AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

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MORNING EDITION PRAYAGRAJ

Saturday, 08 Februay, 2025 UNIQUE GIFT OF KRIYAYOGA ASHRAM AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE TO GIVE IMPETUS TO WORLD BUILDING AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.

FIR lodged against Arvind Kejriwal over Yamuna water remarks

NEW DELHI: An FIR has been registered against Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convenor and former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal over his statements regarding the Yamuna river water and allegations against the Haryana government.

Following a court order, hours before the Delhi elections, FIR was lodged at Shahabad Police Station in Kurukshetra, Haryana, against Kejriwal and other unidentified AAP members under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Facing political attacks from BJP leaders, Kejriwal now finds himself entangled in legal trouble over his remarks on the Yamuna. The Haryana government earlier this week filed a criminal complaint against him, with Haryana Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Vipul Goel confirming that a case has been registered against Kejriwal in a Sonipat court under the Disaster Management Act.

Speaking to journalists after chairing a meeting of the urban local bodies department, Goel criticised Kejriwal's remarks as "absurd and misleading." He demanded that the Election Commission take strict cognisance of such "baseless statements," accusing the former Delhi CM of engaging in "cheap politics" ahead of the elections."The water supplied to Delhi is the same water consumed by the President, Prime Minister, and Union Ministers," Goel said, accusing Kejriwal of spreading fear among both Delhi

Delhi assembly election: AAP hattrick or BJP comeback?

NEW DELHI: In a few hours on Saturday, the fate of a high-octane electoral contest for Delhi's 70 assembly seats will be known. While the contest to form the next govt is largely considered to be between the incumbent AAP and BJP, which has sat in the opposition since 1998, Congress might disrupt the calculations of the two with a surprise or two. The counting of votes will begin at 8am and the broad trends will be available as early as 10.30am. By 1pm, Delhi may well know who will govern the city for the next five years. While AAP and Congress fielded 70 candidates each, BJP contested 68, leaving two to its two allies, Janata Dal (United) and Loktantrik Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas). But there were 699 candidates in total - 603 men, 95 women and a third-gender contestant. Over 60.5% of voters, or 9,451,997 of 15,614,000 electors, visited the polling statons on Feb 5.Delhi's chief electoral officer, R Alice Vaz, said the electronic voting machines were secure in 70 strong rooms, each for one assembly constituency, under multi-layered security across 19 loca-



tions. Screenshot 2025-02-06 055718

Most exit polls have predicted a close contest, with BJP given the edge in terms of seats and vote share. Winning a minority 28 seats, AAP formed the govt with the outside support of Congress in 2013, which lasted only 49 days. The subsequent election in 2015 saw the party gain a massive mandate with 67 of 70 seats in its kitty. In 2020, AAP reprised its triumph, winning 62 seats while BJP got the remaining eight. Congress again failed to open its account. None of the parties are laying any store by the exit polls. AAP senior Saurabh Bharadwaj told reporters on Wednesday that the exit polls had similarly predicted defeat in 2013 and 2015 and victory in 2020 but with fewer seats. "Exit

polls have always shown AAP getting fewer votes But in several areas of my constituency, people stopped their vehicles to tell me AAP would win," he claimed.

AAP sought a third term based on its performance in health, education, water and other sectors, including providing free power and water to frugal consumers and free bus rides to women in public transport. It has promised more welfare schemes for women, senior citizens and other sections of society.Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva exuded optimism of his party being elected with a huge margin. "Our victory will be more spectacular than what exit polls show," he asserted on Friday. BJP, which has been out of office for nearly 26 yeare.

India protests mistreatment, okays deportation of 96 more

NEW DELHI: India has out the possibility of PM Significantly, Misri also protested the US handling of Indian deportees, who arrived hand-San Antonio in a military plane on February 5, confirmed the government while officially announcing Narendra Modi's visit to Washington on February 12-13. Government sources, who confirmed that there are 96 more verified Indian nationals who may be deported to

Narendra Modi himself raising the mistreatment issue with President cuffed and shackled from Donald Trump in what will be their first bilateral meeting since the latter's inauguration.

"Yes, we have registered our concerns with the US (on mistreatment)," said foreign secretary Vikram Misri, responding to a query from TOI about whether India had, like Brazil, officially protested the treatment meted India soon, did not rule out to its citizens.

said at a media briefing that the military deportation to Amritsar, compared to earlier flights in the past, was of "slightly different nature" as the Trump administration has characterised deportation as a national security operation. "That's perhaps one of the reasons why a military plane was used," he said. Misri also revealed that, as of now, there are 487 presumed Indian.

IIT-Roorkee student dies by suicide, third case in year

ROORKEE: A 19-year- at Kasturba Bhavan old second-year BTech was found dead in her hostel room Tuesday, the third stuinstitute in a year. No suicide note was found, and police have launched an investigathe incident.

Anshu Malaiya, a resident of Itarsi in Madhya Pradesh, had been alone in her room

hostel since Tuesday student at IIT-Roorkee afternoon. In the evening, a fellow student came to meet her but found the door dent suspected to have locked from inside and died by suicide at the alerted the authorities. "Our team reached the spot, broke open the door, and recovered the body. We did not tion into the cause of find any suicide note. Her mobile phone and laptop are passwordprotected, and efforts are being made to unlock them.

Odisha HC grants bail to thief with 'sapling plants' condition

Orissa

An Orissa HC judge has granted bail to a man facing prosecution for alleged theft on the condition that he plant 200 saplings of local varieties such as mango, neem, and tamarind around his village in Jharsuguda district and maintain them for two years, reports Lalmohan Patnaik.Manas Ati had been in judicial custody since December 25 last vear for allegedly stealing six electric poles in villages under Kolabira police.

In touch with US over deportees being handcuffed, shackled: MEA

NEW DELHI: Foreign secretary Vikram Misri on Friday said India has always raised the issue that people, including those who have been deported, should be properly behaved with. Misri's response came on a question regarding the manner in which illegal Indian migrants were deported by the US in handcuffs and shackles.

and Haryana's citizens.

"We are in touch with the American officials over this. We are in constant touch

Centre's Rs 1 lakh crore urban infra fund challenges states to think like startups

The Budget proposes an Urban Challenge Fund (UCF) of Rs 1 lakh crore to encourage states to think innovatively towards attaining sustainable urbanisation and redevelopment goals in existing cities.

The grant is expected to infuse around Rs 4 lakh crore for infrastructure development, achieving saturation and implementing redevelopment projects. An allocation of Rs 10,000 crore is proposed for 2025-'26," FM Nirmala Sitharaman said in her speech.

UCF would help implement proposals for 'Cities as Growth Hubs', 'Creative.



with them, and we have always said that the people, including those who have been deported, should be properly behaved with," Misri said, adding that more deportation flight will be arriving in India soon.

"The description by the EAM of the standard operating procedure relating to the use of restraints which has been communicated to us by US authorities including the immigration and customs enforcement. EAM attracted attention to the fact that these have been in practice for a long period of time...On the issue of mistreatment, it is a valid issue to raise and we continue to emphasise.

Haryana families fear ruin as USA deports illegal immigrants, fear for children's future

JIND: After US President Donald Trump deported the first batch of illegal immigrants from an army plane, families in Haryana deeply concerned. Family members who are now filled with fear are now unable to sleep at night due to the growing anxiety and action being taken by Trump. Family members say that the children insisted on going, forcing them to send them to the USA by selling land and valuables through the dangerous "donkey route." Agents charged over 40 lakhs per person to send the children via this route. Now, if the children are deported, the families will be ruined. Talking to, Suresh Kumar, a retired army personnel and a native of Khark Bhura village in Uchana town of Jind district, is at a loss for words after his son Rohit Sharma (21), was deported in first batch.

"My son went to the UK on January 20, 2024, after completing his graduation. He initially went there on a study visa, but later decided to go to America. He NEW DELHI: reached America a few days ago, but was caught there. I haven't received any official communication from the authorities; instead, I learned about his return to India after the village touch with my son for the professionals. past 15 days, and I don't but I take solace.

'Voters more than Maharashtra adult population': Rahul Gandhi alleges irregularities; EC

NEW DELHI: Leader of opposition in Lok Sabha and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, along with Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut and NCP-SCP MP Supriya Sule, on Friday alleged discrepancies in the voter list for the recently concluded Maharashtra elections.

Addressing a joint press conference in the national capital, Rahul claimed that the opposition had uncovered "many irregularities" after scrutinising voter data. Clear Winner EmergesClose Contest Between Parties

Rahul said, "We represent on this table - the entire opposition that fought the election Maharashtra. We are going to bring some information about the election. We studied the details - the voters and the voting list. Our teams have been working, and we have found many irregularities." Highlighting the numbers, Congress leader

alleged that while 32 lakh

voters were added over

five years between the

2019 Vidhan Sabha elec-

tions and the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, a 39 lakh voters were included in the rolls within just five months between the Lok Sabha elections and the Vidhan Sabha elections.

"The question is, who are these 39 lakh voters? That is equivalent to the total number of voters of Himachal Pradesh. The second point is, why are there voters Maharashtra than the entire voting population of the state? Somehow, the voters have been suddenly created in Maharashtra," he alleged. Rahul further accused the Election Commission of ignoring repeated requests to investigate the anomalies. "We have been saying to the Election Commission that we are finding anomalies. We need the voter listnames and addresses of the voters. of Maharashtra. We need the voter list of the Lok Sabha election. We need the voter list of the Vidhan Sabha election. Because we want to understand exactly who these new additions are.

Become a leader in project management with IIT Delhi's **Project Management**

Vatika Times

In a world driven by rapid technological advancements and ever-evolving market dynamics, project management has become the cornerstone of organisational success. A 33% growth rate in project management jobs is expected by 2027, resulting in 21.7 million project sarpanch and local police management jobs in India, as per NASScontacted me to confirm COM1. This signifies an explosive his details. I haven't been in demand for skilled project management

Whether it's launching new products, know what has happened streamlining processes, or driving innoto him. I am unable to do vation, businesses are increasingly anything at the moment, reliant on adept project managers to navigate complexity and uncertainty.

Elon Musk's reply to DOGE update: This morning, 20 consulting contracts

Washington: Tesla CEO Elon Musk**led task** force – Department Government Efficiency recently announced the cancellation of 20 consulting contracts on February 3, primarily related to "strategic communication" and "executive coaching," resulting in a \$26 million savings for taxpayers.

Announcing the same on X, it wrote "This morning, 20 consulting contracts, mostly

focused on "strategic aire Elon Musk to lead communication" and "executive coaching," were terminated for immediate savings of \$26mm." Quoting the post, the

Tesla CEO wrote "Another description for these types of payments is 'money laundering',". Donald

President Trump established the Department Government Efficiency (DOGE) through an executive order, appointing the billion-

the initiative. DOGE's primary objective is to modernize streamline operations, aiming to reduce government spending and enhance productivity.

The department has reportedly been granted access to sensitive data from agencies such as the Treasury Department, focusing on identifying and eliminating waste and fraud. However, this access.

Kameshwar Chaupal Valmiki of present era: Pawan Srivastava AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: Kameshwar Chaupal ji, National Vice President of Vishwa Hindu Parishad, in-charge of Bihar State Vishwa Hindu Parishad and permanent member of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Tirtha Kshetra Trust, who laid the first brick on 9 November 1989 for the foundation of the grand and divine temple built at the birthplace of Lord



Shri Ram in Ayodhya, died suddenly today. Former district minister of Vishwa Hindu Parishad and nominated councilor Pawan Srivastava expressed deep grief on his death and said that those who had the privilege of laying the brick before the construction of the temple called him Valmiki of the present era.

