itself told the Supreme Court that 1 crore 58 lakh minor children in the country between the ages of 10 and 17 years are consuming some form of intoxication, most of whom consume a particular type of dangerous intoxication. For example, they are taking drugs etc. The government had also told the court that minor children of this age are consuming many types of intoxicants including cocaine, hashish, marijua-

na, alcohol, heroin, LSD, morphine, opium, cannabis. Citing a survey, the Modi government of the Center had told the Supreme Court that among all types of intoxicants, the people of India consume alcohol the most, about 16 crore people, out of which more than 5 crore 7 lakh people are seriously addicted to alcohol. After alcohol, they prefer cannabis and opium intoxication, the population of those who consume them is more than 3 crore 1 lakh, out of which the number of cannabis addicts is about 25 lakh. This matter came to light when a petition was filed in the Supreme Court by an NGO named Bachpan Bachao Andolan and the Supreme Court had sought a reply from the Modi government at the Centre. In this matter, the Modi government at the Centre also provided many other information about drug addicts, but did not take any concrete steps to stop drugs and other types of intoxicants. Anyway, every year on 8 June, National Drug Destruction Day is celebrated on a large scale in India

and every year on 26 June, International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is also celebrated at the international level and on both these occasions, children are the victims. Not only the Central Government, its de-addiction centres, but also the state governments and their de-addiction centres and all the government institutions working in the name of de-addiction spend crores and billions of rupees, but despite this, the number of drug addicts is increasing in India from drug trafficking to drug addiction, in which the most worrying thing is children getting addicted to drugs. While the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre of the Central Government has launched a very ambitious scheme like Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan (NMB A) across the country, whose de-addiction centres are running in every district of the country, despite this, the increasing number of drug addicts, especially children, is not only a matter of concern, but it also seems clear that the government is wasting money

on these de-addiction centres. The responsibility of the police is also to stop drug smuggling, but it is also almost a failure in this matter, and even if some honest policemen catch drug smugglers somewhere, then nothing much happens to the drug smugglers. Many times they get released easily on the basis of money or on bail. The job of the Drugs Department is to stop drug smuggling, but it also seems almost unsuccessful in this. Anyway, drug smuggling is continuously increasing and so is the number of drug users. The Central Government should pay full attention to this and drug smugglers should not be spared under any circumstances. The police should keep a close watch on such gangs outside or around schools, who smuggle drugs and make innocent school children their victims. It is surprising and sad that not only minor boys studying in schools fall prey to these drug smugglers, but minor girls also fall prey to this. Not only the Modi government at the centre, the state governments, the drug department, de-addiction centres, the police, but also the teachers teaching in schools and the parents of the children should pay attention to this. Because a small negligence can ruin the lives of children who are considered the future of the country. And I think this can be felt the most by those parents whose children have ruined themselves or are ruining themselves by getting addicted to drugs.

Maharashtra: MVA Or Mahayuti? All Depends On Who Wins 4 Zones

With elections due in a month, election fever has gripped the entire Maharashtra. While the MVA has released a list of 158 candidates, Mahayuti has announced candidates for 182 seats. Maharashtra has six key regions—Vidarbha, Marathwada, Western Maharashtra, North Maharashtra, Mumbai and Thane-Konkan—each of which has its own dynamics. Naturally, the alliance that wins four of these six regions will go on to form the government, and thus, parties are tailoring their strategies zone-wise. While Vidarbha has 62 seats, the Northern zone has 35, Marathwada 46, the Western zone 70, Mumbai 36, and Thane-Konkan 39. In the Lok Sabha elections earlier this year, the MVA was leading in Vidarbha, the West, Marathwada and Mumbai and was able to win 30 of the 48 Lok Sabha seats. The ruling Mahayuti was ahead in just the North and Thane-Konkan regions. The MVA and the Mahayuti each have three

players, with specific strengths. The Congress led from the front in Vidarbha, defeating the BJP in one-to-one contests. In Mumbai, the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena held sway, and in Western Maharashtra, it was the Sharad Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) that came out on top.

In Marathwada, all three parties from the MVA played their part. On the other hand, from the Mahayuti, the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena was ahead in the Thane-Konkan, while the BJP dominated Northern Maharashtra.

The BJP and the two factions of the Shiv Sena have emerged as the only parties with a pan-state presence in the state and they led in assembly segments in all zones in the general elections. On the other hand, the Congress was not in the lead in any assembly segment in the Thane-Konkan region, as was the case with the Sharad Pawar-led NCP in the Mumbai segment.

India At BRICS And The Curious Case Of Iran

All eyes have been on Iran for more than a year. Naturally, the first BRICS summit with Tehran's membership is bound to breed speculation about what the prospective new world order would look like. At home, there needs to be an examination of India's bilateral ties with a country that is seen firmly anti-West in its outlook. Iran and India are sailing in the same boat, at least momentarily: of the West's castigation. The temptation may be high on both sides to form a joint front against Western hegemony in the security space. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has held bilateral talks with the new Iranian President, Masoud Pezeshkian, with a focus on strategic cooperation in and beyond the Middle East. It can be endlessly debated without itching anywhere close to a resolution whether multilateral global groupings make any difference to realpolitik either domestically or internationally. The signalling, however, remains crucial. To begin with, the West is already perceiving the summit as Russia's show of strength. Headlines like 'Putin Gathers Allies' and 'Putin Hosts Global South Leaders at BRICS Summit Meant to Counterbalance Western Clout' in Western media outlets expose apprehension. A complex interplay of sectarian interests and regional dynamics shapes Iran's geopolitical strategy. It is in the direct line of fire, thanks to Israel's unchecked belligerence. Already reeling under economic pressure owing to various international sanctions, the post-October 7 reality for Tehran is even grimmer. Iran blames the US for almost all of its problems. As such, during the last summit, former president Ebrahim Raisi had anointed Iran's proposed BRICS membership as one of the ways of getting even with the US and the West at large. "Iran's membership in the bloc is opposition to American unilateralism." Russia and

China share this sentiment of BRICS emerging as a counterbalance to the West. But what about India? India has lauded and endorsed Iran's presence in BRICS, but will New Delhi also endorse Tehran's oppressive domestic policies in the name of this cooperative alliance? India has plans of buying oil from Iran despite the sanctions and disapproving remarks from the West. Yet, bilateral trade between the two countries has dropped by 26% in one year. Geoeconomics informs Iranian perceptions of the bloc as a critical driver. Iran aims to secure increased volumes of oil and non-oil exports to fellow BRICS members, bypassing the dollar. Like Russia, Iran is engaged in a high-stakes battle with the West. China doesn't particularly enjoy a friendly status, either. New Delhi's balancing act, therefore, is set to be tested on many tricky issues in the near future, including the Israel-Palestine issue. India has been an outlier in a manner. At the last UN General Assembly vote on a resolution calling for the end to Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories, India was the only founding BRICS country to abstain, along with the newcomer Ethiopia. During the Modi-Pezeshkian bilateral, India was urged to play a more substantial role in the Middle East peace process. But what are New Delhi's realistic options? Calling for peace does not usher in peace; arm-twisting the stakeholders does. Any BRICS decision mandates unanimous agreement. In that sense, it is even trickier than the domestic coalition politics that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has found itself in after a decade. What will, for example, be India's stand should Iran want a revival of its nuclear plan? India's past tussles with the West over its own nuclear programme may trigger another round of strategic unpleasantness over New Delhi's stance.

