

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

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

India will be run by the traditions of Ram, Krishna and Buddha, not by Babur and Aurangzeb: Yogi

Lucknow Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was at his witty best on Monday during the Winter Session, successfully cornering the Samajwadi Party, Congress, and other opposition parties on key issues accountable. He cornered them on key issues such as Sambhal, Bahraich, the Constitution, and communal riots, making them face the truth. CM Yogi made it clear that only the traditions of Ram, Krishna, and Buddha will endure in India, not those of Babur and Aurangzeb. Addressing the situation in Sambhal, CM Yogi pointed out a historical divide between Turks and Pathans. He recalled that Shafiqur Rahman Barq, a former SP MP (now deceased), had once proclaimed himself not as an Indian citizen, but as a descendant of Babur. The Chief Minister then posed a stark question to the opposition: "Will you uphold the legacy



of invaders, or the traditions of Ram, Krishna, and Buddha?" He reiterated, "Only the tradition of Ram, Krishna, and Buddha will endure in India, not that of Babur and Aurangzeb." CM Yogi questioned why there is no issue when a Muharram or any Muslim procession passes peacefully through a Hindu locality or in front of a temple, but problems arise when a Hindu procession passes through a mosque or a Muslim-majority area. "Can't the saffron flag be raised on Indian soil?" he asked. "If a Muslim

procession can pass through a Hindu locality and in front of a temple, why can't a Hindu procession pass through a Muslim locality?" He further emphasized that the slogan "Jai Shri Ram" is not provocative; it is a reflection of our faith. "If I tell you tomorrow that we don't like the slogan 'Allah-u-Akbar,' will you be okay with that?" CM Yogi asked. The Chief Minister also addressed opposition leaders, stating, "If you had read Baburnama, you would not be engaging in this debate. Your politics has been about

Baatne and Katvane, but we have made it clear—'Na Batenge, Na Katenge.'" Referring to NCRB data, CM Yogi highlighted that communal riots in Uttar Pradesh have dropped by 97 to 99 percent since 2017. "Since 2017, there have been no riots in UP. But between 2012 and 2017, during the Samajwadi Party's tenure, there were 815 communal riots, and 192 people lost their lives. From 2007 to 2011, there were 616 incidents, with 121 deaths," he pointed out. The CM recalled the long history of communal unrest in Sambhal, which has been a hotspot since 1947. "There were deaths and riots in 1947, and 1948, and continued unrest through the decades, with significant violence in 1978, where 184 Hindus were burned alive. In 1980-1982, there were more riots, and in 1990-1992, five people were killed.

Sambhal violence: Giriraj blames opposition for trying 'to burn nation

NEW DELHI: Union minister and BJP MP Giriraj Singh on Monday blamed the opposition for the violence in Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal, calling it a "pre-planned strategy" akin to the Godhra incident. Clashes during a court-mandated survey at the Mughal-era Jama Masjid on Sunday left three dead and over 20 police personnel injured. A fourth injured person died on Monday. 'Crowd of 2,000-3,000 people began throwing stones': How Sambhal violence unfolded



Tight security measures, including prohibitory orders and internet suspension, have been implemented in Sambhal to prevent further escalation. Entry of outsiders into Sambhal has been barred till November 30. A magisterial probe

has also been ordered into the violence. Police have lodged seven FIRs in connection with the violence, naming Samajwadi Party MP Zia-ur-Rehman Barq and local SP MLA Iqbal Mehmood's son Sohail Iqbal as accused. Meanwhile, Sambhal

mosque management blamed local authorities and police for violence erupted in the area. SP delegation to visit Sambhal, submit report to Akhilesh Yadav. A Samajwadi Party (SP) delegation will visit Sambhal to gather details about the recent violence and submit a report to party president Akhilesh Yadav. The announcement was made on SP's official handle on X, stating, "As per the directions of Hon'ble National President Shri Akhilesh Yadav ji.,

Mamata Banerjee elevates veterans in TMC, entrusts Abhishek with key national role

KOLKATA: TMC chief Mamata Banerjee on Monday formed several disciplinary committees at different levels, consisting of veteran loyalists, and gave additional responsibilities to national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee for raising issues of



national importance in New Delhi. In a significant move, the party

also elevated five veteran leaders including assembly Speaker Biman

, state minister Manas Bhunia and party MP Kalyan Banerjee, to the party's all-powerful working committee. Notably, party MP and Banerjee's nephew Abhishek, considered the party's de facto number two, and who has been a key

Deadly smog: Central panel allows 'hybrid mode' in Delhi-NCR schools



NEW DELHI: The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) on Monday allowed Delhi-NCR schools to conduct classes in a "hybrid mode," combining physical and online sessions wherever feasible, in response to Supreme Court directives. The decision comes amid hazardous air quality in the region due to persistent smog. "State governments in the NCR shall ensure that all classes up to 12th standard are conducted in a 'hybrid' mode, both 'physical' and 'online,' wherever online mode is feasible," the CAQM order stated. It added that the choice of online learning would rest with students and their guardians. This relaxation applies to Clauses 5 and 8 of Stage-IV and Clause 11 of Stage-III of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP). The Supreme Court had earlier raised concerns about students' access to online education, mid-day meals, and air purification at home, urging CAQM to address these challenges. The CAQM highlighted the particular impact of GRAP Stage-IV restrictions on students in Grades 10 and 12, who require physical attendance for board exams and practical classes. "Students of classes X and XII are most impacted...due to Board examinations and practicals," the panel noted. The hybrid model will apply to Delhi and NCR districts such as Gurugram, Faridabad, Ghaziabad, and Gautam Buddha Nagar. State governments in other NCR areas may also implement similar measures. Separately, the Supreme Court refused to relax other GRAP-4 restrictions, including the construction ban and truck entry curbs, until

Jammu and Kashmir first assembly session in 6 years: Abdul Rather elected speaker

NEW DELHI: The first session of newly elected Jammu and Kashmir assembly kickstarted with an uproar on Monday. After electing National Conference leader Abul Rahim Rather as speaker, a ruckus broke out over Article 370 in the first assembly session held after six years. After introduction of a resolution opposing the revocation of Article 370 and



restoration of the special status of J&K by the People's Democratic Party leader Waheed Para, chief minister Omar Abdullah said that it was brought merely 'for the cameras' and a single MLA's private

resolution carries no meaning. He added that if there had been a genuine intention behind the resolution, it should have been discussed with the National Conference. This Assembly

reflects the emotions of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The reality is that people of Jammu and Kashmir have not approved the August 5, 2019, decision. The results would have been different if the people had approved the decision," Abdullah said. "The resolution brought today has no importance but it is only for the cameras.

Karnataka home minister blames EVM for Cong debacle in Maharashtra

BENGALURU: Karnataka home minister G Parameshwara on Monday alleged Electronic Voting Machine manipulations led to the defeat of Maha Vikas Aghadi alliance in just concluded assembly polls in Maharashtra. While speaking to reporters here on



Monday, he said the BJP does selective manipulations to convince people that there were no wrongdoings. He also wanted to go

back to the paper ballots system. The ruling BJP-led Mahayuti alliance in Maharashtra won a landslide victory in the assembly elections, shattering the Congress-led Maha Vikas Aghadi's dream to wrest power. The BJP won the highest ever 132 seats for the party, while the Shiv Sena

led by Shinde bagged 57 seats and NCP won 41 seats to take the Mahayuti total to 230 seats. Congress as part of MVA won just 16 seats. "We analysed the Maharashtra poll outcome deeply. We felt that in many places EVMs were manipulated.

Muda case: Lokayukta summons Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah

NEW DELHI: Karnataka chief minister Siddaramaiah on Monday received a summons from the Lokayukta police to appear before it on November 6 for an inquiry linked to the ongoing investigation into the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) land allotment case. The summon follows recent questioning of



several officials linked to the case, including Mallikarjuna

Swamy and Devaraju. Siddaramaiah confirmed later in the day that he will appear before the Mysuru Lokayukta on November 6 regarding the ongoing investigation into the MUDA land allotment case. "Yes, Mysore Lokayukta has issued a notice regarding MUDA. I will go to Mysore Lokayukta on 6th November.

RBI gives Paytm 15 days more before curbs kick

MUMBAI: In a relief to customers, RBI on Monday relaxed the deadline on most of the restrictions imposed on Paytm Payments Bank to March 15 from Feb 29, including accepting fresh deposits. It also clarified that QR codes and soundboxes that are not linked to PPBL will continue to work after mid-March. However, RBI made it clear that there is no coming back for the payments bank to these services. RBI unambiguously advised customers to apply for new Fastags and National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) cards used in metros and buses if they are currently Paytm customers. It also said that those who are using PPBL savings accounts to receive subsidies, salaries or government benefits should open new bank accounts. Paytm shares, which have been ham-

SC reverses NCLAT order that approved Byju's Rs 158.9 crore dues settlement with BCCI

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has overturned the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal's order that had halted insolvency proceedings against the troubled ed-tech company Byju's. The bench noted, "There was no formal application made for withdrawal, the first respondent who was a former director of the corporate debtor had moved NCLAT directly. Despite these grave deviations, NCLAT still approved the settlement," The SC said, according to the Bar and Bench.

Chandrachud, also overruled the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal's order that had halted insolvency proceedings against the troubled ed-tech company Byju's. The bench noted, "There was no formal application made for withdrawal, the first respondent who was a former director of the corporate debtor had moved NCLAT directly. Despite these grave deviations, NCLAT still approved the settlement," The SC said, according to the Bar and Bench.

165 nominations received for Mandal President

Maximum of 17 nominations from Naini Mandal

Nomination process completed in presence of District Election Officer

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Prayagraj: The nomination process for the election of Mandal President from all 15 mandals of Prayagraj metropolis under the BJP Organization Parv Election. District Election Officer, Senior BJP leader Dr. Ram Shankar. It was completed on Monday in the presence of Katheria. A total of 97 nominations were received from 8 divisions on the second day. There were 68 nominations on the first day, thus a total of 165 nominations were made from all the 15 divisions of Prayagraj metropolis for the division president. On the second day on 16th Decem-

ber, 17 nominations were received from Naini Mandal, 11 from Muthiganj Mandal, 10 from Kidganj, 11 from Chowk, 13 from Khuldabad, 10 from Ganga Patti Mandal, 12 from Shivkuti and 13 from Civil Line Mandal. The entire nomination process was completed in the BJP office located at Civil Lines. District Election Officer Dr. Ramshankar Katheria said that after nomination, further process will be done as per the guidelines of the state. Under the Sangathan Parv, the entire organizational election process was conducted transparently

and as per the rules of the state leadership with the cooperation of all the divisional election officers and divisional presidents. During this, Metropolitan President Rajendra Mishra, District Election Co-Officer Kunj Bihari Mishra and Rajesh Patel, Mandal Election Officer Ravi Kesharwani, Rajesh Kesharwani, Kritika Aggarwal, Ramesh Pasi, Navratna Katyal, Geeta Vishwakarma, Sanjay Srivastava, Sachin Jaiswal, media in-charge. Vivek Mishra, Prashant Shukla, Rakesh Bharti, Deep Dwivedi etc. were present.