He further said that former MP Kameshwar Chaupal, who was born and brought up in Bihar on 24 April 1956, was associated with Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and always remained dedicated to the service of the nation. He passed away today at the age of 70, which is an irreparable loss for Ram Bhakt and patriots. For the peace of the departed soul, two minutes of silence was observed and prayers were offered to God to grant a place to the departed soul at his feet and provide the family with the strength to bear the loss. Among those who expressed condolences were Mrs. Poonam, Sant Anurag, Sant Gaurish Ahuja, Alok Srivastava, Shailendra Srivastava, Sandeep Chauhan, Shubhendu Srivastava,

NIPUN Bharat Mission, UP: Progress across last five years

Varanasi: Uttar Pradesh's journey towards FLN started with the launch of Mission Prerna by Hon'ble CM, Uttar Pradesh in March 2020. Administering the 'Prerna Shapath' to key departmental officials, Hon'ble CM, Uttar Pradesh made a public commitment to ensure every child attains Foundational Literacy & Numeracy by 2025-26. With the launch of the national mission, UP adopted the national mission guidelines while maintaining its commitment to make all students 'NIPUN'.

Led by charismatic state leadership of DGSE and SPD, Shri Vijay Kiran Anand, IAS, the state embarked on a journey of transforming the primary education system, orienting the cadre on a single goal-ensuring every school attains NIPUN Lakshays for every child. A massive orientation & energization efforts were undertaken for every cadre at Mandal, District, Block, Cluster and school level. Teaching-Learning Materials (TLMs): As a part of the mission, classrooms in the state underwent massive transformation, with the bland walls transformed by color full print rich materials.

To foster effective and engaging learning environments, all schools in the state have been equipped with comprehensive educational resources, including textbooks, workbooks, teacher guides (Sandarshika), print-rich materials, math kits, and a competency monitoring tool "Talika". Additionally, big books, illustrated story posters for Hindi, math storybooks, and math posters were introduced to improve reading comprehension and numeracy skills. All five lac teachers in UP have a clearly defined lesson plan, activity & resource list available at their disposal, reducing their time & effort on planning & supporting increased time spent on classroom instructions. Every student gets an opportunity to practise what is being taught in the classroom through thoughtfully designed worksheets, one for each day. This given teachers an opportunity to strengthen instruction in classroom while assuring parents to visibly observe the learning that their children are undergoing in classroom.

Jayant Chaudhary inaugurates **NSDC** International Academy

Varanasi: Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Hon'ble Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and Minister of State, Ministry of Education inaugurated the NSDC International Academy, a state-of-the-art facility designed to provide world-



class skill development and training programmes. The NSDC International Academy is a landmark initiative designed to bridge the gap between Indian youth and global employment opportunities. It will serve as a centre of excellence, offering specialized training programs aligned with the skill demands of

countries like Germany, Japan, and Israel. Shri Chaudhary flagged off the departure of 11 candidates headed to Germany and toured the NSDC International Academy, engaging with students enrolled in its programs and also experienced the AI and VR facilities, advanced labs present at the centre, interacted with students about their life journeys, and offered them motivation.

Delivering his address, Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Hon'ble Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and Minister of State, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India mentioned, "We must recognize that young India is breaking barriers, moving beyond traditional career paths, and looking at new opportunities. The NSDC International Academy is a testament to this shift-equipping our youth with the skills, confidence, and global exposure they need to succeed. A great building and infrastructure are important, but the real strength of any institution is its people-the trainers, students, and programs that drive it. With our skilling budget increasing from ?3,300 crores to ?6,100 crores, we are strengthening initiatives like this academy, ensuring young Indians get industry-relevant training, language skills, and cultural readiness. A Viksit Bharat by 2047 will be built by individuals ready to take on global challenges, and our job is to make sure they have the right support to get there.'

Lecture series 'Aanchal se Parcham tak' organized at Hamidia Girls Degree College

Prayagraj: The inaugural ceremony of the lecture series of the Golden Jubilee year of the college 'Aanchal se Parcham Tak' was organized at Hamidia Girls Degree College today on 07.02.25. In which the chief guest was Professor Manmohan Krishna, former Head of the Department of Economics and the special guest was Professor Ashish Saxena, Head of the Department of Sociology, Allahabad University, Prayagraj.

The first lecture of the lecture series "Women's Entrepreneurship: Status, Challenges and Opportunities" was organized by the Department of Sociology. A detailed lecture was held on developing entrepreneurship among women and the challenges they face. In the inaugural ceremony of the program, the chief guest

Professor Manmohan Krishna encouraged the students for women's entrepreneurship and said that the changing times have to be understood. Create your own identity. Identify where women are in the market. There is inequality in society, women still do not have the right to take decisions or they have it in very few areas. Talking about the invisible woman, he said that women do a lot of work but their representation in the market is very less, their work is neglected because it lacks quality. Decisions have to be taken to do something. He suggested ways for the students to become self-sufficient. Explaining the meaning of entrepreneurship, he said that where the risk starts, the enterprise is born there. Ambedkar's words



women. You study and then fight, that is, first generate confidence and ability in yourself and then stand up for your rights. You all should think about production through small efforts, become a producer instead of living the life of a consumer and in the present times, use online platforms

as well. While motivating the girl students, the special guest Professor Ashish Saxena said that women need to free themselves and should try to find equality in inequality. They should be self-committed to achieve their goals and along with that, they should become innovative and take

a step towards entrepreneurship. There is a lot of competition in the field of entrepreneurship, so increase your capacity, generate quality skills and move towards alternative routes. New heights can be achieved by mixing modern technology with the available Indian resources. Prin-

cipal Professor Naseha Usmani welcomed the guests. The program started with praise of God, which was presented by BA third year student Alshifa. The guests were welcomed with flower plants and mementos. All the teaching staff of the college, undergraduate, postgraduate students and alumni also participated in the program. The students asked various questions related to entrepreneurship to the chief guests and received satisfactory answers. The program was conducted by Professor Iram Farid Usmani Sociology Department and the vote of thanks was given by Dr. Zarina Begum Associate Professor Urdu Department. The program was convened by Dr. Iram Farid Usmani, Organizing Secretary Mrs. Sharmin Fatima and Hussain Bano Sociology Department.

Devotees taking deep dive in cultural progs of Kalagram

PRAYAGRAJ

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Prayagraj: The performance of renowned singer Dr. Sushmita Jha was a special attraction in the cultural programs during Mahakumbh 2025 at Kalagram located in Sector

touched the hearts of the audience and gave them an unforgettable experience. She filled the entire audience gallery with Shiva by presenting Ganpati Stotra "Ajam Nirvikalpam, "He Jag

were recalled to empower

The program started with the presentation of Pandavani song by Dushyant Dwivedi from Chhattisgarh. He brought to the hearts of the audience many incidents like the



mesmerized the audience with her melodious voice on the grand stage. Sushmita Jha presented her famous songs as well as devotional music, which added a new shade of music to the spiritual atmosphere of Mahakumbh. Her bhajans

Krishna Damodaram Ram "Jehan Kishori Mori Tehne Kishor Hai" and "Shiv Ho Uttarab Par Kaon Vidhi". A unique confluence of faith and culture is being seen in Kalagram, which is showcasing the richness of Indian cultural heritage.

7 by the Ministry of Culture, Palak He Lakshmi Pati", dialogue between Lord Government of India. She "Achyutam Keshavam Krishna and Arjun and the marriage of Draupadi along with the incidents of Mahabharata through Pandavani singing. After this, Abhilash Chaubey and his team from Madhya Pradesh presented the Badhai dance and made the audience dance to the beats

of the dholak. Shekhar Niranjan Bhakare and his team from Maharashtra presented the Songi Bharud dance. Rashika Kaul and his team from Jammu and Kashmir presented the Kashmiri Pandit folk dance. Jitendra Baloni and his team from Uttarakhand presented Bhadiya Chofula, a dance performed by Goddess Parvati to please Lord Shiva, and received a lot of applause from the audience. After this, Durga Devi and her team presented the famous folk dance of Teratali. Rajasthan, Padmashri Drona presented the Devdhani dance of Assam and Pili Mentaraju presented the Garagalu dance of Andhra Pradesh. Shri Ram Bhartiya Kala Kendra enthralled the audience by presenting a dance drama based on Ramayana. under the direction of Manoj Kumar Singh. On this occasion, a large number of spectators and all the charge director of the cen-

Lakshmi Narayan Yajna for destroying sins of many births: Jiyar Swami AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: The Kalash Yatra was taken out with great pomp for the Sri Laxmi Narayan Maha Yagya to be held in Sector Number Eight of Mahakumbh Nagar under the guidance of Jiyar Swami Maharaj. Thousands of male and female devotees participated with great pomp and show. First, worship was performed amidst Vedic mantras under the guidance of Jiyar Swami, after which all the devotees left for the Ganga Ghat from the Yagya Mandap. From there, they came to the Yagya Mandap with water in their



respective Kalash. A very long line had been formed from the Yagya Mandap to the Ganga Ghat. A large number of devotees from Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, etc. had arrived to participate in the Kalash Yatra. Seeing thousands of devotees carrying Kalash together in the Kalash Yatra, people suddenly stopped on the way and kept watching. Women, men, youth, and the elderly were included in the long line.

Jiyar Swami Maharaj, while preaching, said that who-While the folk drama | ever is fortunate, comes to Prayagraj and takes a bath, Bahrupiya was staged on | and it is even more fortunate to get a chance to particithe Jhunsi cultural stage | pate in Shri Laxmi Narayan Yagna in Prayagraj. Maharaj said that after roaming through 84 lakh births, one gets a human body. It is not right to waste it. Maximum time should be spent in Hari Naam Sankirtan. By participating in Laxmi Narayan Yagna, the sins of many officers and employees of | births are destroyed and the blessings of Lord Laxmi the center including the in- i Narayan remain on them. Media in-charge Akhilesh Baba said that 1051 yajamans will sit together and offer sacriter Ashish Giri were present. fices in the fire for world welfare.

Public awareness walk organized to increase accessibility for Divyangjan under Sugamya Yatra 2025

Lucknow: On the instructions of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, a public awareness walk "Sugamya Yatra 2025" was organized in Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh, to increase the accessibility of the disabled with the slogan "Sugamya Pradesh - Uttar Pradesh". This event

Uttar Pradesh, Subhash Chandra Sharma, while the program was monitored by Professor Himanshu Shekhar Jha, State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Uttar Pradesh. The yatra started at 10:30 am from Lohia Park, Gate No. 2 and concluded at 12:00 pm at Shiroj Restaurant, Near Ambedkar Park, Gomti

Special Schools, principals, teachers, social workers and eminent citizens of Lucknow participated in the program. The objective of this visit is to make at least 40 major government buildings in every district of Uttar Pradesh fully accessible through accessibility audit (social audit). Under this campaign, a

social audit of important places like Dr. Shakuntala Mishra National Rehabilitation University, Vikas Bhawan, Lucknow Metro in the capital Lucknow was conducted through the Yes-2 Access App developed by the APD team of Karnataka.

"Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan" is

an important program run by versal accessibility for Divyangjans. Under this initiative, the Uttar Pradesh tive steps to increase the accessibility of Divyangjans across the state.

