

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

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MORNING EDITION PRAYAGRAJ Wednesday, 11 December, 2024 UNIQUE GIFT OF KRIYAYOGA ASHRAM AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE TO GIVE IMPETUS TO WORLD BUILDING AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.

After T shirts and masks, Congress MPs don 'Modi-Adani' bags as Parliament showdown



NEW DELHI: After T shirts and masks, the Congress MPs on Tuesday protested outside Parliament donning "Modi-Adani" bags, which had caricatures of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and billionaire Gautam Adani printed and 'Modi Adani Bhai Bhai' written on the side. This marks the latest in a string of opposition attacks on the government, alleging that it is sidestepping discussions about the bribery allegations involving Adani in the US. "The parties of the INDIA alliance want to discuss the Adani mega scam, but the Modi government is con-

tinuously running away from it. Today the leaders of INDIA alliance protested against this dictatorship of Modi government," the Congress posted on its social media handle. A fresh blame game also has erupted between the government and opposition over who is responsible for the unabated parliamentary disruptions. While Kiren Rijiju categorically singled out the Congress of staging "stunts" that caused disruptions, the Congress countered, claiming that the government was avoiding discussions and it was not the opposition. Meanwhile, Rahul

Gandhi chaired a meeting from it. Congress Lok Sabha MPs to discuss the Parliament session. The meeting was also attended by Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who later remarked, "We try every day to have a discussion, but they don't want to engage. That's why they find any excuse to adjourn the House." Earlier in the day, Union minister of parliamentary affairs Kiren Rijiju slammed the Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for the mock interview, saying while MPs from other parties like TMC, SP want to engage in Parliament debate and discussion.

UP ministers lead Mahakumbh 2025 roadshows in Ahmedabad & Kolkata

Ahmedabad/Kolkata To ensure that Prayagraj Mahakumbh 2025 is organized in a grand manner, the Uttar Pradesh government hosted magnificent roadshows in Ahmedabad and Kolkata. The events served as platforms for Uttar Pradesh ministers to extend invitations to the people of Gujarat and West Bengal to participate in Mahakumbh 2025. The Ahmedabad roadshow was led by Minister of Energy Arvind Sharma and Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Vocational Education and Skill Development Kapil Dev Agarwal, while the Kolkata roadshow was graced by Dr Arun Kumar Saxena, Minister of State (Independent Charge).

'Nayan sekne ja rahe hain': Lalu passes lewd comment on CM Nitish

NEW DELHI: RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav on Tuesday made sexist remarks on Nitish Kumar's upcoming women's rally, stating that the Bihar chief minister was attending the statewide yatra to "ogle at women." When asked about Nitish's 'Mahila Samvad Yatra' slated for mid-December, the former Bihar chief minister Lalu Yadav told reporters, "Nayan sekne ja rahe hain." Reacting to Lalu's comment, Bihar deputy chief minister Vijay Kumar Sinha said,



"Laluji is on the last stage. He is unable to understand things and says anything. Such language does not suit a person sitting on a constitutional position. These people have defamed Bihar. Bihar wants to be free from such people." In a separate response deputy

CM Samrat Choudhary said, "Lalu Prasad's statement is extremely unfortunate. Bihar CM Nitish Kumar is going to have a conversation with the women of Bihar and the type of words Lalu Prasad has used, we knew that he is physically ill but now we can say that he is

also mentally ill. He needs to be treated." "What has happened to Lalu Yadav? He is the one who used to consider Nitish Kumar as his brother, companion and friend. Is this what he thought of the CM?" said BJP leader Shah Nawaz Hussain on Lalu's remark. Similarly, Bihar minister Ashok Chaudhary said, "The usage of such language from a person like Lalu Yadav is an attack on the dignity of Bihar. It shows how much envy and jealousy they have towards Nitish Kumar.

Jobless men' who abducted Sunil Pal bought gold with ransom money



MEERUT: Mumbai-based comedian Sunil Pal was allegedly kidnapped and held hostage for 24 hours by five men from UP who lured him to Meerut under the pretext of organising a comedy show. The kidnappers told Pal that they were unemployed and demanded a ransom of Rs 20 lakh (but settled for 7.5 lakh later), which they used to purchase jewellery. The accused promised Pal that they would repay the amount after they found a job. The kidnappers even gave him Rs 20,000 in cash so that he could fly back home to Mumbai. Pal, known for his stand-up comedy and acting, was invited to perform at an event in Haridwar and had even received part payment in advance. Speaking to TOI, Pal recounted how the episode quickly went south, "I didn't suspect anything unusual as everything seemed legitimate. They sent a car to pick me up from the Delhi airport last Monday. After reaching Meerut, a group of men forcibly transferred me into another vehicle. They blindfolded me and warned me that they had a poison-filled injection and would kill me if I didn't cooperate." Pal added, "They threatened to inject poison in me and demanded Rs 20 lakh for my release. I managed to negotiate and transferred Rs 7.5 lakh to two accounts they provided. They then gave me Rs 20,000 to book flight tickets for Mumbai and promised to repay the ransom once they found jobs." Pal described the episode as "terrifying" but said he was relieved to return home safely.

'It's time to look ahead': Team India sweats it out

NEW DELHI: After a humbling 10-wicket defeat in the pink-ball Test at Adelaide Oval, the Indian cricket team wasted no time in regrouping, holding an intense net session in Adelaide on Tuesday. The visitors, who endured consecutive batting collapses against Australia's pace attack, looked determined to rebound in the third Test of the Border-Gavaskar



Trophy. The series, currently tied 1-1, has India seeking redemption after their strong start with a commanding 295-run victory in Perth. The third Test, beginning on December 14 in Brisbane, is crucial not just for the series outcome but also for India's hopes of reaching the World Test Championship (WTC) final. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) shared a video of the spirited practice session with the caption: "It is time to look ahead. Preparations for the Brisbane Test starts right."

Lawrence Bishnoi's kin in Canada key suspect in Baba Siddiqui murder

Gorakhpur MUMBAI: Canada-based gangster Anmol Bishnoi has emerged as the key accused in the murder conspiracy of former state minister Baba Siddiqui, according to the crime branch of the city police probing the murder case. Crime branch officers stated that they had



not yet found any direct evidence to link jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi to the murder case. Anmol has been named as a 'wanted' accused in the case, and has been detained in the United States at Pottawattamie

County Prison in Iowa, under investigation by US authorities. A senior police official said that Lawrence appeared to act cautiously in this case to avoid direct involvement, unlike his actions in the Salman Khan firing case where he was directly involved. In the Salman Khan firing case.

India vs Australia: Forget Mohammed Shami, focus on options at hand

NEW DELHI: After a comprehensive win in the series opener vs Australia in Perth, the Indian cricket team was riding high on confidence. Jasprit Bumrah was at his magical best, Mohammed Siraj seemed to have rediscovered his mojo and Harshit Rana made an instant impact on his Test debut. The mood, however, drasti-



cally changed as the colour of the ball went from red to pink for the next Test in Adelaide. India stuck to the

same bowling combination for the 2nd Test and they failed to click as a unit. Bumrah seemed overworked and Australia's gameplan of seeing him off cautiously worked! What India clearly lacked in that Adelaide fixture was an able support cast with Bumrah, and it wasn't a surprise.

Rahul Gandhi visits grocery store in Delhi, sells ketchup, biscuits and chocolates

NEW DELHI: Leader of opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi turned grocery shopkeeper for a few hours as he visited a store in Delhi to understand their hardships. "Recently I visited a grocery store in Delhi. Grocery stores are not just a medium to sell goods. They have emotional and cultural connections with their customers, but due to the rapid growth of quick commerce business, thousands of grocery stores are



closing down, which is a matter of concern," Rahul said on Tuesday, sharing a video of his visit. He also took a first hand experience at of being a shopkeeper as he went on sit behind the counter and cater to the cus-

tomers. Rahul was seen interacting with the store owners and discussing the issues. "The ones who can spend more sell at a lower price and eat our margins. They create a monopoly.

Trump revists 'Canada should become 51st state of US' joke

US President-elect Donald Trump on Tuesday called Canadian PM Justin Trudeau "governor of the great state of Canada." "It was a pleasure to have dinner the other night with Governor Justin Trudeau of the Great State of Canada. I look forward to seeing the Governor again soon so that we may continue our in depth talks on Tariffs and Trade, the results of which will be truly spectacular for all," said Trump in a post on his social media platform Truth Social. Earlier, Trump suggested Trudeau that Canada should become the 51st state of the United States of America, if Trump's proposed 25 per cent tariff kills the Canadian economy, according to Fox News.