The Art Of Multi-Alignment: India's Dance Of Diplomacy With China And The West

Miles away in Kazan, a culturally, politically, and economically significant city in Russia's Tatarstan, an Indian Prime Minister met a Chinese President for the first time in five years this week. Geopolitics is often unpredictable, yet this development was only partially surprising, as it was an anticipated move both countries knew would eventually occur. The last time the two leaders met was at an informal summit in Mamallapuram, in southern India, in 2019, just months before the countries clashed in the Galwan Valley in east-

ern Ladakh in 2020. While the world was grappling with the effects of a once-in-a-century pandemic, China launched a brutal assault on Indian soldiers in Galwan Valley, where 20 Indian troops lost their lives. This incident shattered the 1993 Peace and Tranquillity Agreement signed to maintain the status quo and peace at the border. It was also the first time in 45 years that blood had been shed in a China-India border conflict; the last such instance was in 1975, when four Indian soldiers were ambushed at Tulong La in Arunachal

Pradesh. The Galwan Valley incident changed a significant reality that India had come to take for granted—peace at the border with China had become a daily assumption. To be fair, there were frequent Chinese incursions—hundreds, in fact—but at least no lives were lost in resolving the resulting standoffs. Since 2020, relations between India and China had gone into a deep freeze. First came India's diplomatic response with serious condemnation, followed by rallying support from its Indo-Pacific partners, and then a complete halt to eco-

conomic cooperation, marked by a blanket ban on Chinese investments. In the post-Galwan period, India suspended over 30 dialogue processes with China, including high-level discussions such as strategic dialogues between foreign ministers, the annual defence dialogue, meetings of special representatives on the territorial dispute, as well as youth exchanges, media, and think-tank dialogues. Relations reached their lowest point in this century, with the Indian side reiterating on various occasions that ties with China .

Rename namesake disease hitting Ranikhet's fame: HC

DEHRADUN:

Uttarakhand high court has directed the state to propose a new name for a disease that has Ranikhet, a picturesque tourist spot, in its name. After a PIL highlighted that the hill station's reputation suffers due to its association with an avian disease known as 'Ranikhet disease', the administration has now been told to file an affidavit suggesting an alternative name by June 27.

During the hearing, Chief Justice Ritu Bahri and Justice Rakesh Thapliyal discussed the negative impact of the disease's name on Ranikhet's tourism.

Ranikhet renowned for healthy air, Himalayan views

The petitioner, Satish Joshi, of Ranikhet, said "the picturesque town's allure is overshadowed by this association".

Ranikhet, about 50km from Almora, is renowned for its healthy climate, pleasant breeze, stunning Himalayan views, and pollution-free greenery with deodar and oak trees. The area's attractions, including Kumaon Regimental Centre, museum, & golf course, offer memorable experiences for visitors.

Ranikhet disease, also known as



Newcastle disease, affects the birds and poultry, leading to severe respiratory issues, nervous system problems, and high mortality rates.

This affliction has significant economic implications for poultry farmers and can affect the large local bird populations.

The petitioner contended other celebrated hill stations like Mussoorie and Nainital are exalted. Ranikhet, therefore, should not be overshadowed.

by a negative association with a malady.

State govt acknowledged its limited jurisdiction in the matter but has, in turn, suggested that Centre could take necessary steps to rename the illness.

Indians extremely demanding, but unwilling to pay: Uber CEO



BENGALURU: Uber CEO Dara Khosrowshahi said that Indians are extremely demanding, but unwilling to pay. The Uber top boss was in conversation with Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani in Bengaluru on Thursday at an interactive session on building population scale technology.

"India is one of the toughest markets out there. If we can succeed here, we can succeed anywhere," Khosrowshahi said.

Uber is also planning to expand to low-cost service segments of two- and three-wheelers in India. The company will be getting into bus services in some of the geog-

raphies. "It is also an extraordinary opportunity for us to expand our services to a wider population. We don't just want to be an upper-middle-class product. We want to be available to everybody," Khosrowshahi said. Companies and govts around the world can learn from the scale and ambition of India's digital public infrastructure. He added that as a technology company, Uber views open-source tech stacks with a lot of interest and recognises the opportunities they bring for everyone.

Khosrowshahi said that Uber's approach has changed since the pandemic. As much as the

focus is on the customers, he also said there is a growing focus on improving the experience for its drivers. Uber has signed an MoU with the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) to explore an integration with the network to expand the range of mobility offerings on the Uber app. Khosrowshahi said that Uber made \$3 billion in terms of profits during the pandemic.

It also lost 85% of its volumes overnight during the lockdown that led to the laying off of some of its employees. Uber operates across 125 cities in India and has clocked 3 billion trips in 10 years.

CAPSULES

Upstox forays into insurance distribution; aims to simplify wealth management in India

GURUGRAM / FARIDABAD : Upstox, one of India's premier wealth management platforms, today announced its entry into the insurance distribution business. While Upstox has traditionally been recognized for its offerings in Stocks, F&O, and Mutual Funds, the introduction of Insurance marks a significant stride towards evolving into a comprehensive wealth-building platform. Today, Upstox is a one-stop-shop for a wide array of financial instruments including Stocks, IPOs, F&O, Commodities, Currencies, Fixed Deposits, P2P Lending, Government Bonds, T-Bills, NCDs, Gold, Insurance and much more. With this launch, the company aims to revolutionise India's insurance landscape by offering its users a simplified, transparent and customised experience of purchasing insurance in line with their needs. Currently, Upstox is offering Term Life Insurance on its platform and is planning to roll out Health, Motor and Travel Insurance soon. HDFC Life is among the first insurers to partner with Upstox and feature their Term Insurance plans on the platform. Kavitha Subramanian, Co-Founder, Upstox said, "We are thrilled to expand our offerings on Upstox and foray into the insurance distribution segment.

We have recognized that navigating the insurance landscape is a daunting task. Customers are inundated with so many questions - which is the right plan, what should be the correct criteria to select a plan, how much insurance cover will be enough. At Upstox, we understand these challenges, and we're dedicated to helping our customers get answers to all of these without overwhelming them.