Kumbh, festival of providing free service: Dr. Sunil Vishwakarma, MD, Kamla Multispeciality Hospital

Organized a huge health camp during Maha Kumbh



Prayagraj: At 3 pm, place: Sector 9, Bajrangdas Marg, in the presence of Fair Administration Officer JP Yadav ji, a health camp was organized for the general public, Which was inaugurated by Dr. Naresh Trehan, Managing Director, Medanta Hospital and senior cardiologist, who has made a name for himself in the country and abroad for his efficiency. Program coordinator Nikhil Srivastava said that Dr. Naresh Trehan ji appreciated the event and talked about help from Delhi and Lucknow. Dr. Sunil Vishwakarma shared the symptoms of heart attack and immediate life saving measures with Dr. Trehan. Dr. Naresh Trehan ji thanked all the doctors and nursing staff. Program organizer Alka Prakash ji thanked everyone by giving books and monuments related to Sanatan festival related to Mahakumbh.

The program was organized by Mentoring Bharat, in which the team of skilled doctors of Kamala Multispeciality Hospital and Sanctum Foundation, including Dr. Sunil Vishwakarma (General and Laparoscopic Surgeon, Managing Director, Kamala Multispeciality Hospital), Dr. Lokendra Gupta (Co-Director, Emergency Medicine and Trauma Care, Medanta Lucknow), Dr. Priyanka Yadav (Dentist, KGMU, Lucknow), Dr. Pragati Yadav, Dr. Surendra Singh (Suyash Hospital, Kanpur), Dr. Avinash Vishwakarma (Pediatrician), Dr. Vineet Singh (General Physician), Dr. Sangeeta Maurya (Gynecologist), and doctors treating all diseases were present.

Radhika Maurya of Prakriti Pathology was present at pathology, Khushboo Tiwari, Rohit Singh, Hitesh Srivastava, Kamlesh Kumar at management staff, Shubham Kumar, Babita at pharmacy, Deepali, Vipin, Kaushal at nursing staff, Shubham Kumar at emergency ambulance. The camp will continue continuously, this announcement was made by Medanta



joint aegis of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Uttar Pradesh and other stakeholders.

The yatra was led by Principal Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities,

About 250 participants

including officials of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, government officials, representatives of non-governmental organizations, students of Bachpan Day Centers and

the Government of India with the aim of ensuring unigovernment is taking effec-

Gathering of urologists at Motilal Nehru Medical College on Feb 8-9

Perform surgeries free of cost for selected patients

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Prayagraj: On February 8 and 9 under the joint aegis of the Urological Society of Prayagraj and the Department of Urology a special laparoscopic workshop is being organised at M.L.N.Medical College Prayagraj. Renowned Urologists from all over the country will come together and perform surgeries free of cost for selected patients. According to Head of Department Dr. Dilip Chaurasia and Organizing Secretary Dr. Shirish Mishra, a total of 12 patients will receive free surgeries. These complex procedures will be carried out by some of the nation's

offering local Surgeons and Post Graduate students a chance to learn the latest techniques.

Renowned specialists such as Dr. Shashikant Mishra and Dr. Sanjoy Surekha from Lucknow, Dr. Chandramohan Vaddi from Hyderabad, Dr. H.K. Nagaraja from Bengaluru, Dr. Rahul Gupta from Jammu, and Dr. Anoop Gupta from Delhi will be performing the operations. will utilize laparoscopic (keyhole) surgery methods, demonstrating the entire process to attending delegates. Through these live procedures, observers will gain a thorough most eminent urologists, understanding of cutting-

edge urological techniques, and junior doctors will receive hands-on training that will deepen their



knowledge of both practical and theoretical aspects of this advanced surgical approach.

Laparoscopic surgery offers numerous advantages over traditional open surgery. It involves smaller incisions, resulting in less pain, faster recovery, and a reduced hospital stay for patients. Additionally, it is associated with fewer complications and is considered especially effective for treating kidney, prostate, and bladder-related conditions. By witnessing and learning these procedures firsthand, urologists, general surgeons, and postgraduate students will acquire valuable insights that will ultimately benefit their future practice and patient care.

Several senior urologists are actively involved in organizing and overseeing the workshop, including Dr. R.C. Gupta, Dr. Vipul Tandon,

Dr. Amit Tripathi, and Dr. Deepak Gupta, among others. As part of this initiative, 12 patients with financial constraints will receive free surgery, providing them with a level of treatment that might otherwise remain inaccessible. The collective efforts of the Urological Society Prayagraj and the Department of Urology aim to bring state-of-the-art medical facilities to patients in | ferences end. Our cul-Prayagraj and surrounding areas. This workshop also marks a significant step toward incorporating the latest methods in medical practice, thereby enhancing the expertise and skills of the

next generation of doctors

Unity of Sanatan culture visible in Maha Kumbh: Arif Mohd. Khan

Basic spirit of Sanatan culture is unity

Mahakumbh Nagar: Bihar Governor Arif Mohammad Khan, who reached Maha Kumbh, described India's Sanatan cul- The people present here ety together and strengthen

ture as great during his visit to Sangam on Friday. He said that the unity of Sanatan culture is clearly visible in Maha Kumbh. On the second day of his Prayagraj visit, Arif Mohammad Khan said, the basic ideal of India's Sanatan culture is unity, where all difture teaches us that if we see any human being in his divine form,

we will realize that "human being is the form of Madhav". On this visit of Agni Akhara Secretary Sampurnanand, Governor

Kumbh, it is clear that India's culture and tradition work to connect humanity.

that by coming to Maha also said that it is important to keep India's heritage, ideals and values alive. These are the values that bind our soci-



may not know each other, but still everyone is participating in this event unit-

It is important to main-Arif Mohammad Khan said tain cultural identity: He the feeling of harmony. Secretary of Agni Akhara, Sampurnanand honoured the Governor by presenting him with a Rudraksha garland and

Maharishi Valmiki Shobhayatra organized in Kumbh

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Mahakumbh Nagar: On Friday at 11:00 am Akhil Bharatiya Shri Maharishi Valmiki Sadhu Akhara Parishad registered Sector 17 Paschim Patri Sangam Lower Marg Bhagwan Maharishi Valmiki Shobhayatra organized royal procession Mahamandelshwar Bal Yogi Pragat Nath Maharaj President Akhara Parishad Mahamandelshwar Sant Krishna Sa



Vidyarthi Ji Maharaj Ji Delhi Ne Bal Yogi Sadhvi Geeta Prime Minister Former State Minister G Uttar Pradesh Government Sambhal Moradabad and Mandaleshwar Sant Mashrikh Shah Maharaj Ji Mahamandleshwar and Rishi Valmiki Chetnanand Maharaj Ji Haryana, Roshan Shah Maharaj was garlanded with Tilak on the post of Mandleshwar and consecrated. Later in the meeting, all the saints and devotees present in the meeting were honored with robes of the Mahant, namely Sant Banti Das Maharaj, Pir Prachari Mahant Satyapal Chinsal, Roop Kishore Lohara,

Baba Suresh Ji Chandigarh, Sanjay Pardesi, Gaje Singh Maharoulia, Ashok Singh Chandelia, Tejveer Sitara, Kamal Gehlot, Thakur Deshraj Singh, Vinod Rai, Ashok Singh, Ranveer Saini, Nishant, Rajan, Gajraj Singh Adi Saint Mahatma was present in the main form and finally all the Saints and Mahants were welcomed by Sunil Razdan General Minister All India Maharishi Valmiki Sadhu Akhara Parishad.

Guj CM praises Mahakumbh's spiritual gatherting, uniting devotees from Pak Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi ji, warmly welcomed him

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Mahakumbh Nagar: Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel came in Prayagraj on Friday to participate in the well-known Mahakumbh celebration. According to an official release, the CM plans to take a holy bath at Triveni Sangam, where the Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati rivers meet, at 12.30 p.m. His schedule also includes a prayer stop at Bade Hanumanji Temple. According to the statement, Patel would also visit the Gujarat Pavilion, which has been

erected by the Gujarat Tourism Department, before returning to Gandhinagar. In an unusual turn of events, Pakistani pilgrims were also there to participate in the Mahakumbh, thanking the Indian authorities for accelerated visa processing. These pilgrims expressed their gratitude for the event's flawless organizing, as well as their excitement in meeting spiritual leaders at the Mela. Govind Ram Makhija expressed optimism for further visa facilitation with neighboring na-



The Industrial Develop-

Gopal Gupta Nandi ji, warmly welcomed and felici-

tated the Chief Minister of Gujarat, Bhupendra Patel ji, who reached Teerthraj Prayagraj to participate in Mahakumbh 2025, the world's largest mega gathering, a symbol of religious, spiritual and cultural heritage and dedicated to national unity and harmony, on behalf of the state. There is a continuous flow of faith on the banks of Maa Ganga, Maa Yamuna and Maa Saraswati in Prayagraj. The divinity and grandeur of Maha Kumbh is attracting the whole world.

1700 devotees from Punjab taken holy plunge in Sangam: Rajendra Mishra

Prayagraj: The meeting of Bharatiya Janata Party Prayagraj Metropolitan was organized at the party office in Civil Lines. While presiding over the meeting on this occasion, BJP Metropolitan President they will hold an introductory meeting with Raiendra Mishra informed that on Februa ary 8, 1700 devotees are coming to Prayagraj from Amritsar, Punjab to take bath in Triveni Sangam and said that all the devotees will reach Prayagraj Junction by 9:30 am and Bharatiya Janata Party workers will welcome all the devotees and take them for Sangam bath. He further informed that 40 buses have been arranged by Bharatiya Janata Party for all the devotees to take Sangam bath and in-charges of all the buses have been appointed, whose responsibility will be to drop all the devotees to Prayagraj Junction after the bath.

Spokesperson Rajesh Kesarwani informed that apart from this, before Maghi Purnima, National President JP Nadda, National General Secretary Arun Singh, Vinod Tawde and all the state presidents of the Bharatiya Janata Party and cabinet ministers of many states will come to Prayagraj and take a dip in the Sangam. Meanwhile,



party workers. Prominently present in the meeting were Varun Kesarwani Ravi, Rajesh Singh, Rajesh Kesarwani, Rohit Jaiswal, Manoj Kumar Kushwaha, Rohit Pappu Pandey, Kuldeep Mishra, Anuj Kushwaha, Rakesh Bharti, Prashant Shukla, and all the divisional presidents.

Experienced 'Amrityog' in this Kumbh: Jagadguru Rambhadracharya He calls this event a sacred moment for humanity

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Mahakumbh Nagar: Jagadguru Rambhadracharya described Mahakumbh 2025 as the most magnificent, di vine, and unforgettable event ever. Emphasizing its spiritual and cultural significance, he called it a sacred occasion for humanity. He remarked, "No matter how much people criticize, I have experienced 'Amrityog' in this Kumbh. I have personally felt the spiritual energy present in the waters of Triveni Sangam.'

Praising the management and grandeur of Mahakumbh 2025, he expressed that this Kumbh stands apart in every aspect. Reflecting on his decades of participation, he stated, "I have been coming to Kumbh since 1977, but I have never witnessed a more beautiful and I divine Kumbh than this. It is truly a remarkable confluence of grandeur, devotion, and Indian culture." He urged devotees to make the most of this sacred gathering, encouraging them not just to take a holy dip, but also to seek spiritual wisdom in the company of saints.

Bhupendra Patel takes holy dip

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

ment Minister of Uttar

Mahakumbh Nagar: Chief Minister of Gujarat Bhupendra Patel took a holy dip in the divine stream of holy river Bhagwati Maa Ganga, Maa Yamuna and invisible Saraswati at Teerthraj Prayag today. During this, Industrial Development Minister of Uttar Pradesh Government Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi was also present.