Shaktikanta Das outlines most important tasks ahead for new RBI governor Sanjay Malhotra



NEW DELHI/DHAKA: Shaktikanta Das's leadership period at RBI is notable for guiding the Indian economy through challenging periods. Bringing inflation within the RBI's target range stands as the most important objective for the incoming RBI governor, emphasised Shaktikanta Das during his final address on Tuesday as he prepared to conclude his term as the Reserve Bank of India Governor. Das provided insights into the crucial challenges awaiting the central

bank whilst expressing optimism about his successor's capabilities, as he reviewed his six-year leadership period. The Narendra Modi government has selected Sanjay Malhotra, the current revenue secretary at the Finance Ministry, as the next RBI Governor. "First, so far as the Reserve Bank is concerned, I think restoring the inflation-growth balance is the most important task ahead of the Reserve Bank, and I am sure the Team RBI, under the leadership .

Sports lead to mental and physical development: Dr. Kirtika Aggarwal

Inauguration of three-day indoor and outdoor sports competition at Vatsalya Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Sciences

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Prayagraj: A three-day indoor and outdoor sports competition at Vatsalya Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Sciences was inaugurated on Monday at the Vatsalya campus in Civil Lines. While inaugurating the competition, the director of the institute, Dr. Kirtika Aggarwal said that organizing sports competition is necessary for the physical and mental development of the students. With this,



they move towards their goal with concentration. Dr. Aggarwal encouraged the students and said that they are the future of the country. Along with studies, success in every field is also a necessity today. On this occasion, the Principal of the Institute, Dr. Jyoti Marthe congratulated the students who secured first, second and third positions in various competitions. He also expressed confidence that other students will also take inspiration from him. Students participated enthusiastically in competitions like painting, henna, rangoli, chess, carrom, needle and thread race, 100 meter race, rope jumping etc. Professors and staff members of the institute were also present on this occasion. The competition will conclude on Wednesday. After this the winning participants will be honored.

Medical arrangements zero in Prayagraj, AIIMS need of the hour: Ujjwal

MP Ujjwal raised AIIMS issue in Lok Sabha

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Prayagraj: Prayagraj MP Ujjwal Raman Singh raised the issue of AIIMS in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday that it is unfortunate that the Central Government has filed an affidavit in the Allahabad High Court that there is no idea of establishing AIIMS in Prayagraj for two years. MP representative Vinay Kushwaha said that MP Ujjwal Raman Singh said that the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh had announced the establishment of AIIMS in Prayagraj on 27 August 2017 for which the search for 200 acres of land was done in Naini and Shankargarh areas of Jamunapar, but recently the affidavit given by the Central Government in Allahabad High Court disappointed the people of Sangam, who were dreaming of AIIMS. Incidentally, in the last ten years in Prayagraj, there has been a huge population increase over the years, in comparison to which the medical system is negligible. There is a shortage of modern medicine here. Despite this, the ground reality for the establishment of AIIMS has not been properly assessed. Along with the districts around Prayagraj, the districts of Madhya Pradesh are also affected. He said that people have to travel to Lucknow and Delhi for serious illness, which leads to wastage of both money and time.

Via newly formed team, prepare to face 2027: Sanjeev Chaurasia

Prayagraj: Workshop of district and divisional election officers of all 16 districts was organized in Rohania Kashi area office regarding the organization festival of Bharatiya Janata Party Kashi region. The chief guest of the occasion, BJP in-charge from the state and MLA Sanjeev Chaurasia said that the election officers of all the districts formed under the Sangathan Parv. From this, the officers and divisional officers have to prepare the organization on the basis of ideas and mutual basis of Bharatiya Janata Party and we do not have to make Bharatiya Janata Party a familial party and while working as per the system of the organization, we have to select qualified workers and build the organization. We have to play an important contribution in this and through the newly formed team we have to fight the battle of 2027.

On this occasion, State General Secretary Anoop Gupta, State Election Co-Officer Rajendra Nath Tiwari, Regional President Dilip Singh Patel said that in the selection process of Booth Mandal and District, we have to complete the organization festival by following the rules and discipline of the organization. District Spokesperson Rajesh Kesarwani told that the expected district and divisional election officers of all the 16 districts of Kashi region participated in the workshop and they were given information regarding the divisional district and booth selection process. On this occasion, BJP Metropolitan President Rajendra Mishra, Kunj Bihari Mishra Navratna Katyal, Geeta Vishwakarma Rajesh Kesharwani, Manoj Kushwaha, Archana Shukla, Arun Singh, Sanjay Srivastava, Sanjay Singh welcomed all the guests.



Sustainable land management technology and approaches to achieve land degradation neutrality: 3-day training prog

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Prayagraj: The three-day training program on the topic "Sustainable Land Management Technology and Land Conservation Neutral Development Approach", sponsored by Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Land Management, Dehradun was organized by I.C.F.R.E-Eco-Rehabilitation Centre, Prayagraj and inaugurated by Chief Guest Tulsidas Sharma, Conservator of Forest with lighting of the lamp. The Center Head Dr. Sanjay Singh welcomed the guests and Participants. Dr. Singh informed that more than 30 participants from five States of India, namely

Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh from the departments of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Land Conservation, State Forest Department, Department of Agriculture, Rural Livelihood, Animal Husbandry Mission, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India and Ganga Task Force representatives etc. are participating in this training program in addition to other Research and Educational institutions. Dr. Singh said that the main objective of the program was to share various technical light and information for the sustain-



able management of land conservation and the role of the Center of Excellence in Sustainable Land Management, Dehradun. The Chief guest of the program Tulsidas Sharma, Conservator of Forest, while over-

seeing the program organized by the Center, emphasized on promoting forestry through selection under a scheme to prevent forest land degradation. Program Coordinator, Alok Yadav, senior scientist gave an

outline of the three days training program. Dr. Hansraj Sharma, Senior Scientist, CoE-SLM, Dehradun, explained the role of the Center in land management technology and land degradation improvement under the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun. Dr. Anubhav Srivastava, Senior Scientist and Organizing Secretary, proposed the vote of thanks. In the first technical session of the training program, senior scientist, Dr. Hansraj Sharma presented a lecture on land degradation neutrality as a means to achieve sustainable development goals. Prof. (Dr.)

Umesh Kumar Singh of Allahabad University discussed the topic of solution to land degradation story under the United Nations Convention to address Desertification. Dr. P.C. Abhilash, Associate Professor, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi discussed the issues of choice and opportunities under Global Stability Development Wasteland Reformation. Senior scientists of the Center Dr. Anita Tomar, Dr. Kumud Dubey, Senior Technical Officer Dr. Satyendra Dev Shukla, Ratan Gupta, Dharmendra Kumar, Reesh Kumar, Ambuj Kumar etc. were present in the program.

Indranil Ghosh awarded with Hony. Doctorate in Sports

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Prayagraj: CEO-Head Coach of Northern Football Academy & International Sports Manager Indranil Ghosh has been awarded with Hony. Doctorate on 6th Dec in New Delhi by Iconic Peace Award Council, recognized & approved by Govt of India. Son of Meera & Jayant Kumar Ghosh, Indranil recently got the PEFI National Award in New Delhi by Shri Kunal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Govt. Of India while last year in 2023 got Chetan Chauhan National Award.

Under Indranil coaching & guidance first ever Allahabad University Women's Football Team in 2009-10, the first Himachal Pradesh Junior Girls Football Team in 2012-13 and the first Army Public School New Cantt Girls Football Team in 2019-20 was formed. Indranil has been the

CEO - Head Coach of Northern Football Academy since 2015 and in the last 15 years of training, many



players have participated in competitions of different age groups from district level, inter-university to national level.