05 employees and officers of North Central Railway will be honored with Ati Vishisht Railway Service Award 2024

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Prayagraj: Like every year, this year also the Ati Vishisht Railway Service Award Ceremony will be organized in which the Hon'ble Union Minister, Railways, Information and Broadcasting and Electronics, Information Technology, Shri Ashwini Vaishnav will honor the railway employees and officers on 21.12.2024 at Bharat Mandapam Delhi. In this, five employees and officers of North Central Railway have been nominated for the Ati Vishisht Railway Service Award Ceremony 2024.

In this, 1. Shri Vijendra Kumar Meena, working as Pointsman (Katwala) at Ramgarh Station, Agra Division, was on duty at the railway crossing- 95 of Ramgarh station on 11.4.2023 from 8 to 20 o'clock during railway work. A woman was coming on the track with children in her lap. The crossing was closed for train no. 12403. The worker asked the woman to move away from the track as a train was coming on the track. The train was visible nearby. The woman had come in the middle of the track and

even after hearing the gateman, she ignored him and went near the track. With his wisdom, the employee picked up the woman and the children and reached the side of the track. If there was a delay



of 5 seconds till train 12403, the lives of the woman and the children could have been lost. During this, Vijendra Kumar Meena could also have been lost. This is a very noble and commendable work.

2. Shri Pankaj Kumar Rajak is working as Chief Commercial Inspector in Chief Prayagraj Division, during his tenure in the financial year 2023-24, due to our collective efforts Prayagraj Division has suc-

cessfully awarded various contracts. 03NINFRIS proposals, 05 Out of Home, 15RDN (Digital and Non Digital), 01 AC Waiting Room, 01 Executive Lounge, 01 Clock Room, 08 White ATM (06 Stations), 04 Battery Operated Cars (02 Stations), 02 Sleeping Pods, 01 Parcel Packing (04 Stations) and 05 Rail Coach Contracts. Railway Board has been set a target of Rs.137 lakhs for Non Fare Revenue for the Financial Year 2023-24, in the light of the target given by Railway Board, Prayagraj Division has made efforts in various field activity under NFR and achieved Rs.437 lakhs i.e. (+) 319% more and also (+) 286% as compared to Financial Year 2022-23. This was the highest ever amount earned in Non Fare Revenue by Prayagraj Division.

3. Gurjit Kaur, OSD Sports HQ has represented Indian Women's Hockey Team in 137 International matches since 2014 as a specialist drag flicker and defender and participated in XXXII Olympic Games Tokyo (Women) 2021 (4th place) in Japan and scored the match winning goal against Australia in India's

historic 1-0 win which secured Indian Women's Hockey Team their first ever semi-final appearance at the prestigious event. Won FIH Women's Player of the Year Award 2021, Gold Medal at FIH Women's Nations Cup 2022. Bronze at XXXII Commonwealth Games 2022, Silver at Asian Games 2018, Silver at Asian



Champions 2018. Gold Medal at Women's Asia Cup 2017. Bronze at Women's Asia Cup 2022. Participated in XXI Commonwealth Games, Gold Medal at South Asian Games 2016. Punjab Govt.'s Maharaja Ranjit Singh Award 2019. Played FIH Hockey Women's World Cup 2022, Sportswoman of the Year 2019 Sports Star Aces Award, Best Player of

the Tournament at Olympic Qualification Tournament 2019.

4. Deepa Kumari, posted as Assistant Loco Pilot (Electrical) at Kanpur Central Station, Prayagraj Division, in recognition of her exemplary performance and dedication to duty, her excellent work has set high standards of excellence and has contributed significantly to the success of the operations, her commitment towards her role and her remarkable achievements are commendable.

5. Shri Manmohan Mishra is working as Track Maintainer III at Unit No. 158 Chitrakootdham Station, Jhansi Division. Due to the tireless hard work and dedication of the employee, the efficient operation of PQRS Km. 1320/0-1340/0 and BCM machine was successfully completed under the supervision of Senior Section Engineer/Railway/Chitrakootdham Karvi. He has contributed a lot in the disposal of scrap material. Shri Manmohan Mishra is dutiful, truthful and dedicated. His work has been highly praised.

North Central Railway got the “First Prize” of “Uttar Pradesh State Energy Conservation Award-2024”

“Certificate of Merit” to Subedarganj Railway Station

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Prayagraj: In today's competitive era, ensuring availability of energy for the progress and development of the nation is a major agenda of North Central Railway. Availability of energy can be ensured by controlling wastage in relation to the demand of energy and by encouraging energy conservation.

North Central Railway has bagged two awards this year in the competition of zonal railways by adopting various energy efficient technical measures. It has set an example for other bodies by winning the “First Prize” of “Uttar Pradesh State Energy Conservation Award-2024” organized by Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Development Agency (UPNEDA). This award was received by Shri Kuldeep Kumar, Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer/General/ North Central Railway and Shri Praveen Nevalkar, Se-

nior Section Engineer/ Drawing/Headquarters in the ceremony of Energy Conservation Day-2024 organized in Lucknow on 14.12.2024.

Apart from this, Subedarganj Railway Station was awarded the “Certificate of Merit” in the “National Energy Conservation Award-2024” organized by BEE. This award was received by Shri Akhilesh Kumar, Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer / Headquarters in the ceremony of Energy Conservation Day-2024 organized in New Delhi on 14.12.2024.

Committed to energy conservation, North Central Railway has installed 12.47 MW solar power plant, 100% energy efficient LED tube lights, BLDC fans and 5 star rated air conditioners in all 411 railway stations, all 265 railway service buildings and all railway residences. This resulted in saving of 16 million units of



energy and Rs 14.4 crore in railway revenue in the year 2023-24. As a result, emission of 14544 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide was prevented in the year 2023-24.

Solar power plants generated 11.8 million units of cheap and environment-friendly electricity in the year 2023-24 and 8.3 million units in the year 2024-25 (April-November). This resulted in saving of revenue

of Rs. 4.93 crore in the year 2023-24 and Rs. 3.69 crore in the year 2024-25 (April-November). As a result, emission of 9921 metric tons of carbon dioxide was prevented in the year 2023-24 and 6938 metric tons in 2024-25 (April-November).

Due to 100% electrification of 3285.366 route kilometers in the entire North Central Railway, there was a 98% reduction in diesel consumption and time, resulting in saving of railway revenue.

Apart from this, 24.38 crore units of electricity were saved through regenerative braking by 3 phase AC locomotive, which has resulted in saving of Rs 146.3 crore in railway revenue. Apart from this, due to providing electricity through HOG in coach lighting, diesel consumption of power car has reduced by 6294 kilo liters in the year 2023-24, which has resulted in saving of Rs 55.4

crore in railway revenue.

On this occasion, Chief Electrical Engineer, North Central Railway, Shri Anup Kumar Agarwal congratulated the entire team of the electrical department for their commendable contribution. He expressed special gratitude to Chief Electrical Engineer/Energy Management Shri K.M. Singh and his team for making this successful.

North Central Railway is committed to the sustainable use of green energy. In this direction, work has been approved by the Railway Board to install 17.84 MW solar plants in the year 2024-25, which will be completed by the year 2025-26. This will increase the estimated annual production capacity of North Central Railway's total green energy to 32.3 million units (MU). This will reduce 27187 metric tons of carbon emissions and save Rs. 14.9 crore in revenue.

MIC Electronics Completes Landmark Train Display Board Project

Lucknow: MIC Electronics Limited, (listed in the Stock Exchanges) a global leader in the design, development, and manufacturing of LED video displays, and electronic solutions, proudly announces the successful completion of its project for the Ratlam Division of Western Railway Zone. The company has received the Letter of Completion/ Installation Certificate, marking a significant milestone in its partnership with Indian Railways.

This comprehensive project encompassed several critical installations, including replacement of five-line train display boards on a codal basis at Indore, provision of new CGDB (Coach Guidance Display Board) at NMH (NIMACH) Platform 2 along with information display boards and GPS clocks at 33 stations under MEA, replacement of information display boards at seven stations, installation of "at-a-glance" display

boards at four stations, and the replacement of analog/GPS clocks at 67 locations on a codal life basis.

These installations reinforce MIC Electronics' commitment to enhancing the operational efficiency and passenger convenience of Indian Railways through cutting-edge digital display solutions.

Speaking on the achievement, CEO MIC Rakshit Mathur said, "We are delighted to have delivered this crucial project on time and to the satisfaction of Indian Railways. This achievement underlines our dedication to providing innovative and reliable solutions customized to the unique needs of our clients. We look forward to collaborating with Indian Railways again in future to deliver such important tasks as part of streamlining operations. Obtaining a Letter of Completion from Indian Railways is critical as it serves as formal recognition that the project or

service has been executed in strict adherence to the prescribed guidelines, standards, and specifications. This ensures compliance with operational and safety benchmarks while bolstering trust and credibility for future endeavours."

MIC Electronics continues to strengthen its role in the public infrastructure domain. The company remains committed to supporting Indian Railways' modernization initiatives, ensuring a seamless experience for millions of passengers across the country.

About MIC Electronics

MIC Electronics Limited is an ISO 9001:2008 and ISO 14001:2004 certified company specialising in LED and electronic solutions. With decades of experience, MIC Electronics has built a robust portfolio of innovative projects in various sectors, including transportation, public infrastructure, and smart city initiatives.

Allahabad colored in the colors of Taekwondo

Prayagraj: The Besit ?motion ceremony saw enthusiasm and passion. The Beist ?motion ceremony held today at Allahabad Taekwondo Academy created an atmosphere of enthusiasm and pride in the sport and the decade. This special occasion was graced by the warm presence of DSO Arvind Sonkar ji, Councilor Pankaj Jaiswal ji, former national medal winner Arun Veda ji, and DSO Rajneet Yadav sir (5 Dan Clack Beat). In this event, the youth of Taiwan Satar demonstrated his talent and intelligence. His brilliant performance inspired the decade and earned him thunderous respect. On this occasion was awarded the China Beit1. Jamar Ali. Ananda Krishna ?Veda?. Syed Mohammad Jaraya. Aarohi Jaiswal. Yashvadhan s. The event not only rewarded the athletes for their hard work and dedication, but also demonstrated that sports like Taekwondo can promote self-confidence, discipline and physical-mental balance among the youth. The present Decades and Parents also appreciated the hard work of the players and wished them all the best to reach higher goals in the future. "Tae Wondo is not just a game, it is an art of life." It teaches us courage, discipline and positive thinking." DSO Arvind Sonkar: This event will remain memorable as another achievement of Allahabad Taekwondo Academy.



7th INT'L FESTIVAL SHORT FILMSON CULTURAL TOURISM started with film personalities

Prayagraj: In the inauguration ceremony of SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL SHORT FILMSON CULTURAL TOURISM, which is being held for the first time in Prayagraj, chief guest Boney Kapoor the veteran film producer lighted the lamp along with other Film personalities like Kunal Kohli, a renowned Indian film director, producer and screenwriter, Abhinay Deo, a renowned Indian film and television director, Gurmeet Choudhary, a popular Indian actor, Manoj Joshi, a versatile Indian actor, Rajesh Puri, a talented Indian actor, Priti Sapru, one of the biggest names in Punjabi cinema, Subhash Sehgal, a renowned film editor, Manjari Fadnis, an Indian actress, model and singer, and so on were present on the stage.