Under the guidance of the country's successful Prime Minister, the most respected Narendra Modi ji and the leadership of Karmayogi Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath ji, the organization of Maha Kumbh is touching new heights every day. Maha Kumbh 2025 has emerged as the brand ambassador of the resolve of development



with heritage. The Chief Minister praised the management and arrangements of Maha Kumbh. During his stay at the holy place Prayagraj, the Chief Minister of Gujarat, Bhupendra Patel, performed the worship of Shri Bade Hanuman Ji as per the rituals.

sult that came stunned ev-

eryone. According to him,

Akhandananda ji of

Maharashtra had informed

him about this subject that

Inclusive education for children with disabilities

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: As per the order of the Supreme Court, the second phase of training for inclusive education of handicapped children under integrated education was started by Block Education Officer

Education Officer gave information about the facilities being given to the handicapped children by the State Project Office, Lucknow in the council school such as information



Arun Kumar Awasthi by garlanding the Saraswati statue and lighting the lamp. This training is being given to connect the handicapped children studying in the school with the main stream of education. The Block

about SCART allowance. stipend, Braille book, Braille kit, home based kit, tricycle, wheel chair, hearing aid and medical assessment camp. The training is being given by master trainers Alok Rai, Virendra Pal, Neelam.

Core of Vedas forms basis of Ramcharit Manas: Acharya Sangam Shri Shambhu Panchagni Akhara

Gave information about greatness of Ram Katha, Ramcharit Manas

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Mahakumbh Nagar: You must have often heard 'Ram's name is bigger than Ram', but why is it so, this question often comes to people's mind. The answer to this important question is being received by the devotees in the presence of saints in Maha Kumbh-2025. Giving information on this subject, Acharya Sangam of Shri Shambhu Panchagni Akhara said that the name of Ram is not limited only to the incarnation of Lord Shri Ram but is the sound of the vibration of the entire universe. If one wants to understand the glory of the name of Ram, then it is necessary to study and understand the greatness of Ramcharit Manas

Tulsidas. According to him, Ramcharit Manas is not a scripture but it is a unique gift given by God for human welfare. In today's modern environment, the youth should connect more and more with Ramcharit Manas and understand the maxim of living an ideal life and adapt it in their life. This is the reason why Tulsidas ji composed it in Awadhi language instead of Devvaani Sanskrit.

Baba Vishwanath himself gave the order to Tulsidas: It is not hidden from anyone how much Mahadev Shiv loves the name of Ram. Mahadev himself had once told the greatness of the name of Ram to Mother Parvati. On composed by Goswami this subject, Acharya

Sangam told that when simple native language in-Tulsidas ji was starting the work of writing the Ramcharit Manas book at

stead of Vedic Sanskrit so that its benefit can reach the common people as well. Ac-

cording to Acharya

Sangam, when the test was

conducted in Kashi itself to

publish the greatness of

Ramcharit Manas, the re-



Assi Ghat in Kashi by divine order, then Baba Vishwanath himself came in Tulsidas ji's dream and ordered him to write it in

when Ramcharit Manas was placed below all the texts including Vedas for authentication, then by divine order, Ramcharit Manas automatically came above all the texts. This shows its universality and the feeling of being a compiled form of the basic elements of all texts.

> It is a medium to understand human relationships, ideals and God: Along with inspiring today's youth to follow good deeds, good character and the divine path, Ramcharit Manas also inspires them to live their daily lives in an ideal manner. Acharya Sangam said

that whatever human relationships, whatever circumstances, whatever adverse conditions there may be, inspiration about what ideal conduct should be like comes from Ramcharit This is the reason that

if a person is going through any phase of his life and follows Ramcharit Manas, he will definitely get the benefit of good deeds and divine inspiration. This is the way to understand God as well as purify oneself according to his teachings and this is the reason that if today's young generation lives by following Ramcharit Manas, it will be beneficial for the country, state, family as well as personal development.

Editorial

Clumsy and ill-informed analogy gone wrong

President George W Bush was famous for his quite often hilarious gaffes, but he has been receiving steady competition from the 81-yearold President Joe Biden. The latest Biden pronouncement may be more by way of a clumsy and ill-informed analogy gone wrong. Luckily for him, his presidential election rival, the almost 78-year-old Donald Trump, makes quite a few bloopers too.

Republican contender, former President Donald Trump, may be tough on Mexican immigrants with his infamous, if not too effective, border fence and wall, but Democrat Joe Biden, the incumbent president, is in harmony with the Democratic Party pro-immigration stance. This even in the face of internal advice that he should tough talk on the same border issue Of course, hordes of poor and largely illiterate illegal immigrants in 2024 who don't speak English are not as welcome as they were in the 1870s. In the 19th century and before, immigrants, largely from Europe, slaves brought in from Africa, and some immigration from China, helped to populate the vast country. They threw out the British colonists, pushed back the French and Mexicans, subdued the native Red Indians, built the engines of growth, and even fought a civil war amongst themselves. Immigrants, many originally poor and persecuted in their erstwhile home countries, have been a crucial feature of American DNA. This is what Biden meant, but perhaps he should have stopped right there. Immigrants into America are known and lauded for their hard work, ingenuity, and grit, and Biden was addressing a crowd of mostly Asian Americans. More recently, the brilliant IIT educated ones from India, its 'brain drain' and America's gain, have been most useful in building America's preeminence in IT, other technology, and commerce. Scores of Indian-origin CEOs of marquee companies on the Nasdaq and S&P 100 indices have led to the joke that you can't be CEO in America if you aren't Indian. It is a complete makeover of the earlier American image of India as a land of teeming poverty, with tigers, snake charmers, and fakirs thrown in. President Joe Biden, keen to distinguish his candidature from that of Donald Trump, decided to praise immigrants at a campaign reception fundraiser. On the campaign trail for Biden 1.0, he had vowed to enact legislation to make the immigration process more 'humane' in contrast to President Trump's mostly intended, but not implemented, harsh measures. This time. too, Trump is speaking of deportations.

However, as president, Biden could not make much progress on immigration legislation without bipartisan support because of surges of illegal immigration at the southern border. And calls, certainly from Republicans, but even from Democrats, to seal the border and crack down on asylum seekers. Some went so far as to call for banning asylum altogether. But the consensus is that, at this fundraiser, Biden let his analogies run away with him. Biden said American allies and partners Japan and India are struggling economically 'because they're xenophobic'. He included 'frenemy' China and combatant Russia in the illustration as well. Japan is opening up to a cautious immigration policy as it grapples with its diminishing and ageing population, and its economy has been showing signs of recovery from a 25-year-long recession. It is keen, however, not to import terrorism and other social upheavals into its very well-ordered culture. India is the most populous country in the world, with 65 per cent of its people under the age of 35. It is the fastest-growing major economy in the world. , with 6-7 per cent GDP growth per annum.

Global strategic oil storage: China is stockpiling, India must boost reserves

Petroleum products continue to be strategic assets that are still the drivers of all transportation, significant electricity production, and many processes. Petroleum and gas reserves are nature's blessing to only a few select regions of the world. Most large economies in Europe, China, Japan, and India, among others, are major importers of petroleum products. Global strategic petroleum reserves refer to crude oil inventories (or stockpiles) held by the government of a particular country, as well as private industry, to safeguard the economy and help maintain national security during an energy crisis. Strategic reserves are intended to be used to cover short-term supply disruptions.

The Ukraine war once again emphasised the need for logistic supply chain management and how disruptions can upset any country's strategic and tactical intentions. They also impact the day-to-day lives of the citizens. The disruption of electric power, petrol, and gas in winter 2022 in Europe and Ukraine was severe.

American sanctions on Iranian and Russian oil have greatly upset demand and supply dynamics. The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) often operates as a cartel to control production and thus cent), and Pakistan (0.021 controlled and the remain-



influence prices. There is thus a need for all importing nations to not only broaden the basket of sourcing countries but also to build their own strategic storage capaci-

Global Petroleum Reserves The world consumes roughly 100 million barrels of crude oil per day. This translates to 36.5 billion barrels per year. The proven global oil reserves currently are nearly 1,650 billion barrels, and that will last nearly 45 years. For the last one decade there has been no addition to known oil reserves. Major countries with percentages of reserves are Venezuela (18.2 per cent), Saudi Arabia (16.2 per cent), Canada (10.4 per cent), Iran (9.5 per cent), Iraq (8.7 per cent), Kuwait (6.1 per cent), UAE (5.9 per cent), Russia (4.8 per cent), Libya (2.9 per cent), United States (2.1 per cent), China (1.5 per cent), India (0.29 per

per cent), among many oth-

Global Strategic Petroleum Reserves The International Energy

Agency (IEA), a group of 31 countries, requires members to hold strategic reserves equal to 90 days of the previous year's net imports, though commercial stockpiles can be included in that total. Only net-exporter members of the IEA are exempt from this requirement. The forward commercial storage agreements allow oil-exporting countries increased flexibility in commercial storage and allow petroleum to be stored within an oil-importing country. Such reserves remain technically under the control of the oil-exporting country.

In 2022, approximately 4.1 billion barrels of oil were held in strategic reserves by IEA member states, of which 1.4 billion were governmentindustry. The US, China (non-IEA member), and Japan are leading crude oil consumers and maintain the largest SPR. Many other non-IEA countries have started working on their own SPR.

China's Strategic Petroleum Reserves

China has the second largest storage, at 511 million barrels. China's daily consumption is around 12 million barrels of crude. Thus, their SPR is equivalent to between 40 and 50 days of imports. China eventually wants to raise the figure to 90 days of reserve. Russia has been the major supplier to China of late, contributing as much as 2.14 million barrels per day, overtaking Saudi Arabia. Russian oil was substantially discounted due to Western sanctions. Stockpiling partly insulates Beijing from the supply chain and pricing dynamics. Also, larger stocks will be required for a possible Taiwan Strait conflict that could result in a military blockade or economic or trade sanctions. China has also secured supply chains through pipelines from Russia, the trans-Myanmar oil and gas pipeline, and from central Asia, predominantly Turkmenistan.

Simultaneously, China is rapidly shifting to electric vehicles and is not only building lithium stocks for batteries but has also acquired pro-refining centres.

der were held by private cessing facilities and mines, including Investment bank UBS estimates that China might control a third of all global lithium supplies by 2025. The US SPR is the world's largest, with an authorised maximum capacity of 727 million barrels. The reserves are kept in salt caverns located at different locations along the Texas and Louisiana Gulf Coasts. The US consumed an average of about 20.01 million barrels of petroleum per day. It was a net petroleum exporter of 1.64 million barrels per day in 2023. It thus has the capacity to play around with the SPR. The US government has historically tapped into its SPR following man-made accidents, economic crises, and natural disasters, though it has also sold and loaned crude oil from the SPR to other nations at times. Japan held SPR equivalent to 133 days of crude oil imports in early 2022. That amounts to 332 million barrels based on the country's average monthly imports in 2021. Commercial stocks amounted to 86 days of imports. Japanese SPR storage is spread across nearly a dozen facilities. South Africa has an SPR storage capacity of 45 million barrels, managed by PetroSA. Singapore has sophisticated oil refineries and storage terminals, is one of the world's major oil

Rafah offensive and war in Gaza

A girl walks next to a tent sprayed with a message in solidarity with pro-Palestinian university students, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestinians, in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip, May 2, 2024. Image: REUTERS

The war in Gaza is due to complete seven months on May 7, marking the longest war in Gaza since Israel's voluntary vacation of Gaza in 2005. Contrary to expectations, borne more out of Israel's enormous military superiority against Hamas as well as past conflicts in Gaza, the conflict has not ended swiftly.