Indranil has worked as Technical Official and Sports Manager in many National and International Competitions like Common-

wealth Games Delhi 2010, Jharkhand National Games 2011, Asian Badminton Championship, Junior Asian Tennis Championship 2012, SAFF (South Asian) International Football Championship 2011, 2015, Inter Audit & AG Football Tournament 2015 & 2017

Apart from this, he has worked as a coach in many National Football Competitions for states such as Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Lakshadweep as well as Allahabad University, MNNTI, Allahabad. Recently, Indranil was also the Goalkeeper Coach of the Tripura team in the 78th Santosh Trophy Senior National Championship 2024-25

Indranil Ghosh, a licensed professional football coach of All India Foot-

ball Federation, received M.Com from Allahabad University in 2006 and MPED from Barkatullah University, Bhopal in 2012 and a Diploma in Football Coaching from Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports, Kolkata in 2008-09. While received the post from Lakshmi Bai National Institute of Physical Education, Gwalior in the year 2021 Have passed Graduate Diploma in Sports Management (PGDSM)

Wife Pinky Ghosh, Anjana Banerjee, Pradeep Chakraborty, Dr. Sarvesh Gupta, Dr. Rakesh Chaturvedi, Dr. Shailesh, Dr. Satish Mishra, Abhishek Tiwari, Sanjay Bhattacharya, Rabindra Nath Banerjee, Arindam Ghosh, Dinesh Srivastava, Sushil Kumar, Ajay Navait, Gopal, Sunil Corporation etc. congratulated and wished Indranil for this remarkable achievement.

Mayor should consider need for public involvement

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Prayagraj: Municipal Corporation is going to make the world's largest Rangoli which will be inaugurated on 8/11/24 at 11 am at Yamuna Inter College Balua Ghat. This information was being given by Municipal Corporation Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani. During the Municipal Corporation elections, at the program organized in the auditorium of Allahabad Medical Association, on the instructions of Cabinet Minister Swatantra Dev Singh, the public present paid obeisance to Janardan and requested him to give him an opportunity to serve, the public made him win. Next January 13 Maha Kumbh is going to start from 2025. Crores of people from India and abroad will come to Prayagraj. They will not only come to the Mahakumbh district but will also stay in various localities of the Municipal Corporation and stay at the places of their family, acquaintances and relatives and take bath on the

Mahakumbh festival. It is the responsibility of the Mayor that the dilapidated roads of the Municipal Corporation area should be repaired, cleanliness should be maintained, street lights should be repaired, the entire metropolis should be decorated like a bride, which is the imagination of the Chief Minister of the state Yogi Adityanath. He is giving the demanded money to every department. Let there be a grand and divine Mahakumbh. But it is regrettable that Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani will definitely spend crores of rupees on the Municipal Corporation building and take it away like a bride, but most of the roads of the metropolis remain in a dilapidated condition. Most of the roads in the city's western area will be named after him himself. These include the literary poet Jamadar Dheeraj Marg of Kalindipuram and the 23 bigha park of Nandgaon Colony adjacent to this road which has become a forest.

It is good that at the time of widening, it was named after him. The stone slab has been demolished and only a sign board is left.

The Mayor should know that on the instructions of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the ministers of the state government have gone out to distribute invitations for Mahakumbh in every corner of the country. Similarly, the people living in the metropolis are also inviting their acquaintances, friends and relatives to come to Mahakumbh. Maybe the mayor does not know what thoughts will come to the minds of outsiders when they come and stay in various localities and see the dilapidated roads of the metropolis. Routine cleaning is being done but the participation of the general public is lacking. Access could have been made to more streets, but that could not happen, if people had been called upon, the general public would have also gathered. She herself

would fill the nearby pot-holes and clean them; only the work that was not done would reach the Municipal Corporation. I got a chance, I got the support of the Chief Minister, still the metropolis remains in a bad state, it will go to the Chief and will prove to be incompetent, the people of the metropolis are going to get something from your world's biggest rangoli, now the time is more than a month, otherwise the chance will come again and again. Bar is not available. Senior journalist of the metropolis Virendra Pathak has raised the point that there is no participation of the common people in the preparation of Mahakumbh, yet the Mayor of the metropolis and his advisors could not understand. All the departments of the government are engaged, they should also take suggestions from the general public and rectify the shortcomings, otherwise everything will be fine if we trust Ram.

Kathakali dance brings alive themes of Mahabharata

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: The tenth cultural evening of the National Crafts Fair organized by the North Central Region Cultural Centre, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, witnessed folk dances. The artistes enthralled the audience through their unique choreography and expressions. On Tuesday, on the Mukhtakashi stage, artists from Delhi presented Kathakali dance through their expressions to the accompaniment of music, in which the episodes of Mahabharata were brought alive. Ragini Chandra and the team performed "Jahan Ganga Yamuna ka Nirmal Dhar Baate Sone Ke Chiraiya Bharat Deshwa Hamar Ba", "Ganga



Maiya Ji Ke Darshan Kar Da Piya Melwa Ghumada Piya Na" and the eastern song "PT PT Ke Ho Kevadiya Saiya Jagave Lagalan Na", enthralled the audience by giving a presentation of various folk dances on the stage with colorful costumes and ghungroos. Adding to the cultural evening, Ganga Devi and fellow artistes gathered a lot of applause by presenting the Bhavai dance of Rajasthan. After this, Babu Lal Hazra created enthusiasm among the audience by giving a presentation of Raibenshe dance of West Bengal. Kailash Sisodia and his team presented the Bhagoriya dance of Madhya Pradesh, while Mandeep Chhib and fellow artists presented the folk dance of Jammu. The field artists from Haryana and Rajasthan have become the center of attraction for the people in the fair. There was a huge crowd in the National Crafts Fair on the tenth day. Along with shopping, people tasted the cuisines of Rajasthan, Bihar and Maharashtra.

'National Ramayana Mela Committee', spiritual pride of Prayagraj

Prayagraj: The meeting of All India Ramayana Mela Committee was held at the Tilak Nagar residence of the organization's Managing Secretary Satish Kumar Gupta. The meeting was presided over by the General Secretary of the committee, Dr. Shambhunath Tripathi 'Anshul ji'. The discussion on the subject took place in the context of the annual three-day program organized by the committee on 27,28,29 December 2024. Referring to the basic objectives of the National Ramayana Fair Committee, Dr. Anant Kumar Gupta highlighted the contributions of Manas towards building an ideal society through his teachings. Dr.



Shambhunath Tripathi 'Anshul ji' presented a detailed description of the various stages of the program. The three-day annual program of the committee will be held in the sacred courtyard of Katra Shri Ramlila Committee, adjacent to the ashram of Bhardwaj Muni. Respectful gratitude was expressed for the sacred presence and cooperation of Shri Ramlila Committee and an intention and idea was put forward with the support of the government that like other Ramayana fairs, the Uttar Pradesh government should organize Maharishi Bhardwaj for the program of the huge National Ramayana Fair to be held at Tirtharaj Prayagraj. Please bless the sage by providing him the sacred courtyard and financial support. A respectful appeal was made to the people of Prayagraj to make the program successful. In the meeting, Vivek Chaturvedi, Anirudh Ojha, Rajan Vishwakarma, Sudhir Dwivedi, Brijendra Kumar Singh Manoj Singh, Rajendra Kumar Tiwari 'Dukaan Ji', Abhishek Dubey, Piyush Aggarwal, SB Singh, Durgesh Dubey, Jitendra Shukla, Pavnesh Upadhyay, Anand Srivastava, Pankaj Sharma, Shailendra Mishra, Ashish Bajpayee etc.

Gurukulam School's First Annual Event with Students' Cultural Showcase

Varanasi: The Gurukulam School recently hosted a vibrant cultural program that showcased the artistic talents

of its students, ranging from Pre-Nursery to Class 12. The event blended traditional and modern performances through creative storytelling, role-play and multimedia presentations. Students delivered an engaging showcase highlighting the evolution of Indian education, from the ancient Gurukul system with its focus on holistic learning and strong teacher-student bond. Priyanka Mukherjee, Principal of The Gurukulam School, Varanasi, said, "Our annual event beautifully showcased the creativity and talent of our students. This is a result of the consistent hardwork our students have put in, for over a month. We were honoured to have



Alakh Sir with us, whose guidance and presence continue to inspire our young learners. While academics are important, activities like these are equally important as they help students build confidence, develop teamwork, and express their creativity. At The Gurukulam School, we are committed to fostering all-round growth, preparing our students for personal and academic success."

Alakh Sir graced the event as the Guest of Honor, receiving a warm welcome from the students. The celebration began with a parade and included a student who took the stage dressed as him. In a tribute to the Late Sir Ratan Tata, students created an artistic portrait as homage and reenacted scenes of the Varanasi ghats of Ganga using recyclable items.

