

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

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

First Tharoor, now Chidambaram: Senior leaders put Congress on backfoot

It was only yesterday that Congress leader Jairam Ramesh officially announced that Tharoor's remarks were his personal views. "When Mr. Tharoor speaks, it is his view and it is not the stand of the party," Jairam Ramesh



NEW DELHI: The Congress is once again under BJP fire. And once again, the ammunition for this all-out attack has been provided by a party leader. P Chidambaram's reality check on the future of INDIA bloc has left the Congress scurrying for cover. "The future (of INDIA bloc) is not so bright, as Mritunjay Singh Yadav said. He seems to feel that the alliance is still intact, but I am not sure. It is only Salman (Khurshid) who can answer because he was part of the negotiating team for the INDIA bloc. If the alliance is totally intact, I will be very happy. But it shows at the seams that it is frayed," Chidambaram said at a book launch in the national capital on Thursday. He also hoped that the alliance can "still be put

together, there's still time". The BJP, as expected, latched on to Chidambaram's remarks and unleashed a fierce offensive against the Congress. And why not? After all, the leadership of opposition's INDIA bloc is with the grand-old-party and Mallikarjun Kharge is its chairperson. So, Chidambaram's assessment points to failure of the Congress leadership to lead the opposition coalition effectively. Ironically, his remarks come at a time when the Congress was already struggling over statements made by Shashi Tharoor in support of PM Modi's policies during the India-Pakistan standoff. Several BJP leaders cited Tharoor's remarks praising several government's

policies, including the cease-fire decision, to slam and school the Congress leadership. It was only yesterday that Congress leader Jairam Ramesh officially announced that Tharoor's remarks were his personal views. "When Mr. Tharoor speaks, it is his view and it is not the stand of the party," Jairam Ramesh had said yesterday. Some reports citing Congress sources had suggested that the party had expressed displeasure with Tharoor's statements and was of the view that the Thiruvananthapuram MP had crossed the Lakshman Rekha this time around. However, Tharoor had dismissed these reports and called them "media creation without any evidence."

Chidambaram's statement coming in this backdrop put the party once again on the backfoot. Citing Chidambaram's reality check, the BJP and its allies have been relentless in targeting the Congress and the INDIA bloc calling it a "greed-driven coalition", "Maha-thagbandhan", "opportunistic alliance", "kushti-dosti model", "company of looters", "group of corrupt leaders", "ghamandiya alliance". Some even raised questions on Congress's leadership role and claimed that the grand-old-party is fading and has no future. INDIA bloc, which was launched with a lot of fanfare, is actually gasping for breath today and to that extent Chidambaram is spot on in his assessment. But to announce that from a public platform definitely helps party's political rivals - the BJP in this case. It will be interesting to see how the Congress reacts to this new challenge. Party leader Udit Raj, who had slammed Tharoor for 'becoming BJP's spokesperson', had a word of advice for Chidambaram. "Party has given him a lot. He and his son are MPs. Since the party is not in power, Chidambaram ji should go around the country and conduct a dialogue," he said.



India's golden boy of athletics, Neeraj Chopra, scripted history on Friday evening at the Doha Diamond League 2025 by breaching the elusive 90-metre barrier in men's javelin throw for the first time in his career.

Author Salman Rushdie attacker sentenced to 25 years in prison in 2022 stabbing case

NEW DELHI: The man who stabbed acclaimed author Salman Rushdie on stage during a 2022 lecture in western New York has been sentenced to 25 years in prison. Hadi Matar, 27, was convicted in February of attempted murder and assault after attacking Rushdie as he prepared to speak at the Chautauqua Institution. The brutal assault left Rushdie, 77, blind in one eye and seriously injured.

He was stabbed over a dozen times in the head and torso. Matar also wounded another man on stage. Though Rushdie did not attend Friday's sentencing, he submitted a victim impact statement. He had previously testified, recounting the harrowing moment he believed he was going to die. Before sentencing, Matar made a brief statement criticizing Rushdie and invoking free speech, calling the author a "hypocrite."

'Insensitive' and 'violation of national sentiment': Consumer affairs

NEW DELHI: (CCPA) has issued notices to e-commerce platforms in India including Amazon India, Flipkart, Ubuy India, Etsy, The Flag Company, and The Flag Corporation over the sale of Pakistani national flags and related merchandise. In a post on Twitter Minister of Consumer Affairs Pralhad Joshi said that ministry has directed ecommerce companies.

Why Apple won't find it easy to move iPhone production from India to US



Bengaluru: Apple has big expansion plans for India - plans that are now being frowned upon by US President Donald Trump. Currently, Apple does not manufacture iPhones in the United States, but Trump wants that to change. Trump has made it clear to Apple CEO Tim Cook that he has a 'problem' with US tech giant 'building all over India'.The majority of iPhone production occurs in China, whilst facilities in India make approximately 40 million units annually. That's roughly 15% of Apple's total production. Trump on Thursday revealed that he asked Apple CEO Tim Cook to stop iPhone manufacturing in India and relocate production to the United

States.Trump said, "I had a little problem with Tim Cook yesterday. I said to him, 'Tim, you're my friend. I treated you very well. You're coming in with \$500 billion (investment). But now I hear you're building all over India. I don't want you building in India.'" Also Read | Donald Trump warns Apple about 'Make in India', will Tim Cook-led iPhone maker listen? "We are not interested in you building in India. India

can take care of themselves,"Trump said he told Cook. Trump indicated that following their discussion, Apple would increase its manufacturing operations in the United States. But how easy is it for Apple to shift production to the US? We dive in: Tim Cook on why Apple makes in China & not US Tim Cook had once explained why Apple manufactures its products in China and not the US.

"I'll rise above the gutter ... ': Omar and Mufti spar over 'Tulbul project' resumption

NEW DELHI: Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah and former CM Mehbooba Mufti on Friday engaged in war of words over reinstating the Tulbul Navigation Project after the suspension of Indus Waters Treaty. The argument started after Abdullah suggested on Thursday a possible resumption of construction at the Tulbul Navigation Barrage on Wullar Lake, considering the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty. "The Wular lake in North Kashmir. The civil works you see in the video is the Tulbul Navigation Barrage. It was started in the early 1980s but had to be abandoned under pressure from



Pakistan citing the Indus Water Treaty. Now that the IWT has been 'temporarily suspended' I wonder if we will be able to resume the project," Abdullah posted on his personal X handle. He indicated that completing the Tulbul project would facilitate Jhelum's use for navigation. "It will give us the advantage of

allowing us to use the Jhelum for navigation. It will also improve the power generation of downstream power projects, especially in winter," he elaborated. Taking to X, Mufti shared Abdullah's post and reacted, "At a time when both nations have just stepped back from the brink of war—

with Jammu and Kashmir once again paying the highest price through loss of innocent lives, destruction, and suffering—such provocative statements are deeply irresponsible." She stressed that J&K residents need tranquility and constancy, rather than political actions that could heighten tensions. "Weaponizing water—a source of life—is not only , but it also threatens to internationalize an issue that must remain strictly bilateral," she noted.Replying to Mufti's remarks, Abdullah wrote, "Actually what is unfortunate is that with your blind lust to try to score cheap publicity points & please some people sitting across the border.

Akashteer: How India's indigenous 'Iron Dome' swatted Pakistan drones from the sky



NEW DELHI: The newly operational automated air defence system, Akashteer, played a central role in intercepting and neutralising a large-scale missile and drone attack launched by Pakistan on the night of May 9th and 10th, according to a press release from the Ministry of Defence. The ministry said the attack targeted both military and civilian

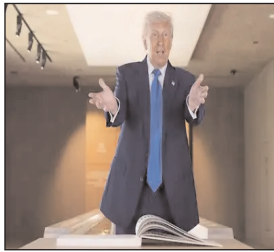
areas and was repelled without any of the projectiles hitting their intended targets. "By the time the enemy knew they were being

watched, they were already being targeted," the statement claimed. Akashteer focuses on strategic warfare rather

than raw power, according to the government. The integrated platform delivers instantaneous aerial surveillance data to all connected entities (control room, radars and Defence Gun), facilitating synchronised air defence activities. The system automates the process of detecting, monitoring and countering hostile aircraft, drones and missiles. It combines different radar mecha-

nisms, sensors and communication systems into one unified operational structure. The government further revealed that, Akashteer automates surveillance and response, and provides a real-time common air picture to various defence units. It is vehicle-mounted, enhancing mobility and allowing deployment in active combat zones. "Akashteer has demonstrated.

No coffee, no desk phones, layoffs: Trump cuts hit Ivy League hard



New Delhi: A wave of austerity is crashing down on American universities, and even the most prestigious ones aren't being spared. From Harvard and Columbia to Princeton and Michigan State, campuses are slashing budgets, laying off staff, and eliminating even modest comforts like coffee and desk phones, all in response to sweeping federal funding cuts orchestrated by US President

Trump's administration. In what many educators are calling an unprecedented assault on higher education, Trump has pulled billions in federal research dollars, citing concerns over antisemitism and DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion) prac-

tices, the Wall Street Journal reported. He has signed an executive order targeting foreign funding and Republicans in Congress are now pushing to hike taxes on university endowments, a move that would gut financial resources at wealthy institutions. "We're going to have to really rethink higher education and how we're funded," said Ruth Johnston of the National Association of College and University Business Officers.