In his two-word address, Boney Kapoor specifically

said using a quote from his film song 'Haar ke baad jeet hai' that the youth should always keep trying to get their goal, they might face frailer in the beginning but later they will definitely get the fruit of success one day. He wished good luck to the festival's success as well to the participating filmmakers for their efforts. Adding he said such events should continue to happen because film festivals provide such a platform where filmmakers and audiences connect with each other directly and share their views.

Welcoming the audience at the 7th International Festival of Short Films on Cultural Tourism - Prayagraj, Festival Chairman Mr. Devendra Khandelwal presented the festival trophy to the guests as festival memento - the golden lady statue of 7th International Festival of Short Films on

Cultural Tourism. In a media bite he said that as fest's name suggests, it aims not only to promote tourism but also to understand the cultures of the world so that along with other tourism like eco tourism, rural tourism etc. Cultural Tourism should also be promoted and expanded.

This film festival has always received excellent response and this time also 4328 film entries were received from 146 countries with just 50 days' notice. The Preliminary Jury also spent a lot of time watching almost all the films completely and selecting them. About 97 Cream films from 47 countries are being screened during this 3 days festival. The audience is appealed by the festival secretary Ms Ketki Kapadia who did vote of thanks to the sponsor UP Tourism Deptt. and the guests celebrities, to watch

and enjoy these excellent films made with the hard work and dedication of the filmmakers.

Tourism Department of Uttar Pradesh Government sponsors and a well-known company from Mumbai Indian Infotainment Media Corporation is organizing this 7th International Film Festival of Cultural Tourism in Prayagraj in which 97 short films selected from 4328 from 146 countries are being shown. Out of which about 15 best films were shown on the inaugural day. In which the opening film, India's entry 3:43 min. film Bhagarh: A Rajasthani Folk tale, was directed by Ratin Mohan. The story revolves around a powerful tantrik who falls in love with a beautiful princess. Using dark magic, he attempts to hypnotize her with a special perfume. However, the princess, aware of his intentions, outwits him

by throwing the bottle onto a nearby rock. The impact causes the rock to fall, crushing the tantrik. In his dying breath, the monk curses the land, dooming it to be haunted for eternity.

Today i.e. on 17 December 2023, about 43 films are going to be shown in two shows, and around 8 Indian films will be screened and even a Pakistani film too will be shown. Although all the films are interesting because you can understand that the preliminary jury has selected only 97 films out of 4328 films, yes, it is a different matter that due to time constraints many good films could not be kept, some of them too were very good. There were great films but their duration was almost double the running time criteria of the festival's Rules and Regulations. Nevertheless, it is important to mention some special cream films

will be shown today. These films are - The Ghost in Jumla from Nepal which explores an ancient myth told by the people of Jumla, a remote region in Nepal, about an insane ghost that onceretorized the land.

In 6 minute, Afgan film - 'The most beautiful Kabuli Dress', Raihana wants to wear "The Most Beautiful Kabuli Dress" on her birthday. Karim, Raihana's brother is about to buy the dress as the birthday gift for his sister but Yalda, a little girl wants the dress for herself.

'Becheve, Guardians of the Mountain', this five and a half minute Nigerian film talks about the lush heart of Becheve. 'Human-Wildlife Coexistence' this 7 minute, Brazilian film unveils the innovative strategies of the Serra do Mar Large Mammals Program, which aims to promote coexistence between humans and wildlife.

Attack on the faith of Jain community, Jain Board should be established: Ujjwal Raman

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Prayagraj: MP Ujjwal Raman Singh, raising the issue of attack on the faith of the Jain community in the Lok Sabha, said that the Jain community is a minority and has made an important contribution in nation building. Their faith is being continuously attacked. He said that the fifth tonk of Girnar mountain, which is Neminath, the 22nd Tirthankar of Jainism, is the place of salvation of Lord. There is a tradition of offering Nirvana Laddu on the Moksha Kalyanak Day on 13th July, which was stopped by force. This is an attack on faith. He said that the delegation accompanying Digambar Jain Tirtha Kshetra President Jambu Prasad Jain and Sudeep Jain told that at the gate of the fifth Tonk hill, Jain pilgrims were identified and searched like terrorists to see if they were carrying rice, almonds with them. They were not taking puja material and laddus and they were also stopped from chanting Lord Neminath, they even beat and abused them, this is a violation of the fundamental rights of Jainism. MP representative Vinay Kushwaha said that MP Ujjwal Raman Singh said that the orders of the Honorable High Court of 17 February 2005 should be complied with, in which the Jain Board should be established with immediate effect to preserve and protect the religion, pilgrimage and culture of the Jain community. Let it be done.



Congressmen will join the Assembly gherao in large numbers

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Prayagraj: A meeting of prominent Congressmen of the district and city was held on Monday afternoon at the camp office Himmatganj under the chairmanship of former UP Congress Committee spokesperson Kishore Varshney. It was decided in the meeting that on the call of the State Congress, a large number of Congressmen from the district will reach Lucknow on Wednesday, December 18, against the anti-people policies of the Yogi government of the state. State committee member Fuzail Hashmi said that the central and state governments are snatching away the rights of youth, poor, businessmen and farmers etc. and giving them to two industrialists Adani-Ambani. Issues like broken law and order situation in the state, kidnapping of women and daughters and murder followed by rape, rising inflation, unemployment, privatization of power corporations and government institutions, besides Sambhal and Jhansi Medical College etc. are included. In the meeting, the issue of Modi government's indifference and deliberate stalling of parliamentary discussion on the allegations leveled by America against Gautam Adani and his associates was protested. In the meeting, deep sorrow was expressed on the demise of famous tabla player Padma Vibhushan Ustad Zakir Hussain. Two minutes silence was observed and prayers were offered for the peace of the departed soul. Senior Congress leaders Harikesh Tripathi, Ajay Srivastava, Omprakash Tripathi, Parvez Siddiqui, Gopal Krishna Dwivedi, Arshad Ali, Vijay Yadav, Rakesh Patel, Arun Chaurasia, Sartaj Mohammad, Indresh Mishra, Mohd. Javed, Kailash Nishad, Anil Srivastava, Keshav Pasi, Rajendra Jaiswal, Kameshwar Sonkar etc.

Shifa Fatima of Prayagraj again won gold medal in her category

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Prayagraj: Prayagraj's talented player Shifa Fatima once again performed brilliantly in the Vikram Singh Memorial State Level Karate Championship. Shifa proved her talent in the competition and won the gold medal. Shifa won the gold medal in the 32 kg category in the under 10 year old competition. By winning, the name of the district has been brought to glory once. This two-day karate championship was organized in the hall of Lakshmi School, Chandausi. In which competitors from about 17 districts participated. 350 players had participated in the competition. Shifa won the gold medal by defeating the competitor from Jaunpur in the finals. Let it be noted that even before this, Shifa had won medals in her category in various competitions across the state by showing her best performance. Are. Shifa dominates her opponent by doing a balanced mix of aggression and defense. Looking at her talent and consistent excellent performance, it can be said that she will go far in the future. Karate is a game of agility, so she takes time off from studies. She takes it out and practices regularly.



Ground FAR of UPSIDA will be at par with other Industrial Development Authorities

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Prayagraj: In order to make Uttar Pradesh a state with one trillion dollar economy and to provide maximum facilities to the entrepreneurs willing to invest in Uttar Pradesh, which has become the best destination for investment, Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA) is implementing its land development and investment plan from 2018. There is going to be an amendment to the building regulation. In which, giving huge benefits to the entrepreneurs, investors and builders, it has been proposed to make the FAR of UPSIDA at par with the FAR of Noida, Greater Noida, YIDA, GIDA as well as other industrial development authorities. Land Development and Building Regulation 2024 has been prepared by UPCIDA.

Which was presented in the meeting organized on Monday under the chairmanship of Industrial Development Minister of Uttar Pradesh Government, Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi. In the meeting held in the presence of Chief Secretary and IDC Manoj Kumar Singh, CEO UPSIDA Mayur Maheshwari, CEO Invest UP Abhishek Prakash and other officials, a detailed discussion was held on the proposed facts in Land Development and Building Regulation 2024. Minister Nandi said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Under the strong guidance and leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, a better environment for industry and investment has been created in Uttar Pradesh. Uttar Pradesh, which was known as a BIMARU state before 2017,



has today emerged as the growth engine of the country. In such a situation, competition has also increased. Therefore, to attract entrepreneurs, investors and builders to invest in UPCIDA areas, a need was

felt to increase the ground coverage FAR of UPCIDA as well as to amend the land development and building regulation. Keeping this in mind the amendment has been made. Officials said that keep-

ing in view the competition, concessions being given in other industrial development authorities and the demand of entrepreneurs, an effort has been made to increase the ground coverage FR and keep it at par

with other authorities. In which school, college and hospital operators will get a lot of benefits. Premises that have no use. There is no demand. They have been removed. Building bylaws were discussed. The bylaws that have been made in other industrial development authorities of the state and other industrial cities of the world. What better arrangement can we make than them? This was discussed. To ensure maximum benefits to investors, there are arrangements in other industrial development authorities of the state, existing arrangements in other states of the country and in other big industrial countries of the world. Their comparative study was done. The study discussed what changes could be made in the current rules to provide maximum benefits to investors.

Christian community prayed for peace and tranquility in Katra Church

Come closer, believers, keep rejoicing, people danced to the song of Messiah

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: Candle light service was organized at CNI Katra Church on Monday. On this occasion, Presbyterian Incharge of the Church, Pastor Ajit Oliver Francis and Associate Pastor Angelina Chintamani welcomed the Christian community who had come from other churches. The candlelight service began with a prayer followed by a reading from the Bible. In the program, songs of Jesus' arrival were presented by the choir of St. John's, Naini Community, Jamuna, ABC Naini, St. Paul, ECI, Divine Healing and Katra Church, which made everyone dance. The main speaker of the program was Rev. Dr. Tapas Ghosh, Principal of Allahabad Bible Seminary, who quoted from the Bible scripture of the New Testament, the Gospel written by Luke, Chapter 11:33-35, where it is written, "No one lights a lamp and puts it in a basket or under

a basket, but on a lampstand." Keeps it, so that we can see the light coming inside it. The eye is the lamp of your body;

in the spiritual life of a Christian. Light represents the clarification of spiritual matters. Our growing faith runs parallel to our growing spiri-

Church Presbyterian Incharge Pastor Ajit Oliver Francis prayed for peace and tranquility in the country on this occasion, after which the



When your eyes are clear, your whole body is also bright; But when it is bad, your body is also full of darkness.

Therefore be careful that the light that is in you does not turn into darkness. Reflecting on this chapter, Dr. Tapas Ghosh said that Jesus has described in a unique way the struggle between light and darkness

tual understanding. The ultimate purpose of this light is to provide light to others, which is far beyond our lives. By actively avoiding keeping the light in a hidden place, we expand the glorious purposes of the light that is exemplified throughout our society through our Christian lives. At the end of the program a prayer of faith was offered.