Nazareth Hospital celebrates 49th Foundation Day with cultural grandeur

Maha Kumbh resounds on the stage of Nazareth Hospital

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Prayagraj: Nazareth Hospital celebrated its 49th Foundation Day with a vibrant cultural program in the presence of a distinguished gathering of dignitaries. The event was graced by the Justice Saurabh Srivastava, the Administrative Judge of Sonbhadra District, as the Chief Guest and presided over by Most Rev. Louis Mascarenhas, Chairman of Nazareth Hospital. The Guests of Honour included Dr. Ashu Pandey, Chief Medical Officer of

Prayagraj, and Sr. Lata CSN, Provincial Superior of the Congregation of the Sisters of Nazareth.

The celebration began with a serene Prayer Dance setting a spiritual tone for the evening. This was followed by the ceremonial Lighting of the Lamp, symbolizing hope and enlightenment. The administrator Rev. Fr. Isidore D'Souza welcomed the dignitaries, guests and well wishers to the cultural extravaganza.

The cultural program featured a series of captivat-

ing performances. A highlight was Maha Kumbh: The Eternal Confluence, a grand depiction of the spiritual and cultural significance of the Maha Kumbh Mela, showcasing its deep-rooted traditions and universal message of unity and devotion. This mesmerizing performance drew loud applause from the audience, reflecting the grandeur of Prayagraj's heritage.

Other performances included a powerful skit, "Hands That Heal," emphasizing the critical role of

nurses in healthcare, and an energetic Bollywood Dhamaka, which added a vibrant, contemporary flair to the event. The dances on the themes of Cyber security, Environmental Preservation and Organ donation kept everyone spellbound with carry-home messages. The Visually Impaired Girls from Divya Jyoti Niketan sent a loud message of need for educating the less fortunate children with their rhythmic feet. The cultural fusion depicted unity in diversity with rich culture.

In his address, Justice Srivastava commended Nazareth Hospital for its unwavering commitment to healthcare and community service over nearly five decades. The Chairman, Most Rev. Louis Mascarenhas, also addressed the gathering, reflecting on the hospital's rich legacy and its continued mission to serve humanity with compassion and excellence.

One of the highlights of the event was the presentation of the prestigious Nightingale Award 2024 to two

exemplary nurses: Preeti Arya, Staff Nurse, and Rashmi Munda, ANM Nurse, in recognition of their outstanding dedication and contributions to patient care. The event concluded with Dr. Prashant Tripathi proposing a heartfelt vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all who contributed to the success of the day. Nazareth Hospital's 49th Foundation Day was a perfect blend of cultural celebration and recognition of service, leaving the audience inspired and united in spirit.

7 yrs jail to bro & sister-in-law in culpable homicide case

LAW CORRESPONDENT

Prayagraj: The brother-in-law and sister-in-law, accused of assaulting and burning their elder brother's wife due to a land dispute in Karchana area 13 years ago, have not got relief from the Sessions Court. After listening to the defense lawyer and ADGC Raj Kumar Singh, Special Judge Gangster Act VK Chaurasia, proven guilty, sentenced brother-in-law Laxmikant Yadav and sister-in-law Seema Devi to seven years of imprisonment and a fine of Rs 15k each. According to the prosecution, the plaintiff Rajendra Prasad Yadav had filed a complaint in the police station Karchana on December 18, 2011, that his daughter Pramila was married to Hare Krishna, son of Ram Garib, resident of village Bhasma

(full name of Pandey), Karchana, 16 years ago. The son-in-law was ill for 2 years. The land related dispute with Pramila was going on for a long time. At 10 am on 14 December 2011, the plaintiff received information that Pramila was beaten and burnt by her family members. When he reached the nursing home, he saw that his daughter was moaning and the treatment had not even started. Pramila told him that when brother-in-law Jai Kishan challenged him, brother-in-law Laxmikant and sister-in-law Seema Devi beat him and set her on fire. After that the plaintiff admitted Pramila to SRN, where she died during treatment. The prosecution presented 10 witnesses to prove the crime.

St. Peter's Church serving the needy ahead of X-mas

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Prayagraj: The Christmas tree of the poor was celebrated at St. Peter's Church, Muirabad, in which the necessary materials were made available to the needy people near the

anointed to preach the news to the poor. The message of the poor in the form of gospel is that you should help the poor in their need and fulfill their needs. This is the basic message of Christmas



church by some members of the church and the Christmas tree was celebrated by giving gifts, in which Pastor Praveen Massey gave a special message that it is written in the Bible that He helps the poor, he lends to God the Father and keeping an eye on this and the Lord Jesus said in Luke 4 that I have been

which is for the whole world that we should share with others who are in need. Chief Director Sharmila Sharma, Caroline Solomon Ananth David, Sangeeta Haq, Asha Chakraborty and Pastor Dr. Vinita Eusebius provided special assistance. The program ended with prayers for the poor.

PM arrival: Nandi flagged off campaign vehicle

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: Uttar Pradesh Government's Industrial Development Minister Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi on Tuesday flagged off the campaign vehicle from his Bahadurganj residence for the proposed public meeting and inauguration and foundation stone laying ceremony of the country's illustrious Prime Minister, Most Respected Shri Narendra



Modi ji in the confluence city of Prayagraj on 13th December. To make Maha Kumbh 2025 divine, grand and safe, the inauguration and foundation stone laying ceremony of thousands of crores related to various development projects and beautification projects of Prayagraj is proposed on 13th December. In which the country's successful Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate. Today, for the proposed public meeting at Sangam Noze, a campaign vehicle was dispatched to appeal to the public in various divisions of Prayagraj City South Assembly Constituency.

Songs of Jesus' arrival echoed in St. Paul's Church Candle Light Service

Christians circled church by lighting candles

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: Candle light service was organized at St. Paul's Church, Kamala Nehru Road on Tuesday. At the beginning of the program, Presbyter in-charge of St. Paul's Church, Pastor SP Lal welcomed the chief guest, Pastor Dr. Vinita Eusebius. After which the text of Ephesians 5:8-16 was read from the Bible. In the programme, a special song was presented by the choir of blind children of Divya Jyoti School which enthralled everyone. After which, songs related to the arrival of Jesus were sung by the choirs of Divine Church, Assembly of Believers Church, Holy Trinity, St. Paul Sunday School, Jamuna Church. After

which Bible chapter 5:4-16 was read from the Gospel of Matthew where it is written "Let there be light of the

and your life. The life of Jesus and His gospel are like a light in this world. In the time of Jesus, some



world; A city that is situated on a mountain cannot be hidden." Reflecting on which, Pastor Dr. Vineeta Eusebius said that we should be visible in the society with the light of our Lord Jesus Christ. The light here comes from the gospel

prominent rabbis were called the light of the world. But you look at what Jesus says, "He looks at all his disciples and he looks at us today and he says, we are the light of the world." Jesus explains, "I want you to be my light and my in-

strument. You are like my body, my hands, my mouth, and my feet on this earth." At the end of the program, everyone went around the church with candles in their hands and sang the song "Aaya Masih Charni Mein Tu" (Come in the Manger), after which everyone started congratulating each other in advance. A special vegetarian biryani was organized for the churches attended by Pastor Kamla Singh, Pastor Jitendra Nath Singh, Pastor William. Hari Prasad, Dr. Justin Masih, Meeta Richard, Ravi Richard, Vishal Tompkinson, Govind Tiwari, Rohit Barnabas, Sunil Kumar Verma, Mohit Factorik, Kajal etc.

Tour guides being trained for convenience of devotees in Mahakumbh

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: Traffic training program for guides, voters, vendors and taxi drivers for the convenience of tourists and pilgrims in Mahakumbh 2025 Prayagraj Development in Prayagraj by Honorable Kanshi Ram Institute of Tourism Management, Lucknow Deputy Commissioner of Police Neeraj Pandey or Additional Police for easy and smooth traffic in Maha Kumbh in Saras Hall of the building. Under the direction of Deputy Commissioner Kuldeep Singh, traffic inspector Pawan Kumar Pandey created awareness about traffic rules. He told that whatever route the devotees are coming from, they should be easily trans-

ported to the Sangam or other bathing ghats and the drivers of the vehicles in the fair should be told to park at an appropriate distance from the intersections and they should politely avoid the devotees at the intersections. Tell to stand up. Be sure to keep track of the name and distance of the nearest railway station to the fair and also save the number of the SHO or outpost in-charge of the circle in which duty is imposed. Do not allow any kind of rumor to spread in the fair so that there is no possibility of a stampede. If you find any suspicious person or any untoward incident happens, then send your live location from your mo-



bile to the higher authorities and inform them by writing the details.