NCZCC organized Tiranga Yatra on success of 'Op Sindoor'

Prayagraj: Everyone had the tricolour in their hands, the echo of patriotic slogans and songs like Ae Watan, Ae Watan Humko Teri Kasam were filling everyone with enthusiasm. The occasion was a grand tricolour procession organised by the North Central Zone Cultural Centre, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, to pay tribute to the success of 'Operation Sindoor' and the valour of the Indian Army.

The yatra started from Sai Mandir and reached the centre premises via Indira Chauraha and Rajapur Marg. During this, the tricolour waving in every hand, the echo of patriotic slogans and the tune of songs like "Ae Watan, Ae Watan Humko Teri Kasam" were soaking the entire atmosphere in the colour of patriotism. The feeling of

enthusiasm and pride was clearly visible in the crowd. This Tiranga Yatra was led by the in-charge director of the centre, Mr. Ashish Giri. Along with him, all the officers and employees of the centre, students of Jwal Devi Vidya Mandir Inter College and a large number of city residents participated in this inspirational journey.

On this occasion many dignitaries including Shri Krishna Mohan Dwivedi, Shri Madan Mohan Mani, Shri Manoj Kumar, Shri Shailendra Kumar, Shri Vikram Bahadur Singh, Shri Saroj Kumar Dubey, Dr. Rakesh Singh, Shri Dinesh Tiwari were present. This Tiranga Yatra further strengthened the spirit of patriotism and became an inspiring medium to awaken the resolve to serve the nation amongst the youth.

BAFTA Theatre Workshop inaugurated To connect theatre with school education



Prayagraj: The 15th theatre workshop of the National Theatre Institute 'BAFTA' of Benhur Schools and Colleges was inaugurated on Thursday morning at 7 am in the air-conditioned Zahida Auditorium in Karela Bagh. Senior theatre artist Praveen Shekhar inaugurated the workshop as the chief guest. Young actor and director Shubham Tiwari from Lucknow will conduct the 14-day workshop, in which 100 students are participating. On this occasion, BAFTA founder and senior playwright Tariq Khan gave information

about Mission TIS - 'Theatre in Schools' and said that BAFTA is preparing curriculum and books to establish theatre as a subject for primary and junior schools.

Under the workshop, the participants will stage two Hindi and two English plays in the four-day National Theatre Festival from May 29 to June 1, in which four solo plays will also be presented by renowned directors. Many dignitaries including Rotary Club Academia President Aftab Ahmed were present on this occasion.

Cricketer Aditya Raj Tiwari also showed his skills in studies

Scored 93.4% marks in CBSE Board 12th

Prayagraj: Local cricketer Aditya Raj Tiwari, who represented UPCA in BCCI's Vijay Merchant Trophy, has performed well in studies along with cricket by scoring more than ninety percent marks in the 12th CBSE board examination. According to Uday Pratap Singh, coach of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Cricket Academy, Aditya, a student of Allahabad Public School, has scored 93.4 percent marks in the 12th CBSE board examination. Aditya Raj



Tiwari, son of Ashutosh Tiwari, an advocate in Allahabad High Court, represented UPCA in the Under-16 Vijay Merchant Trophy of the year 2022-23. He has been missing out on making a place in the team by reaching the final selection of UP's Under-19 team for the last two years. This year too, he has participated in the preliminary trials from Prayagraj for selection in UP's Under 19 team.

Various Enrichment Programs for students of MPVM

Prayagraj: An enrichment program is an educational initiative designed to supplement the regular curriculum and provide students with expanded learning opportunities. It aims to go beyond the standard academic content, offering students chance to explore subjects in greater depth, develop new skills and pursue their interests. These programs take place outside regular classroom hours. Maharshi Patanjali Vidya Mandir held various enrichment sessions for its students. On 4th May 2025, a workshop titled "Preparation Strategies for CLAT and CUET" was organized for Class 11 students. The workshop aimed to provide guidance and insights on preparing for these competitive exams. The resource persons were Ms Baljeet Kaur and Advocate Vivek Sharma from ACE Law. On 6th May 2025, a Career oriented workshop was conducted titled "Emerging Technologies" for class 12 students. The Resource persons were Dr Saswati Datta and Mr Aniruddh Yadav from UPES Dehradun. Dr Datta is a highly accomplished academician and currently working as an assistant professor as the Program Lead in the Department of Civil Engineering.

Rotary Prayagraj Platinum presented insulated water jugs to school in sixth project under "Drinking Water Service Mission"

Rotary not just organization but inspiration of service and compassion: Shashank Jain

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Prayagraj: Realizing the spirit of service and dedication, Rotary Club Prayagraj Platinum today successfully organized the sixth phase under the "Drinking Water Service Mission" at Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Government Model Inter College, Kamalanagar, Bahria. On this occasion, free insulated water jugs were presented to the school, so that pure and cold drinking water can be made available to the students in the summer season. Rotarian Shashank Jain, President of Rotary Club Prayagraj Platinum, who was presiding over the program, said in his address that Rotary is not just an institution, but an inspiration of service and compassion.



Water is a precious resource, whose conservation and proper use is the responsibility of all of us. The objective of this initiative is to provide pure water to the students and make them aware of the importance of water.

The acting principal of the school, Dr. Prabhakar Tripathi, while expressing gratitude for this commendable effort of the club, said that this will not only provide convenience to the students, but will also create awareness among them

towards cleanliness and service. On this occasion, the media in-charge of the club, Rotarian Manish Garg, said that this is the sixth project of the "Drinking Water Service Mission". The objective of Rotary Prayagraj Platinum is to do such service work in as many schools as possible so that every student can get safe and clean drinking water. This effort will continue in the future as well. Rotarian Pramay Mittal, Rotarian Sanjay Singh, school teachers, principal and a large number of students were present in the program. Everyone appreciated this initiative and called it an inspirational step in the interest of society.

Children of Ashutosh Memorial enjoyed Fruit Day

Prayagraj: The last day of the session break was filled with double happiness for the children of Ashutosh Memorial located at Dhanicha Malkhanpur Hanumanganj. On one hand, the children presented the decoration of various types of fruits on International Fruit Day and gave the message that how important fruits are for our life, along with this, they also showed their design skills in the decoration of different types of fruits. The hearts of the little

children were filled with joy on finding themselves in such a presentation. Their excitement and enthusiasm was worth seeing. The joy of the session break of summer vacation could not be hidden from the children. The children left for their homes dancing with joy, taking the message of summer homework and coming to school again for study work in the last week of June. The school management wished them to enjoy the summer vacation while avoiding the heat.

Young Cricketers Rahul Batham, Kamal Tripathi and Shashank Singh Join Shrewsbury School India as Sports Ambassadors

Lucknow: Shrewsbury International School India is pleased to bring on board three rising cricket stars - Shashank Singh, Rahul Batham and Kamal Tripathi - as its sports ambassadors.

This alliance symbolises the school's commitment to foster not just athletic excellence, but to bring its innovative model of whole-person education to life through a vibrant sports culture on campus.

"The thriving sports landscape that I now see in India continues to inspire many young athletes, and integrating sports into school curriculums can play a powerful role in shaping young minds. I am honoured to be the sports ambassador for Shrewsbury International School India where world-class sports infrastructure and tailored student support empower every individual to uncover

and pursue their true passion," remarks Shashank Singh.

Cricketer Kamal Tripathi who has represented Madhya Pradesh in domestic cricket and has been associated with the state team of Bhopal Leopards says, "Joining the Shrewsbury family fills me with pride and purpose. I look forward to guiding promising young athletes, instilling in them the values of teamwork, discipline and resilience that have shaped my own professional journey."

"Pursuing a career in sports has taught me to embrace challenges," says the Under-19 Cricket World Cup player Rahul Batham. "At Shrewsbury, I see the same spirit - where young pupils will learn to set goals, work together and celebrate each other's successes. That is real education," he adds.

"Rahul, Kamal and Shashank were chosen as sports ambassadors because they exemplify the Salopian virtues of Wisdom, Kindness, Courage, Integrity, Self-Mastery and Spirit, that we uphold at Shrewsbury. While they will inspire sporting excellence, the school's comprehensive sports programme offers 20 indoor and outdoor sports - including India's first learning facilities for indoor rowing, scuba diving and fencing along with traditional activities such as football, cricket, rugby, equestrian, swimming among many more," remarks Oliver Russell, Deputy Head - School and Strategy Development at Shrewsbury International School India. The school will welcome the first cohort of pupils to its 150-acre campus in Bhopal on 8th August 2025.

Bajaj Allianz Life's Super Flexible Market-Linked Pension Plan

Varanasi: Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance, one of India's leading private life insurers, has launched Bajaj Allianz Life Smart Pension - a unit-linked, non-participating, individual pension plan that empowers customers to take greater control of their retirement planning.

The plan is designed to help build a retirement corpus, which can be used to generate life-long guaranteed income and support life goals during the retired years. It is linked to the newly launched Bajaj Allianz Life Nifty 200 Alpha 30 Index Pension Fund, which offers high growth potential to help individuals plan for a financially secure retirement.

Customers can also choose from five other fund options available under this product, based on their risk-reward preferences.

With a policy term starting at just 10 years and vesting age as early as 45 years, the plan offers a host of power-packed features. Here are some of the key highlights:

It enables customers to withdraw up to 60% of the accumulated corpus tax-free at vesting, rewards long-term investors with loyalty additions and a vesting booster at the end of the 15th policy year.