Christian community sang melodious songs like 'Yesu aaya hai muqadale saath laaya hai' with burning candles in their hands. On this occasion, Vandana Francis, Puneet Chintamani, Pastor Praveen Massey, Pastor Manish Gunjan Zaidi, Ankit Hignens Elizabeth, Shailesh Singh, Raja Mitra, Sukriti Massey, Sunil Kumar Verma etc. were present.

Annual Fete the Christmas Fun Fair 2024 at GHS & College

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: Girls' High School & College proudly hosted its highly anticipated Annual Fete The Christmas Fun Fair 2024, a spectacular event dedicated to raising funds for the underprivileged. The day was a vibrant celebration of community spirit, blending fun and charity in perfect harmony. With an array of activities, food, and games, the fete offered something for everyone while championing the noble cause of spreading joy and making a difference in the lives of those in need.

The event commenced with the solemn Lord's Prayer, followed by an inspiring welcome address by our esteemed Principal, Rev. Dr. V. Eusebius, who introduced the fete and its attractions. The formal inauguration was marked by the ceremonial ribbon-cut-

ting, performed by the Principal along with The Chief Guest for the event Mrs. Aloshi Agarwal, Secretary Rotary Royal, adding a touch of grandeur to the start of the day. Christmas Fun Fair was organised in two slots, in the morning for the junior school students and in the afternoon for the rest of the students.

The school ground transformed into a carnival of delight, with children's laughter echoing through the air. Beautifully decorated stalls, brimming with creativity and charm, attracted students and visitors alike. The food stalls were a gastronomic delight, offering tempting treats such as Burgers, Chowmein, Chola Bhatore, Puri Kebabs, Ice Creams, and Cold Drinks. It was no surprise that there was a constant buzz around these

stalls, as everyone indulged in their favourite snacks.

The game stalls were equally captivating, with options like Lucky Dip,

Deewane, where students let loose, grooving to electrifying beats and creating magical memories on the dance floor.



Fancy Stall, Hungry Tom, and Canning the Can drawing large crowds. Each stall promised thrill and excitement, leaving the participants eager for more. Among the highlights was the ever-popular Disco

The grand finale of the fete was the much-awaited Lucky Draw, which kept everyone on the edge of their seats. Cheers erupted as the winners were announced: Pre-Primary:

First Prize - Tricycle - Aiza Fatima-UKG-A
Second Prize - Tab - Aarika Singh- UKG-D
Junior School:

First Prize - Mobile Phone- Umrah Fatima Ahmad-2-B
Second Prize - Bicycle - Shivi Singh I-E
Middle School:
First Prize -Mobile Phone - Vanshika Maurya-7-D
Second Prize - Bicycle - Riddhi Agarwal-8-G

Senior School:
First Prize - Mobile Phone-Anshika Pathak-9-B
Second Prize - Bicycle-Amishi Kesarwani-11-A
Teaching Staff
First Prize - LED T.V. - Mrs. S. Paul
Second Prize - Mixer Grinder - Mrs. J. Wesley
Office Staff:

First Prize - Mobile Phone- Mr. N.A. Khan
Second Prize - Washing Machine - Rev. Dr. V. Eusebius

Overall Winners:
First Prize - Microwave - Rida Naseeb-3-E
Second Prize - Refrigerator Alikea Vaish-7-C
As the clock struck 04:00 p.m., the vibrant celebration came to a close, leaving behind a trail of cherished memories. The Principal expressed heartfelt appreciation for the relentless efforts of the staff and students, whose hard work ensured the success of the event.

The Christmas Fun Fair was not just a day of fun and frolic but also a testament to the school's commitment to making a difference in the lives of others. It was truly a day to remember.



40th District Conference and PDC Meet held under Innerwheel Club Allahabad Odisha

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: The 40th District Conference was organized by Innerwheel Club Allahabad Odisha on 15th December at Jaswant Villa in our city Prayagraj. Association President Sunita Jain was the chief guest of this program. Also, District Chairman Asha Agarwal ji, Past District Chairman (PDC), District Executive Committee members, District Editor Shalini Asthana and Presidents, Secretaries and 300 inner wheel members of various clubs of District-312 also participated and made the program a success. At the beginning of the program, chief guest Association President Sunita Jain lit the lamp. During the program itself, Odisha Club President Shalini Gupta did many projects in

which 2 e-rickshaws, 101 sarees, 101 shoes, 101 blankets, 101 branding bags etc. were given and some competitions were also organized in which many members of District-312 participated. Climbed up and took part. AP Sunita Jain also inaugurated Happy School on the first day. PDC meet was also organized in the evening. Club members performed colorful programs. 2nd Day District Conference Inaugurated Associa-



tion President Sunita Jain. All the district officers read their reports, and also gave details of the work done during the entire year. Elections were also held for two posts (District Editor and District ISO) in the program. Also, Chairman's News Letter was released by the Association President. And Preeti Jaiswal, Editor of Host Club Odisha along with many

clubs of District-312 released their magazines. Get it done. Many competitions, District souvenir cover page competition was organized by District Editor Shalini Asthana and many other competitions were organised. The program included Conference Convener PDC Rachna Agarwal, Conference Chairman Monica Jaiswal, Conference Co-Chairman Sarika Rathore, Host Club Secretary Arpana Gupta, AC Member Sushma Agarwal and Vice Chairman Priya Narayan, District Secretary Dr. Abha Verma, Club Treasurers Narekha Gupta, Swati and all the past presidents etc. members were present. Some Sponsorships like Maharani Tea, Madan Women, Aakash Institute etc. contributed.

Editorial

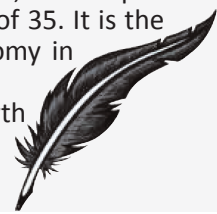
Clumsy and ill-informed analogy gone wrong

President George W Bush was famous for his quite often hilarious gaffes, but he has been receiving steady competition from the 81-year-old 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.
, and harbours.



Pakistan's need to show stability at home

Pakistan is getting ready for the Shanghai Cooperation Council meeting in Islamabad, starting from 15 October. As part of the preparations, the government has announced a three-day holiday in the capital city, basically to ensure that no protests take place around that time—especially from the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, which recently tried to hold a rally and sit-in. Also, the whereabouts of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur are reportedly still unknown. Sources claim he is being held at an Inter-Services Intelligence safe house for as long as the foreign dignitaries are in town. At

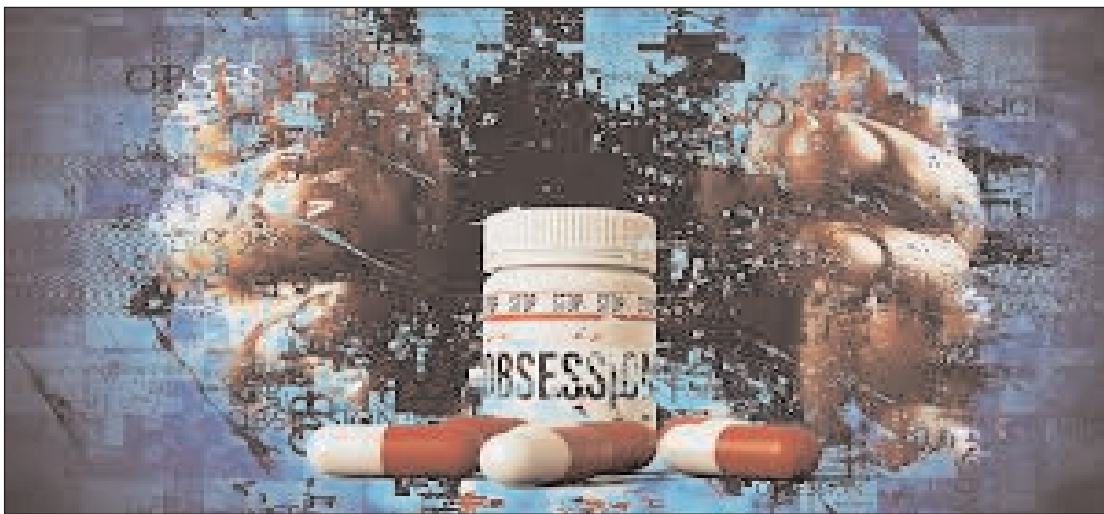
the core of these efforts is Pakistan's need to show stability at home while managing its relationships with both India and, even more so, China—especially in light of the Karachi terror attack and what it could mean for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Containing the PTI crowd in the run up to the SCO summit is a priority, especially to demonstrate to guests like India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar that things are not so bad in Pakistan. Islamabad was certainly not excited by his taunts at the recent United National General Assembly session,

where he spoke about Pakistan's poor economic conditions. There is a possibility that things might not be too pleasant on the sidelines of the SCO, with political pressure on both the host and the Indian guest to project strength. Beyond keeping Islamabad peaceful and secure, clamping down on the PTI also sends a signal both to India and Imran Khan that any overtures between the PTI and India will not be welcome, especially after Jaishankar's unfriendly remarks. Recently, PTI's information advisor Barrister Muhammad issued a statement saying that he would like to invite Jaishankar

to address a PTI rally. While this was certainly highly provocative, it should not be seen as the party's greater willingness to talk to India. At best, it may be a move to encourage Delhi and the larger international community to think of Imran Khan as a leader capable of thinking outside the box. While Bollywood filmmakers such as Sudhanshu Saria, director of the recent release *Ulagh*, may have their fantasies about a new kind of Pakistani leader, one hopes there are saner elements in Delhi who don't fall into such imaginary traps. Khan is definitely embroiled in a battle with Pakistan.

The job of the Drugs Department is to stop drug smuggling



drugs has come to light in Gujarat. And this matter came to light when parents took two children to the doctors after their strange behaviour and their sleeping at home after tuitions, when the doctors got the urine test of both the children done. Actually, these children used to drink coffee somewhere while returning from tuitions, after which they used to hit the bed and sleep as soon as they came home. These children neither ate food on time, nor studied properly, nor talked to anyone properly, nor listened to anyone in the family. On this, the family members showed them to the doctors and then it was found out that both of them take drugs. Living in a tower of Jhanda Lal Chowk, they were caught stealing bicycles in school uniform and it was revealed that they had started taking drugs, they were stealing to buy drugs. Actually, about a week ago, Gujarat Police arrested 5 people with about 500 kg of cocaine under a joint operation. Earlier in June this year, hybrid ganja and other drugs worth about Rs

3.5 crore were hidden in children's items in Gujarat, which were seized by the police. And before that, more than 3 thousand kg of drugs worth crores were recovered from Gujarat at Adani Port. Similarly, drugs worth crores are recovered every year in Gujarat and apart from arresting a few people, the police or AIIMS department is unable to take any action that can completely stop it. And today, not only in Gujarat, but in other states as well, the business of drug smuggling is increasing. The question is who is behind this? And the second question is why children, especially those studying in schools, are being made victims of drugs? Till a few years ago, it was seen that only children who pick garbage take drugs? But now the cases of children from well-off families taking drugs and other types of intoxication are increasing. The increase in the number of child patients coming to de-addiction centers is no small matter. In the year 2022, the Modi government of the Center itself told the Supreme

Court that 1 crore 58 lakh minor children in the country between the ages of 10 and 17 years are consuming some form of intoxication, most of whom consume a particular type of dangerous intoxication. For example, they are taking drugs etc. The government had also told the court that minor children of this age are consuming many types of intoxicants including cocaine, hashish, marijuana, alcohol, heroin, LSD, morphine, opium, cannabis. Citing a survey, the Modi government of the Center had told the Supreme Court that among all types of intoxicants, the people of India consume alcohol the most, about 16 crore people, out of which more than 5 crore 7 lakh people are seriously addicted to alcohol. After alcohol, they prefer cannabis and opium intoxication, the population of those who consume them is more than 3 crore 1 lakh, out of which the number of cannabis addicts is about 25 lakh. This matter came to light when a petition was filed in the Supreme Court by an NGO named Bachpan

Bachao Andolan and the Supreme Court had sought a reply from the Modi government at the Centre. In this matter, the Modi government at the Centre also provided many other information about drug addicts, but did not take any concrete steps to stop drugs and other types of intoxicants. Anyway, every year on 8 June, National Drug Destruction Day is celebrated on a large scale in India and every year on 26 June, International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is also celebrated at the international level and on both these occasions, children are the victims. Not only the Central Government, its de-addiction centres, but also the state governments and their de-addiction centres and all the government institutions working in the name of de-addiction spend crores and billions of rupees, but despite this, the number of drug addicts is increasing in India from drug trafficking to drug addiction, in which the most worrying thing is children getting addicted to drugs. While the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre of the Central Government has launched a very ambitious scheme like Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMB A) across the country, whose de-addiction centres are running in every district of the country, despite this, the increasing number of drug addicts, especially children, is not only a matter of concern, but it also seems clear that the government is wasting money on these de-addiction centres.