Form a group with like-minded friends, maintain coordination amongst yourselves, whatever the inconvenience, and follow whatever rules will be made in the fair with the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam

Seva. Appeal to the devotees not to go to the ghats where there is more crowd than the capacity and cooperate with the administration. In case of any inconvenience, keep taking help and follow it politely. Also keep in mind the main route of the devotees coming from faraway places and

also understand from their language which state this person belongs to and guide him towards the same route. There is also a need to remember the information about vehicle parking on each route. Contribute to the fair with the feeling of being a guest. Those who have been separated from their relatives call them through the sound system and send them to the lost camp. During the fair, take the names of the main intersections of the city with their current names. So that the people can be taken to the right place, inform the administration if suspicious persons are seen, so that there is no inconvenience of any kind in the fair. Only

with the good conduct, honesty and love behavior of all of you, the image of Prayagraj can become better in the eyes of the devotees coming to the fair, therefore all of you should not let Prayagraj become a center of tourism only for the fair, tourists always came and due to which Prayagraj It should always become a tourist center which will benefit everyone. And Tirtharaj Prayagraj will have a distinct identity in the country and abroad. This event was organized in the presence of Assistant Professor Prakhar Tiwari. In which Nitish Shukla, Pradeep Dubey, Rajit Kumar, Sandeep Shukla Satendra Kumar were present.

Mayor distributed akshat, invites public for PM meet

Prayagraj: Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani with BJP workers on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's proposed meeting on 13 December Regarding the public meeting, he contacted the public and distributed intact Roli rice and invited him for the public meeting and said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is moving rapidly towards building a developed India and is standing strongly on the world stage and Today, due to the strong leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi,

the respect of every Indian has increased. He said that Prayagraj is realizing the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji of a developed India and the Bharatiya Janata Party government is working according to the dignity of Prayagraj and said that it is our responsibility. To listen to the thoughts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji, who has dedicated every moment of his life in building the country, and play his role in building a developed India. District spokesperson Rajesh Kesarwani said that Krishna Nagar,

Kidganj, Muthiganj, Chaukhandi, New On this occasion, Raju Pathak Pramod Jaiswal Rajesh Kesarwani, Councilor Mukesh Kasera, Rudrasen Jaiswal, BJP Namami Gange coordinator Rajesh Sharma, Durgesh Singh, Vishnu Tripathi, Dilip Kesarwani, Harish Kesarwani, Ajay were contacted to make the public meeting successful in Basti and Ward. Aghari, Tej Pratap Singh, Sunil Kumar, Siddharth Pandey, Narendra Jaiswal, Manoj Tripathi, Veeru Yadav, Sujal Srivastava, etc.

BJP inviting people for PM event

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: On December 11, at 2:00 pm, Bharatiya Janata Party workers will go from door to door from Loknath intersection to Muthiganj intersection to distribute intact rice and invite them to the public meeting for the Prime Minister's program.

Editorial

The role of state fiscal capacities in national growth

India's economic progress is a composite reflection of the growth trajectories of its states. Given the federal structure of the country, each state operates with a degree of autonomy in implementing policies that drive their individual economies. This results in a broad spectrum of growth rates across states, highlighting significant disparities. For the nation to achieve holistic growth, it is imperative for all states to experience economic advancement. Despite this, there is a notable discrepancy in the attention paid to fiscal matters at different levels of government. The Union Budget, detailing the central government's finances, often garners substantial scrutiny and debate for its potential impacts on the nation's economic direction. In contrast, state budgets, which are crucial for addressing local needs and fostering regional development, do not attract a similar level of public and analytical scrutiny. Fiscal capacity, the government's ability to generate revenue from available tax and non-tax bases, is crucial for several reasons. First, it underpins a government's ability to provide essential public goods and services. These range from healthcare and education to infrastructure and defense, which are fundamental for the welfare of the citizenry and the smooth functioning of the economy. Without adequate fiscal capacity, governments may struggle to maintain these services at levels that meet public demand and expectations, potentially leading to social unrest or a decline in the quality of life. Second, fiscal capacity is vital for economic development and growth. Governments need resources to invest in infrastructure projects like roads, bridges, and digital networks, which are critical for enhancing productivity and competitiveness. Such investments not only improve current living standards, but also set the stage for future economic expansion. The Asian Development Bank Institute (ADB) in 2017 and the World Bank in 2015 highlighted the risk of economies falling into a 'middle-income trap' where they are unable to transition to high-income status due to inadequate fiscal capacity among other factors.

Moreover, fiscal capacity is essential for macro-economic stability. It allows governments to manage economic cycles more effectively, applying fiscal stimulus in downturns and restraint in booms to maintain economic stability. The Covid-19 pandemic's impact on Indian states underscored this point, as reduced fiscal capacities constrained their ability to respond effectively to the crisis and its economic repercussions. Finally, a robust fiscal capacity enables equitable social development. It allows for redistributive policies that can mitigate income inequality and fund social safety nets for the vulnerable. Studies have shown that factors such as high per capita income, education levels, and low corruption contribute to higher fiscal capacity, which in turn can be used to foster a more inclusive society. Given that state governments account for over 60 per cent of general government expenditure in India, enhancing their revenue-generating capacity is imperative for the needed investment in areas such as education, research and development, and skill development. The Reserve Bank of India recently released a report on state finances, which gives an insight into the state budgets of 2023-24. It has some important findings. First, revenue mobilisation in Indian states comprises both tax and non-tax revenues, with a significant portion coming from state's own tax revenues (SOTR). Over the years, there has been a noticeable increase in SOTR, growing from 5.7 per cent of GDP in 2003-04 to 6.9 per cent in 2022-23. This growth, particularly in the post-GST era, reflects a shift in the composition of tax revenues. with the State Goods and Services Tax.

Trump as the Republican presidential candidate

With his three-time nomination as the Republican presidential nominee, Trump's hold over the party is incontrovertible. FILE PHOTO: Republican presidential candidate and former US President Donald Trump. REUTERS Donald Trump and Narendra Modi are both considered conservative or right-wing leaders. But they could not be more dissimilar. One is flamboyant, the other sober; one shoots his mouth off, the other cannot be found making a single indiscreet statement. Though both are constantly in

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

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

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

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

Why military interventions will never let Pakistan become a democracy?

Presently, the military finds itself entangled in a subsequent confrontation with Imran Khan, the favourite of the masses. Image Courtesy: Reuters

What facet of the military's participation in the nation's political apparatus contributes to its operational dysfunction? Alternatively, what constituent of the military's involvement propels society towards the precipice of civil conflict?

From a subjective standpoint, the military's influence on decision-making processes, notably in formulating foreign and internal security policies, does not inherently manifest as problematic.

Given its precarious geopolitical surroundings, the contextualisation of Pakistan as a security state from its inception underscores the historical roots of such a paradigm. The 1990s witnessed the ascendancy of a military-oriented perspective, accentuating assumed internal threats to the nation's survival. This perspective gained further traction in the aftermath of the post-9/11 security paradigm. The substantial role assumed by the military in shaping foreign and security policies finds its justification in these historical antecedents. Critics of the military's pervasive role in



these processes must proffer pragmatic alternatives, implying the establishment of alternative institutional frameworks to curtail the involvement of military bureaucracy. However, complications arise when the military bureaucracy exploits international linkages forged during policy formulation to consolidate its influence within the country's power structures.

In the post-Musharraf epoch, military leadership assumed the mantle of de facto diplomats for Pakistan. The security landscape emerged as the preeminent foreign policy concern for successive governments in Islamabad, prompting foreign leaders, including foreign ministers and heads of state from Western and Muslim nations, to seek consultations primarily with the Chief of Army Staff (COAS).

The high-profile international visits undertaken by the Army chief were extensively publicised in domestic and international media during this time. This heightened visibility finds rationale in the geopolitical reality that Pakistan and its adjacent Afghanistan were focal points in global terrorist networks, hosting the headquarters of major international terror organisations.