Book Khamoshiyan released

Poems give peace to the heart and mind: Professor Vig

Chandigarh: Professor Renu Vig, Vice Chancellor of Panjab University, Chandigarh, released the latest poetry collection Khamoshiyan of renowned writer Dr. Pragya Sharda in her office today. This is the author's eighth book. There are 73 poems in this poetry collection which have been written about society and family. At the beginning of the program, famous social worker KK Sharda introduced the dignitaries present. Senior litterateur Prem Vij, while discussing the



book, said that in the presented poetry collection, the poetess has made social relations and relationships the basis of her poems with an open eye. Poet Dr. Vinod Sharma, while speaking on the poems, said that the poetess has effectively expressed the evils and discrepancies prevalent in the

society in her poems. Social worker Jaidev Cheema congratulated the poetess and said that her poems will guide the society. Novelist and publisher Vijay Saudai said that the poems reflect the truth of the poetess's experiences. Senior journalist and President of Chandigarh Press Club, Nalin

Acharya, while congratulating the poetess, said that more knowledgeable poems will be read from her writings.

CA Prithvi Goyal was also present in the program. Speaking on this occasion, Vice Chancellor Professor Vig said that poems give solace to our heart and mind.

Wabtec Inaugurates New Manufacturing Campus in Rohtak India

ROHTAK: Today, Wabtec Corporation (NYSE: WAB) inaugurated its new manufacturing campus in Rohtak, India. The new plant represents a \$18 million (Rs. 150 crore) investment and will initially manufacture transit rail components and sub-systems followed by other Wabtec product lines in the coming years. Several Wabtec executives were on hand for the grand opening including Pascal Schweitzer, President - Transit Business, Sujatha Narayan, Senior Vice President and India



Regional Leader, and Ajay Mani, Managing Director - Transit India. "India is an important growth market for Wabtec, especially for the transit business," said Schweitzer. "The new site will further improve Wabtec's ability to deliver enhanced value through our diverse product offerings for both Indian and global customers." The factory, set on 10,000

square meters will start off producing axle mounted disc brake systems, distributor valves, brake calipers, and actuators, as well as friction material for freight cars, metro coaches, and locomotives for Indian Railways and metros.

This campus is expected to host many products in the coming months and years that serve the rail, mining, and industrial segments, a testament to Wabtec's commitment to the Indian market and the "Make in India" initiative.

Upstox forays into insurance distribution; aims to simplify wealth management in India

DHARAMSHALA:

Upstox, one of India's premier wealth management platforms, today announced its entry into the insurance distribution business. While Upstox has traditionally been recognized for its offerings in Stocks, F&O, and Mutual Funds, the introduction of Insurance marks a significant stride towards evolving into a comprehensive wealth-building platform. Today, Upstox is a one-stop-shop for a wide array of financial instruments including Stocks, IPOs, F&O, Commodities, Currencies, Fixed Deposits, P2P L e n d i n g , Government Bonds, T-Bills, NCDs, Gold, Insurance and much



more.

With this launch, the company aims to revolutionise India's insurance landscape by offering its users a simplified, transparent and customised experience of purchasing insurance in line with their needs. Currently, Upstox is offering Term Life Insurance on its platform and is planning to roll out Health, Motor and Travel Insurance soon. HDFC Life is among

the first insurers to partner with Upstox and feature their Term Insurance plans on the platform. Currently, the insurance penetration in India stands at just 4.2% with a considerable portion of the population still being dependent on traditional and agent-driven models to purchase policies. Along with that, there is a lack of awareness, overload of choices, heavy paperwork and complex jargon involved in the process of buying insurance. Through its research, Upstox recognized that often users succumb to a one-size-fits-all approach; and opt for a term insurance plan without proper assessment.

World's First Live Bariatric Surgery Using Apple Vision Pro Performed by Pristyn Care and Mohak Bariatrics

GURUGRAM : Pristyn Care, in collaboration with Mohak Bariatrics and Robotics, has performed the world's first live bariatric surgery utilizing the Apple Vision Pro. This groundbreaking procedure, which included a sleeve gastric bypass and a Single Anastomosis Duodenal-Ileal (SADI) procedure, was performed by Dr. Mohit Bhandari, one of the foremost bariatric and robotic surgeons in the country. The use of Apple Vision Pro, an advanced augmented reality (AR) device, marked a significant milestone in medical technology and surgical precision. The surgery was conducted in 40 minutes on a 45-year-old patient, weighing 155kg and suffering from obstructive sleep apnea and high blood pressure. The Apple Vision Pro provided a



highly immersive and interactive 3D environment, allowing Dr. Bhandari and his team to visualize complex anatomical structures with unprecedented clarity. This technology facilitated enhanced precision in executing the sleeve gastric bypass and SADI procedure, minimizing risks and improving patient outcomes. "At Pristyn Care, we are committed to pushing the boundaries of medical innovation to provide our patients with the highest standard of care. The successful integration of Apple Vision Pro into bariatric surgery marks a significant milestone in our journey towards rev-

olutionising surgical procedures. We are proud to be at the forefront of this technological advancement, which promises to enhance precision, improve outcomes, and set new benchmarks in the healthcare industry," said Dr. Vaibhav Kapoor, Co-founder, Pristyn Care. This historic surgery represents a significant advancement in bariatric care and the broader medical community. By leveraging Apple Vision Pro, Pristyn Care demonstrates the potential of augmented reality in enhancing surgical precision, reducing operative times, and improving recovery outcomes for patients.

Salasar Techno Engineering Ltd. Executes acquisition of EMC Ltd.

CHANDIGARH: Salasar Techno Engineering Ltd. (BSE: 540642, NSE: SALASAR), is a one stop engineering and infrastructure solution provider. The Company is engaged in providing turnkey EPC services for Railway and Power sectors and is also engaged in designing and manufacturing of telecom towers, Monopoles and other Heavy Steel Structures. The company announced that it has executed the acquisition of EMC Ltd. on an "As is where is," "As is what is," "Whatever there is," and "No recourse" basis as a going concern. This acquisition has been executed in compliance with the terms and conditions outlined in the E-Auction Process Information Document issued by the Liquidator. A Sale Certificate has been issued by the Liquidator in favor of Salasar confirming completion of sale. Earlier, Salasar announced that it effectively completed the payment of balance amount of Rs. 1,680 Mn for acquisition of EMC Ltd. (Formerly known as Electrical Manufacturing Company Limited). This demonstrates a pivotal moment in Salasar's continuous pursuit of expanding market presence and capabilities. Commenting on the above status, the management team of Salasar said, "We are thrilled to announce the timely completion of the payment for the acquisition of EMC Ltd., marking a monumental milestone in our journey of strategic expansion. Our ability to swiftly settle the full amount underscores our commitment to executing our plans with precision and agility. This acquisition represents more than just a business transac-



More than 50% of patients face delay in discharge due to time taken to process mediclaim: Study