Customers also get the flexibility to defer the vesting date based on their retirement goals.

The plan comes with the newly launched Bajaj Allianz Life Nifty 200 Alpha 30 Index Pension Fund, which invests in high-alpha stocks from the Nifty 200 universe. The fund uses Jensen's Alpha-a measure of performance over and above market expectations, to select 30 stocks

with the strongest potential for higher returns. This strategy enables investors to benefit from diversification and market-linked wealth creation within a single retirement-focused solution. Five other fund options are available, allowing customers to align with their risk-reward preferences.

Commenting on the launch, Mr. Tarun Chugh, MD & CEO, Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance, said, "Globally, retirees have access to social security as a second income stream whereas most Indians have just the savings from PF. Yet, focused retirement planning is still not a priority for a large segment of the population. Our flexible market-linked pension plan will enable individuals who are seeking greater control over their financial security post-retirement.

Igniting Gen Z Innovation: Samsung India Launches 'Solve For Tomorrow 2025' Competition With Over INR 1 Crore In Grants

• **The 2025 edition provides an incubation programme for the Top 4 winning teams that will receive a grant of INR 1 crore. Additionally, the Top 20 teams will be awarded INR 20 lakh, while the Top 40 teams will receive INR 8 lakh**

• **This year, two global themes— Social change through Sports and Tech for Education and Better Futures and Environmental Sustainability via Technology —have been introduced, empowering students to address both local and global challenges**

• **The initiative will provide students with hands-on prototyping along with 82,000 hours of training and mentorship support to empower participants**

• **The programme is open to students aged 14-22 and will span six months, with applications accepted from April 29 to June 30, 2025**

VARANASI: Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, unveiled the fourth iteration of its

Samsung 'Solve for Tomorrow' initiative—a nationwide contest designed to inspire students to create innovative solutions to address some of society's most pressing challenges by leveraging technology.

Samsung 'Solve for Tomorrow 2025' will provide INR 1 crore to the top four winning teams to support the incubation of their projects, along with hands-on prototyping, investor connects, and expert mentorship from Samsung leaders and IIT Delhi faculty.

This recognition highlights the significance of nurturing solutions that not only excel in the competition but also transcend it, ultimately evolving into scalable and sustainable ventures that will play a pivotal role in shaping communities across India.

The programme, spanning six months, invites students aged 14-22 to submit

their tech ideas as either individuals or groups. This year, participants are encouraged to create solutions across four key

tal Sustainability via Technology.

"With Solve for Tomorrow, we are inspiring young innovators across every

reaching more cities, engaging students from more schools and colleges, and creating avenues for them to innovate, while applying the principles of design thinking. Solve for Tomorrow stands as a testament to our unwavering commitment to the Government of India's pioneering #DigitalIndia initiative that empowers our youth to become architects of the future," said JB Park, President & CEO, Samsung Southwest Asia.

"IIT Delhi is excited about fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and real-world problem solving among youth. Our collaboration with SamsungSolve for Tomorrow offers mentorship, research infrastructure, and technical guidance to help the young turn their ideas into products that impact society. We are delighted to be part of this

initiative that enables socially conscious innovation and contributes to Viksit Bharat," said Prof Rangan Banerjee, Director, IIT Delhi.

"India's young innovators are at the heart of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and realizing the vision of a Viksit Bharat by 2047. With more young minds to tap solutions than any country ever before, India is uniquely positioned to lead with ideas that address local challenges and inspire global change.

Initiatives like Samsung's Solve for Tomorrow provide a vital platform for young people to turn their ideas into solutions for the global good, using technology to drive inclusive and sustainable progress. The UN in India is proud to support such collaborations, especially with the private sector, that uplift youth leadership, innovation, and action, ensuring that we leave no one behind," said Shombi Sharp, United Nations Resident Coordinator in India.



themes: AI for a Safer, Smarter, and Inclusive Bharat; Future of Health, Hygiene, and Well-being in India; Social change through Sports and Tech for Education and Better Futures; and Environmen-

corner of India to dream big, tackle real-world challenges, and shape a smarter, more inclusive future through technology. This year, Solve for Tomorrow is going to be even bigger and more inclusive. We are

ABVP objects over use of word "infiltration" by varsity admin

Use of word 'infiltration' in hostel guidelines reprehensible, ABVP is committed to protect the interests of students

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Prayagraj: Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad, Allahabad University unit, strongly condemns the use of the word "infiltration" in the guidelines issued by the university administration on May 14 regarding hostel residents and visitors. ABVP is committed to creating a healthy, safe and positive educational environment in the university and hostels, but in this effort it opposes any kind of restriction on the entry of legitimate students into the hostels.

ABVP Allahabad University unit has always raised its voice for strengthening the security of students and has been in favour of ensuring that a safe and positive environment is maintained in the university. Due to limited seats in the university hostels, many students are not allotted hostels, due to which they have to stay outside. Such legitimate students also come and go to the hostel. ABVP is of the clear opinion that the security of the

campus should be the priority of the university administration, but by using such terminology, not only the dignity of Allahabad University is being hurt, but the students here are also being insulted.

ABVP Kashi Prant Co-Secretary Kartikeya Pati Tripathi said, "It is highly reprehensible for the university administration to call any visitor an 'intruder'. ABVP opposes this type of administrative anarchy and is in favour of ensuring that the interests of legitimate students are not violated. If the university administration maintains this position, ABVP will be forced to protest." ABVP Allahabad University Unit President Alok Tripathi said, "There are many students of the university who have to stay outside due to lack of seats in the hostels. ABVP is in favour of a healthy and safe educational environment but if students are prevented from entering the hostels, it is not only unfair but will also be opposed."

Dr. U.K. Mishra inaugurates free summer camp at Khelgaon Public School

Prayagraj: With the aim of all-round development of students through sports and extra-curricular activities, going beyond the continuous process of study and teaching, a 10-day free summer camp was inaugurated today, Friday, 16 May, at Khelgaon Public School. Students from classes pre-nursery to class VIII are participating in this 10-day



free summer camp. This free summer camp is being organized from 16 to 25 May.

On the occasion of inauguration of free summer camp, about 1270 students from class pre-nursery to class VIII participated. About 500 parents were also present on this occasion.

Speaking on the occasion of inauguration, the Chairman of the school Dr. U.K. Mishra said that exercise is very beneficial for health. Therefore, for personality development, one should participate in sports and other activities along with education. This summer camp will help the students in increasing their self-confidence.

Speaking on this occasion, the Vice Chairman of

the school, Anil Mishra said that "Learning does not happen only in the classroom, but in every moment of life and this summer camp is a beautiful example of that learning." Like previous years, this year too, in the summer camp, boys and girls will be trained in various disciplines by experienced trainers and parents are being trained in yoga. Students are being trained in various sports disciplines like gymnastics, cricket, shooting, hockey, football, basketball, badminton, lawn tennis, chess, taekwondo, boxing, kabaddi, skating, aerobics, volleyball and athletics etc. in the summer camp.

About 1270 students and about 500 parents were present today: Apart from this, students are also being trained in structural disciplines like yoga training, music and dance, art and craft. Children are also being trained on swimming, personality development, communication development, debate, group discussion, spell and quiz competition during the summer camp. All the students taking part in the 10-day free summer camp will be given Participation Certificate and the winners of various competitions organized during the summer camp will be given Merit Certificate. Today, a large number of parents were present on the inauguration occasion. On this occasion, while training them in Yogasanas, they were also told the basic mantra of staying healthy in life.

Ganga Cleaning: CMO honoured Chandel

Prayagraj: The Chief Medical Officer honoured the founder and national secretary of Bhagirath Sahayog Seva Sansthan, Avnish Singh Chandel, for his incomparable contribution to social service and Ganga cleaning. On this occasion, the CMO said that Bhagirath Sahayog Seva Sansthan organises important programmes for the society, in which many programmes like blood donation camps, health camps and sanitary pads are organised. CMO Dr. A.K. Tiwari praised this effort of the institute and said, "The contribution of the institute in an important work like blood donation is a big gift to the society. This effort of the founder national secretary of the institute, Avnish Singh Chandel, is an inspiration for the society and we will continue to strive to organize such programs in the future as well."



BHS still continues glorious legacy in imparting education: Prof. R. S. Verma

Annual Prize Day held, St. Andrew's House bagged Cock House

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Prayagraj: "There is no substitute to hard work and even a mediocre student in academics can achieve highest levels of success through dedication and focus." The Director, MNNIT Prof. R. S. Verma motivated the achievers of Boys' High School and College during the Annual Prize Day for the session 2024-25. An alumnus of University of Allahabad, Jawaharlal Nehru University, is credited with numerous researches in stem cell, medicine apparatus from many International Institutions of repute. He is currently the Director of MNNIT.

Prof R. S. Verma nostalgically reminiscence his days at Prayagraj and how Boys' High School was an extremely prestigious institution and still continues

the glorious legacy in imparting education. He in fact humorously remarked that this institution is 100 years older than MNNIT and its many students are now pursuing higher education in his institution. He also applauded the role of parents as felicitators and how positive guidance can make children into a productive resource.