A historical context is pertinent, wherein the nexus between the Pak-Afghan border areas and mainland Afghanistan was implicated in major terrorist incidents worldwide. In such scenarios, the discernment of a foreign leader is of manageable complexity; the point of contact for addressing such difficulties is perceived to be the Army chief rather than the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

The irony is underscored by

the conspicuous absence of institutional capacity within the prime minister or the civilian government to formulate policies germane to these concerns. Despite the technical attribution of military capacity within the ambit of the prime minister's executive powers, the unequivocal proclamations of the military's media wing regarding its intent to support civil governments on diverse policy matters substantiate the de facto institutional autonomy exercised by the army. This nuanced interplay unfolds within Islamabad's structured and disciplined bureaucratic milieu, characterised by an absence of tumult or disorder. The constitutional powers of the prime minister are willingly ceded, facilitating the encroachment of the Chief of Army Staff and the military bureaucracy, particularly in scenarios where civilian governments lack the independent capacity for policy formulation and execution. However, it is essential to note that this singular dynamic does not make Pakistan's political system dysfunctional. Comparable instances of military leadership involvement in the formulation and execution of foreign and security policies are observable in other nations. The difficulty associ-

ated with the military's engagement in Pakistan lies primarily in its role as a partisan actor in the nation's internal political contentions.

This predicament is further underscored by the extensive historical record depicting the Pakistani military's involvement as a participant in ideological, religious, sectarian, and political conflicts. The epoch of General Zia-ul-Haq's military regime stands out as a significant period wherein the military was ostensibly positioned as the guardian of the state's ideological frontiers. During this tenure, the military administration actively contributed to the cultivation and reinforcement of profound religious and sectarian divisions within society through legislative measures, persisting as unresolved issues within the broader Pakistani political landscape. Since its inception, Pakistan has manifested itself as an ideologically diverse society, accommodating various political, religious, sectarian, and ideological factions, a characteristic dating back to British colonial rule. However, the Zia-led military sought to impose an ideological homogeneity on Pakistani society, endeavouring to enforce a fundamentalist interpretation of Islam.

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

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

Scratch the calm demeanour, and there is a girl with a plan who wants to hit straighter and longer. Golf consumes her. She recently

reconnected with her childhood coach, Gaurav Diwan, and is "working on my swing speed and distance". From those early years, she turned pro in 2016 and was also rookie of the year, and Ashok is the first Indian female golfer to enter the top 50 world ranking.

On a journey that began at age five, she accompanied her father, Ashok Gudlamani, onto the Karnataka Golf Course in Bangalore. One swing and another, and soon she was hooked. Over the years, her resolve, passion, and stoic stance have seen her climb deftly along the ranks of ladies' golf. Putting, she believes, is her strength, and often birdie-ing to perfection, the ramrod straight serious girl with her lips pursed in concentration has beaten

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

Jammu and Kashmir - A period of transformational change,

People stood in long queues to cast their vote in an Assembly election in Jammu and Kashmir after a gap of ten long years. PM Modi called it Naya Kashmir as he aimed his dart at the 'teen khandan', the three dynasties—Congress, JKNC and PDP. It's been a long ten years in the Valley. There have been other decades marked by turbulence. But none like the past decade—a period of transformational change, depending on who is asked. The ten years carry a lot of weight and significance. On 18 September, Kashmiris, for the first time, voted not for a state but a Union Territory. The region's status changed in 2019, following the abrogation of Article 370 by the Modi government. Many other firsts are also taking place during these keenly watched elections:

Established political parties being pitched against several Independent candidates, who are backed by organisations like the banned Jamaat-e-Islami; the entry of Engineer Abdul Rashid; and the absence of stalwarts such as Mehbooba Mufti. It led to the political landscape of Jammu and Kashmir becoming fiercely competitive, which is why the Assembly

elections in Jammu and Kashmir is ThePrint's Newsmaker Of The Week. The main parties in the fray are the INDIA bloc's National Conference (NC) and Congress, the People's Democratic Party (PDP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). During the last election BJP and PDP had entered into an alliance. This election also has the second-highest number of Independent candidates since 2008. These elections carry a lot of political weight for the BJP, even beyond the region. The Modi government has been showcasing the abrogation of Article 370 as one of its key achievements. After the recent delimitation exercise, Kashmir has 47 seats and Jammu has 43. Twenty-four Assembly seats in seven districts went to polls on Wednesday. Delimitation led to an increase in seats in Hindu-dominated Jammu and nine seats being reserved for the Scheduled Tribe community, the BJP is hoping to be a formidable force in Jammu even as it continues to face several challenges in the region. When it comes to the Kashmir valley, BJP has very little influence. For the National Conference too, these elections carry a lot of impor-

tance. Former CM of Kashmir and chairperson of NC, Omar Abdullah, lost to Engineer Rashid during the Lok Sabha elections. After making several statements about not contesting elections unless statehood is restored to J&K, he has decided to take the plunge. BJP has also brought up statehood multiple times. On 7 March this year, while launching an 'Integrated Development of Hazratbal Shrine' in Jammu and Kashmir, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a strong emotional pitch to the people of J&K.

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

Paramount Communications Ltd. Reports Robust Earnings for FY24, Crosses Rs. 1,000 Cr



Chandigarh: Paramount Communications Limited, established in 1955, a leading player in India's wire and cable industry, has announced its earnings for the quarter and year ended 31 March 2024. The company recorded a Robust order book of Rs. 4,951.6 Mn, coupled with Strong performance across product range, especially led by strong growth in Power and Railway cables. Exports continue to remain healthy as we achieve similar volumes as compared to FY23. Increasing production

driving economies of scale and profitability. Healthy Balance sheet with debt equity ratio of 0.16 and Current Ratio of 3.40. The Company is poised to become debt free during FY25 after full repayment of ARC debt of Rs. 862.5 Mn. Revenue from domestic operations in FY24 amounted to Rs.7,944.8 Mn, showing a 100.5% Y-o-Y increase from Rs.3,961.8 Mn in FY23. In terms of sales mix, domestic sales stood at 74.2% and exports stood at 25.8%. Commenting on the results Mr. Sanjay

Agarwal, Chairman & CEO said, "FY24 has been a remarkable year for Paramount Communications Limited. We have achieved strongest ever performance in terms of Revenue and Profitability. This year, we reached a significant milestone by surpassing Rs.1,000 crore in revenue showing a growth of 34.4% y-o-y. This achievement is underpinned by strong demand for our product portfolio and not only highlights the strength of our client relationships.

Union education minister to head TISS Society, Tata Trusts to have 1 member

MUMBAI: The Union education minister will soon be the chairman of the new Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) Society. The executive council of the premier institute, which will replace the governing board, will be chaired by the vice chancellor and will have four nominees of the education minister and academic representatives from TISS. Tata Trusts, which had two senior members on the governing board, will now have only one member in the society. TISS Society will facilitate the

functioning of TISS, while the executive council will have the power of management and administration. The norms are in line with those of regulatory bodies in central universities. Last year, Centre had decided to bring all institutions that receive over 50% govt funds under its jurisdiction. TISS, a centrally funded deemed-to-be university, has, therefore, been brought under govt's ambit. The drafting of a new memorandum of agreement (MoA) had been pending for some time. The executive coun-

cil, as per the proposed MoA, will replace the governing board of the institute. The agreement said the institute will be fully funded by govt. Earlier, the institute was managed by Tata Trusts and the governing board had a nominee of the trust as its chairperson. But, for some time, Tata Trusts has been funding only a few projects, under which there are ad hoc teaching and non-teaching positions in the institute. As per TISS's 2022-23 annual report, 181 teaching positions are sanctioned.

Congress alleges bank accounts frozen, government says Rs 115 crore attached by I-T

NEW DELHI: Congress on Friday alleged that the income tax department had frozen all its bank accounts, crippling its activities ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, a charge that was rejected by official sources as "misleading and misrepresentation of facts". Official

sources said the IT department had attached Rs 115 crore in various accounts of Congress in pursuance of a tax demand pending since 2018-19 and following a process which applies to all taxpayers. The tribunal will hear the matter on Feb 21

before a final decision is taken. At a hurriedly convened press conference in the morning, Congress treasurer Ajay Maken said the I-T dept had frozen the party's main bank accounts on the "flimsy" ground of delay in filing returns years ago.

Goods train derails near Delhi's Sarai Rohilla railway station



NEW DELHI: A goods train derailed near Delhi's Sarai Rohilla railway station on Saturday. The Railway police said that casualties have not been ruled out as yet. Ten bogies of the train derailed on Patel Nagar-Dayabasti section. The incident occurred near the Zakhira flyover. Team of Railway officials and fire tenders have been rushed to the spot. Rescue operation is currently under way. "Iron sheet rolls were loaded in the goods train. Possible casualty of a person on the track not ruled out," the official said.