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

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

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

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

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

Rafah offensive and war in Gaza : Threat of a dangerous escalation

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. 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, and over 77,500 injured and maimed for life. Medical aid, food, and water have been severely restricted, and most international aid agencies, 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 understanding.

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 and 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 Damascus. Despite decades of hostility between Israel and Iran, this was the first time that Iran had launched strikes directly on Israel from its territory.

Israel and its allies, though forewarned by Iran of the retaliation, were surprised that Iran had actually called the bluff this time.

Israel, under pressure at home, responded with a strike into Iran on April 19, when loud explosions were heard in the vicinity of the city of Isfahan in the early morning hours. It was reported that Iranian air defences had shot down 'three drones' over the skies of the city. Although some media outlets later presented satellite pictures to show that some part of the Air Defence Battery in Isfahan was damaged, neither Iran, Israel, nor the US commented on it. With tit-for-tat strikes into each other's territory, there is a general sense that both countries have called it quits as far as targeting each other directly is concerned. With this threat of escalation over, the focus has shifted back to Gaza and finding means to put an early end to the war. As a part of the effort, US Secretary of State Blinken was in the region recently to hold talks with Arab leaders. He also stopped over in Israel, meeting PM Netanyahu in an effort to convince him to agree to a ceasefire and also to deter him from launching a ground offensive in Rafah. Whether Blinken was successful in convincing Netanyahu on it or not is a different question all together. Also, if and when the Rafah offensive takes place, what are its implications for ending or escalating the conflict.

Many of us grew up in families where illness



Delhi Prime Minister Narendra Modi expanded health coverage for senior citizens aged 70 and above through the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) and other health sector projects, totaling ₹12,850 crore. The PM chastised the Delhi and West Bengal administrations for not implementing the Ayushman Bharat health insurance policy out of "political interests" and said he was sad that the elderly from these states

could not receive free treatment under the expanded program. Many of us grew up in families where illness had a major impact on everyone, especially in poorer households. To alleviate poverty, the government launched the Ayushman Bharat Yojana, covering hospitalization costs up to 5 lakh, according to Modi. Approximately 4 crore (40 million) underprivileged individuals in India have received free treatment through the Ayushman Yojana.

Arvind Kejriwal, a former Delhi chief minister and Aam Aadmi Party national convener, warned the PM not to politicize health care. "Under the Delhi government's scheme, every person living in Delhi gets complete treatment free of cost no matter how much it costs... I request you to study the Delhi model and instead of Ayushman Bharat Yojana, implement the Delhi model all over India so that people can benefit on the ground," he wrote on X.

Delhi Chief secy checks borewell concessions

Delhi: The National Green Tribunal has directed Delhi's chief secretary to investigate a Voluntary Disclosure Scheme concession to Paharganj hotels and guesthouses. The tribunal said authorities did not record such a document. The tribunal asked Delhi Jal Board (DJB) and Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) to explain the scandal. The October 22 decree targeted over 500 hotels and guesthouses' illicit groundwater extraction. "On the preceding occasion, authorities took the view that under the Voluntary Disclosure Scheme (VDS), the following hotels/guesthouses revealed their



"The CGWA stated that "no VDS was framed." "DJB, NCT and other authorities on the previous date said that they did not frame VDS," the order stated"

borewells, consequently, they were functioning on that premise.. However, DJB, DPCC, and all other authorities referred to the VDS but did not register it. The bench led by NGT chair Justice Prakash Shrivastava stated that they did not float the VDS and do not have a

copy. The order added representations by the Union environment minister that said that "no such VDS was framed by it." The CGWA stated that "no VDS was framed." "DJB, NCT and other authorities on the previous date said that they did not frame VDS," the order stated.

MoUs signed, MCD press building project stalled

Delhi: Delhi Municipal Corporation's initiative to turn its Old Press building in Chandni Chowk into a museum commemorating its 161-year history has lagged. Despite signing a memorandum of understanding with the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts earlier this year to conserve century-old

artifacts and digitize rare documents for the museum and a second MoU for consultancy in setting up the museum, MCD hasn't upgraded the building. MCD also sought Old Press building conservation advice from the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) in March. An MCD official said, "IGNCA is conserving and digitizing papers,

pictures, Wilson's survey sheets, registers, and abhinandan patras. However, the Old Press Building's conservation and restoration is conceptual, therefore its duration cannot be determined." IGNCA officials said several maps had been conserved and the center was working on documentation.

Government prepares senior folks' fifth home

Delhi: Delhi's new senior citizen home in Paschim Vihar, north west Delhi, is ready for opening. The capital's fifth elderly and infirm facility, officials said. Four old age homes at Bindapur, Wazirpur, Tahirpur, and Kanti Nagar are operated by the social welfare department, while eight others, including Paschim Vihar, are under development. A senior social welfare official said the five-story geriatric care building is ready for the city's elderly who require shelter. The new senior home will house 96 people. "The building finished early this year. A few finishing touches can be done 10-15 days before the inauguration. An official said the fire department's no objection certificate is required before the center's opening. Destitute Delhi citizens 60 years and older who have no family can live in old age homes if they don't have an infectious condition. Residents receive free housing, food, clothes, bedding, TV-radio, books, an amusement center with religious and spiritual programs, health check-ups, and physiotherapy. For the elderly to "interact with each other, sit together and talk about their joys and sorrows" officials set up round tables. "No one wants to live in old age homes, but the government must develop them and offer all the amenities they need. The official added we will provide free cutting-edge facilities to seniors in old age homes. Another senior age home in Sarita Vihar may open in 2025. More such residences are planned for Vasant Kunj, Janakpuri, Rohini, Geeta Colony, and Chhatarpur.

Woman taking bus 23% more than before

Delhi: A recent survey on Delhi's free public bus travel found that 45% of women never take the bus, while 35% do so everyday or three to five days a week. Greenpeace India launched the report 'Riding The Justice Route' on the fifth anniversary of the Delhi government's 'pink ticket' policy, which made public bus commuting free for women, after surveying participants and examining its impact on their lives. The report says one in four women now take buses after fare-free riding. After the plan began, 23% of women ride buses at least four times a week, and 15% of women who never used buses before do so today. The survey found that less than 50% of women bus riders feel "mostly safe" when



traveling to, waiting at, and riding a bus. The survey also found that 77% of women felt unsafe taking the bus after 5 pm and 2/3 believe the bus station lighting is inadequate. 57% of women in the Rs 50,000-Rs 1 lakh monthly household income band travel a bus daily, the highest of all income categories. The survey found that 45% of Delhi women did not use fare-free

public bus transport in the preceding month. The survey also found that only 75% of Delhi women can take the bus when they need to. According to 64% of Delhi women, shared auto rickshaws and e-rickshaws are their most popular means of transportation. "This shows their prevalence and importance as an intermediary mode of transport for women.

Aerocity restaurants are open twenty-four hours a day

Delhi: The Delhi government approved the 24-hour operation of restaurants in Aerocity, a well-known hospitality district close to the IGI Airport, in an effort to boost tourism and spur economic growth. According to an official statement, Aerocity, which is already home to a few 4-star and higher-rated hotels that are open 24/7, will now see its restaurants follow suit, providing more access to a variety of dining alternatives. According to the report, Chief Minister Atishi gave his approval to the plan, which aims to increase government revenue.

India exports 33% more iPhones in April-Sept

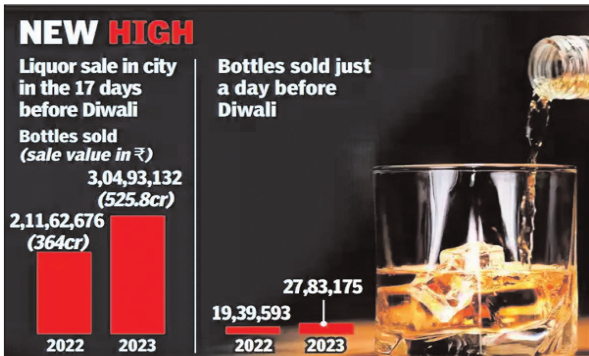
Delhi: Apple's iPhone exports from India rose by a third in the six months to September, highlighting its efforts to expand manufacturing and lessen dependence on China. According to people familiar with the subject, the US business exported roughly \$6 billion of India-made iPhones, up a third from a year earlier. Exports are expected to exceed \$10 billion in

fiscal FY24. Apple is rapidly extending its production network in India, taking advantage of local incentives, a talented labor, and technical breakthroughs. India is essential to the company's effort to reduce its reliance on China, where dangers have grown with Beijing's US tensions. Apple's vendors Foxconn, Pegatron, and Tata Electronics assemble iPhones in

southern India. Located on Chennai's outskirts, Foxconn is India's top supplier and exports half of its iPhones. According to sources, Tata Group's Karnataka facility exported \$1.7 billion in iPhones from April to September. Last year, Tata became the first Indian assembler of Apple's best-selling product by buying this unit from Wistron.

High Contributors 448cr to City Kitty

Delhi: celebrations are about colorful gatherings with friends and family, typically featuring alcohol. A record 3.9 crore liquor bottles were sold in the capital's 680 outlets controlled by four government organizations in the fortnight before Diwali. In the 15 days before Diwali, 2024 sold more bottles and had higher sales value than 2022 and 2023. In 2022, 1.9 crore bottles worth Rs 324 crore were sold before Diwali. In 2023, 2.7 crore were sold, totaling Rs 433 crore. This data excludes booze sales and values from 900+ hotels, clubs, and restaurants. Industry insiders said booze sales are down for three weeks before Dussehra because many people avoid alcohol for religious reasons. Demand rises after Dussehra and peaks two days before



Diwali. The season's sales were 35 lakh bottles, down to 34 lakh. October 31 was Diwali, a dry day and public holiday. Nearly 28 lakh bottles were sold the day before Diwali in 2023, a season high. Whisky, rum, vodka, gin, beer, wine, and other alcoholic drinks in varying sizes are included in the sales data. Besides Excise duty and VAT revenue increased this year, according to officials. Current fiscal year, up about 7% from Rs 2,849 crore in 2023-24. Delhi's 2024-25 budget expected.