During this time, however, Israeli strikes have flattened Gaza to the ground, making it completely uninhabitable, perhaps for decades. The stench of death and decay overwhelms the thin strip straddling

the Mediterranean Sea, with estimates of over 34,500 deaths, including 13,000 children, 77,500 and over injured and maimed for life. Medical aid, food, and water have been severely restricted, and most international aid including UNRWA as well as WCK (World Central Kitchen), have been targeted and prevented from delivering lifesaving aid.Despite a UN Security Council resolution of March 25 calling for an immediate ceasefire and the unconditional release of hostages, neither of the warring parties has been able to come to a common understand-

In the midst of it, there was a period of dangerous escalation when an Israeli strike on April 1 targeted the Iranian Consulate building in Damascus, Syria, resulting in the

deaths of seven members of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), including General Mohammad Reza Zahedi, the senior-most commander in Lebanon Syria.Outraged by the attack on its 'sovereign territory', Iran retaliated on April 13 with a massive and well-synchronised attack by

drones and missiles. While most of the drones were intercepted mid-air, some of the missiles found their mark and struck the Nevatim Israeli air base in the Negev desert. Nevatim is the air base from which Israel launched its F-35 fighters that attacked the Iranian consulate in Despite Damascus. decades of hostility between Israel and Iran, this was the first time that Iran had launched strikes directly on Israel from its ter-

Kashmir (PoK). It knows the disputed character of PoK and exercises no restraint. Instead,

Trump's claim absolute worked, the courts.

Earlier this week, Judge Merchan finally cracked whip,

Donald Trump on trial penstance that a flurry

The prosecutors see this as a criminal act, especially as it led to tax evasion and suppression of information, preventing the American voter making informed judgement. Numerous legal experts are not convinced and opine that the case is weak. The Trump legal team tried hard to delay the trial until after the elections or have it shifted to another city. They have been successful in most of the cases, including three prospective criminal trials involving unlawful possession of classified documents by Trump even after demitting office and an attempted insurrection on January 6, 2021, to overturn the people's mandate.His lawyers took the stand that their client could not get justice in the Manhattan Court in New York, a bastion of the Democratic Party. They further alleged that Judge Merchan's daughter had a business relationship with the Biden administration, and hence there was a conflict of interest. They demanded that the judge must recuse him-Next, they asked that

the hearing be deferred until the Supreme Court's decision on of presidential immunity from all public or private actions. They tried to delay the jury selection. None of these prompting intemperate rants from the defendant, despite numerous gag orders by

holding

Trump in contempt for nine violations. imposed a \$1000 fine for each violation, the maximum permitted under the law, while recognising that it may not mean anything to the defendant but ominously cautioning that even result in his incarceration.Trump is putting up a brave front, but the legal troubles are taking their toll. He is short of funds; his campaign has lost some momentum, as he is obliged to be present in court for eight hours or more, four days a week. It may possibly have even begun to sow doubts in the minds of some supporters. In any event, his family members are conspicuously absent at the trials. \Some of his former

friends and associates, including former Vice President Mike Pence, have gone cold or even turned hostile. That is not to say that his grip over the party has weakened. Very few in the Republican Party dare to cross swords with him. He continues to be ahead of President Biden in opinion polls by 4 to 6 percentage points. That brings us back to the question about the timing of the court cases. The 'hushmoney' case dates back eight years, and the other criminal cases date back at least three years. The civilian cases also go back in time. What were the prosecutors doing all these years? Even if he had immunity from prosecution as president, it has been over three years since he relinquished office. Is it a mere hap-

of court cases has come up for hearing bang in the middle of the presidential campaign? If they have coalesced organically at this juncture, it is indeed too much of a coincidence! Given the not to take things at face value. The Biden administration naturally mainthat tains Department of Justice and courts are independent and that it has no role to play. True, division of power is enshrined in the Constitution, but is it so watertight? Trump and his followers blame the White House for master-minding his legal troubles. He has been calling President Biden 'crooked' besides deploying even more colourful language. He describes the trials as an

\Be that as it may, it is a no-loss proposition for the ruling Democrats. If Trump is disqualified, the Republican campaign could be thrown into disarray. At the very least, the renewed spotlight on Trump's character-flaws and misdemeanours is bound to dent his standing with the independents and moderate Republicans voters.nd yet the greatest irony is that, come November, Trump could very well succeed in reclaiming the high office. All court cases could then instantly vanish in thin air, and everything could be forgiven if not forgotten. Would therefore one be wrong to surmise that when it comes to the rich and powerful, the wheels of justice.

"assault on America".

Tibet and Myanmar is a geostrategic milestone

West Siang, Upper Siang, Dibang Valley, Lower Dibang Valley, Anjaw, and Changlang in Arunachal Pradesh adjoining Tibet and Myanmar is a geostrategic milestone. It was conceived in 2016 and is expected to be completed in 2027. Work in this direction has started at a quick pace. This shows the urgency and importance India gives to its territorial integrity.

The infrastructural development that China has brought along the McMahon Line is quite extensive. The frontier highway is a precise and direct response to this and to curb China's irrationality. The highway will become an all-weather road to handle any geopolitical and geostrategic pres-

sure likely to emanate from sible dangers that the enemy the other side of the border. From Tawang to Vijayanagar, which covers the entire border space in Arunachal Pradesh, the frontier highway is a milestone in India's robust preparedness in the eastern Himalayas. The dragon finds a fitting competitor.The scale with which China develops its infrastructural might, both at the border and in the hinterland, the frontier highway is a geostrategic imperative. The risk these complex infrastructures present leaves no scope for a second thought but to act urgently to protect the territorial integrity of India. The frontier highway manifests India's right intent and seriousness in addressing the pos-

constantly poses. The frontier highway will present the checkmate to required Chinese bullying attitudes in the region. Beijing's reaction to these infrastructural initiatives is not new. It always does this to keep itself relevant in the thick of things. However, it has no business in making any comment as Arunachal Pradesh is an integral part of the sovereign India. China uses this drama to keep the issue alive and effectively uses its propaganda machinery to develop some geopolitical weight in the region. It presents no hesitation in developing the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) through Pakistan-occupied scope for economic.

it tutors India on what it does in its sovereign territory. India understands China's cunning and exercises patience and quietness, making necessary preparations to check the latter's possible misadventures. However, the progress frontier highway will significantly strengthen India's border infrastructure and seamless connectivity. It will present a significant impetus for encouraging economic engagement in the region. Infrastructure and connectivity have always played a pivotal role in modernising the economy and opening the

AAP promises Dalit scholarships

AAP leader Delhi: Kejriwal Arvind launched Ambedkar scholarship for Dalit students to study abroad ahead of the Delhi assembly elections. Samman Ambedkar Scholarship was a response to BJP's "insult" of Ambedkar, stated Kejriwal. The BJP claimed Kejriwal repackaged a 2019 initiative for political gain ahead of the polls. Amit Shah mocked Babasaheb Ambedkar Parliament. At the AAP headquarters, Kejriwal millions Ambedkarists were devastated. The former Delhi chief minister told reporters that Ambedkar believed education was the key and won a PhD from the US despite all difficulties. The AAP head said the scholarship is a response to the BJP's disrespect to the Indian Constitution's architect. "The plan allows Delhi Dalit students to study abroad. If accepted to any such university, the Delhi government will cover



GIS mapping for PWD road dust checks

Delhi: The Public under their com-Works Department will enforce safety and dust control on building sites. Officials have sent the standard operating procedure for dust control measures to all agency wings, and chief engineers have been instructed to closely monitor project sites

their tuition, travel, and lodging "Kejriwal stated. He noted that government employee children will be eligible for the plan, but did not specify how or when the scholarships will be provided. According to an RTI response, Delhi BJP leader Harish Khurana stated the initiative for

mand and ensure compliance Delhi government and Delhi Pollution Control Committee guidelines. The state government recently ordered PWD to deploy 200 anti-smog weapons on 1,400 km of highways as part of its winter action plan.

foreign study Scheduled Caste (SC) students has been underway since 2020, but the Delhi government could only grant five students Rs 25 lakh until 2023-24. Khurana also criticized Kejriwal for launching the same initiative in "fake respect" to

Tigress in 'boar' well: Prey and hunter's joint survival tale

met Jungle Book in the forests of Seoni, Madhya Pradesh, when a tigress chasing a boar fell into a well, along with the prey, in the heat of pursuit. Trapped in a battle for survival, both the hunter and hunted the water treaded together, often rubbing against each other in the closed confines. The two mostly faced away from each other. The tigress probably realised predation was pointless if it couldn't eat the kill. The boar, with nowhere to run, followed the predator's lead, even leaning on it when tired. Both were rescued by evening by forest officials with

Delhi: The Centre has

eliminated the "no-

detention" policy for

Classes 5 and 8, allow-

ing schools to fail kids

exams. On December

16, the Ministry of

Education published the

"Right of Children to

Free and Compulsory

Education

(Amendment) Rules,

2024" gazette notifica-

fail year-end

who

BHOPAL: Panchtantra



jungle jugaad. Thereafter, each went its own way. Fittingly, this drama played out in the forest that was the setting for Kipling's 'Jungle Book'. Mowgli's Seoni is in Pench national park, around 400km from Bhopal. Villagers of Piparia Harduli, in Jikurai forest area, were in for a shock when they made their morning walk to the well to fetch water a tigress and a boar were looking up at them. The

Class 5 and 8 no-detention policy revoked by govt.

tion, which stipulates

that children who fail to

meet promotion stan-

dards in Classes 5 or 8 in

the regular examination

can be held back. The

Ministry stressed the

necessity for corrective

efforts for such students

to close learning gaps in

the Rules. The Right to

Education Act, 2009 was

revised in 2019 to elimi-

nate the no-detention

tigress, exhausted from swimming, was visibly tired but remained calm. The boar would struggle from time to time just to stay afloat, trembling more from its proximity to the tigress than the cold water. Villagers alerted forest office. scene and realised that there was no manual.

Kurai forest range assistant Shariq Khan got the call. A team from Pench tiger reserve, along with police, arrived on the

policy, although the Rules were not notified until today. "Since the Education National Policy [NEP] announced in 2020, we waited for the National Curriculum Framework document in 2023 before publishing the Rules," a senior Ministry

official said. If detention

is necessary, the pupil

will be detained.

Tests confirm water caused Pune GBS outbreak; toll hits 7 after 10-year-old's death

PUNE/CHENNAI: A 10-year-old boy who died at Chennai's Institute of Child Health on Jan 31 was

Tuesday conto be firmed Tamil Nadu's Guillainfirst Barre Syndrome (GBS) victim, taking the number casualties caused by the rare but treatable infection since last month to seven.



Pune, which accounts for five of the GBS mortalities across the country, saw its caseload grow by three to 166 on a day the Maharashtra health department nailed the bacterium Campylobacter jejuni as the cause of the outbreak. It said the available evidence suggested transmission was primarily waterborne.

"Of the 70 stool samples collected from patients, 27 samples tested positive for C. jejuni, reinforcing suspicions that this bacterium contaminated drinking water in the affected region and was the cause of the outbreak," a senior health department official told . "We do not believe this outbreak is foodborne. If it were so, the outbreak would typically follow a point-source epidemic pattern. This means cases would be linked to a common food source, with a clear history of consumption from a specific place, and cases would appear within the expected incubation period." At least 87 cases were within a 5km radius of the contamination zone. "Wells in the affected area receive untreated water from the Khadakwasla dam, which is then supplied directly to the community," the official said. Authorities have directed water supply department to ensure a minimum chlorine level of 0.2 ppm at all households.

Will halt coal mining if Rs 1.4 lakh crore dues not cleared

RANCHI: In a stern warning to the Centre, Jharkhand chief minister Hemant Soren on Tuesday said his govt would take tough measures, including taking a legal recourse and forcing public sector coal units operating out of the state to shut down their mining operations, if no sincere efforts were made to clear its coalrelated dues.