French journalist leaves India amid OCI row

NEW DELHI: French journalist Vanessa Dougnac, threatened with cancellation of OCI status because of alleged "malicious" reporting, left India on Friday. France had raised her issue with govt during the visit of French President Emmanuel Macron to India last month. The journalist, who had come to India 25 years ago, made it clear that she was being forced to leave the country by saying in a statement that she was unable to work and that she had been unfairly accused of prejudicing India's interests.

Defence panel approves acquisitions worth Rs 84,560 crore to boost capabilities of armed

NEW DELHI: The Defence Acquisition Council, chaired by Rajnath Singh, approved capital acquisition proposals worth Rs 84,560 crore to enhance the capabilities of the Armed Forces and the Indian Coast Guard. Amendments to the Defence Acquisition Procedure, 2020 were also approved. Additionally, a proposal to buy nine maritime surveillance aircraft and six maritime patrol aircraft worth Rs 29,000 crore was approved. Defence panel approves acquisitions worth Rs 84,560 crore to boost capabilities of armed forces, coast guard

NEW DELHI: The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), under the chairmanship of defence minister Rajnath Singh,

● Defence Acquisition Procedure, 2020, were also approved to promote procurement of advanced technologies from start-ups and MSMEs

on Friday cleared capital acquisition proposals worth Rs 84,560 crore "to boost the capabilities of the Armed Forces and the Indian Coast Guard". Acquisition proposals include new generation anti-tank mines, air defence tactical control radar, heavy-weight torpedoes, medium-range maritime reconnaissance & multi-mission maritime aircraft, and flight refueller aircraft.

The approvals lay

special emphasis on procurement of various equipment from Indian vendors. Significantly, amendments to the Defence Acquisition Procedure, 2020, were also approved to promote procurement of advanced technologies from start-ups and MSMEs. "This will provide the much-needed incentive along with a supportive business environment for the start-ups and MSMEs under IDEX and TDF schemes, truly in the spirit of 'Ease of Doing Business'," the defence ministry said in a statement. 15 maritime patrol aircraft Earlier in the day, the defence ministry had approved a proposal to buy nine maritime surveillance aircraft for the Navy and six maritime patrol aircraft for the Indian Coast Guard.

'Didn't comply with provisions': Air India gets notice after 80-year-old flyer dies

NEW DELHI: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Friday issued a show cause notice to Air India in connection with the incident where an 80-year-old man passed away after he walked to the terminal due to lack of wheelchair assistance at airport. The DGCA in its notice stated that the airline did not comply with the provisions of the said CAR in violation of Aircraft Rules, 1937. Air India has been asked to



respond to the notice within seven days. "DGCA has issued Car section 3, series 'M', part I on "carriage by Air - Persons with Disability (ngjan) and/or Persons with Reduced Mobility".

As per the Para 4.1.7 of the CAR, airlines are mandatorily required to provide assistance to persons with disability or reduced mobility's particular needs and ensure their seamless travel from the

departure terminal of the departing airport upto the aircraft and at the end of the journey from the aircraft to the arrival terminal exit," the notice said. "Further, an advisory has also been issued to all airlines to ensure that an adequate number of wheelchairs are available for passengers who require assistance during embarking or disembarking from the aircraft during their journey," it added.

Sandeshkhali violence key developments: NCSC submits report to Murmu, recommends President's rule in Bengal

NEW DELHI: Amid Sandeshkhali violence, the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) has submitted a comprehensive report to President Droupadi Murmu, recommending the imposition of President's rule in West Bengal. NCSC Chief Arun Halder disclosed that the commission's report highlighted the alleged harassment of women by Trinamool Congress (TMC) supporters in Sandeshkhali. Meanwhile, the political delegations faced roadblocks as they attempted to address the alleged atrocities against women amidst ongoing protests. A six-member BJP delegation was stopped by the police on their mission

to investigate the reported incidents, while the Congress chief questioned the restriction on opposition parties. Simultaneously, the Supreme Court took notice of the escalating violence, agreeing to consider a PIL seeking a court-monitored probe. NCSC submits report to President, recommends President's rule in Bengal A delegation of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) had visited Sandeshkhali on Thursday after a large number of women claimed that TMC leader Shajahan Sheikh and his supporters captured swathes of land by force and also sexually harassed them. Speaking to reporters

after submitting the report to the President, NCSC chief Arun Halder shared a brief account of "atrocities and violence endured by the people of Sandeshkhali". "We have recommended that President's rule should be imposed in West Bengal over the situation there under Article 338 that aims to safeguard rights of SCs," Halder said.

According to the mandate given to the NCSC under Article 338 of the Constitution, it is the duty of the Commission to present to the President annually and at other times as the Commission may deem fit, reports upon the working of the constitutional safeguards of the Scheduled Castes.

Rushil Decor Ltd. Board Approves Stock Split in 1:10 Ratio

Chandigarh: Rushil Decor Limited (BSE: 533470, NSE: RUSHIL), a prominent name in the manufacturing of eco-friendly MDF, laminates, and plywood, has announced that the its board has approved a stock split ratio of 1:10 i.e Sub-division/ split of each equity share of face value of Rs. 10 into 10 equity shares of face value of Re. 1, subject to the approval of the members of the Company. The Record Date for sub-division/ split of existing equity shares will be intimated in due course. Earlier, the company announced its strategic expansion into South America. With exports already reaching over 50 countries, Rushil Decor is set to penetrate one of the largest markets for MDF globally. On the eve of Interzum Bogota, Mr. Rushil Thakkar, Executive Director at Rushil Decor expressed hope and confidence about growing with the multi-billion-dollar global wood



panel market. Bogota is an international industry fair for furniture and wood technology, being organised between May 14 and 17, in Colombia, South America. As a leader in MDF manufacturing in India, Rushil Decor is well-equipped to meet the high demand in South America. The company recently posted a 9% growth in the January to March 2024 quarter compared to

the same period last year. Export revenue contributed 28% to the total revenue in the fourth quarter of FY24, highlighting the company's significant international footprint.

According to Precision Reports, the global MDF market was valued at USD 24,942.77 million in 2024 and is projected to reach USD 29,965.13 million by 2027.

CBI ensures murder convict sent back to India from UAE

NEW DELHI:

Central Bureau of Investigation coordinated the return of a absconding life convict charged with murder from United Arab Emirates, following a detailed operation which involved geo-locating and tracking the suspect through Interpol. The subject was identified as Narender Singh.

The central agency had got a Red Notice issued against him from Interpol's General Secretariat on Nov 7 last year on the request of Haryana Police.

The notice, as per the protocol, was circulated to all member countries for location and arrest of the subject. After the subject was located, the global operations centre of CBI coordinated with Interpol-Abu Dhabi, Haryana Police, Indian Embassy in Abu Dhabi and the ministry of external affairs to initiate the process for his return.

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

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

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

conditions. Furthermore, about 18% expressed dissatisfaction with the communication received from their insurance providers regarding claim statuses.

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

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

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



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

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

CAPSULES

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

HC junks Cong substitute nominee's plea for Indore fight

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Government should start new rules to combat fraudulent e-commerce reviews



Delhi: Consumer affairs secretary Nidhi Khare said the Union government will use an Indian Standards code to combat fake customer reviews and inflated ratings on e-commerce platforms, a global issue, as online shoppers complain more on the national consumer helpline. Online shoppers are heavily influenced by customer reviews and ratings. E-commerce sellers manipulate ratings and add paid reviews to encourage sales. "The presence of fake reviews online jeopardizes the trust-

worthiness and credibility of shopping platforms and can cause consumers to make wrong purchase decisions," said Khare, who led a stakeholders' meeting with Amazon and Flipkart executives. Mordor Intelligence estimates that India's e-commerce market would expand from \$112.93 billion in 2024 to \$299.01 billion in 2029, a 21.5% CAGR. The new standard (IS 19000:2022) assigns reviewers and administrators particular duties. New regulations compel organizations to identify

review authors in certain ways. E-commerce grievances on the national consumer helpline increased from 95,270 in 2018 (22% of all grievances) to 4,44,034 in 2023 (43% of total grievances). E-commerce platforms in India must create a documented code of practice and share it with management and workers. Khare said they must show how they will follow this constitution and the guiding principles. Amazon and other platforms have acknowledged the issue globally.

Sebi proposes tighter SME listing requirements over misuse worries

Delhi: Sebi and stock exchanges aim to tighten standards for SMEs seeking public listings, according to Reuters. Concerns over exploitation of a 2012 platform to help small firms access financing markets prompted this change. According to sources in the report, the planned modifications might boost the minimum amount of public offerings to Rs 30 crore to Rs 50 crore (\$3.59 million to \$5.99 million).