GURUGRAM : A new study from healthcare provider Pristyn Care found that 5 out of 10 patients face delays in discharge due to the time taken to process medical insurance claims. To alleviate the hassle experienced by health insurance policyholders, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) is likely to introduce a 100% cashless hospital network that will include both empanelled and non-empanelled hospitals. The study indicates that over 40% of individuals attribute delays in health insurance claims in India to hospital administrative processes, while 25% cite a lack of coordination between hospitals and insurance providers. Complex documentation procedures also significantly contribute to these delays. Furthermore, the survey underscores various chal-

lenges encountered by patient families throughout the insurance claims process, with nearly 4 out of 10 respondents reporting difficulties with customer support regarding the claims process. The study also found that 6 out of 10 individuals never initiated the health insurance claim process. Among those who did, 34% expressed dissatisfaction with the paperwork, while 40% faced challenges in receiving timely responses from their insurance providers. Roughly 3 out of 10 patients encountered discrepancies between pre-approved and final claim amounts. Additionally, around 38% of respondents reported that the discharge process took over 8 hours, with hospitals requiring a similar timeframe to process claims. Approximately 4 out of 10 individuals lacked clarity on their policy's terms and

conditions. Furthermore, about 18% expressed dissatisfaction with the communication received from their insurance providers regarding claim statuses. Commenting on the findings, Dr. Vaibhav Kapoor, Co-founder of Pristyn Care, said, "There is a huge gap between the intended ease of cashless health insurance and the reality experienced by policyholders. Despite 75% of survey respondents having cashless insurance, a significant number still face challenges during the claim process. This creates additional stress for patients and families already dealing with a medical emergency. However, it's encouraging to note that insurance providers have already started digitizing and using tech to make the process quick and smooth."

With the blessings of the public and the hard work of the workers, we will hoist the flag of victory in the elections: Pala Ram

Kaithal: Jananayak Janata Party's Kurukshetra Lok Sabha constituency candidate and famous social worker Pala Ram Saini said that he will represent the constituency in the Delhi Parliament by hoisting the flag of victory in the elections on the strength of the blessings of the public and the hard work of the workers. Will raise the voice of the public. Along with the workers, people of every section are also walking shoulder to shoulder with them and working hard continuously and appealing to the people to vote in their favor. Pala Ram Saini was addressing people during election campaigning in various villages of the constituency. During this time, people from every section welcomed the JJP candidate at various places



by laying flower garlands and announced their support in the elections. Before this, Pala Ram Saini took blessings by offering prayers in the court of Baba Khatu Shyam in Sista Dham and the committee members honored Pala Ram by giving mementos. Social worker Pala Ram Saini said that Congress and BJP candidates will not be able to stand before the blessings of the public and the hard work of the workers and the public will reject the candidates of both the parties and make them victorious by voting in their favor. He said that he

is getting support from every section of the society in the Lok Sabha elections and in winning the Lok Sabha elections, people of every section including mothers and sisters will also have a big participation. Today, JJP's name is echoing on everyone's lips and during his tenure, former Deputy Chief Minister of Haryana, Dushyant Chautala has done record-breaking development work in the public interest across the state. The public is still getting full benefits of this. The public interest is completely safe in JJP only.

CAPSULES

TDP chief launches Praja Galam yatra, vows to end YSRCP's autocratic rule in the state

TIRUPATI: Former Chief Minister and Telugu Desam chief Nara Chandrababu Naidu launched the "Praja Galam" poll campaign amidst much fanfare at Palamaner in his home district of Chittoor on Wednesday and vowed to end the autocratic rule of the YSRCP in the state in the 2024 polls. Addressing an impressive rally at Palamaner, Naidu denounced the manner in which the YSRCP government neglected the irrigation projects in the water-parched and perennially drought-prone Rayalaseema region of the state. Telugu Desam founder and former Chief Minister NT Rama Rao had a vision to bring Krishna waters to address the drinking and irrigation water needs of the Rayalaseema region. "It was during the Telugu Desam Party regime in the state that various irrigation projects such as the Telugu Ganga, Handri Neeva, Galeru Nagari, etc., were taken up. While 90% of the works of the irrigation projects were completed by the TDP, the YSRCP government couldn't complete the pending 10% of the works in the last five years," Naidu lamented. "During the TDP regime between 2014-2019, about 62 irrigation projects were initiated, and 24 were completed. While the TDP spent Rs. 68,000 crore on irrigation projects across the state, Rs. 12,000 crore was allocated for the completion of irrigation projects in the Rayalaseema region alone. The Jagan Reddy government allocated only Rs. 2,125 crore for irrigation projects in the Rayalaseema region in the last five years, reflecting the government's lack of resolve for the completion of irrigation projects in the state," the TDP chief observed.

KARAM Safety acquires Midas Safety India to strengthen its leadership position(PPE) India

Faridabad: KARAM Safety, a leading global PPE player and fall protection solutions provider, is pleased to announce the successful acquisition of Midas Safety India, a prominent player in the hand protection safety products industry. This strategic move marks a significant milestone in KARAM Group's journey towards expanding its presence and enhancing its product offerings. The acquisition of Midas Safety India strengthens KARAM Group's position



as a market leader in the safety industry, combining KARAM's expertise in fall protection and personal protective equipment (PPE) with Midas Safety India's extensive portfolio of hand protection safety products. This synergy will enable KARAM Group to offer customers a compre-

hensive range of high-quality safety solutions to meet their evolving needs. The 25-year-old KARAM Group, with a turnover of INR 1000 crore, has acquired the operations of Midas Safety India having a top line of INR 110 crore through a slump deal. Hand protection prod-

ucts are a major revenue contributor to Midas Safety India which was established 16 years ago. Today, KARAM proudly carries out that tradition in delivering premier products under Midas's brands, Ninja®, Tection®, Valpro® and Frontier®. The acquisition will be a good strategic and financial fit for KARAM Group and will open up significant market opportunities in the fast growing PPE market in India. KARAM Group is growing at a CAGR.

HC junks Cong substitute nominee's plea for Indore fight

INDORE: A division bench of Madhya Pradesh high court on Friday upheld a single-judge bench's order dismissing a plea by Congress' Moti Singh Patel for his candidature to be accepted as the party nominee for Lok Sabha elections after official candidate Akshay Kanti Bam pulled out of the poll race at the last minute. The Indore bench, comprising Justice SA Dharmadhikari and Justice Gajendra Singh, said Patel's application was "bereft of merit and substance". Patel had approached

the division bench after a single-judge bench of Justice Vivek Rusia on April 30 turned down his plea to overturn the rejection of his nomination by district election officer and to be allotted the Congress 'hand' symbol to contest polls. Indore votes in the fourth phase on May 13. Patel's candidature was rejected during scrutiny on April 25. Bam's papers were cleared as the 'approved Congress candidate', but he suddenly pulled out on April 29, the last day for withdrawal of nominations. It left Congress

without a candidate in Indore for the first time ever. Patel's counsel Vibhor Khandelwal contended before the division bench that the returning officer may have been right in rejecting Patel's nomination on April 26 since at that time he was not the approved Congress candidate and his form was not signed by 10 proposers. But in view of the proviso to sub-section (5) of Section 36 of the Act, the returning officer ought to have given a day's time to Patel to get signatures of 10 proposers and examine the nomi-

nation form the next day, he said. Since Bam withdrew his candidature, Patel's form should be scrutinised and accepted so that he can contest the election, Khandelwal contended. Election Commission counsel Mini Ravindran submitted that the writ petition itself is not maintainable, arguing that Supreme Court had earlier held that any interference by high courts entertaining petitions under 226 of the Constitution and issuing directions after commencement of the electoral process.