Earlier, the Principal, Mr. D. A. Luke and the Academic Supervisor, Mrs. C. B. Luke accorded a warm welcome to the Chief Guest. The programme commenced with the lighting of the candles followed by the rendition of hymn by the school choir. The prize winners from Class 6 to 12, portrayed the characteristics of a true gentleman as they walked up to the stage to

receive the prizes amidst cheers and applause from their parents and well-wishers. After the prize distribution, the School Song was



sung by the School Choir.

It was a proud moment for St. Andrew's House who bagged the Cock House and the Athletic Championship trophy. The House was also the winners of Inter House Badminton Tournament, Annual Cricket Tournament, M.A. Bennett Memorial Inter House Swimming Competi-

tion and Inter House Football Tournament. The Academic Shield was won by the St. George's House. St. Patrick's House was the

proud winner of Jefferson Gardner Memorial Quiz Competition, Ernest Egbert Memorial Creative Writing Contest and were the runners up for the Cock House. St Peter's House Bagged the AT Flynn Memorial Debate and the Inter House Basketball Tournament.

In the end, the Principal, Mr. D. A. Luke thanked the

Chief Guest for sparing his valuable time and motivating the students of the school. He also thanked the parents who were present on the occasion to cheer their ward's success. The function came to an end with a vote of thanks by Dr. (Mrs.) A. R. Mukhopadhyaya followed with the singing of the National Anthem.

The prizes winners are as follows: A.K. Das Medal to ISC topper: Trayambakesh Dwivedi (Science group), Meezan Ahmad (Commerce group), Krishiv Kakkar (Humanities group); ICSE topper: Aniket Agrawal; Best Athlete: Pragyan Yadav; Tresham Medal for Mathematics: Saarthak Singh; Maj. Gen. Rana Kapoor Trophy for

Best Sportsman: Mohd Hassan; Maj. Gen. AJB Jaini's Trophy for Best All Rounder: Devang Pandey; Col Jai DS Jind Black Charger Trophy: Mohd Hassan; Principal's Medal for Best Boy: Samarth Khare; Best All Rounder (Senior Section): Raghav Kanodia, Middle School: Sanidhya Sharma, Junior School: Praneeet Yadav; NCC Army Wing (Junior Division)--Best Cadet: Aloukik Chopra, Best Social Service: Yash Mishra; Best Turnout: Aniket Tiwari; Best Marksmanship: Ashish Maurya; Best Cultural Cadet: Sharabh Kushwaha; NCC Naval Wing--Best Cadet: Udayan Tiwari, Best Social Service: Veer Singh; Best Turnout: S. Soman; Best Marksmanship: Arpit Singh.

Congmen burnt effigy of Vijay Shah

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: The country's brave daughters Colonel Sophia Qureshi and Wing Commander Byomika Singh of the Army, who with indomitable courage in "Operation Sindoor" entered about 100 km inside the border of Pakistan and destroyed 9 terrorist hideouts and killed many terrorists, the country is proud of the brave work of these daughters, but at the same time, the BJP leader, a minister in the Madhya Pradesh government, by using derogatory and anti-national words on Colonel Sophia Qureshi, not only insulted Colonel Sophia but also insulted the country's army. In protest against this indecent language, today on Friday, 16/05/2025, under the leadership of former President of Mahanagar Prayagraj Pradeep Mishra Anshuman, Vijay Shah's effigy was burnt at Bhardwaj Ashram Balsan intersection and a message was given to BJP or anyone else that the Congress party will always oppose anyone who insults the army and the daughters of the army.

Former president of Mahanagar Prayagraj Pradeep Mishra Anshuman said that BJP has a history

of insulting women and daughters of the country. These people even today want to implement Manusmriti by abolishing the constitution. A living example of this is the insulting and anti-national dirty



statement given by minister Vijay Shah in the Madhya Pradesh government on Colonel Sofia. Today itself, deputy chief minister of Madhya Pradesh Jagdish Devda has even said that the people of the country and the army of the country bow down at the feet of Modi ji. The BJP government is making a nefarious attempt to save such ministers. I want to tell Jagdish Devda that Modi must be your father, not the father of the country and the army of the country. The army of the country has a

history and it does not bow down at anyone's feet. Remember this, only you illiterate and uneducated, blind devotees bow down to Modi. The people and the army of the country never bow down before anyone. I

people of Congress, demand from the government that if that stupid minister is not arrested immediately, then there will be a big movement to which the government will not be able to respond.

demand from the government that the deputy chief minister of Madhya Pradesh government should file an FIR against Jagdish Devda. After the High Court issued directions/orders for the FIR, the chief minister of Madhya Pradesh filed an FIR against his minister in such a weak language. It was registered so that it could be dismissed in the first hearing, but after the court's rebuke, the FIR was registered properly. This also shows the evil mentality of the BJP government. We, the

Pradeep Kumar Mishra, Anshuman, Devi Prasad Pandey, Lallan Patel, Praveen Singh Bhole, Diwaker Bhartiya, Vinay Pandey, Ishitiah Ahmed, Rachna Pandey, Abhishek Shukla, Abdul Kalam Azad, Shweta Shrivastava, Vikram Patel, Ramesh Yadav, Raju Ranjan, Rajendra Agarwal, Baijant Mishra, Mustakim Qureshi, Ramlakhan Yadav, Rajkumar Bind, Arvind Tomar, Satish Kesarwani, Rajendra Agarwal, Brijesh Singh, Chandra Vishal and Rahul Yadav were present in burning the effigy.

Congratulated workers for success of Tiranga Yatra

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: BJP Prayagraj Mahanagar President Sanjay Gupta has congratulated the workers, officials and people for the successful organization of the huge Tiranga Yatra program organized by BJP Prayagraj Mahanagar on Thursday on the valor of

wave of patriotism is a proof that every child of India stands with his army to protect Mother India. The historic huge Tiranga Yatra was organized by Prayagraj Mahanagar with the tireless hard work of the workers. He is confident that the workers of BJP Prayagraj Mahanagar



the Indian Army and the success of Operation Sindoor. On the other hand, BJP Yuva Morcha, under the leadership of Morcha President Pappu Pandey, congratulated BJP Mahanagar President Sanjay Gupta for the successful Tiranga Yatra by presenting a bouquet of flowers. On this occasion, Mahanagar President Sanjay Gupta said that the huge crowd gathered in the Tiranga Yatra in the

will put their full efforts in the programs that will be decided by the Center and the state in the future. Dr. Shailesh Pandey, Shyam Prakash Pandey, Vijay Patel, Sanjay Rajan, Vijay Srivastava, Ajay Singh, Ravindra Gandhi, Rajesh Kesarwani, Vivek Mishra, Sujit Kushwaha, Nirdosh Singh Golu, Rakesh Bharti, Gopal Chandra Srivastava and other workers congratulated the Mahanagar President.

Northern Football Academy summer training camp begins

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: The summer training camp for the session 2025-26 started today at Vishnu Bhagwan Public

in the morning. Interested players can contact the academy's chief trainer Indranil Ghosh and assis-



School Jhalwa branch of Northern Football Academy. The training of senior, junior and new players of the academy starts daily at 5:15 pm and from 19 May the training will start at 5 am

tant trainer Rahul Verma or Sunil for registration. Chief instructor of the academy Indranil Ghosh said that training will start from June 2 at the Civil Lines branch (CAV Inter College Ground).

Pistol & rifle shooting develops mental and physical abilities: Nandi

Prayagraj: Industrial Development Minister of Uttar Pradesh Government Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi on Friday attended the second day of the four-day 25th Pre UP State Sooting Championship competition organized at Eagle Eye Sooting Sports Academy Cantt High School Sadar Bazar Cantonment Prayagraj as the chief guest. In which Minister Nandi encouraged the players who came from different districts of the state. Minister Nandi appealed to all the players to bring medals for their state and country by showcasing their talent better in the Olympics and Commonwealth Games.

Minister Nandi said that the way children, women, daughters and elderly people are participating in pistol and rifle shooting

competitions and showing their talent is amazing in itself. Minister Nandi said that unlike hockey, cricket and football, rifle shooting

UP State Shooting Championship organized by Uttar Pradesh Rifle Association from 15 to 18 May. For the first time, a state level



develops mental and physical abilities better. This game requires discipline and meditation, which gives the players peace of mind and passion towards the goal.

More than 1200 shooters from almost all districts of the state are participating in the four-day 25th Pre

shooting competition is being organized in Prayagraj. In which all the participants are given a target to fire on an electronic target machine of Switzerland. International pistol shooter and coach Vijay Chandel said that through this game one can participate in competi-

tions from state level to national and international level. Players successful in Pre UP State Championship will participate in State Championship, then Pre National and then National Championship. The players said that their main goal is to win medals for the country in prestigious competitions like Commonwealth Games and Olympics.

On this occasion, international pistol shooter and coach Vijay Chandel, international rifle shooter and coach Farid Siddiqui, CEO Cantt Board Prayagraj Mohammad Sameer Islam, GS Singh Secretary General Uttar Pradesh State Rifle Association, Treasurer Vipul Singh and members Danish Ahmed, Swati Gupta, Juhi Dwivedi etc. were present.