111 stores are approved to remain open 24/7

Delhi: As of right now, there are over 700 stores and commercial institutions in the city, with 111 of them receiving permission from Chief Minister Atishi to function around the clock. According to the government, the initiative's goals were to boost economic activity and provide new job possibilities in the capital. Every facility that received approval was classified as commercial, retail.

DDA Reverses Sports Hub Fee Hike



Delhi: Delhi Development Authority reversed the membership price increase at all municipal sports centers hours after lieutenant governor V K Saxena ordered it. Raj Niwas wrote on X: "LG advised DDA to rescind the circular that raised sports complex membership and other costs after hearing from members and public representatives. India tabhi to badhega!" LG chairs DDA. Later, a DDA spokesman

stated the membership fee hike circular was removed. The proposed rise on Oct. 18. In a circular dated Oct. 14, DDA revised the membership cost for its 17 sports complexes, effective Nov. 1. The lifetime membership price for government employees in Siri Fort complex was raised to Rs 1.5 lakh from Rs 49,090, while other complexes charged Rs 1 lakh. The lifetime price for non-government employees was Rs 7

lakh for Siri Fort, up from Rs 1,07,380, and Rs 3 lakh for other sports complexes. This was in addition to Siri Fort's Rs 1,500 monthly fee and other sports complexes' Rs 1,200. New senior, temporary, and associate memberships were deleted from the updated policy. Members were angered by the "unfair" rise. Signature campaigns and LG intervention were requested by several groups.

100 members, 4 states: Bambihas' gang grows

Delhi: Investigators have mapped the Bambiha syndicate's operations and located 100 members. After a gunshot at a northwest Delhi businessman's house, the Bambihas demanded Rs 10 crore insecurity money' Kaushal Chaudhary, India operations chief, and Amit Dagar supervise Gurgaon and Haryana, according to a Bambiha syndicate dossier. In outer Delhi and Rohini, convicted mobsters Neeraj Bawana and Naveen Bali operate. Yamunanagar, Chandigarh, and neighboring districts are under Bhuppi Rana. Sukhpreet Budda and others run Punjab. "A police report says. Arshdeep Singh Gill (Arsh Dalla) from Canada and Patial from the US manage enterprises abroad. Chaudhary joined the alliance after Davinder Bambiha was slain in September 2016, according to the document. Davinder stayed with Chaudhary and Dagar in Gurgaon before the clash, building an alliance. Dagar, in Rohini jail, Lucky Patial after Davinder's murder, strengthening the connection. Chaudhary met Bambiha's keyman, Fateh Nagri, in Sangroor jail and agreed to collaborate. Then, northeast Delhi's Neeraj Bawana/Naveen Bali, Tillu Tajpuria Gang, Sunil Rathi group, and Chhenu Pehalwan gang joined the Bambiha gang. They opposed the Lawrence Bishnoi-Kala Jathari terror syndicate in Punjab, Haryana, and Delhi. The Bambiha gang's biggest partners met sympathetic gangs in Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, etc. in 2021 and began working together to extend their power and operations. The Bambihas killed Shiromani Akali Dal youth leader Vicky Kheda in August, which led to the death of Punjabi pop artist Sidhu Moose Wala. Lawrence Bishnoi-allied Bambihas helped the Tajpuria syndicate kill Jitender Gogi. Gogi was publicly shot in Rohini Court.

The initiative would improve the IT depart.

Delhi: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, authorized the 1,435-crore PAN 2.0 project. The initiative would improve the Income Tax department (ITD) system and mandate personal data protection for user agencies. After the cabinet meeting, communication and broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw briefed media that PAN 2.0 will update the entire I-T backbone of the existing system and serve as a common company identification, a long-standing business community demand. "For the middle class and small businesses, the PAN card is essential. PAN 2.0 was authorized today after major upgrades. The Union government has issued 78 crore (780 million) PANs, 98% of which are to individuals. The I-T department and finance ministry did not answer project-related questions. An official CCEA



Social worker Jitendra Singh Shanti joins AAP

New Delhi Former Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA and Shaheed Bhagat Singh Seva Dal (SBS) founder P a d m a s h r e e Jitendra Singh Shanti on Thursday became a part of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). AAP National Convenor Arvind Kejriwal gave him party membership. Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) National Convenor Arvind Kejriwal said that the arrival of Jitendra Singh

Shanti will strengthen the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). He said that Shanti does social service work with full honesty. He cremates u n c l a i m e d bodies. Kejriwal said that till now he has cremated more than 70 thousand bodies. During the Corona period, when people were reluctant to take the bodies of family members, even then he used to cremate them with respect.

statement states that the common .

PWD begins court digitization

Delhi: After being called up by Delhi High Court for delays, the Public Works Department has started building up district court digitizing facilities. Officials say a Rs 308 crore procurement has been issued for hybrid courts with digital facilities. It deploys a networking component, live broadcasting platform, LAN, and data center in 14 courts before expanding to 670 courtrooms. The court is monitoring district court computerization to reduce footfall and burden on the seven court facilities. A pilot initiative at 14 capital courts—two in each district court complex—should be operational as hybrid courts



"The high court gave the planning department a deadline to release funding to enhance district court internet infrastructure for hybrid hearings"

within months. Project completion is expected in eight months after contract award. The government's law and justice department oversees it. To install 200 courtrooms, the government approved district court complexes in Rohini Sector-26,

Shastri Park, Karkardooma, and Rouse Avenue in February.

The high court gave the planning department a deadline to release funding to enhance district court internet infrastructure for hybrid hearings.

Like Israel, India should also target one startup per thousand people: Goyal

aid - We are ready to consider alternative financing models for MSMEs. New Delhi, 05 December (HS). Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Thursday that India should target one startup per thousand

people, taking inspiration from Israel's success in promoting innovation. The Commerce Minister also urged the industry to share information about the problems faced in getting bank loans. Union Commerce Minister Goyal said this while

addressing the 'India@100 Summit' organized by the Association of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASSOCHAM) in New Delhi. He said that despite being a small country, Israel has given priority.

10k DDA vacancies out of 14k housing ministry positions'

Delhi: The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs told the Rajya Sabha that 77.5 percent of sanctioned posts at the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), the capital's main landowning agency and responsible for implementing key central government schemes, are vacant. In a written response to Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader and Rajya Sabha MP from Kerala V. Sivadassan, Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Tokhan Sahu said 10,030 of the DDA's 12,932 sanctioned posts (in various groups) were vacant as of 30 October. While the DDA is the worst-affected of the 20 housing ministry government organizations, autonomous agencies, and public sector undertakings,



others are understaffed. The Centre's construction arm, the Central Public Works Department (CPWD), which oversees several major development projects, including the Modi government's ambitious Central Vista Redevelopment Project, had 27% (2,671 out of 9,703) sanctioned posts vacant as of 30 October. In addition to developing housing and commercial

units in Delhi, the DDA prepares the Master Plan of Delhi-2041 (MPD) and all development control requirements.

PM-UDAY, which grants ownership rights to residents in 1,731 unauthorized colonies, is also being implemented. Nearly 400 Delhi slums on central government land were redeveloped by it a few years ago.

Delhi government hospitals have not filled key positions for nearly a year.

Delhi: Health minister Saurabh Bharadwaj blamed lieutenant governor VK Saxena for not starting the hiring process through the services department saying Delhi government hospitals and dispensaries were short on doctors and healthcare workers. Bharadwaj claimed he repeatedly complained to the LG about the shortage of doctors in government hospitals, but nothing was done. He sent five letters to Saxena and other bureaucrats in April 2023 about the issue.

ICG rescues 12 crew members of Indian ship sunk in North Arabian Sea- Pakistan's Maritime Security Agency provided full cooperation in search and rescue mission

New Delhi The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has rescued 12 crew members of the Indian ship MSV Al Piranpir that sank in the North Arabian Sea. The special thing was that close cooperation was seen between the Maritime Security Agency (MSA) of Pakistan with the Indian Coast Guard in this search and rescue mission. The Maritime Rescue Coordination

Center (MRCC) of both the countries also maintained constant communication during the entire operation. The rescued crew is being brought to the Porbandar coast of Gujarat. In fact, the Indian sailing vessel (Dhau) Al Piranpir, which left from Porbandar for Bandar Abbas in Iran, sank on the morning of 04 December due to turbulence and flooding in

the sea. The distress call was received by the ICG's Maritime Rescue Coordination Center Mumbai, which immediately alerted the ICG Regional Headquarters (North West) in Gandhinagar. After this, ICG ship Sarthak was immediately dispatched to the mentioned location. Pakistan's MRCC was also contacted to alert the sailors in the area and requested.

Australia announced playing XI for Adelaide Test

Adelaide Fast bowler Scott Boland will replace injured Josh Hazlewood in the upcoming Adelaide Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy (BGT) against India. Australian captain Pat Cummins announced the playing XI on Thursday. The Adelaide Test will be Boland's first match for Australia in the last 18 months. According to Cricket Australia (CA), captain Cummins also confirmed that Mitchell Marsh will be fit to bowl in the Adelaide Test. Boland played his last Test against England in the prestigious Ashes 2023 series. On the other hand, Marsh has been included in the playing XI even after suffering from back stiffness, due to which he was unable to bowl at full strength during India's second innings in the Perth Test. In



the pre-match press conference, Cummins referred to Boland's performance in Canberra, when he played a two-day practice match against India for the Prime Minister's XI. The captain said that Boland's preparation has been "very good". Cummins said, "A few days ago in Canberra he hit some good shots, his preparation has been very good. He is happy with his rhythm and his performance. But you know as a captain it is great to have a player like Scotty coming straight into the field. You know that if

you need him, he can bowl a lot of overs, he is very consistent and performs well at this level. So he looks ready to play." Cummins said that some Australian players have played a lot of Tests with the pink ball, but some of them have not played much. The captain said that the players have trained well in the last few days. He said, "It's hard to say, some of our players have played a lot, some of them haven't played the pink ball much. I think there is a bit of acclimatisation needed .

Railway Bill could not be passed in Lok Sabha, proceedings adjourned for the day amid uproar by opposition

New Delhi The Railway (Amendment) Bill was to be passed in the Lok Sabha on Thursday, but due to uproar by the opposition on the Sambhal and Adani issue, the proceedings were adjourned for the day after being adjourned twice. In the Lok Sabha today, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju objected to the opposition wearing jackets and t-shirts with slogans. The opposition has been adamant about putting forth its point on the Sambhal issue. Meanwhile, sloganeering was also raised against industrialist Gautam Adani. The proceedings were first adjourned till 2 pm and then till 3 pm. At three o'clock also, due to the uproar by the opposition, the proceedings were finally adjourned for



the day. Earlier, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju objected to the opposition MPs coming to the Lok Sabha wearing jackets with objectionable slogans and said that the opposition has lowered the dignity of the House with its fashion show. The Parliamentary Affairs Minister said that the Lok Sabha Speaker had given an opportunity to both the ruling party and the opposition during the Zero Hour, but the opposition members came inside the Parliament

wearing jackets. We had made a rule in the Business Advisory Committee meeting that slogans, placards and other such attire will not be worn. Despite this, the opposition has started a fashion show in the Parliament premises by wearing such clothes. This degrades the dignity of the Parliament.