At 11%, UP tops 2024 list of JEE (Advanced) candidates

NEW DELHI: Eleven per cent of candidates appearing for Joint Entrance Examination-Advanced (JEE-Advanced) 2024 — the gateway to 23 Indian Institutes of technology (IITs) — will be from Uttar Pradesh. An analysis of JEE (Main) qualification data also revealed that of the 2.5 lakh candidates who qualified to take the IIT entrance, more than 54% are from just six states and nearly 73% from 10 states. Moreover, though over 75% of the registered candidates opted to take both (Jan and April) sessions of the JEE (Main), which is also an entrance test for centrally funded technical institutions and others, just around 28% of them managed to improve their results in the second



sitting. JEE (Advanced) is considered one of the toughest competitive exams in India, where aspirants must first qualify among the top 2.5 lakh in the JEE (Main) and then compete for 17,000 odd seats in IITs. Uttar Pradesh (28,300+), Maharashtra (24,500+) and Telangana (24,100+) not only continue to dominate the results, these top three states also account for more than one-third (30.7%) of

the total candidates eligible for JEE (Advanced). There are 11 states which have more than 11,000 eligible candidates, which is close to 79% of the total candidates to have qualified. There are five states with over 21,000 candidates, which include Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan as well. A total of 14.1 lakh candidates registered for JEE (Main) this year of which over 75% appeared in both the sessions of the exam.

Cong to review 'anti-people laws', says Ramesh, mum on CAA repeal

NEW DELHI: Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh on Friday said the party's position on Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) was clearly stated in its manifesto where it promised to "review and change all anti-people laws" brought by BJP govt. However, he refused to explicitly say whether the contentious law would be repealed. Senior Congress politician P Chidambaram had said last month that CAA would be scrapped once the INDIA bloc was voted to office. Notably, CAA did not find a mention in the party's mani-



festo, which was drafted under Chidambaram's chairmanship. Asked whether the party would repeal CAA, Ramesh told, "I am not commenting on what Chidambaram said. What he said is his personal view. I am going by the manifesto approved by him as chairman of the committee and approved by Congress prez and the party's working committee. I am

stating the party position. The word CAA does not figure in the manifesto." He, however, said Congress believed that making religion the basis of reservation and citizenship was unconstitutional. "We opposed CAA in Parliament on the ground that it gives citizenship on the basis of religion. Our Constitution doesn't provide for reservation or citi-

zenship on the basis of religion," Ramesh added. Congress manifesto said, "We promise that all anti-people laws passed by the BJP-NDA without proper parliamentary scrutiny and debate, especially those relating to workers, farmers, criminal justice, environment and forests and digital data protection will be thoroughly reviewed and changed."

Shouldn't have happened: Mahajan on Congress candidate's pullout in Indore

Former LS speaker Sumitra Mahajan expressed surprise over the last-minute withdrawal of nomination by Congress candidate from Indore, Akshay Kanti Bam, calling it unfair and unethical. Voters had the right to decide in a democratic set-up, she asserted. Bam had pulled out of the poll race on April 29, the last date for withdrawal of nominations, and joined BJP within hours, leaving Congress stunned. "People are calling me and asking me, 'what has happened Tai?'" Mahajan told Saturday. "This should not have happened. There was no need for this, as BJP's victory in Indore was a foregone conclusion," Mahajan said, hinting that she believed BJP was behind Bam's move. Indore is a saffron stronghold and Mahajan, now 81, represented the constituency eight consecutive times since 1989.

‘Not polarising to show Congress brought religion-based quota’: PM

NEW DELHI: “To show that Congress violated the Constitution by enacting laws to provide reservations on the basis of religion is not polarisation,” PM Narendra Modi asserted, taking head-on the criticism that he has tried to promote polarisation through his speeches. The second round of polls, Modi also stood by his statement that his predecessor Manmohan Singh had indeed said Muslims had the first claim on the nation’s resources. He also declared that he was determined to fulfil BJP’s commitment to implement a Uniform Civil Code. “It is clear that separate laws for communities are detrimental to the health of society. We cannot be a nation where one community is progressing with the support of the Constitution while the other community is stuck in a time warp due to appeasement. We will do everything in our capacity to make UCC a reality in India,” the PM said, while also



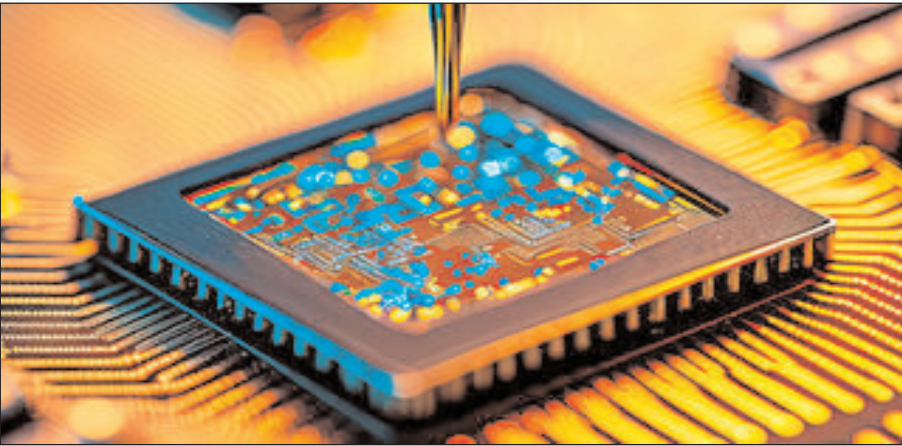
renewing his vow to move forward on his ‘one nation-one poll’ plan. Modi expressed confidence of getting a third straight term, and said he was striving for a 400-plus tally to foil the “evil designs of opposition parties to take away reservations and rights of SCs/STs and OBCs and give it to their vote bank”. The PM came down hard on the push for redistribution through measures such as wealth and inheritance tax. “I do not think they are solutions by any stretch of imagination. These are actually dangerous problems disguised as solutions. Would you work day and night if the govt

would take away your money at the end in the name of redistribution?” he asked, adding these ideas would “kill” the start-up revolution and were merely a way to please “the opposition’s vote bank”. He further said that these ideas carried the risk of creating “complete and irreversible communal disharmony”. “Our Constitution protects the property of all minorities. This means that when Congress talks of redistribution, it cannot touch the properties of minorities, it cannot consider Waqf properties for distribution, but it will eye the properties of other communities,” he added.

Modi dubbed Rahul Gandhi’s proposal to conduct a survey to estimate people’s assets “Maoist thinking and ideology” and a “recipe for disaster” which would lead to “raiding every home”. Asked about the opposition’s charge that he would change the Constitution in case he got a super mandate, Modi said, “It is ironic that people who have changed the Constitution maximum number of times are saying that we will change the Constitution. But before asking such a question, you should analyse my track record.” Exuding confidence about BJP’s prospects in the South, Modi said opposition parties had raised a “false bogey of discrimination” to divert attention from their failures. On foreign policy, he was unfazed about India being seen as disrespected regarding the “rules of the international order” to pursue its national interests.