Women empowerment to be highlighted via Rani Ahilyabai Holkar

Prayagraj: To make the 300th birth anniversary of Rani Ahilyabai Holkar especially memorable, the Bharatiya Janata Party is going to run a special campaign from 21 to 31 May. Media in-charge Rajesh Kesarwani said that under this campaign, the party will present not only Ahilyabai's religious, cultural and administrative heritage among the public, but the public welfare schemes and women empowerment achievements of the Modi government at the Center and the Yogi government in the state will also be followed. And through this campaign, the party

will take the legacy of Maharani Ahilyabai, good governance and social reforms to the people. Along with this, the work related to inclusive development and women empowerment of the central and state government will also be highlighted and apart from this

There will be public relations, dialogue and women's walkathon programmes and During the campaign, women walkathon, public dialogue, competitions and other programs will be organized. Media in-charge Rajesh Kesarwani said that party workers and leaders will spread the fair

administration of Rani Ahilyabai, renovation of temples, religious-cultural upliftment and her visionary leadership to the general public. Also, on this occasion, the principle of "Vikas Bhi, Virasat Bhi" of the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi will also be promoted.

Women empowerment plans will be at the center: Through this campaign, BJP will also tell how the central and state governments have worked towards preserving SC, ST, backward classes, women, home and cottage industries and cultural heritage.

Editorial

The role of state fiscal capacities in national growth

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

Trump as the Republican presidential candidate

With his three-time nomination as the Republican presidential nominee, Trump's hold over the party is incontrovertible. FILE PHOTO: Republican presidential candidate and former US President Donald Trump. REUTERS

Donald Trump and Narendra Modi are both considered conservative or right-wing leaders. But they could not be more dissimilar. One is flamboyant, the other sober; one shoots his mouth off, the other cannot be found making a single indiscreet statement. Though both are constantly in

the news and are international media personalities in their own right, one is constantly controversial, the other consistently charismatic. One was born well-to-do, already a tycoon in his twenties, the other rose from stark poverty to the heights of political and social power. One is extravagant, living lavishly, the other is abstemious and frugal. One has had a colourful, some would say scandalous love life, with multiple marriages and several children from different spouses, the other is known as a lifelong celibate, despite

being married. One embodies the capitalistic, consumeristic ethos, the other is practically a renunciate. Without disrespecting one, we might even say they are as different as chalk and cheese. But there is one respect in which they are similar.

They have totally upended their respective political parties, the very vehicles of their spectacular success. Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is as different from Atal Bihari Vajpayee's as Trump's is from Ronald Reagan's Republican Party. In my last

column I wrote about how Reagan rode to power in 1980 and in two terms established the United States as the dominant power in the world. He adopted a tough foreign policy against the erstwhile Soviet Union, pushing it to what some would say its overdue demise. He also championed free-market capitalism and globalization. Reagan was socially and culturally conservative, coming down heavily against abortion and LGBTQ activism in the name of supposedly traditional American values.

Jammu and Kashmir - A period of transformational change



People stood in long queues to cast their vote in an Assembly election in Jammu and Kashmir after a gap of ten long years. PM Modi called it Naya Kashmir as he aimed his dart at the 'teen khandan', the three dynasties—Congress, JKNC and PDP. It's been a long ten years in the Valley. There have been other decades marked by turbulence. But none like the past decade—a period of transformational change, depending on who is asked. The ten years carry a lot of weight and significance. On 18 September, Kashmiris, for the first time, voted not for a state but a Union Territory. The region's status changed in 2019, following the abrogation of Article 370 by the Modi government. Many other firsts are also taking place during these keenly watched elections: Established political parties being pitched against several Independent candidates, who are backed by organisations like the banned Jamaat-e-Islami; the entry of Engineer Abdul Rashid; and the absence of stalwarts such as Mehbooba Mufti. It led to the political landscape of Jammu and Kashmir

becoming fiercely competitive, which is why the Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir is ThePrint's Newsmaker Of The Week. The main parties in the fray are the INDIA bloc's National Conference (NC) and Congress, the People's Democratic Party (PDP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). During the last election BJP and PDP had entered into an alliance. This election also has the second-highest number of Independent candidates since 2008. These elections carry a lot of political weight for the BJP, even beyond the region. The Modi government has been showcasing the abrogation of Article 370 as one of its key achievements. After the recent delimitation exercise, Kashmir has 47

seats and Jammu has 43. Twenty-four Assembly seats in seven districts went to polls on Wednesday. Delimitation led to an increase in seats in Hindu-dominated Jammu and nine seats being reserved for the Scheduled Tribe community, the BJP is hoping to be a formidable force in Jammu even as it continues to face several challenges in the region. When it comes to the Kashmir valley, BJP has very little influence. For the National Conference too, these elections carry a lot of importance. Former CM of Kashmir and chairperson of NC, Omar Abdullah, lost to Engineer Rashid during the Lok Sabha elections. After making several statements about not contesting elections unless statehood is

restored to J&K, he has decided to take the plunge. BJP has also brought up statehood multiple times. On 7 March this year, while launching an 'Integrated Development of Hazratbal Shrine' in Jammu and Kashmir, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a strong emotional pitch to the people of J&K.

He guaranteed to his "family in J&K" that "under no circumstances would development grind to a halt" in the UT. Modi continued the same rhetoric on Thursday at the rally in support of BJP candidates in Srinagar's Sher-e-Kashmir Stadium. He spoke about BJP's promise to restore Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, empowerment and development. The withdrawal of Article 370 and statehood have emerged as major issues in these elections. Employment is also another significant concern. Quite naturally, the people in the region are divided regarding Article 370. There is deep dissatisfaction in some circles regarding its abrogation.

And as candidates canvas the region, a sense of fear lingers in the air. Dressed in a beige suit with a floral print and an off-white dupatta around her head,

36-year-old PDP leader Iltija Mufti waves to a group of women in a small village in Anantnag. An old woman holds her hands and tells her she wants to whisper something in her ears—her family member is languishing in jail due to a UAPA charge. Most political parties have promised to look into the issue of 'innocent Kashmiris' imprisoned under UAPA and PSA. This air of dissatisfaction has played a significant role in connecting people with the election process. There was a 61.38 per cent turnout of voters in Jammu and Kashmir for the first phase of polling. It overtook the record-breaking turnout for the Lok Sabha elections this year, which was 58.46 per cent. The fact that scores of people are coming out to vote shows how voting itself has become an act of resistance and solidarity. This is in contrast to the last 30 to 40 years. Earlier, such discontent was used to support separatism and extremism, which led to appeals, threats and warnings to boycott the elections. But this time the long queues of voters did not allow that to. But the most important feature of these elections is that they have been quite peace.

Happy to see Indian girls coming up in golf,' says India's first ever female golfer

Among the longest hitters, at 25 years of age, this girl has been wowing golfing fans across the world. Her straight hits cover much ground, leaving onlookers agape. For world no. 41, Aditi Ashok, who has had a spectacular run in the 2023 LET, opens with a much-cherished win on European soil, winning the Ladies Open 2023 season-ending tournament at the Andalucia Costa Del Sol Open (Spain). It's total surrender to the game: she won her fourth Ladies European Tour title at the Kenya Ladies Open, came third in Morocco, and was runner-up in Saudi Arabia (2023). Scratch the calm demeanour, and there is a girl with a plan who wants to hit straighter and longer. Golf consumes her. She recently

reconnected with her childhood coach, Gaurav Diwan, and is "working on my swing speed and distance". From those early years, she turned pro in 2016 and was also rookie of the year, and Ashok is the first Indian female golfer to enter the top 50 world ranking. On a journey that began at age five, she accompanied her father, Ashok Gudlamani, onto the Karnataka Golf Course in Bangalore. One swing and another, and soon she was hooked. Over the years, her resolve, passion, and stoic stance have seen her climb deftly along the ranks of ladies' golf. Putting, she believes, is her strength, and often birdie-ing to perfection, the ramrod straight serious girl with her lips pursed in concentration has beaten

men, trumped tournaments, and is eyeing 2024 as the greens promise victories ahoy. "Finishing in the top 5 in Spain has been heartening after the work I have put in. It has been completely different when compared to where I was in 2022. Then, I was ranked 99 at the LPG. So, the first win (in Kenya) got the ball rolling," smiles Aditi. A miss at the 2020 Olympics (she came fourth), a silver at the Asian Games 2023, she dug deep after an off-kilter season. Having crossed the finish line with wins, she feels failure teaches, victories not so much. "In August, I took a month or two off to prepare for the Asian Games. Even though it had no ranking points and had nothing to do with my LPGA.

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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:

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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 transaction.



Apple will source and manufacture all of its mobile devices in India

Delhi : While stating that Apple "has decided to source and produce all its mobile phones in India in the years to come," telecom minister Jyotiraditya Scindia made the claim that India has become a dependable and cost-effective manufacturing partner for smartphone manufacturers worldwide. At the Bharat Telecom event, Scindia stated that investing in India right now is not only a gesture of goodwill but also economically prudent for all original equipment manufacturers. Thanks to the government's production-linked incentive program, the minister noted, the telecom equipment industry has grown multiple times.

Sales of Rs 80,000 crore, exports of Rs 16,000 crore, and the creation of 25,000 jobs were all outcomes of an investment of Rs 4,000 crore—half a billion dollars in and of



itself.

With that in mind, he went on to say that India's telecom equipment business has also expanded tremendously. According to him, India is currently at the forefront of technological innovation and has not only caught up to the rest of the world in areas such as 4G and 5G, but is also forging its own future through massive reforms. A recent announcement by Apple CEO Tim Cook stated that for the June quarter, the bulk of iPhones sold in the US will be sourced from India, while the majority of smartphones for other markets will be produced in China.