They condemn this act of the opposition. The opposition should not misbehave like this. Many important MLAs are to come today.

Dharmendra Pradhan will launch PM-e-Vidya DTH channel for Indian Sign Language tomorrow

New Delhi

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan will launch PM e-Vidya DTH channel number 31 for Indian Sign Language (ISL) in New Delhi on Friday. Minister of State for Education Jayant Chaudhary will also attend the event. The Ministry of Education said on Thursday that the program will be attended by hearing impaired (HI) children, hearing-impaired achievers, special educators, ISL certified interpreters and organizations working to bring the hearing impaired community into the mainstream. This important initiative supports the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which recommends promoting Indian Sign Language to promote a more inclusive educational environment. Para 4.22 of the NEP states that 'Indian Sign Language (ISL) will be standardized across the country and content for national and state curriculum will be prepared for use by students with hearing impairment. Local sign languages ??will be respected and taught wherever feasible and relevant. An exclusive PM e-Vidya channel dedicated to the promotion of Indian Sign Language has been envisaged to promote ISL as a language as well as a school subject to facilitate language learning by a larger population. The channel will disseminate learning content in the areas of career guidance, skill training, mental health, class-wise curriculum content, communication skills for school children (central and state curriculum), teachers, teacher trainers and other stakeholders. This will promote sign language as a language

Congress prepares for 2025 Delhi assembly elections

Delhi: In order to begin preparations for the 2025 assembly elections, Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee (DPCC) chairman Devender Yadav attended executive committee meetings of Adarsh Nagar and Karawal Nagar district units. A resolution was voted to host monthly block-level meetings, raise party flags at all members' houses, and invite social organizations, residents' associations, and NGOs to join or support the party, Congress officials stated. Congress workers are proud that the party's vote share increased in the Lok Sabha elections and that Delhi residents are again looking to the party for excellent administration. Congress rule brought unparalleled growth to Delhi. In his Adarsh Nagar talk, Yadav said people now struggle to access potable water, experience frequent power shortages, and deal with waterlogging,



air, and water pollution. In the 2024 Delhi Lok Sabha elections, the BJP won all seven seats despite Congress and AAP's partnership. The AAP and Congress stated their alliance was restricted to Lok Sabha polls and it was unclear whether they would contest assembly elections separately or together. A Delhi Congress senior said block and district members offered methods to strengthen the party and solidify grassroots achievements. The leader noted that strengthening the block and district units, which work on the

frontlines of the party, is necessary to strengthen the party in the Capital. Devender Yadav said sessions with grassroots workers will strengthen the party at the booth level and put it in a strong position for the early 2025 Delhi assembly elections. "Congress workers should not lower their guard and diminish their enthusiasm, as, under the dynamic leadership of Rahul Gandhi, the party was poised for a major leap, because people wanted change and stable leadership," Yadav stated.

Core sector growth drops to 6.3% in May

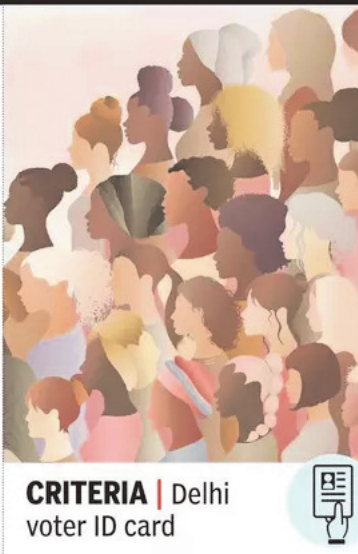
In May, the eight key industries grew 6.3% year-on-year, down from 6.7% in April, mostly due to weaker steel, refinery products, and crude oil output, the commerce ministry. Core sector growth was 5.2% in May 2023. As a sequential measure, core sector output grew 3.7% in May. May output usually rises from April. In the preceding 12 years, the month-on-month growth averaged 6.8%, but this year it was lower. "A combination of factors, including the heat-wave over parts of the country and the phased parliamentary elections.

Delhi: The Delhi government has launched the Mukhyamantri Mahila Samman Yojana to give Rs 1,000 to women over 18. Delhi women and child development minister Kailash Gahlot said he has ordered officials to speed up the process to eliminate "bureaucratic hurdles" and launch the plan fast. "I've instructed the department to write the cabinet note to start Mukhyamantri Mahila Samman Yojana. The project aims to help economically disadvantaged women live decent lives and become financially independent. He said they wanted Delhi women to benefit from the plan quickly. The finance, planning, and law departments would approve the cabinet note, according to a top Delhi official. "The officials will vet it, give comments, and after their approval, it will go to the cabinet," he said. However, other authorities noted that chief minister Arvind Kejriwal's imprisonment pre-

WHO'S ELIGIBLE | AAP govt in its last budget announced a monthly aid of ₹ 1,000 to Delhi women aged 18 or above

MONEY ALLOCATED | An amount of ₹ 2,000 crore has been set aside for this scheme named Mukhyamantri Mahila Samman Yojana

EXCLUSION | The scheme will not apply to govt employees, taxpayers and beneficiaries of any govt pension plan



CRITERIA | Delhi voter ID card

vents cabinet sessions, making scheme implementation difficult. "It has to be notified by the cabinet and after that, it goes to the LG for approval," a rep said. The AAP government proposed the policy in its 2024-25 budget and hopes to implement it before the 2025 assembly elections to attract women. Kejriwal dubbed it the "world's biggest programme" for women's empowerment. The initiative

received Rs 2,000 crore in 2024-25. Women must be Delhi voters to qualify for the scheme. She must fill out a paper and self-declare that she is not a government employee, taxpayer, or member of any government scheme. Based on her self-declaration, she will get scheme benefits. The woman must furnish her Aadhaar card and bank account information with the form.

The Directorate of Estates constructs homes for parliamentarians

Delhi: A top government source, who wished to remain anonymous, claimed that Gandhi would be given a new home fit for a Union Minister. The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs' Directorate of Estates is searching for and assigning residences to the 280 new MPs, the highest since 2014. Rahul Gandhi and other Union ministers will take possession of their new Lutyens Delhi residences next week. A top government source, who wished to remain anonymous, claimed that Gandhi would be given a new home fit for a Union Minister. Up to his disqualification from the Lok Sabha in August 2023, Gandhi resided at 12 Tughlak Lane. Though we haven't chosen the address, Rahul Gandhi will receive a category VIII mansion similar to those owned by cabinet ministers. He hasn't asked for anything,

Panel warns officials about illegal tree cutting

Delhi: A three-member Delhi ministerial fact-finding committee has issued letters to senior DDA, forest, and Delhi Police officials for reportedly destroying 1,100 trees in Ridge without authorization. On Saturday, ministers Atishi, Saurabh Bharadwaj, and Imran Hussain constituted a committee to report to the forest minister. Does the opposition's request for a SC-appointed inquiry into NEET-UG 2024

irregularities make sense? The committee has ordered the principal secretary, DDA vice-chairman, principal commissioner (LD and LM), DDA commissioner (housing), deputy commissioner of police (south Delhi), station house officer (SHO), and other senior officials to attend a July 1 meeting. The committee's factual report to Supreme Court is due July 11. "As the next date of hearing in this matter is

12.07.2024 and the Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed GNCTD to file an affidavit based on the facts before 11.07.2024, your cooperation is needed to adhere to the strict timelines imposed by Supreme Court of India," Bharadwaj wrote in his email. Delhi's government and civic agencies were ordered to meet to consider comprehensive green cover measures by the court.

Smt Smriti Irani Launches 24/7 Violence Helpline for Women

Delhi: Smt Smriti Zubin Irani, Former Union Minister for Women and Child Development, inaugurated the National Commission for Women's 24/7 helpline number 7827170170 today to improve women's safety and security nationwide and advance the Union Government's goals. The helpline supports women afflicted by vio-

lence 24/7 online by referring them to police, hospitals, District Legal Service Authority, psychological treatments, etc. Smt. Irani praised the NCW and the new helpline at a virtual launch. In times of need, this digital helpline assures women that their government and Commission would support them.

ICICI Pru iProtect Smart offers 'Life Continuity' option

KARNAL/HISAR:

Every earning individual has financial goals, such as buying a house, funding children's education, or saving for retirement. But life is unpredictable and the untimely demise of the earning member can disturb the financial goals and put the family in financial distress. As a thumb rule, individuals must follow the 'first Protect then Save' approach. The starting point for building a financial savings plan is purchasing a term insurance plan. The reason is simple, what if the earning member passes away how will the family continue with the savings plan. Ideally the life cover amount should cover all outstanding liabilities and be sufficient for the family to contin-

ue with their lives. ICICI Prudential Life offers the 'Life Continuity' option in its best-selling term insurance product, ICICI Pru iProtect Smart. This feature enables the family to receive the claim amount as monthly income which is very useful for families who may not know how to manage the lumpsum claim amount. Another valuable add-on benefit is the critical illness benefit that should be taken.

Studies suggest that approx. 10 crore Indian families are pushed into poverty every year due to healthcare expenses. For a nominal additional premium, iProtect Smart provides the critical illness benefit which covers 34 ailments such as cancer, kidney

failure, leukemia, parkinson's etc. The critical illness benefit pays out the claim upon diagnosis, ensuring individuals have the finances for medical treatment. Checking the claim settlement ratio and the average claim settlement time are two important points which individuals should consider before buying a term insurance plan. In FY2024, ICICI Prudential Life had a claim settlement ratio (non-investigated) of 99.17% and the average settlement time of just 1.27 days. Fulfilling the responsibility towards the family is making a commitment to secure and safeguard their future. Many financial experts agree that term insurance is the foundation.

Government prepares senior folks' fifth home

Delhi: Delhi's new senior citizen home in Paschim Vihar, north west Delhi, is ready for opening. The capital's fifth elderly and infirm facility, officials said. Four old age homes at Bindapur, Wazirpur, Tahirpur, and Kanti Nagar are operated by the social welfare department, while eight others, including Paschim Vihar, are under development. A senior social welfare official said the five-story geriatric care building is ready for the city's elderly who require shelter. The new senior home will house 96 people. "The building finished early this year. A few finishing touches can be done 10-15 days before the inauguration. An official said the fire department's no objection certificate is required before the center's opening. Destitute Delhi citizens 60 years and older who have no family can live in old age homes if they don't have an infectious condition. Residents receive free housing, food, clothes, bedding, TV-radio, books, an amusement center with religious and spiritual programs, health check-ups, and physiotherapy. For the elderly to "interact with each other, sit together and talk about their joys and sorrows" officials set up round tables. "No one wants to live in old age homes, but the government must develop them and offer all the amenities they need. The official added we will provide free cutting-edge facilities to seniors in old age homes. Another senior age home in Sarita Vihar may open in 2025.