Beyond Rs 76k-crore: Government to scale up semiconductor package

NEW DELHI: Government is looking at rolling out a fresh multi-billion-dollar incentive package for semiconductor companies after nearly exhausting the Rs 76,000-crore plan that was launched in Dec 2021 for supporting investing companies, top sources told TOI. Preliminary work on the new package, which is “in all likelihood be much bigger than the previous one”, has already begun, even though announcements in this regard will be made only once the new govt takes charge post the national elections, they said. “The new package would be one of the key agendas for the new govt and will be taken up on a priority basis,” one of the sources said, pointing out that new proposals that are coming in for semiconductors necessitate a fresh package. “The matter would be tabled before the new Cabinet as some of the proposals are at an advanced



stage and would require immediate assurances from the state in terms of incentives,” the source said. Success of Dec 2021 package is prompting the govt to work out a new one, especially in view of the aggressive stance of countries such as the US and China, which have announced much bigger packages for companies that are investing in semiconductors. Under the current plan, govt extends fiscal support of up to 50% of a project’s cost to eligible display and semiconductor fabricators. This has been almost exhausted after

the spate of investments that came in India, which had previously failed to get any credible proposals for semiconductor manufacturing after trying for decades, finally managed to score big after American Micron emerged as the first major player to enter the space with a Rs 22,500-crore testing and packaging unit in Gujarat in June last year. This was followed up with approval to three proposals worth nearly Rs 1.3 lakh crore in Feb this year. These comprise: Rs 91,000-crore project of Tata to set up India’s first semiconductor fab unit.

Modi praised me earlier but now wants my defeat: Sharad Pawar

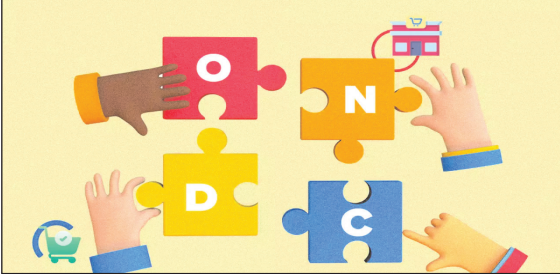
PUNE/NASHIK: Sharad Pawar on Sunday said PM Narendra Modi is inconsistent with his views and his stand. “When he spoke in Delhi, he said I have done historic work as Union agriculture minister. In Baramati, the PM said he came into national politics by holding my finger. But now, he says that anything and everything should be done to defeat me in Baramati,” Pawar said at a public rally on Sunday.

Delhi plans to plant 2.3 lakh trees and 3.8 lakh bushes in parks

Delhi: To reduce dust pollution and increase green cover, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi plans to plant 2.3 lakh trees and 3.8 lakh bushes in parks, schools, open spaces, and roadsides this year. In 2023-24, the city planted two lakh trees and 3.25 lakh plants. The horticulture department requested zonal office requirements to complete the assignment. “We will plant when the details are acquired. An officer stated schools, hospitals, parks, and below flyovers are used for this. He stated that the government will continue roadside tree planting in some colonies at homeowners’ request.

MCD plans to carpet or repair 50 km of interior roadways by Oct. to reduce dust. Between April 2023 and February 2024, 139 km of roads were resurfaced or repaired. A civic council wants to resurface 180km of roads by Oct. Road maintenance and resurfacing are ongoing. After winter, we started dense carpet work on damaged areas. Work is being done with MLA or Mukhyamantri Sadak Punarnirman Yojna non-plan head funding “said the official. Our 52 mechanical road sweepers are for PWD roads. He added that 195 water sprinklers, jet machines, and 30 mobile anti-smog guns are reducing dust pollution on roadways. PWD gave MCD 60 anti-smog weapons to reduce dust near construction sites. In highrises, 15 smog cannons are deployed. The official claimed these work as needed. In response to summer fires, MCD has limited unauthorised entry and the carrying of cigarettes, bidis, lighters, and matchboxes. “Supervisory staff must notify Delhi Fire Services immediately of fires. Junior engineers and supervisors have SOPs for 24/7 landfill supervision. The official stated fresh solid garbage is unloaded, compacted, and coated with bio-cover to prevent fires.

Government e-commerce platform accepting unicorns



Delhi: Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), a UPI-like alternative to e-commerce heavyweights, is onboarding unicorns like MakeMyTrip, PolicyBazaar, Cars24, and Zerodha to build traction. While ONDC was created to support small businesses like kirana stores and democratize online shopping, the gov-

ernment believes large players will give consumers more choice and boost demand in smaller towns and cities. The goal is to assist consumers and businesses

without platform fees. “It gained popularity in the last two years. Five lakh sellers—70% small and medium—have joined. ONDC processed 72 million transactions in April

“Rajesh Kumar Singh, industry and internal trade secretary, told reporters. Singh expects all types of players to join, when asked if big startups would overwhelm smaller ones. “The intent is noble, let us see how it works and to what extent we can actually crack some of the issues you raised in terms of market concentration,” said.

Airtel partners with Google Cloud to provide Indian businesses cloud and gen-AI solutions



Delhi: Bharti Airtel and Google Cloud are partnering to offer Indian businesses cloud and generative-AI solutions. The telecom company will use Google Cloud products to accelerate cloud adoption and modernization through the agreement. Airtel will offer cloud-managed services to its corporate customers, including over 2,000 large organizations and a million developing businesses. This partnership targets India’s big and rising public cloud services industry, which IDC predicts will be worth \$17.8 billion by 2027.

Bharti Airtel managing director and CEO Gopal Vittal said, “Cloud and AI solutions will drive India’s digital transforma-

tion. We’re excited to collaborate with Google Cloud to provide safe and scalable cloud solutions for government, companies, and startups. Our collaboration will speed the implementation of generative AI in the country and uncover its potential to solve challenges. Airtel will also use Google Cloud’s

generative AI to improve its mobile, broadband, and digital TV consumer experiences and internal processes. Airtel will also offer similar services to its Indian and global B2B customers. According to Google Cloud CEO Thomas Kurian, “Our strategic partnership with Airtel is a major step for accelerating cloud

and AI adoption in India. We want to develop disruptive solutions to improve Airtel’s customer experience through our relationship.” Airtel will train artificial-intelligence and machine-learning solutions on its enormous dataset using the two businesses’ strengths—connectivity and AI technology.