Bank to buy 20% stake

Delhi : The Japanese Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp. (SMBC) will buy a 20% share in Yes Bank for 13,482 crore, marking the highest cross-border investment in the Indian banking sector. SMBC will buy Yes Bank shares from State Bank of India and other shareholders for ₹21.50, valuing the Mumbai-based lender at \$7.9 billion. "SMBC has entered into a definitive agreement on 9 May 2025 to acquire 20% stake in YES Bank through a secondary stake purchase of 13.19% from SBI and 6.81% aggregate stake from other bank shareholders.

Indian Department of Telecom Approves Starlink to Roll Out Satellite Internet

Delhi : A major milestone in India's developing satellite broadband scene has been reached: Elon Musk's Starlink has received crucial regulatory approval to operate in the country. After Starlink agreed to meet India's updated security standards, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) granted the business licenses for GMPCS, VSAT, and Internet service provider (ISP) operations. To corroborate the news, a government official informed MoneyControl, "Yes, Starlink has been issued a LoI by the DoT... the LoI came after it gave an



undertaking to meet license conditions and security protocols under the new revised security guidelines." Once the company has fulfilled all license responsibilities, final approval is anticipated. A greater crackdown on satellite internet companies in India followed the licensing process of Starlink. The

government revised the standards for lawful interception, data localization, gateway security clearance, and local manufacturing compliance the day before the LoI was announced. Starlink will soon receive In-SPACE authorization, according to a source.

Govt is considering expanding US fertiliser imports to address US President concerns

Delhi: After LNG, the government is considering expanding US fertiliser imports to address US President Donald Trump's concerns over India's trade surplus. India will also become less dependent on China and Russia, its key shipping partners.

After the Ukraine war, sanctions on Moscow increased Russian fertiliser imports, like oil. India's trade deficit with Russia grew. Indian fertiliser imports totaled \$8.3 billion in the past financial year, with the US contributing \$300,000. India import-

ed \$86.5 billion in commodities from the US last year and had a \$41 billion trade surplus. The planned bilateral trade agreement with the US will cut tariffs to close the trade gap, but the government also wants to buy more American defense .

BluSmart hoping to acquire Ja's stake and seize control

Delhi : Sources familiar with the matter have revealed that BluSmart investors are attempting to resurrect the ride-hailing company by discussing the possibility of buying out promoter Anmol Singh Jaggi. According to those in the know, the appraisal and due diligence processes are almost finished, and the legal issues surrounding the Jaggi's share transfer are being resolved. The deal, if finalized, would safeguard investors' funds, save drivers' jobs, and reintroduce BluSmart's electric taxis to the roads. The departure of Jaggi, who established the firm six years ago,



would also be a consequence of this. Investors were spearheaded by Jaggi's other company, BP Ventures Engineering Ltd. As of February 2025, investors such as Softbank Mayfield India Fund, 100 Unicorns, Responsibility

Investments, and celebrities like Deepika Padukone and M.S. Dhoni owned the remaining 70.9 percent of BluSmart, according to Tracxn. The promoters held 23.98% of the company.

image.png

Another setback causes Oyo to postpone IPO plans

Delhi: Due to pushback from SoftBank and the unpredictable stock market this year, Oyo Hotels has decided to postpone its October IPO. Sources close to the situation say that SoftBank has expressed concerns about the planned timeframe and has asked Oyo to delay an IPO until its earnings are more stable. With investor appetite for risk dwindling due to Trump's trade policies, Oyo encounters a bleak market in its third attempt to go public since 2021. While Oyo founder Ritesh Agarwal indeed owns more than 30% of the company.

HR issues Some work from home during travel advisories

Delhi: Many organizations have adopted safety protocols, business continuity plans, and flexible work regulations amid escalating border tensions. EY Global Delivery Services (EYGDS) informed staff that their crisis response unit and management are monitoring the situation. American Express reportedly banned employee transportation this week and asked them to work from home. American Express



and EY GDS didn't respond to an email until press time. Panasonic India has encouraged border-state employees to work from home, and AXA Global Business Services has enabled remote working. "We have issued travel advisory to border states in line

with the government directive," said Panasonic Life Solutions India CHRO Adarsh Mishra. Travel recommendations from HDFC Life advise employees to be vigilant, especially near borders. The company has told its teams to postpone or cancel off-site meetings until the situation improves.

"Our administration team and travel desk have been instructed to prioritize cancellations," said HDFC Life CHRO Vibhash Naik.

The UK and India close key trade deal in 'new age' of Trump tariffs

Delhi : Britain and India signed a long-awaited free trade agreement as tariff upheaval caused by U.S. President Donald Trump accelerated commerce in whisky, cars, and food. After three years of stop-start negotiations, the world's fifth and sixth largest economies reached a deal to boost bilateral commerce by 25.5 billion pounds (\$34 billion) by 2040. The Reuters Tariff Watch newsletter provides daily global trade and tariff updates. Join here. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi called the trade accord "ambitious and mutually beneficial". British PM Keir Starmer said the enhanced partnership would lower trade obstacles in a "new era for trade". Nations are



seeking new trade partners and UK-savvy individuals because of Trump's tariffs. India discussions claimed the turbulence had heightened the desire to reach an agreement. The accord will decrease whisky tariffs, allow British enterprises to compete for Indian contracts, and make it easier for Indian workers to work in Britain, benefiting both economies. It shows India opening its long-guarded markets, notably automobiles,

providing an early model for its anticipated approach to major Western countries like the U.S. and the EU. It is Britain's biggest trade deal since leaving the EU in 2020, but its predicted economic production rise of 4.8 billion pounds a year by 2040 is tiny compared to its 2.6 trillion pounds GDP in 2024. The pact will reduce tariffs on 90% of Britain's tariff lines and zero charge on 99% of Indian goods, including textiles.

For 2025-26, I-T Department notifies ITR forms 1, 4

Delhi: Individuals and companies with income up to Rs 50 lakh must file ITR forms 1 and 4 for assessment year (AY) 2025-26 with the income tax department. Anyone with long-term capital gains up to Rs 1.25 lakh in a fiscal year can submit ITR-1. Previously, they had to file ITR-



2. With the notification, individuals, HUFs, corporations with income up to Rs 50 lakh, and

those with business and professional incomes in 2024-25 (April-March) can file I-T returns. ITR Form 1 (Sahaj) and ITR Form 4 (Sugam) are easier forms for many small and medium taxpayers. Sahaj can be filed by a resident with an annual income of up to Rs 50 lakh from

salary, one residential property, other sources (interest), and agricultural income up to Rs 5,000. Individuals, Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs), and firms (other than LLPs) with yearly income up to Rs 50 lakh and business and profession revenue can file sugam.

PM Narendra Modi's resolve made India a digital leader: Jyotiraditya Scindia

Delhi : Union Minister of Communications Jyotiraditya Scindia said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's bold vision and unrelenting resolve had changed India from a digital follower to a global digital leader, converting dreams into infrastructure and policy into progress. The minister told more than 130 foreign delegates from 35 countries at the launch of 'Bharat Telecom 2025' in the national capital that the conference is a declaration of India's intent to shape



global connectivity through innovation, collaboration, and inclusive growth. "When ideas, innovation, and intent come together in harmony, they create not a cacophony but a symphony, and 'Bharat Telecom' is that symphony of global collaboration and opportunity," the minister told the

audience, underlining India's export potential. The Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council (TEPC) and the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) organize the event, which helps India become a global telecom manufacturing, services, and export

Get ready to travel the world with Indian Ports Global!

Delhi: The consortium plans to buy and run twenty ports in various parts of the world, including India, Africa, and Asia. The Indian government-owned Indian Ports Global Ltd is spearheading a consortium that plans to buy and administer

twenty ports across Asia, Africa, and India, according to two sources familiar with the situation. The Iranian firm that runs the famous Chabahar terminal is looking to expand into other ports in the Indian subcontinent.

hub. This is about connecting futures, not just villages. Every tower we build, every byte we send, provides 1.4 billion people opportunity, said

Scindia. We deployed 470,000 towers to connect 99 percent of our villages and 82% of our population to 5G in 22 months.



Free trade deal between India and the UK finalized

Delhi : India and the United Kingdom have finalized a free trade agreement (FTA), which will increase the export of textiles, leather, and engineering goods from India while reducing tariffs on British whisky, cars, and medical devices. The agreement, according to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will facilitate trade, investment, and the creation of jobs. After three years of negotiations, the FTA between the world's fifth and sixth biggest economies was finally finalized.



Modi and Boris Johnson had originally aimed to conclude the accord by October 2022. Differences on a variety of subjects, including alcohol and automotive tariffs, the mobility of Indian professionals, and political unrest in the UK, have since impacted the negotiations.

Concluded amidst worldwide economic uncertainty caused by US President Trump's tariff policies, the accord may pave the way for future pacts of a similar kind with other countries, the US included. With the United States, the European Union, Oman, Peru, and New Zealand, India is presently in the midst of free trade agreement negotiations. Since Britain's departure from the EU in 2020, the FTA has been its most substantial trade agreement.