Wait 7 days to port after replacing the SIM

Delhi: New Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) rules require mobile phone users to wait at least seven days after replacing a lost or non-functional SIM card before switching service providers. The Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability (Ninth Amendment) Regulations, 2024, prevent fraudsters from

porting to new service providers under new names. The service provider cannot give the user a unique porting code until this seven-day period ends. The customer receives an alphanumeric porting code from the current TSP to port their phone number to a new TSP. TSPs had three-and-a-half months from the TRAI to modify their

telecommunication systems to refuse UPC requests in the seven-day period and test the systems before the system was rolled out across India.

The (DoT) wrote to TRAI in September 2022, "It has come to the notice that mobile connections are being fraudulently ported out by the criminals/fraudsters.

Two new booze vends will cheer up domestic flyers at Delhi airport

Delhi: Delhi Consumers' Cooperative Wholesale Store Limited plans to open a liquor shop at T3's arrival section by the first week of July and another at T1's departure area in the following weeks. This strategy aims to help Delhi restore share of domestic liquor sales after the closure of private-operated premium liquor stores due to the rescission of Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22 in September 2022.



International passengers can buy liquor at T3's duty-free shops. Following this trend, domestic terminals will shortly open shops. The Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22 allowed six private

premium liquor stores in the Delhi airport's domestic terminals at its height. After the scheme was canceled amid CBI and ED probes for alleged irregularities, the Delhi govern-

ment returned to the excise regime and gave retail liquor to four government corporations. Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development Corporation and Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation tried to rent airport space for booze shops but couldn't negotiate conditions. Finally, Delhi Consumers' Cooperative Wholesale Store Limited found space for the shops.

Magenta Line is first driverless Metro network

Delhi: All 29 Magenta Line trains are presently unmanned. DMRC has removed the drivers' cabins, although an attendant is present after three-four trains. They will be removed in phases. Magenta Line trains would be fully automated. "Magenta Line can now transport people without drivers. DMRC officials stated attendants will be removed gradually. The Pink Line will follow the Magenta Line. Full automation is available



on Magenta and Pink lines in Delhi Metro's 97km network. Only one network operates driverless trains in India. Driverless trains will operate in DMRC's Phase-IV expansion lines. Driverless train

operation was inaugurated on the Janakpuri West-Botanical Garden Magenta Line in December 2020 and the Majlis Park-Shiv Vihar Pink Line in November 2021. A train operator was present until now to

instill trust and support. With the expertise from these two lines, we will try this in Phase IV soon. We installed track monitoring cameras for driverless operations in Phase IV "DMRC managing director Vikas Kumar. A DMRC spokesman remarked, "Driverless trains increase flexibility and eliminate human errors. The system also increases coach availability for operations. Driverless trains eliminate pre-induction.

Olympic champions Hassan, Tebogo named "Athletes of the Year"

Delhi:

Marseille moved into second place in Ligue 1 after a Mason Greenwood penalty in the 89th minute gave them a 2-1 win over Monaco while Lyon thrashed Nice 4-1 with a hat-trick from Alexandre Lacazette. After Montpellier scored late, Lille missed the chance to move into third place in Ligue 1. The second- and third-placed teams had a chance to catch leaders Paris Saint-Germain after their Saturday draw. Marseille took advantage of that opportunity, leapfrogging Monaco into second place on goal difference with 26 points, seven behind PSG. Marseille coach Roberto De Zerbi called it their "best match of the season at the Velodrome" on DAZN.

"We played well against Monaco, a fantastic team. However, I'm confident we can improve," Italian added.



Monaco took the lead four minutes before halftime when Aleksandr Golovin deflected a shot. Greenwood beat the goalkeeper to complete De Zerbi's comeback. Lacazette scored twice in the first half and added a 69th-minute penalty for Lyon. After Sofiane Diop equalized for Nice midway through the first session, Lacazette and Jordan Veretout scored to lead 2-0 by halftime. Lyon have 22 points, two ahead of Nice in sixth and one behind Lille in fourth.

Le Havre, who plummeted to 16th, lost 1-0 at Angers, giving them three crucial points in the relegation battle.

BBL: Melbourne Stars sign Adam Milne

Melbourne: The Melbourne Stars have signed New Zealand fast bowler Adam Milne to play in the Big Bash League (BBL) before Christmas. He will replace Pakistan leg-spinner Osama Mir, who will not be able to play in the first three matches of this season. The Stars are set to announce a new captain this week after Glenn Maxwell became captain at the end of last season. Maxwell is unlikely to be fit for the first match against the Perth Scorchers on December 15.

LG junks IP Univ plea for fee hike

Delhi: officials from the LG secretariat announced on Saturday that Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena had turned down a proposal from Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University (GGSIPU) to charge affiliation fees to government institutes that are affiliated with it.

The decision was taken to safeguard students' interests, as the affiliation fee would have increased the total fee that students would have to pay. According to an official from the LG secretariat, this change could have a disproportionate impact on low-income students who depend on public universities for their



affordable higher education.

At the same time, LG has proposed that GGSIPU look at other ways to make money to supplement their budget. All institutions that raise their own funds are required by law to pay an affiliation fee (Statute 24, Clause 5), although schools that get no funding from the fed-

eral or state governments are exempt from this requirement. Officials from the LG noted that government institutes already have a lot on their plates financially, what with paying for things like provisional affiliation applications and affiliation renewals. The course and institute's location determine the exact amount.

Shooting, hockey out of 2026 Youth oly

Delhi : For the long-awaited 2026 Youth Olympics in Dakar, Senegal, the executive body of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) removed shooting, weightlifting, and hockey from the list of medal sports, severely hurting India's medal hopes.



non-medal sports that will comprise the YOG's "engagement

programme" are shooting, weightlifting, and hockey. With four medals from shooting (two gold and two silver), two from hockey (two silver each), and one from weightlifting, India brought home thirteen medals from the 2018 Youth Games in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Cabinet gives the go-ahead for additional KVs and NVs to improve educational infrastructure

Delhi: New 85 Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) and 28 Navodaya Vidyalayas (NVs) under the civil and defence sectors have been approved by the Cabinet. This program showcases the implementation of NEP, 2020 through PM Shri schools and strives to increase access to high-quality education for all children, particularly those in rural and underprivileged communities. The government claims that the schools, which are nearly all KVs and NVs now that they are PM Shri schools, will lead the way in terms of student outcomes, infrastructure, and pedagogy.

Over 13,56 lakh students are being educated by 1,256 KVs (including 3 overseas) at the



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198 college stipend mums get NMC show-cause

Delhi: The National Medical Commission (NMC) has issued show-cause notifications to 198 medical colleges—115 public and 83 private—for failing to report undergraduate intern, post-graduate resident, and senior resident stipends.

A Supreme Court order required all medical colleges to submit their 2023-24 stipends to NMC. Officials said the 198 colleges with show-cause orders failed to comply, prompting the action.

NMC will penalize colleges who refuse stipends and reduce seats

Delhi: The National Medical Commission (NMC) has issued a show-cause notice to medical colleges that have not submitted intern/resident stipend details. Deans and principals of 115 government and 83 private medical institutions received the notice recently. Maulana Azad Medical College, Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Medical Sciences, Dr. RML Hospital, and Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar Medical College is Delhi government college. The Commission



inquired why erring institutes should not be penalized in its notice. The NMC provided a list of government and private colleges without stipend details. The official NMC notification reads, "Many universities have yet to supply the required data on the above email

addresses. These medical colleges' failure to submit information reg. [regarding] resident stipend payment is taken seriously, and those who have not submitted the necessary information are directed to show cause why they should not be penalized." The delinquent med-

Manika wants top-15, Worlds medal

Delhi: Manika Batra is modest after becoming the first Indian paddler to reach the Olympics' Round of 16, beating a former world champion and world No.2 to reach her first Saudi Smash quarterfinals, and becoming the first Indian table tennis player to reach the WTT Champions final eight. "Quite a balanced year," she remarks. There have



been good wins and awful losses. I enjoyed reaching the Paris Olympics third round and beating world No.2 Wang Manyu. I'm not done or satisfied. I constantly aspire higher." That means Batra wants a top-15 finish next year. The 29-year-old, rated 25th, two places behind Sreeja Akula, the best-ranked Indian woman in the world, believes she can defeat the world's finest. "Top-15 is achievable given my confidence and game. I can now beat top-ranked players consistently thanks to this

After maths, CBSE to bring 2-tier system for science, social science

Delhi: Starting in 2026-27, CBSE schools will use a 'two-tier' system for science and social science. This fits the dual-level math scheme. The Board wants to apply this to other subjects as part of National Education Policy 2020. After CBSE's curriculum committee endorsed this plan, the governing body must approve it.

IIT-D placements rise 25%, 53% of students get jobs in last drive

Delhi: A recent IIT Delhi departure poll reveals the diverse career prospects of its 2024 graduates. The poll of August graduates shows a shift toward off-campus placements. The survey found 53.1% of students (1,411) got jobs. Meanwhile, 8.4% (224 students) self-employed, 1.7% (45 students) joined startups, and 2.5% (66 students) started businesses. Many graduates pursue intellectual or competitive goals. About 13.5% (359 students) have chosen higher education, and 1.8% (47 PhD holders) are awaiting postdoctoral research or faculty employment. 12.1% (321 students) are preparing for civil services, engineering, and government career exams. The institute's August 10 convocation event



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awarded 2,656 degrees and emphasized these tendencies. This includes 481 PhD and dual PhD degrees, 1,001 BTech degrees, 529 MTech degrees, and others from MBA, MSc, MS (Research), and PG Diploma programs. The institute praised its students for pursuing entrepreneurial and administrative careers in a state-

ment. "Our graduates are keen to explore multiple opportunities, including startups, entrepreneurship, higher studies, post-doctoral research, and civil services," the group added. These data show that many IIT Delhi graduates are choosing unorthodox careers that match their goals.

Exam centers to get CCTVs from NIOS to reduce malpractices

Delhi: To ensure transparent and seamless assessments, the Board of Secondary Education (BSE) will use AI-powered CCTV cameras and webcasting of the annual High School Certificate (HSC) exam 2024. Pauses, violations of rules, such as logistical issues in storing or distributing question papers, cheating, malpractice, invigilator incompetence, or cell phone use in HSC exam centers, can now be identified quickly. The board has strategically placed AI-supported CCTV cameras and webcasting for real-time test hall surveillance. Advanced features in these cameras can detect strange behavior in the medical room. "The annual matric examination 2024 will be completely hi-tech and technology-enabled to make the process transparent and error-free," stated BSE secretary Nihar Ranjan Mohanty.

Over 5.5 lakh students will take the yearly HSC exam from February 20 to March 4, 2024. More than 2,990 centers will host the exam this year. Hypersensitive and sensitive test centers, strong rooms where question papers will be maintained, and district education officers will have AI-enabled CCTV cameras. "We are working on identifying the centres based on the reports of DEOs," he said. The BSE sends a three-tier squad of 160 persons to examination centers to check for wrongdoing and ensure smooth board exams.