EC publishes a "rate list" for enticing competitions

Delhi: you can get a buffet or a packed lunch that includes two curries, rice, aachaar, roti, and sweets for Rs 80. You can also get a mini meal of chhole bhature or poori aalu for Rs 37. You can also get a small cup of tea or coffee for Rs 6. These prices do not include the cost of a roadside eatery or canteen. Every cup of tea or coffee, packed lunch, or small meal provided to a political worker conducting a

campaign during the capital election will be tracked and contributed to the candidate’s overall poll expenditure. Not only will food costs be important, but so will the price of the chairs and tables that will be used at candidate polling places or during election gatherings. The candidates’ election expenses also include the cost of renting vehicles for campaigning, posting posters, banners, and

hoardings, hiring a man to beat a drum, hiring horses and elephants for a road show, and hiring videographers, photographers, and drones to record the events. Every penny spent by the candidates is tracked from the time of nomination filing to the casting of ballots, with the total amount not to exceed the Rs 75 lakh cap on election expenses set by the Election Commission of India.

Sahil Khan held in C'garh in 15k cr betting app case

MUMBAI: Actor Sahil Khan was arrested on Sunday in connection with his alleged role in the Rs 15,000 crore Mahadev betting app case. Khan (50) was produced in court and was sent to police custody till May 1. An SIT of crime branch nabbed him from a hotel in Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh. Khan, who had been working as a fitness expert until recently, had fled the city on April 24 and had been dodging the police by constantly changing his location. After his anticipatory bail application was rejected by Bombay HC on April 24, police had been trying to nab him. To track down his whereabouts, police were tracking his location which showed he was constantly on the move at different points of time.

Gadchiroli in Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Telangana, and Chhattisgarh. A senior crime branch officer said Khan was a partner in a betting app firm. “He had been promoting the app through social media and had also forged some documents.

One-year DDA flat maintenance with RWAs

Delhi: Delhi Development Authority would give residents’ welfare societies maintenance work within a year of creation to ensure flat maintenance. This will also apply to Diwali Special Housing Scheme 2023 units. This conclusion followed Real Estate Regulatory Authority criteria. A maintenance fee is normally collected by DDA during allotment. It has maintained flats for 10–20 years, depending on the scheme. A DDA official stated that applicants must join the registered agency or RWA to maintain common services. Per pocket, one RWA will be registered. All new DDA plans require upfront monthly costs for one year, depending on flat type. “DDA shall do daily maintenance from maintenance charges for one year or until RWA is formed, whichever comes first. An RWA will get the balance

maintenance fund if it is founded before one year. If a RWA is not created within a year, it will be done on actuals “said the official. “For subsequent years, the necessary arrangement will be communicated to the residents,” he said. Residents expect standard changes to speed up DDA flat maintenance, which had been delayed for a long period. The authority defined maintenance as green space maintenance, campus, colony, and housing pocket cleaning, light fitting replacement in common areas, lift maintenance and operation, and common area electrical bill payment. “After transfer, the urban authority will be responsible for common areas in many housing pockets. The authority indicated in a pamphlet that DDA will maintain the area until the urban body takes possession.

Canada is reducing the number of start-up visas it will accept, this year

Delhi: Although Canada attempted to improve the attractiveness of its start-up visa program in July of last year, an announcement tonight will terminate the aspirations of prospective immigrant entrepreneurs. In reality, a number of them who received early investment or assistance from business incubators can wind up in a limbo. Beginning on April 30, Canada will only accept petitions for permanent residency linked to ten or fewer startups per approved organization for processing each year. The Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) released a statement stating that this action was taken to expedite application processing and minimize backlogs. To put it simply, there are currently about 82 of these approved organizations, which include company incubators, angel investors, and venture capital funds (VCFs). It follows that, if the number of these organizations stays the same, no more than 820 applications will be approved. Furthermore, as per the release, entrepreneurs whose start-up is backed by Canadian funding or a business incubator that is affiliated with Canada's Tech Network will be eligible for priority processing. In order to be eligible for permanent residence, entrepreneurs must demonstrate that they have sufficient means to support themselves and their family upon arrival in Canada. The Startup Visa (SUV) program does not require applicants to invest any of their funds or have a minimum net worth. It's essential to have support from one or more of the approved partners, such as venture capital funds (VCF), angel investor groups (who must invest a minimum of CAD 200,00 and 75,000, respectively), or be accepted into a

program offered by a business incubator. Under this policy, the goals for immigration levels were established at 5,000 for the current year and 6,000 for 2025 and 2026. The creator of a tech company and immigration attorney Josh Schachnow notes, "But now they're being reduced to basically nothing (with less than 100 designated entities, it means less than 1,000 applications through SUV for the entire year)." This is seen as a poor decision by many in the immigration and entrepreneur finance fields. According to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Canada is the country that attracts startup founders the most in 2023. Through this category, around 900 entrepreneurs have gained permanent citizenship since the program's inception in 2013, which has resulted in the founding of over 300 start-ups.

Opt for Hybrid funds to help cut tax outgo - 10 mutual fund

Wealth managers recommend conservative investors to opt for hybrid schemes before the financial year closes to save on taxes in mutual fund investments. The government's removal of indexation benefits for pure debt schemes in Budget 2023-24 shifts focus to hybrid funds with 35%-65% equity allocation for tax efficiency.

Tax planning guide: Opt for Hybrid funds to help cut tax outgo - 10 mutual fund schemes to consider

Tax benefits of hybrid funds: As the financial year comes to an end, it's important to keep a tab on your tax outgo for



FY 2023-24. Wealth managers advise conservative investors to consider hybrid schemes before the financial year ends to save on taxes in mutual fund investments, states an report. The government's removal of indexation benefits for pure debt schemes in Budget 2023-

24 makes hybrid funds with 35% to 65% equity allocation a viable option.

Indexation, which adjusts inflation with the asset's cost, lowers tax liability. Certain schemes like balanced hybrid, multi-asset, and dynamic asset allocation still offer indexation benefits.

Bank of Japan ends negative rates, closing era of radical policy

TOKYO: The Bank of Japan ended eight years of negative interest rates and other remnants of its unorthodox policy on Tuesday, making a historic shift away from a focus of reflating growth with decades of massive monetary stimulus. While the move will be Japan's first

interest rate hike in 17 years, it still keeps rates stuck around zero as a fragile economic recovery forces the central bank to go slow in any further rise in borrowing costs, analysts say. The shift makes Japan the last central bank to exit negative rates and ends an era in which

policymakers around the world sought to prop up growth through cheap money and unconventional monetary tools. In a widely expected decision, the BOJ ditched a policy put in place since 2016 that applied a 0.1% charge on some excess reserves financial institutions.



HDFC Bank's home loan business head to lead Poonawalla Fincorp

MUMBAI: HDFC Bank's mortgage business head Arvind Kapil has filed papers to take charge as MD & CEO of Poonawalla Fincorp. Kapil is a 25-year veteran of HDFC Bank and was placed in charge of the legacy housing finance business of HDFC after its merger with the bank last year.

"Given the sheer size of the mortgage portfolio (Rs 7.5 lakh crore) and the material importance of distribution, we believe there is key managerial personnel risk (for HDFC Bank)," said Suresh Ganapathy of Macquarie. He noted that this is the second major exit in mortgages with the head of HDFC sales Santosh Nair quitting to join Bandhan Bank last month. Poonawalla Fincorp, in a statement to stock exchanges, said that Kapil will join the company on June 24, subject to approvals. Shares of Poonawalla Fincorp rose 1.5% after the announcement. Before taking charge of the Rs 7.5-lakh-crore mortgage business at HDFC Bank, Kapil led the retail lending business at the bank, which included unsecured loan20s, auto loans, two-wheeler loans, retail working capital loans, gold loans, loans against shares, home loans, microfinance, and business loans.