In response to stakeholder engagements, these new regulations are due later this year. There's no minimum issue size, but corporations listing on this



market must have Rs 25 crore in post-issue capital. One source told Reuters that a minimum offer size will ensure that genuine enterprises can access financial markets, protecting investor interests. During the fiscal year ending March 2024, more SMEs went public due to India's

strong equities markets. On PRIME Database, 205 companies raised Rs 60 billion through public offerings, up from 125 firms raising Rs 2200 crore the year before. Companies with yearly turnovers between Rs 5 crore and Rs 250 crore are Indian SMEs.

Air India, Vistara try to resolve staff issues before merger

Delhi As the Vistara merger process begins, Air India hopes to resolve employee fitment difficulties. The Vistara-Air India integration committee has identified certain occupations that will be duplicated following the merger. Vistara has 6,500

employees and Air India 17,000. At a recent town hall meeting, employees were notified that the merger may eliminate some positions. The Tata Group will upskill some employees and place others in other group entities to avoid job losses. Prior to the

merger, Air India employed consultants to design the new structure. Some Air India staff would be kept, while others may join Air India Express. Some employees worry about their career advancement and seniority in the new framework.

Order mandating SpiceJet to pay Sun Group's Kalanithi Maran 270 crore overturned by Court

Delhi: Judge ordered SpiceJet to refund over 1270 crore to Sun Group promoter Kalanithi Maran, but a Division Bench of the Delhi High Court overturned it. SpiceJet and CMD Ajay Singh appealed the single-judge's ruling to a Division Bench of Justices Yashwant Varma and Ravinder Dudeja. Appeals are allowed. The July 31, 2023 order is vacated "By the Court. The Division Bench denied SpiceJet's request to postpone the single-judge ruling upholding an arbitral tribunal award ordering the airline to reimburse over 270 cases. The issue between Maran and SpiceJet began in



January 2015 when Ajay Singh bought SpiceJet from him. Maran reportedly gave Singh his 58.46% airline ownership.

According to the contract,

Maran would receive redeemable warrants for his airline promotion investments. Maran was entitled to 18 crore warrants and 26% SpiceJet shares. No con-

vertible warrants or preference shares were issued to Maran, and he received no money. Maran sought roughly 1,323 crore in damages. Arbitration was ordered by the Delhi High Court. The arbitral tribunal ordered SpiceJet to return Maran 1270 crore in July 2018. The tribunal also ordered the airline to pay 12% interest on warrant payments and 18% on Maran awards if they are late. The tribunal also found no breach of Maran, SpiceJet, and Ajay Singh's share sale and purchase agreement. Thus, Maran's shareholding return and damages claims were denied.

Government e-commerce platform accepting unicorns

Delhi: Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), a UPI-like alternative to e-commerce heavyweights, is onboarding unicorns like Makemytrip, Policybazaar, Cars24, and Zerodha to build traction. While ONDC was created to support small businesses like kirana stores and democratize online shopping, the government believes large players will give consumers more choice and boost demand in smaller towns and cities. The goal is to assist consumers and



businesses without platform fees. "It gained popularity in the last two years. Five lakh sellers—70% small and medium—have joined. ONDC processed 72 million transactions in April "Rajesh Kumar Singh, industry and internal trade secretary, told reporters. Singh

expects all types of players to join, when asked if big startups would overwhelm smaller ones. "The intent is noble, let us see how it works and to what extent we can actually crack some of the issues you raised in terms of market concentration," said.

Microsoft, I4C remove 1,000 cybercriminal Skype accounts



Delhi: The Indian Cyber Coordination Centre (I4C) and Microsoft have blocked over 1,000 Skype accounts linked to intimidation, blackmail, extortion, and 'digital arrests' of citizens by cyber criminals posing as police, CBI, narcotics, RBI, or ED personnel. A MHA statement stated I4C helps prevent SIM cards, mobile devices, and mule accounts used by criminals. Many complaints are being reported on the National Cyber Crime

Reporting Portal (NCRP) about how these fraudsters call potential victims and claim they have sent or are the intended recipient of a parcel containing illegal goods, drugs, fake passports, or other contraband. They may also claim that a loved one is in their custody for a crime or accident. Money is demanded to compromise the "case". Some victims face 'digital arrest' until their demands are granted. Many victims have

lost a lot of money to such thieves. The home ministry stated cross-border crime syndicates run this online economic crime. MHA said it is collaborating with other ministries, agencies, RBI, and other organizations to combat these frauds. I4C assists police in all states and Union Territories in identifying and investigating cases. Citizens should be aware of these frauds and disseminate knowledge. image

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

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

Bharti Airtel managing director and CEO Gopal Vittal said, "Cloud and AI solutions will drive India's digital transformation. We're excited to collaborate with Google



Cloud to provide safe and scalable cloud solutions for government, companies, and startups. Our collaboration will speed the implementation of generative AI in the country and uncover its potential to solve challenges. Airtel will also use Google Cloud's generative AI to improve its mobile, broadband, and digital TV consumer experiences and internal processes. Airtel will also offer similar services to its Indian and global B2B customers.

According to Google Cloud CEO Thomas Kurian, "Our strategic partnership with Airtel is a major step for accelerating cloud and AI adoption in India. We want to develop disruptive solutions to improve Airtel's customer experience through our relationship." Airtel will train artificial-intelligence and machine-learning solutions on its enormous dataset using the two businesses' strengths—connectivity and AI technology.

IFC provides \$500 million to HDFC Bank so that it can offer microloans to female clients



Delhi: HDFC Bank said that it has received \$500 million from the IFC to support low-income women borrowers through onlending. According to an official release, the largest private sector lender in the nation would provide financing for income production, promoting financial inclusion and socio-economic growth. The microloans will be extended to women registered in the lender's

Sustainable Livelihoods Initiative (SLI) as well as self-help and joint liability groups. Arup

Rakshit, group head of Treasury at HDFC firm, stated that the firm has opted for a longer-term loan facility that will support the bank's endeavors to empower women. According to the statement, banks' wide distribution and cheaper funding costs can be used to provide microloans to women, despite the fact that non-banks now service two thirds of the microfinance market. "Having access to financial services is essential for enhancing the economy and empowering women.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

24 makes hybrid funds with 35% to 65% equity allocation a viable option. Indexation, which adjusts inflation with the asset's cost, lowers tax liability. Certain schemes like balanced hybrid, multi-asset, and dynamic asset allocation still offer indexation benefits.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

LIC shares slip after 17% salary hike

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



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

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

10% to 14% for nearly 24,000 employees who joined after April 1, 2010. TNN We also published the following articles recently Noida revises fee for three parking clusters Noida Authority approved three contractors for surface parking in city clusters with revised fees. New tender initiated after scrapping previous contract. Residents get relief with revised parking fees. Multilevel facilities accommodate 12,000 vehicles.

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ued at over Rs 240 crore, making Ekagrah Rohan Murty one of the youngest millionaires in India. He is the youngest in the Infosys promoter group. Following this transaction, which was revealed in an exchange filing, Narayana Murthy's stake in Infosys has come down to 0.36%. The stock exchange filing specified the transfer of shares "from Narayana Murthy-promoter to master Ekagrah Rohan Murty-promoter group." Narayana Murthy's daughter Akshata Murty, also the First Lady of the UK, has two daughters, Krishna and Anoushka. Within the Murthy family, Akshata holds a 1.05% stake in Infosys, while her brother Rohan has a 1.64% stake, and their mother, Sudha Murty.

Adani calls report on bribery probe by US prosecutors false

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

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

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

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

China Evergrande Group's alleged \$78 billion revenue overstatement escalates the legal peril of founder Hui Ka Yan, who now stands at the center of one of the biggest financial fraud cases in history. The nation's top securities regulator said the developer's onshore unit inflated revenue by recognizing sales in advance in the two years through

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

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

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

Star Health eyes NRI business through GIFT

CHENNAI: Star Health and Allied Insurance Company will offer dollar-denominated insurance from GIFT City for NRIs. The company is launching international insurance product suite from the facility in FY25. Star Health is the first health insurance company to be granted registration to establish an International Financial Services Centre international office in GIFT City. It plans to commence operations with a branch by the end of this month, facilitating access to health insurance solutions in US dollars for the global Indian community, the company said in a statement on Monday. Noting that the facility will enable the company to significantly expand its global reach and business, it said, the company will offer NRI-focused insurance.