Speaking at JMM's 53rd foundation day function in Dhanbad, Hemant said, "We have been getting step-brotherly treatment for centuries. and this has to stop now. If we take a tough step, then the whole country will plunge into that Union coal minister G told him that if they were darkness.""Our coal-related dues are to the tune of Rs 1.36 lakh crore. Whenever we demanded our share. the Centre said there were no outstanding dues. Even their MPs



lipped in Parliament," he other states and we must ernment officials in shady land alleged.Hemant also revealed slash the rates. I refused and deals across the state. "All Kishan Reddy had asked him during their meeting last month to slash the price of land that needed to be acquired by coal companies for mining. "He told me that

interested, they would have to acquire land at existing rates," he added. The chief minister massive crackdown on the ice," Soren warned.

court

from the state remain tight- our rates are higher than nexus of land sharks and gov-BDOs (block development officers) and COs (circle officers), who are hand-in-glove with the land sharks, will be also announced that his govt arrested and put in jail, and would soon be launching a would be removed from serv-

Abujmarh has fallen, no longer a Red citadel, says surrendered top Maoist

GADCHIROLI: once-unassailable Maoist headquarters in Abujmarh - spread across the rugged, forested hills straddling Maharashtra Chhattisgarh - has fallen to security forces after 50 years of bloodshed. A fact conceded by Giridhar, a former commander of PLGA, during a conversation with Tuesday.

"Abujmarh is no longer an impregnable Red citadel. The liberated zones have been smashed, commandos are conquering every inch of Dandakaranya



jungles. Maoist cadre base has been practically wiped out," said the guerrilla combat strategist, who surrendered in June last year and now resides at Gadchiroli police HQ democracy. with his wife Sangita. Giridhar, who once another - one in unihelmed seven dalams in Gadchiroli for 28

years, saw the movement decline firsthand. "There was a spark, a vision, and an ideology. But in today's world, change can only be ushered through should one tribal kill form, the other a Naxal?

11 Spl Courts Will Handle 2,000 **Cases Every Day**

Delhi: With an inventive proposal to have them handled by evening courts starting, traffic challans of which a backlog of more than two crore has accumulated in the district courtsmay now be more easily resolved. The courts will meet on all working days from 5-7 PM in all district courts under the name Evening Courts for Traffic Challans (ECTC). Beginning on December 20, 11 nighttime courts in Rohini, Saket, Dwarka,

Karkardooma, Tis Hazari, and Patiala House will work to resolve 2,200 cases per day. With the exception of those marked as "contested challan," "sent to digital court challan,' and "cognizance declined challan," all traffic challans displayed on the Delhi traffic police web-



page that are pending or before December 31, 2021, will be handled. Direct downloads of the challan slips are available https://traffic.delhipolice.gov.in/evecourtddc. Over 9,000 challans have been downloaded since this site went live on December 16. The connection can be used, among other things, to update or modify mobile numbers in the system. "We're working to

make the current sys-

user-

tem more

friendly.

Coconut oil 'edible' to reduce taxes

Delhi: Is coconut oil taxed as a food or hair care product? After 15 years of debate, the top court ruled that coconut oil is edible and should be taxed less. Coconut oil comes in small packets, like personal care goods, but that doesn't matter. Hair care goods pay 18% GST, but edible oils pay 5%. After the 2005 CET Act amendment, coconut oil was included under Section III, "Animal or Vegetable Fats and Oils and their Cleavage Products.

]\; Prepared Edible

'Can't view every speech as defamation': Delhi court

Tuesday a defamation complaint filed by BJP functionary Rajeev Chandrashekhar against Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, saying if every speech was viewed as defamation then "freedom of speech and expression would be reduced to nought".The court of additional chief judicial magistrate Paras Dalal noted there is "no prima facie evidence" that the MP made any imputation against Chandrashekhar. It is noteworthy to see how interviews, words, etc., can be manipulated to mean differently with some outside context interpretation attributed to such words, it said. Chandrashekhar

accused Tharoor of

defaming him by mak-

ing false and derogato-

ry statements during

an interview on nation-

television.

NEW DELHI: A Delhi

dismissed



had bribed voters in the constituency during 2024 Lok Sabha polls. The allegations were published by various news channels as well as on social media platforms, hurting his reputation and leading to his losing the Lok Sabha seat he was contesting against Tharoor, Chandrashekhar. The court took cognisance of the criminal complaint in Sept 2024. The court noted that when read in whole,

the 23-minute video

seems like a civilised

conversation between



two persons and provides a full context of what was asked and what was answered. It stated that a bit and piece of any answer, when presented to sensationalise some random context by a third person, can present a completely different picture."The same has been done in the 3.54-minute video played for viewers to be consumed as early morning breaking news. Neither the anchor nor reporter of thevideo was present in the interview with the proposed accused Tharoor.

AAP modifies Mehrauli candidate after sacrilege Yadav conviction



Delhi: Aam Aadmi Party replaced Mehrauli candidate Naresh Yadav with Mahender Chaudhary for the assembly elections. The 2016 Quran desecration case resulted in a two-year sentence for Mehrauli MLA Yadav. The Punjab and Haryana High Court stayed his sentence. He said he joined AAP because of Kejriwal's honesty and received a lot. However, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva claimed that the Mehrauli candidate was moved for "financial power". Kejriwal sometimes changes candidates after giving a ticket, therefore his ticket rejection was expected "Sachdeva claimed. Delhi Congress president Devender Yadav said Naresh Yadav's court punishment showed AAP MLAs and leaders' criminal pasts, actions, and corruption. "They have only emulated their role model, Kejriwal, who was let out on conditional bail by the Supreme Court after spending several months in jail in connection with the liquor scam," he said. AAP granting seats to discards from other parties showed that Kejriwal had a "acute shortage" of clean-image lawmakers, Yadav said

Budget Quote, Sakshi Gupta, Principal **Economist, HDFC Bank**

AMBALA/HISAR: Addressing conaround slowing demand from the middle class, the budget rationalised personal income tax slabs across the board along with revision in the limits of the tax deducted source. This is



likely to spur consumer demand and savings by the middle class that has faced challenges from elevated inflation and lower income growth. Beyond the sops for the common man, the budget focusses on improving the ease of doing business through a "light touch" regulatory approach. The next fiveyear fiscal strategy has been geared towards promoting agriculture, MSMEs, exports and promoting greater participation from the private sector in India's capacity building going forward. The FM's fiscal strategy has tilted towards boosting consumption while the capex target has been kept broadly unchanged from the 2024-25 budgeted plans. The

counter-cyclical push provided by the budget is within its broader strategy of fiscal consolidation, targeting a fiscal deficit of 4.4% in 2025-26.

Despite the revenue foregone due to the income tax changes, fiscal consolidation is achieved through compression on the expenditure side in 2025-26. Today's budget announcement solidifies our expectation of 6.6% of GDP growth in 2025-26. No major surprises for the bond market with the market borrowings broadly in line with expectations. This along with the upcoming rates cuts and Open market purchases by RBI, bond yields are expected to trend lower.

After the lecture and oath taking against drug abuse, anti-drug slogans echoed on the streets



guidelines of Haryana State Narcotics Control Bureau's Director General of Police, Mr. OP Singh, IPS and under the leadership Superintendent of Police Mr. Mohit Handa, IPS and Superintendent of Police Mrs. Pankhuri Kumar, strict steps are being taken to make Haryana drug-free. On one hand, criminals involved in drug trafficking are being sent behind bars, on the other hand, drug-free awareness programs are being conducted. In this series,

Kurukshetra/Shahabad:

Under the guidance and

Bureau's Awareness Program Rehabilitation In-charge/ Sub Inspector Dr. Ashok Kumar Verma is going from village to village using bicycle. Today, a one-day awareness program against drug abuse was organized in PM Shri Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Shahabad Markanda, in which 812 students and 50 teachers participated. Thereafter, a separate awareness program and a walking awareness march against drug abuse was organized with 115 volunteers of National Service Scheme to make people aware about the ill effects of drug abuse. Bureau's awareness program and rehabilitation in-charge/ sub inspector Dr. Ashok Kumar Verma, who arrived as the main speaker, while making the students

drugs, said that the habit of drugs comes secretly in a person's life and gives some pleasure, but this momentary pleasure turns into grief in life and snatches away everything. While discussing deeply about the ill effects of drugs in this program that lasted for 2 hours, Dr. Ashok Kumar Verma said that if drugs were good, then the mother would first give it to the child and say take it, my child. He asked to give secret information against drugs on the helpline number 9050891508 or 1933 or Manas portal of Haryana State Narcotics Control



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.

The government's budget will take the country towards becoming a world leader: Ashok Gurjar

Kaithal: Kaithal BJP's outgoing district president Ashok Guriar Dhand termed the budget presented today by the Union Finance Minister as public welfare, developmental and welfare oriented and said that the budget of the central government will take the country towards becoming a et, commendable steps have been taken like income tax exemption for the middle class and Modi that India should increasing the credit card limit for farmers from 3



lakh to 5 lakh. New employment opportunities will be available in the budget.

He said that this budget will fulfill the dream of Prime Minister Narendra become a strong nation. This budget has been preknowledge, poor, youth,

Talking to journalists at his establishment in the town, Ashok Gurjar Dhand said that tax exemption has been given in the budget, which will benefit the middle class. The target has been set to ensure strong development of every class. I praise this budget. This income tax. that the Union Budget is a of the state.

pared keeping in mind very good budget for allround development and is a budget for the benefit of every section.

> Ever since the Bharatiya Janata Party government has come, the country's economy has improved a lot. Ashok Gurjar Dhand said that this time there has been a huge increase in the collection of GST and

budget will prove to be a The budget will prove to be milestone for every class. a milestone along with Outgoing District President proving to be a boon for Ashok Gurjar Dhand said the country and the people

Saraswati Pujan and dedication program organized on the occasion of Basant

Kurukshetra:

Saraswati Pujan and dedication program was organized on the occasion of Basant Panchami today at Gita Niketan Vidya Mandir Sector-3 School. The chief guest in the program was Chet Ram Sharma (Vice President Hindu **Education Committee** Kurukshetra). trom this, school president Colonel S.N. Sharma and school Gulshan manager Grover were also present. The program started with lamp stuti



of Mother Students presented school. Which drama, included dance, song Principal Sumit Kumar said that the festival of Vasant Panchami is a symbol of knowledge

and learning. Manager Saraswati. Gulshan Grover said that we should also cultural programs in teach our students about culture and values ??along with education. progresses nation which always remembers the martyrdom of its martyrs.

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

DHARAMSHALA:

Upstox, one of India's premier wealth management platforms, today announced its entry into the insurance distribution business. While Upstox has traditionally been recognized for its offerings in Stocks, F&O, and Mutual Funds, the introduction Insurance marks a significant stride towards evolving into a comprehensive wealthplatform. building Today, Upstox is a onestop-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

With this launch, the company aims to revolutionise India's insur-

ance landscape by involved in the process 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 featheir Term ture 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 agentdriven models to purchase policies. Along with that, there is a lack of awareness, overload of choices, heavy paperwork and complex jargon

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. Upstox has thus set out to solve the gross mis-selling of insurance products and embarked on a monumental task of streamlining Health, Motor, Travel insurance for its customers. By leveraging advanced technology and industry expertise, Upstox aims to simplify the insurance process from identifying the top plans in each category to purchasing insurance and finally making the claim process smooth.Upstox is also trying to encourage younger Indians to consider.