"Given his leadership, execution skills and business acumen, (Current MD & CEO) Abhay Bhutada has been elevated to group level and will be taking up a strategic and larger role at the Cyrus Poonawalla Group for managing its strategy, investment and finance," said Adar Poonawalla, chairman, Poonawalla Fincorp.

LIC shares slip after 17% salary hike

MUMBAI: Shares of LIC were down by over 2% on after the corporation announced a 17% wage revision. The salary increase was announced by govt on Friday before the election code of conduct kicked in a day later. The corporation's shares are now down 23% from the 52-week high of Rs 1,175 on Feb 9. On Friday, the country's largest insurance company said that govt approved a wage revision for LIC employees, effective August 1, 2022.



The corporation explained the hike, stating that a revision occurs once every five years. The statement said that due to the hike, there will be a 17% upward revision in the overall wage bill.

The increase aligns with the wage negotiation deal signed between the Indian Banks' Association and bank employees. LIC's wage revision incorporates an enhancement in NPS contribution from

10% to 14% for nearly 24,000 employees who joined after April 1, 2010. TNN We also published the following articles recently Noida revises fee for three parking clusters Noida Authority approved three contractors for surface parking in city clusters with revised fees.

New tender initiated after scrapping previous contract. Residents get relief with revised parking fees. Multilevel facilities accommodate 12,000 vehicles.

China accuses Evergrande of \$78 billion fraud, among worst ever

China Evergrande Group's alleged \$78 billion revenue overstatement escalates the legal peril of founder Hui Ka Yan, who now stands at the center of one of the biggest financial fraud cases in history. The nation's top securities regulator said the developer's onshore unit inflated revenue by recognizing sales in advance in the two years through 2020 that led up to its default. It imposed a 4.18 billion yuan (\$581 million) fine against the unit. Evergrande's alleged fraud dwarfs that of



Luckin Coffee Inc. and Enron Corp., dealing a blow to the reputation of its former auditor and the country's financial oversight. It fuels concern about how widespread such accounting issues are,

just as the new China Securities Regulatory Commission chairman is trying to tighten oversight. "The CSRC fines may serve as a warning to owners of other defaulted developers that failing to collabo-

rate with authorities over debt restructuring could mark the latest blow for Hui, once among Asia's richest tycoons, who oversaw a sprawling empire that spanned real estate to electric vehicles. Evergrande was one of China's biggest developers, taking on massive debt to expand across the country as condo sales boomed. The group received a liquidation order from a Hong Kong court in January, marking the largest collapse in China's three-year real estate crisis.

Millionaire grandchildren! Not just Narayana Murthy's grandson, these Infosys co-founders' grandkids also hold stake in company

Millionaire grandchildren of Infosys founders! Infosys founder NR Narayana Murthy gifted his four-month-old grandson shares worth over Rs 240 crore, making him one of India's youngest millionaires. The transfer of 15,00,000 Infosys shares reduced

Murthy's stake from 0.40% to 0.36%. But did you know that other grandchildren of Infosys co-founders also hold stakes in the company. Millionaire grandchildren! Not just Narayana Murthy's grandson, these Infosys co-founders' grandkids also hold stake in company Millionaire grandchildren of Infosys founders! NR Narayana Murthy, aged 77, made headlines by gifting 15 lakh shares of Infosys, constituting a 0.04% stake in the company, to his four-month-old grandson. Ekagrah is the third grandchild of Narayana Murthy and his wife, author-philanthropist Sudha Murty. Ekagrah

was born to Rohan Murty and Aparna Krishnan in November last year. The 0.04% stake is val-

ued at over Rs 240 crore, making Ekagrah Rohan Murty one of the youngest millionaires in India. He is the youngest in the Infosys promoter group. Following this transaction, which was revealed in an exchange filing, Narayana Murthy's stake in Infosys has come down to 0.36%.

The stock exchange filing specified the transfer of shares "from Narayana Murthy-promoter to master Ekagrah Rohan Murty-promoter group." Narayana Murthy's daughter Akshata Murty, also the First Lady of the UK, has two daughters, Krishna and Anoushka. Within the Murthy family, Akshata holds a 1.05% stake in Infosys, while her brother Rohan has a 1.64% stake, and their mother, Sudha Murty.

Adani calls report on bribery probe by US prosecutors false

Adani Group companies have denied receiving any notice from the US Department of justice regarding bribery allegations. US prosecutors investigate potential bribery involving Adani entity and founder Gautam Adani, including Indian renewable energy company Azure Power Global Ltd. Adani Enterprises and Ports refute allegations, stressing commitment to high governance standards and anti-corruption laws.

Adani calls report on bribery probe by US prosecutors false Adani Group companies haven't received any notice from the US Department of justice regarding a probe into whether the Indian conglomerate may have engaged in bribery, according to exchange filings. Bloomberg News reported last week, citing people with direct knowledge of the matter, that US prosecutors have widened their prob.

e of the Adani Group to focus on whether an Adani entity may have engaged in bribery as well as the conduct of the conglomerate's billionaire founder Gautam Adani. The probe, which is also looking at Indian renewable energy company Azure Power Global Ltd., is being handled by the US Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York and the Justice Department's fraud unit in Washington.

China accuses Evergrande of \$78 billion fraud, among worst ever

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2020 that led up to its default. It imposed a 4.18 billion yuan (\$581 million) fine against the unit. Evergrande's alleged fraud dwarfs that of Luckin Coffee Inc. and Enron Corp., dealing a blow to the reputation of its former auditor and the country's financial oversight. It fuels concern about how widespread such accounting

issues are, just as the new China Securities Regulatory Commission chairman is trying to tighten oversight. "The CSRC fines may serve as a warning to owners of other defaulted developers that failing to collaborate with authorities over debt restructuring could The allegations mark the latest blow for Hui, once among Asia's richest tycoons, who oversaw a

sprawling empire that spanned real estate to electric vehicles. Evergrande was one of China's biggest developers, taking on massive debt to expand across the country as condo sales boomed. The group received a liquidation order from a Hong Kong court in January, marking the largest collapse in China's three-year real estate crisis.

Star Health eyes NRI business through GIFT

CHENNAI: Star Health and Allied Insurance Company will offer dollar-denominated insurance from GIFT City for NRIs. The company is launching international insurance product suite from the facility in FY25.

Star Health is the first health insurance company to be granted registration to establish an International Financial Services Centre international office in GIFT City. It plans to commence operations with a branch by the end of this month, facilitating access to health insurance solutions in US dollars for the global Indian community, the company said in a statement on Monday. Noting that the facility will enable the company to significantly expand its global reach and business, it said, the company will offer NRI-focused insurance.