TBO TEK LIMITED - INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING OPENS ON 08th May, 2024



GURUGRAM : TBO Tek Limited ("The Company" or "TBO"), shall open bids for its initial public offering of Equity Shares on Wednesday, May 08th, 2024. The Offer will close on Friday May 10th, 2024. The Anchor Investor Bidding Date shall be on Tuesday May 07th, 2024. The Price Band of the Offer has been fixed at ₹ 875 to ₹ 920 per Equity Share. Bids can be made for a minimum of 16 Equity Shares and in multiples of 16 Equity Shares thereafter ("Price Band"). The Offer comprises of fresh issue of Equity Shares aggregating to ₹ 4,000.00 million

[₹ 400.00 Crore] (the "Fresh Issue") and an Offer of Sale by certain shareholders of up to 12,508,797 Equity Shares (the "Offer for Sale", and together with the Fresh Issue, the "Offer") ("Total Offer Size"). The Company proposes to utilize net proceeds of the Fresh Issue portion of the Offer towards (i) Growth and Strengthening of its platform by adding new Buyers (defined below) and Suppliers which shall include (a) ₹ 1,350.00 million [₹ 135 crore] towards investment in technology and data solutions by the Company, (b) ₹ 1,000.00

million [₹ 100 crore] towards investment in its Material Subsidiary, Tek Travels DMCC, for onboarding platform users through marketing and promotional activities, and hiring sales and contracting personnel for augmenting the Supplier and Buyers based outside India, (c) ₹ 250.00 million [₹ 25 crore] investment in sales, marketing and infrastructure to support organization's growth plans in India; and (ii) Unidentified inorganic acquisitions and towards general corporate purpose amounting to ₹ 400.00 million.

#Travel With Limca On An Exhilarating Exploration Of Your City

Panipat/Karnal: Coca-Cola India's homegrown heritage brand Limca, India's favorite lemony flavored drink, has launched its exciting new campaign, #TravelWithLimca. Launching Triptii Dimri as the Limca girl, the campaign is built on the idea that there is a whole world waiting to be discovered right in our neighborhoods. The #TravelWithLimca campaign encourages people to discover new hotspots within their cities. Conceptualized by Studio X, the campaign film takes viewers on a vibrant journey alongside Triptii Dimri as she embarks on a bus ride that takes her on a delightful city exploration. As the bus rattles through the streets, with the first sip of the ultimate thirst quencher, Limca, a layer of happiness envelops her, igniting a sense of excitement and curiosity. Energized by the refreshing taste, Triptii's journey takes an enchanting turn, setting

out to traverse through the hidden gems of her city. From bustling markets to sizzling street snack shops, she uncovers the rich experiences, inspiring consumers to tour the city with a refreshing Limca. Expressing her excitement about joining the Limca family, Triptii Dimri said, "I am very happy and excited to be a part of Limca. Exploring new places and experiencing different cultures has always been my passion, and I am thrilled to encourage others to do the same. Together with Limca, I look forward to embarking on this exciting journey of discovery." Ruchira Bhattacharya, Senior Director, Marketing – Hydration, Sports and Tea Category, India and South-West Asia Operating Unit at The Coca-Cola Company, said, "With its legacy of lime and lemony credentials, Limca has been rejuvenating consumers with its unique taste for 5 decades. We are thrilled

to launch the #TravelWithLimca campaign featuring Triptii Dimri as our new Limca face. With this campaign, we hope to encourage people to get out there and discover the beauty of their own cities and refresh themselves with a chilled Limca! Mukund VML, Chief Strategy Officer, Studio X said, "There are so many places in one's own city that are waiting to be discovered. The #Travel with Limca campaign encourages you to live your city to the fullest. Everything in the commercial is localized to the city - from the name of the bus stop to the illustrations. Triptii with her effervescent attitude was not just great to work with but also is the perfect Limca girl." As part of the campaign, the brand will be running a promotional offer until 30th June, where consumers stand a chance to win travel vouchers from DMRC, Ease.

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.

AADHAR HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING OF EQUITY SHARES OPENS ON MAY 8, 2024

GURUGRAM : Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (the "Company"), proposes to open the initial public offering of its Equity Shares on Wednesday, May 8, 2024. ("Offer") The initial public offering comprises a fresh issue of Equity Shares aggregating to ₹ 10,000 million ("Fresh Issue") and an offer of sale of up to such number of Equity Shares aggregating up to ₹ 20,000 million by BCP Topco VII Pte. Ltd. (the "Promoter Selling Shareholder")



("Offer for Sale" and together with the Fresh Issue, the "Offer"). The Company proposes to utilize the Net Proceeds from the Fresh Issue, (i) to meet future capital requirements towards onward lending; and (ii) general corporate purposes. The Equity Shares are being offered

through the Red Herring Prospectus dated April 30, 2024 ("RHP") filed with the Registrar of Companies, Karnataka at Bangalore ("RoC"). The Equity Shares issued through the RHP are proposed to be listed on the Stock Exchanges being BSE Limited ("BSE") and

National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("NSE" together with BSE, the "Stock Exchanges"). For the purposes of the Offer, the designated stock exchange shall be NSE. Amit Dixit, Head of Private Equity Asia, Blackstone, said, "The listing is a significant milestone for Aadhar Housing Finance Limited, and its transformation is a great example of what we do best: Building businesses that build India. We brought our scale,

Ex-army man from Kalimpong 'tricked' into Russian Army

KALIMPONG: A 47-year-old man from Kalimpong allegedly tricked into a job in the Russian army has appealed to the government in a video message to rescue him before he is sent to fight Ukraine. Urgen Tamang, a resident of Chibo-Purbung in Kalimpong, speaking in Hindi in the 3-minute video, has blamed recruitment "agents" for duping him promising employment opportunities abroad as a security guard but recruited him in the Russian Army without his consent and that he is now compelled to fight the ongoing

war against Ukraine. In the video, Tamang claimed that he was misled by agents regarding the job, as he was initially informed that the job was for a security guard position in Moscow, Russia. He had reached Moscow on January 19 this year where he was received by a Gorkha/Nepali individual who subsequently accommodated him in a hotel for a night. The next day he was sent to a group of Tamil agents where he stayed for a night. He was then lodged in a hotel for about 10 days before being relocated to an

army camp. "I was taken to the army camp for normal training for approximately 18 days. There, I was asked to sign a bond. Thereafter, I was transferred to a jungle camp where I received training on handling guns and ammunition. It became evident that we were being prepared for frontline combat for the Ukraine War," Tamang had said in the video requesting the Government of India to help and rescue him. Speaking to TOI, his 44-year-old wife, Ambika Tamang said she has not spoken to her husband

since March 22. In their last communication, Tamang had mentioned that the Russians were taking them somewhere further from the camp. "I don't know which camp, I don't know if he meant the jungle camp or the army camp. He cannot even understand the language there and he is alone, I don't know what to do". Ambika said. When asked about how he found himself in that situation, Ambika said that her husband doesn't talk much and he didn't tell her about his Russian relocation in depth.

The group of students at a primary school in Bastar district took a stand against a teacher

NEW DELHI: The group of students at a primary school in Chhattisgarh's Bastar district took a stand against a teacher who arrived intoxicated. The viral video depicts the intense scene as the teacher hastily starts his motorbike amidst a barrage of slippers thrown by the students, ultimately fleeing the premises. This dramatic confrontation sheds light on the challenges faced by students in accessing quality education and the pressing need for accountability within the education system. As per the 'X' post, the incident took place at Pilibhatta Primary School, where the teacher's recurrent presence in class while under the influence of alcohol had

become a growing concern. Rather than fulfilling his teaching duties, he frequently resorted to sleeping on the floor, disregarding the needs of his students. Frustrated by his behavior, the students confronted him, only to face verbal abuse in return. Matters reached a tipping point when the teacher arrived intoxicated once again last week, prompting the students to take decisive action. This incident is not isolated, as another disturbing event recently surfaced in Chhattisgarh's Bilaspur district. A teacher was caught on camera openly carrying alcohol onto school premises, displaying a blatant disregard for the stan-

dards of conduct expected in such settings. The footage serves as a stark reminder of the urgent need for enhanced oversight and accountability measures within educational institutions. Such incidents not only tarnish the reputation of the education system but also have detrimental effects on the well-being and academic progress of students. As these videos continue to circulate online, they serve as a clarion call for authorities to address systemic issues and ensure that students are provided with a safe and conducive learning environment. Reactions on post In response to the viral video, social media.

Amazon India launches 'Sushruta'- a comprehensive health and wellness program for truck drivers



ROHTAK : Amazon India today announced the launch of 'Sushruta', a comprehensive health and wellness program for truck drivers. Amazon works with over 350 trucking partners who employ thousands of truck drivers. The initiative aims to prioritize the health needs of these truck drivers,

who spend a significant part of their working day on the road. In addition, it will raise awareness about long-term health practices, which will be beneficial to truck drivers and their families. A series of health camps are being organized in Bengaluru, Manesar (Haryana), and other parts of the country

for truck drivers, offering screenings for over 70 health parameters. Organized in collaboration with NGOs such as Premansh Foundation, Anchal Health Centre and DocOnline, the inaugural camp in Bengaluru in January 2024 and the recently concluded camp in Manesar was a significant success with

encouraging participation from truck drivers. Arun Kumar Singh, Director, Amazon Transportation Services, India, emphasizes, "At Amazon, we recognize the challenges truck drivers face, including neglected health due to long hours on the road.