We should take inspiration from the life of Kalpana Chawla: Mrs. Renu Bala

Karnal: On Saturday, on the occasion of the 22nd death anniversary of the angel of the space and former student of the school, late Dr. Kalpana Chawla, a tribute and prayer meeting was organized at 11 am in the premises of Tagore Bal Niketan Senior Secondary School, Karnal. The chief guests of this program were Mrs. Renu Bala Gupta, former mayor, Municipal Corporation, Karnal and Mrs. Megha Bhandari, Chairperson, Haryana Welfare Society for Persons with Speech Hearing and Impairment. On this occasion, the dignitaries present paid tribute to late Dr. Kalpana Chawla. On this occasion, 10 students of the school were given a cheque of Rs 25,000 each (total amount Rs 2,50,000) as Kalpana Chawla Award.

On this occasion, the

parents of these stu-

dents were also specially

honoured.



While addressing the students, the chief guest Mrs. Renu Bala Gupta said that we should take inspiration from Kalpana Chawla's life and play an important role in making our country proud. Along with this, the welfare of the society should be paramount. On this occasion, she honoured all the 10 students with the Kalpana Chawla Award and while congratulating their parents, she also inspired other students to move ahead.On this occasion, Mrs. Megha Bhandari, Chairperson, Haryana Welfare Society for Persons with Speech Hearing and Impairment, while addressing the students,

said that today's women

are actively contributing shoulder to shoulder with men in every field. This year the names of the students receiving the Kalpana Chawla Award are as follows -Samaira, Jiya, Jasmine, Kavya, Ritika, Lakshita Sandhu, Chahat Sharma, Shruti, Arunya Pawar, Ishita Chauhan Dr. Rajan Lamba informed that for the past several years this award is

being given by Rupa & Company, Delhi (N.D. Mehra Memorial Foundation, Delhi) on the death anniversary of late Dr. Kalpana Chawla to the brilliant students of the school on the basis of their excellent performance in education and all other fields.

Salasar Techno Engineering Ltd. Executes acquisition of EMC Ltd.

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

; it symbolizes our dedication to inorganically expand into allied areas within the engineering and infrastructure solutions sector.

'That's why he is number one': Former India bowling coach hails Jasprit Bumrah

NEW DELHI: Few bowlers in the world have made a significant impact in all three formats, according to former India bowling **Paras** coach Mhambrey, who also added that fast-bowling star Jasprit Bumrah deserves praise for his development as a player since his IPL 2013 debut.

Bumrah has quickly become one of India's top fast bowlers in all forms after making his debut for his country in 2016. In the 2024 Men's T20 World Cup in Barbados, Bumrah won Player of the Tournament for India with 15 wickets.

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Bumrah finished with 32 wickets in five games and was voted Player of the Series of the 2024/25 Border-Trophy, Gavaskar despite being unable to bowl in the second innings of the Sydney Test due to back



Vinod Kambli struggles to walk, wife offers support at Wankhede Stadium

NEW DELHI: Several cricket legends, including Vinod Kambli, Rohit Sharma, Sunil Gavaskar, Dilip Vengsarkar, Ravi Shastri, Sachin Tendulkar, Diana Edulji, and Ajinkya Rahane, gathered on Sunday to celebrate the 50th anniversary Wankhede Stadium.

spasms. "You have to give credit to Bumrah for the way he has evolved as a player. He is so focused. He is aware of his game. He has a constant need to

Despite facing recent health challenges that required hospitalization, Kambli attended the ceremony with the assistance of his wife, Andrea Hewitt. Earlier, he had also participated in a Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) felicitation event at the stadium.

improve. That's why he is number one. He's the best in the world in all three formats. Don't judge players by the number of games he's played.

'Siraj should have been in India's **Champions Trophy squad'**

SPORTS

India cricketer Aakash Chopra has expressed his disappointment over exclusion Mohammed Siraj from Champions Trophy squad, suggesting that the seamer would have been a more valuable asset than a spin-bowling all-rounder like Ravindra Jadeja. Speaking on his YouTube channel, Chopra argued that Siraj's consistent performances in ODIs warranted his inclusion in the 15-member squad. "In my opinion, Mohammed Siraj should have been a part of this team, and I will even tell in whose place he should have been there," Chopra stated. "The team has two left-

NEW DELHI: Former



arm spinners and one off-spinner. You could have dropped one of the three. If you wished, you could have left out Ravindra Jadeja and kept Mohammed Siraj in his place." Chopra also emphasised that Siraj's chances of making the playing XI would have been higher than Jadeja's. "I feel Siraj would have had greater value. He would have been used more. He would have contributed more to the team, and I

see lesser chances of Jadeja playing. Honestly speaking, he might not play at all. So if Jadeja is not going to play, you would have had a player who would have had greater chances of playing," he said. Backing Siraj's case, Chopra highlighted the Hyderabad seamer's stellar ODI statistics since January 2022.

"Who has played the most ODIs in the last two (three) years, from Jan 1, 2022, Mohammed Siraj. Who has bowled the most overs? Mohammed Siraj. Who has bowled the most maidens? Mohammed Siraj.

Who has the secondbest economy



Australian Open 2025: Jannik Sinner's serve breaks the net and suspends play

NEW DELHI: During reigning champion Jannik Sinner's fourth-round match against Holger Rune

on Monday, the screw that holds the net in place at the main staof dium the Australian Open came loose, causing play to be delayed for almost 20 minutes early in the fourth set.

The No. 1-ranked

Sinner, who is the defending champion at Melbourne Park, shook the net with one of his thunderous serves. The metal component that rotates to screw into the blue-painted surface after hooking into the bottom of the black webbing separating players on a tennis court was unintentionally undone by that.

Play was stopped because the net was left open. A minimum of six individuals approached to inspect the situation and try to reconnect the apparatus. Thousands of people at Rod Laver Arena cheered when a worker with a red toolbox finally managed to fix it. To avoid having to sit on the sidelines in the afternoon heat, which reached 90 degrees Fahrenheit (32 degrees Celsius), chair umpire Nico Helwerth sent Sinner and Rune to the locker room. "Ladies and gentlemen, as you can see, we are trying to fix the net as quick as possible," Helwerth announced to the crowd. "It's probably going to take a few minutes. Thank you for your patience.

Justin Kluivert hat-trick helps **Bournemouth snap Newcastle streak**

NEW DELHI: Justin Kluivert delivered a sensational performance with a hat-trick as Bournemouth ended Newcastle's winning streak in emphatic fashion, securing a dominant 4-1 victory at St. James' Park on Saturday. The result propelled Bournemouth

into the Premier League's top six while halting Newcastle's bid for a club-record 10th consecutive win across all competitions. The Cherries, now unbeaten in 11 matches, stunned the Magpies with their relentless energy and clinical finishing. Kluivert, the son of for-

mer Newcastle striker Patrick Kluivert, stole the spotlight before Milos Kerkez added the finishing touch with a late fourth goal in stoppage time. Newcastle, still in fourth place, saw their cushion over Bournemouth in the race for a Champions League spot.

Important to make adjustments, find our rhythm': Kane

NEW DELHI: Durban's Super Giants endured their third defeat in the SA20 League on Sunday as Sunrisers Eastern Cape secured a commanding six-wicket victory at St. George's Park in Gqeberha. The defending champions restricted the Super Giants to a mere 115/8 before comfortably chasing the target with 28 balls to spare. Kane Williamson, the Super Giants' top scorer with 44 off 45 balls, admitted the team struggled to find momentum on a challenging pitch. "It was a verv challenging surface with the new ball - steep tennis ball bounce, sideways movement, and spin. They bowled beautifully, picking up early wickets and putting us on the back foot. Naturally, that made it difficult to get momentum,



but we would have liked a few more runs for sure," he said during the post-match press conference. Reflecting on the Sunrisers' dominance, Williamson acknowledged their strength. "They're a very good side, playing with rhythm now. For us, it's important to make subtle

Durban, and it's crucial we make those small changes at our home ground."The Super Giants' innings faltered early, losing four wickets within the Williamson powerplay. praised the Sunrisers' disciplined bowling attack, calling it "clinical."

He added, "They hit a hard adjustments and find our length consistently, almost position at No. 7, clarifying like a Test match length. It that it was a tactical decision. rhythm. We head back to

made life tough. In T20 cricket, you have to take risks, but being four down in the powerplay made things more challenging. Still, we need our players to play with freedom and smarts, and make small adjustments." Despite the loss, Williamson remained optimistic about his team's and prospects. morale "There's a lot of experience in the dressing room, and the games come thick and fast. It's about going back to basics, making small improvements, and trusting the quality we have. Every team in this competition is strong, so our focus is on how we can execute our plans better," he said.

Williamson also addressed Heinrich Klaasen's unusual

'Everyone has been told to be flexible': Axar Patel

NEW DELHI: While outlining the team's approach ahead of the five-match series against England, new vice-captain Axar Patel stated on Monday that the batting order that follows will consist of "multiple floaters" and that openers are the only players in the Indian T20 lineup with a set spot. India's campaign will begin on Wednesday at the Gardens in Kolkata with a fivematch Twenty20 International series against England. The all-rounder responded, "It's not just about me;

Novak skips Australian Open on-court interview over 'insulting comments'



it applies to everyone in the team," when asked about being a floater in the batting order. "Right from the start of 2024, we had decided to have a fixed opening slot, and from No. 3 to No. 7, everyone has been told to be flexible based on the situation, combinations, and matchups."

member of the team management for the series, said in a way that brought to mind Rohit Sharma's appeal for middle-order flexibility prior to the 2023 ODI World Cup. "There is no fixed position where a particular batwill always play...it's the same for everyone in that range (between Nos 3 to 7), depending on who is having a great day, which we assess dursessions."In T20 cricket, it's all about utilising the right batter in the right situation."

Axar, who is currently a

Nigeria create history, beat New Zealand in U-19 T20 World Cup

Nigeria, newcomers to the ICC Women's U-19 T20 World Cup, achieved a remarkable victory against New Zealand on Monday, winning by two runs in a rain-affected lowscoring match. The Nigerian team disexceptional played fielding skills to restrict New Zealand's chase after posting a modest total of 65/6 while batting. With New Zealand requiring nine runs in the final over of the 13-over match and sitting at 57/5, Nigerian bowler Lilian Udeh's precise bowling secured a historic two-run victory for her team. The match saw few double-digit scores, with Udeh (19) and captain Lucky Piety (18) contributing for Nigeria, while Anika Todd led New Zealand's scoring with 19 runs. This victory is particularly significant for Nigeria, as



football and athletics rain, the Nigerian typically dominate the country's sports scene, unlike cricket-enthusiast nations in southern Africa such as South Africa and Zimbabwe. By becoming West Africa's first representative in a global tournament and defeating an ICC full member nation in Group C, the Nigerian team has demonstrated emerging cricket programme.

cerns and a cancelled icantly enhancing their match against Samoa net run rate in Group on Saturday due to

squad seized their opportunity Sarawak, competing in a shortened 13-over

format. In other tournament fixtures, Australia secured a narrow twowicket victory against Bangladesh in Group D, virtually guaranteeing their advancement, while the USA demonstrated their progress of their capabilities with a commanding ninewicket victory over Despite weather con- Ireland in Johor, signif-

Novak Djokovic will not be trifled with, the 24-time

major winner took a stand for himself and Serbian fans and stood unbowed at Melbourne Park. The 37-year-old appeared to

have punctuated a routine fourth-round Australian Open win over Jiri Lehecka,



but raised the ante when he refused to do the customary on-court interview with Jim Courier. Djokovic instead took the microphone from the American and directly addressed the crowd on Rod Laver Arena."Thank you for being here tonight. I appreciate your presence and sup-

port, see you in the next round," he said. The tentime champion here at Melbourne Park, was booed off the court. Later, Djokovic, who arrived for his post-match media conference ahead of time, after speaking to tournament director Craig Tiley.