Congress MLA Suresh Routray's son Manmath joins BJD

BHUBNESWAR: Six-time Congress MLA Suresh Routray's son Manmath Routray has officially joined the ruling BJD in Odisha on Wednesday. Manmath, a former commercial pilot, made his entry into the BJD at the party headquarters in a procession accompanied by his supporters. He was inducted into the party by its MPs Manas Mangaraj and Sasmit Patra. "I will work for the ideology of my father and also Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. Both leaders have one agenda in life and that is development. I will work for the development of Odisha," he said. Suresh Routray had on Tuesday said that he wanted his son to contest elections as a Congress candidate. "I accept Manmath's decision of joining the BJD as he is mature enough to make decisions on his political

Paytm shares start flat on bourses after declining 3.74%

NEW DELHI:

Shares of One97 Communication, owner of brand Paytm, were trading flat on BSE and NSE. Shares were trading at 391.00, marking an increase of 0.68% or 2.65 points from its previous close at 09:27 am.

Earlier, shares of Paytm dropped by 3.74% to settle at 380.45 on Thursday, after hitting upper-circuit for four consecutive session.

The stock prices, on Wednesday rose to Rs 395.25 and Rs 395.05 on the BSE and NSE, respectively, defying broader market trends.

This surge follows Paytm's recovery from a recent slump, with its stock rebounding more than 21% from last Thursday. Reports indicate that Enforcement Directorate(ED) found no significant violations of foreign exchange rules in its ongoing investigation into Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL). However, it came



across some lapses in the company's KYC processes and reporting of suspicious transactions. The scrutiny on Paytm has intensified as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) tightens oversight on fintech firms globally. Recent actions by the RBI include directing to cease certain operations of PPBL due to non-compliance issues, affecting One97 Communications despite its 49% stake in the banking entity. The RBI's stricter stance comes as concerns over customer due diligence, data privacy, and systemic risks prompt a reevaluation of oversight mechanisms, primarily

focusing on digital customer identification practices. In response, the RBI has increased inspections and meetings with fintech companies, aiming to tighten compliance and ensure the integrity of the financial ecosystem. The evolving regulatory landscape may lead to higher compliance and capital requirements for fintech firms, potentially resulting in sector consolidation. Industry stakeholders like Ashish Fafadia of Blume Ventures believe this scrutiny will foster compliance and support investment in law-abiding companies.

Premature move on monetary policy front could undermine efforts to check inflation: RBI

MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank of India's job to bring down inflation is not over, and any premature move on the policy front could undermine the success achieved so far on the price situation, according to RBI governor Shaktikanta Das. According to the minutes of the February Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting released by the central bank on Thursday, Das had said at this juncture, monetary policy must remain vigilant and "not assume that our job on the inflation front is over". He stressed that the MPC must remain



committed to successfully navigate the "last mile" of disinflation that can be sticky. Das made the remarks while voting for status quo in the key interest rate earlier this month.

"As markets are front-running central banks in anticipation of policy pivots, any premature move may undermine the success achieved so far," the governor said, as per the minutes.

100% FDI in space sector a game changer: IN-SPACE chairman Pawan

BENGALURU: A day after the union cabinet, in line with the Centre's reforms to open up the space sector, allowed 100% foreign direct investment (FDI) under the automatic route, space regulator and promoter Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre

(IN-SPACE) chairman Pawan Goenka termed it a "game-changing decision that will propel India to new heights in the space sector". Lauding PM Narendra Modi's vision Goenka said the move will boost participation of non-government entities in space research and man-

ufacturing. "By opening doors for massive investment and global collaboration, this move will transform India's space capabilities," he said. Elaborating on the impact, Goenka said that this reform comes at an opportune time when the space sector is witnessing massive growth.

CAPSULES

Byju Raveendran, board to skip 'procedurally invalid' extraordinary general meeting

MUMBAI: A day ahead of the extraordinary general meeting (EGM) which a group of Byju's major investors have called to seek removal of Byju Raveendran from position of CEO as well as a reconstitution of the firm's board, Byju's said that Raveendran and the board members will not attend the EGM which it said is "procedurally invalid." Following the resignation of representatives of Prosus, Peak XV Partners and Chan Zuckerberg Initiative from the board of Byju's in June last year, it has been reduced to a family-run entity, comprising Raveendran, his wife and co-founder Gokulnath and his brother Riju Raveendran. "This EGM is procedurally invalid, contractually in contravention of our AOA (Articles of Association) and SHA (Shareholders Agreement), legally on the wrong side of the Companies Act, 2013," a company spokesperson said in a statement on Thursday. Byju's said that with Raveendran and board members deciding to skip the EGM, it will not have the required quorum and cannot proceed to discuss or vote on the agenda. "As custodians of Byju's, it is the responsibility of the founders to respect the established procedures of law and protect the company's integrity," the company added. The EGM is supposed to take place on Friday morning, according to the EGM notice reviewed by. Investors claim that they will hold the EGM as per plan but if the resolutions are put to vote, then they will test the law in court, lawyers said.

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 geographies. "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.

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

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



further intensifying the struggle for deposits in the banking industry. This democratization of technology is fundamentally changing the dynamics of financial savings, to the disadvantage of traditional high-street banks.

As of September 2023, the collective CASA ratio (current and savings account deposits) of all commercial banks in India stands at 40.5%, down from 43.1% in March 2023 and 45.2% in March 2022. This is a decline of nearly 5 per-

centage points in 18 months, according to report. One of the reasons for the decline in CASA ratios could be the increase in bank fixed deposit rates. State Bank of India's CASA ratio dropped to 41.18% as of December 31, 2023, a decline of 330 basis points compared to the previous year. P R Rajagopal, executive director of Bank of India, highlighted the shift in savings patterns, particularly in urban areas. Digitization has provided savers with access to alternative savings products like mutual funds, reducing their reliance.

'India to be small aircraft maker ATR's biggest market in 5 years'

NEW DELHI: Franco-Italian regional aircraft major ATR sees India emerge as its biggest market in the next five years. And as that happens, the turboprop-maker says "it will be foolish not to increase our footprint here" in terms of sourcing of components, pilot



training and others. "India currently has 65 ATRs - 45 with IndiGo and 20 with Alliance Air. IndiGo is to get five more. Startup carrier Fly91 (which is being launched by aviation industry veteran Manoj Chacko) will get its first leased ATR anytime now and the second in a week or so," Jean-Pierre Clercin, ATR's head of commercial for Asia Pacific, said. "Indonesia has about 100 ATRs and is currently our biggest market. India and Brazil come after that. But the way Indian econo-

my and air travel in the country is booming, within five years India will have the maximum ATRs given the government's focus on regional air transport through udesh ka aam naagrik (UDAN) scheme," Clercin said. ATR feels India will need 50-150 such planes in the next decade. "That is the official estimation. But given the way India is developing, the actual number could be even higher. Much higher," he said. The turboprop major is in talks with several Indian airlines for more orders.

Foreigners pursue every avenue to access hot India bond trade

Overseas investors are showing such keen interest in India assets that they are taking proxy exposure to the country even if they don't have the license or physical presence to trade there. Foreign funds lacking direct access to India's \$1 trillion government debt market are increasing their exposure via instruments such as supranational bonds and swaps ahead of the nation's upcoming inclusion in global bond indexes. There's an "increased engagement from global investors, with momentum picking up this year," said Siddharth Bachawat, head for markets at Barclays Bank India. "In addition to interest from index-tracking managers ahead of the inclusion, discretionary activity from a



wider investor base has also been notable." Indian sovereign bonds have gained prominence after JPMorgan Chase & Co's move to add them to its global debt indexes from June. The number of issuances by sovereign, supranational and agency entities offering investors an exposure to the country rose to a record in 2023, with the value of such offerings reaching \$3.2 billion, a five-year high, data compiled by

Bloomberg show. "There's been a marked increase in the sales of rupee-denominated supranational, sovereign and agency debt," said Wontae Kim, research analyst at Western Asset Management. Investors such as William Blair Investments and M&G Investments are venturing into supranational bonds. Issued by multilateral agencies like the World Bank and denominated in Indian rupees, these

triple-A rated notes give overseas investors exposure to local debt without having to secure a license to operate onshore. "Given India's disinflation trend and improved technical outlook with impending index inclusion, we favor duration in India," said Johnny Chen, fund manager at William Blair in Singapore. Also, buyers don't have to pay 20% withholding tax as these securities are settled offshore, which results in higher yields, according to Claudia Calich, head of emerging-market debt at M&G Investments in London. "Even if the pretax yield on supranational bonds tends to be lower than on India government debt, the yield is higher on an after-tax basis.

Attach bank accounts of ex-promoters of DHFL: Sebi



NEW DELHI: Markets regulator Sebi has ordered the attachment of bank accounts as well as shares and mutual fund holdings of Dheeraj Wadhawan and Kapil Wadhawan - former promoters of Dewan Housing Finance - to recover dues totalling over Rs 22 lakh. This came after the brothers failed to pay the fine imposed on them by Sebi in July last year in a case concerning the flouting of disclosure norms. The pending dues of Rs 10.6 lakh each from the Wadhawans comprise the initial penalty amount, interest, and recovery cost, it added. In July 2023, the regulator imposed a Rs 10 lakh penalty each on Wadhawans.