La Liga: Barcelona fail to capitalise after Atletico Madrid's 15-match winning streak gets snapped

Barcelona were held to a 1-1 draw by Getafe in La Liga on Saturday, failing to make up ground on the top two teams in the Spanish title race. Jules Kounde gave Barcelona an early lead, but Mauro Arambarri equalised for Getafe in the first half, and the Catalans were unable to break down Jose Bordalas' well-organised team. draw leaves The Barcelona in third place, five points behind league leaders Atletico Madrid, who suffered a 1-0 defeat



the day. Despite winning the Spanish Super Cup last week and thrashing Real Betis in the Copa del Rey, suggesting a return to form after a slump in late 2024, Barcelona dropped

at Leganes earlier in two points on the road in their first league match of 2025 against 16th-placed Getafe.

"It's not done yet, we still have some matches to play and as I said before, we will fight until the end," Flick

told reporters."Today it's one point more, not two points less. We missed (out on) two points, but we have to look forwards initial effort. However, and make it better next time.'

Flick fielded his strongest side in recent weeks, hoping to secure a result at Getafe, Barcelona had failed to score in their previ-

ous four away visits. The Blaugrana ended that streak in the ninth minute when Kounde, who also scored in the midweek Copa del Rey win

against Real Betis, was cleverly set up by Pedri and scored on the rebound after David Soria saved his Barcelona faced the same difficulties they have often encountered at the Coliseum, with Getafe digging in and denying top scor-Lewandowski space.

Getafe equalized in the 34th minute when Coba's shot was parried by Barcelona goalkeeper Inaki Pena, and Arambarri pounced to score.

DU blocks, Savarkar college foundation stone laid by PM



An academic block for an east campus in Surajmal Vihar, a west campus in Dwarka, and the Veer Savarkar College in Roshanpura, Najafgarh, were virtually placed in place by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Our goal is to give Delhi youth more higher education opportunities here. DU will enroll hundreds of annually students after the foundation stones for future campuses

placed today. DU officials say the east campus academic block would be 15.25 acres

and the west campus will be 2.5 acres in

Dwarka Sector 22. The three projects, estimated to cost crore, 600 expected to be completed in 1.5 years. DU registrar Vikas "We Gupta said, hope that the projects will be ready before the start of the 2026-27 academic session." said that both campuses may hire additional faculty. DU proctor Rajni Abbi said the east and west campuses will have law centers. "The Faculty of Law has Law Centres 1, 2,

Campus Law

have been operating Umang of Bhawan, the Campus Law Centre facility is very old," Abbi said, adding that Law Centres 1 and 2 may move to the east and west campuses. "We have discussed moving the Campus Law Centre to Umang Bhawan, and the old building may demolished replaced with a multi-story building," Abbi said. Another DU source stated Roshanpura will get the Veer Savarkar college on condition

While the first two

UGC proposed V-C recruitment norms: Political consequences and academic resistance

CommissionS (UGC) proposed a major overhaul of vice-chanrecruitment, cellor allowing industry experts and public sector veterans from nonacademic backgrounds to be appointed and giving chancellors more authority in the selection process. The 2025 UGC for Appointment & Promotion of Teachers and Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance Standards in Higher Education) Regulations would supersede the

now follow NEP 2020. The commission issued the draft for a month to get feedback before releasing the final guidelines. If approved, chancellors might form the vice-chancellor appointment committee, which could affect state politics. The governors of each state serve as chancellors at state universities, while the Vice President of India heads central universities. Current vice-chancellor appointment standards do not define who should serve on the committee. In opposi-

Delhi: The University 2018 standards. They tion-ruled states like West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, where governors and state governments have often clashed over vice-chancellor appointments, the new idea might have major ramifications. Some teachers oppose it. A.K. Bhagi, president of Delhi University Teachers' Association (DUTA), stated the 2018 guidelines proposed by industry experts. However, teacher associations and educators opposed it, therefore dropped. Our position is unchanged.

National Eligibility Test No Longer Required for Assistant Professor

Delhi: The University Grants Commission (UGC) has produced a draft of minimum criteria for hiring and promoting teachers and academic staff in universities and colleges and steps to maintain higher education standards. According to regula-

tions, the UGC recommends eliminating the National Eligibility Test (NET) for assistant professor and promotion positions in higher education. The proposal requires assistant professors to have a postgraduate degree in ME or MTech with at least

55% grades. The UGC-NET test is required for assistant professor eligibility. Additional qualifications for assistant professor include an undergraduate degree (NCrF Level 6) with at least 75% marks, a PG degree (NCrF Level 6.5) with at least 55% marks.



2 BSc papers delayed at DU, one test rescheduled

Delhi: Officials stated a Delhi University Bachelor of Science (BSc) paper was postponed and another was delayed for several hours due to late question paper delivery from the department. Officials say the disruptions affected 170 students at Ramjas, Zakir Husain, Deshbandhu, and Deen Dayal Upadhyaya institutions. A new announcement rescheduled the postponed exam for Sunday, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. Two 9:30 am "Electronics Instrumentation" "Mathematical Physics-I," were affected.Question papers weren't provided till 11:30 am. "The Electronics Instrumentation exam started late, but students had three hours to finish. The pupils had enough time to finish their papers, an official stated. Students protested the delay, therefore the "Mathematical Physics-I" paper was postponed. "Due to their concerns, the paper was rescheduled for January 5 at the same time," the spokesperson said. The official blamed "confusion" and "lack of coordination" between the department and universities for the interruption. He declined additional comment.

Domain experts without teaching experience can become V-Cs under UGC's new draft norms.

Delhi: The University Grants Commission announced draft guidelines for recruiting Vice Chancellors for on, proposing direct appointment of industry experts and senior public sector workers. The current guidelines allow academicians with at least 10 years of experience as a professor or in a prominent research or academic administrative role to be V-Cs, but the draft norms propose that those with 10 years of senior-level experience in industry.

CII paper highlights India's education 'underinvestment' and compares Sweden to China

Delhi: A recent comparative assessment of eight countries' school education systems exposes India's "significant underinvestment" in education. For six years, India's education spending has stuck at 2.7% and 2.9% of GDP, with little increase. To reach global standards, the research recommends raising this to 6%. The Confederation of Indian Industry issued the report last week, titled 'Comparative report of School Education maia, Australia, China, Indonesia, Sweden, Thailand, UK, and USA'. This study examines the education systems of eight developed and rising nations. From 2018 to 2023, the research shows varied education spending



patterns per country. India's education. Australia had an at 2.7-2.9 percent of GDP, while developed nations like Sweden (6.7-6.9 percent) and the UK (5.3-5.6 percent) and developing nations like Indonesia (3.7-4.3 percent) and Thailand (4.0-4.3 percent) allocated higher shares to

allocation remained stagnant 8% increase and China 2.4%, while India's spending didn't grow over six years. Indonesia fell 2.8% and Sweden returned to baseline. India's low allocation highlights the need to increase spending to 6% of GDP, the research said. "India's education spending

trajectory shows the need for strategic national investment. The continuous 2.7-2.9% GDP allocation is a major underinvestment compared to worldwide benchmarks, especially in affluent economies paying 5-7% of GDP on education, it stated. The study uses secondary data from government reports, international organizations like the OECD and UNESCO, and academic publications using a strategic sampling approach.

The study compares educational structure, funding, curriculum, equity, and vocational training to identify trends, best practices, and lessons India may learn from other nations.

EWS Students at Private Schools Receive SOPS

Delhi: For the 2025-26 academic year, the Delhi Directorate of Education (DoE) has published standard operating procedures (SOPs) to streamline private school admissions for Economically Weaker Section, Disadvantaged Group, and Children with Special Needs. According to a circular, the annual collection of school sanctioned strength data has been posted to the DoE website. The DoE will update its portal with seat openings within seven working days. DDE district-led com-



school seat allocation be released and applications invited through ing days of the draw. a thorough circular. Candidates have 15 The circular stated that working days to rectify successful applicants will be notified by text, email, or phone after a computerized draw of lots. Instead schools, zonal authorities will verify docu-

stated that 29 RTEments within 10 workdocument inconsistencies. The DoE said nonreported candidates have five further working days to submit paperwork.

4,200 cases, 25cr reimbursements: PVT Univs fee complaints increase

Delhi: Private institutions have become the most frequently complained-about group when it comes to feerelated practices, which emphasizes the need for a more thorough review of their



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pricing structures. In the last five academic The years, 4,257 complaints were settled, leading to refunds of more than Rs 25.5 crore, according to from University Commission's (UGC) Fee Nivaran Cell. Given that almost 50% of complaints were submitted in the academic year 2023–2024 alone, this trend indicates a

> Uttar Pradesh received the most complaints out of all the states, followed by Delhi and Rajasthan.

UGC's Samadhaan portal powers the Nivaran Cell, which allows students to lodge complaints and the look for solutions. The Grants success of the cell was emphasized by UGC chairperson Jagadesh Kumar, who mentioned a 97% repayment rate. "It has handled complaints from 32 states and rise in fee-related Union Territories, and anomalies across all more than 1,386 female students have received refunds totaling Rs 8.71 crore," he stated. All forms of HEIs—central, state,

Delhi Nursery, KG Admission Under **EWS Quota Begins Feb 2**

The Delhi Directorate of Education (DoE) has established guidelines and admission procedures for private school entry-level classes for EWS, underprivileged, and special needs students. Admissions applications will open online on February 3, 2025. The application date is February 19, 2025. Shortlisted applicants' first lot draw is March 3, 2025. EWS/disadvantaged groups (DG) and children with special needs (CWSN) will be admitted to the city's private unaided rec-



The directorate's rules for Class 1. EWS, DG, and disabled EWS and DG pupils' age limits students receive 25% of

ognized schools for nursery, are 3-5 years for Nursery, 4-6 kindergarten (KG), and Class 1. years for KG, and 5-7 years for for admission as of March 31 admissions. Students with

family incomes under Rs 5 lakh are eligible for EWS admission. These families should show Delhi Revenue

Department income proof. Families with BPL or Antyodaya Anna Yojana ration cards can also apply. SC, ST, OBC (Non-Creamy Layer), orphans, transgender, and HIV-positive youngsters are disadvantaged. Students will be chosen by computer lot. Candidates selected for admission will be notified via text, email, or phone.

Government school enrollment fell 87 lakh in 2023-24

Delhi: Bihar had the largest dip at 28.9 lakh kids in government schools in 2023-24, according to government data. Private schools are seeing a surge in enrollment, reflecting a reverse movement of pupils who went to public schools during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Overall enrollment fell 1.6 crore in 2023-24 from 26.45 crore in 2019-20. The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER), which assesses the



percentage of school-age children enrolled at a certain education level, also fell from 94.2 percent to 91 percent. The

National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 seeks 100% GER by 2030. The data shows a major change in school enrollment. During the same year, private school enrollment climbed from 8.4 crore to 9 crore while government school enrollment declined from 13.62 crore to 12.74 crore. This is the first post-pandemic fall in government school enrollment and a rise in private school enrollment. The pandemic drove approximately 40 lakh pupils from private to government schools in 2020-21, a trend that continues now. Private schools report lower enrolments. The reduction was attributed to "reverse migration" post-pandemic, with pupils who had attended government schools owing to budgetary restrictions returning to private schools. Some states tried to delete.

private.