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NEARBY



Kejriwal takes a jibe at Tiwari over NRC

NEW DELHI
Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal took a dig against BJP State chief Manoj Tiwari here on Wednesday, saying if the National Register of Citizens was implemented in the Capital, the Bhojpuri singer-turned-politician would be the first to leave the city.

CITY PAGE 3

PM's economic advisory council reconstituted

NEW DELHI
The government on Wednesday announced that it had reconstituted the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council for a period of two years. The council would have two part-time members apart from the two full-time members. Two dissenting members, Rathin Roy and Shamika Ravi, have not been retained.

BUSINESS PAGE 15

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Impeachment inquiry against Trump begins

He is accused of seeking Ukraine's help to target Biden

REUTERS
WASHINGTON

Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives were set on Wednesday to move forward with a formal impeachment inquiry into President Donald Trump, a move that could dramatically change the 2020 presidential race.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who had for months resisted calls inside her party for Mr. Trump's impeachment, announced that a formal inquiry would be launched after meeting members of her party on Tuesday.

In a brief, nationally televised statement, Ms. Pelosi accused Mr. Trump of seeking Ukraine's help to smear Democratic presidential front runner Joe Biden ahead of the 2020 election.

Betrayal, says Speaker
The Speaker described the Republican President's behaviour as a "betrayal of his oath of office, betrayal of our national security and betrayal of the integrity of our elections".

Mr. Trump repeated his attack on Democrats on Wednesday and, as with the U.S. probe into alleged Russian meddling and potential obstruction of justice, called the inquiry a "Witch Hunt".

Ms. Pelosi's change of

President under scanner

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi launched a formal impeachment inquiry against U.S. President Donald Trump

The focus: The impeachment inquiry focuses partly on whether Trump abused his presidential powers and sought help from a foreign government to undermine Democratic foe Joe Biden and help his own re-election



The confrontation: The impeachment inquiry, after months of investigations by House Democrats of the Trump administration, sets up the party's most direct and consequential confrontation with the President

The impact: The decision injects deep uncertainty into the 2020 election campaign and tests anew the nation's constitutional system of checks and balances

There has been no President in the history of our Country who has been treated so badly as I have. The Democrats are frozen with hatred and fear. They get nothing done. This should never be allowed to happen to another President. Witch Hunt! DONALD TRUMP, ON TWITTER

heart followed reports that Mr. Trump had pressured Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in a July 25 telephone call to investigate Mr. Biden, the former U.S. Vice-President, and his son Hunter Biden, who had worked for a company drilling for gas in Ukraine.

Scrutiny over their conversation is expected to intensify on Wednesday as Mr. Trump is scheduled to meet the Ukrainian leader alongside a UN meeting in New

York and later take questions from the media.

On Tuesday, Mr. Trump said he would release a transcript of the call.

Mr. Trump has said he discussed Mr. Biden and his son in the call, but denied putting any pressure on the Ukrainian leader despite his administration's withholding of nearly \$400 million in military aid approved for Kiev by the Congress.

ANOTHER REPORT PAGE 14

Modi pitches for India's NSG entry

'Since we are not a member, we can't get fuel for producing nuclear energy'

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
NEW YORK

Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a pitch for India's membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) here on Wednesday, as he addressed a largely business gathering in the Bloomberg Global Business Forum where he delivered the keynote address.

The comments were made during a Q&A session with former New York City Mayor and businessman, Michael Bloomberg.

"One challenge that is before us today is that of nuclear energy, because, since we are not a member of the NSG, we do not really have the ability to get the fuel for



Former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg and PM Narendra Modi speaking at the Bloomberg Global Business Forum. AP

producing nuclear energy," Mr. Modi said, as part of an answer on climate change and India's energy needs.

"If we were to get that opportunity, we could perhaps be a model in this area for the world," he said.

The NSG controls most of the world's nuclear trade. While the U.S. and other countries support India's entry into the NSG, China has opposed it saying India has not signed the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty. India

and the U.S. announced in March that six U.S. companies would set up nuclear power reactors in India.

Speaking in Hindi, Mr. Modi switched to English for parts of the speech, such as when making a pitch for investments in India, including in infrastructure, urbanisation, defence and technology. "Your desires and our dreams match perfectly," he said.

He spoke of his government's reforms - GST, the bankruptcy and insolvency laws, unique ID (Aadhaar) and bank accounts for 370 million individuals.

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MORE REPORTS PAGE 13

Two Dalit boys beaten to death in M.P. village

They defecated in the open on the way to their grandparents' place

SIDHARTH YADAV
BHOPAL

The Shivpuri police have arrested two persons for allegedly beating to death two Dalit children for defecating in the open in their village in Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday morning.

"At 6 a.m., as the children, aged 11 and 12, were passing through Bhavkhedi village in Sirdol police station limits, brothers Hakim Singh Yadav and Rameshwar Yadav hit them on their heads with lathis, killing

them," said Rajesh Singh Chandel, Shivpuri Superintendent of Police.

Inspector General (Gwalior Range) Raja Babu Singh confirmed the circumstances of their death. "On the way to their grandparents' place, they defecated in the open. This led to the fatal beating."

The IG said one of the accused started beating them and they died on the spot. "Villagers rushed to help the boys but it was too late."

On a complaint by the

father of a victim, police registered a case under Section 302 [punishment for murder] of the Indian Penal Code and relevant Sections of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

Villagers told the police that Hakim had undergone treatment for a mental illness in the past.

Ruling out a community angle at this point, Mr. Chandel said, "Although Yadavs are dominant in the area, there is no history of ani-

mosity between the two communities."

However, a local policeman, requesting anonymity, said the accused held a grudge against the victims' families.

"Two years ago, they had reportedly taken wood from the field of the accused to build a hut," he added.

The bodies were taken to hospital for post-mortem. BSP president Mayawati said the murder of the two boys was "extremely sad and condemnable."

Higher Education Bill in winter session

HECI to take over regulatory functions

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ
NEW DELHI

A Bill that aims to create a single regulator for higher education, replacing the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), is likely to be introduced in the winter session of Parliament.

It proposes to bring almost all areas of higher education - including technical, architectural and legal courses - under the ambit of a single umbrella body. Medical education, however, will not come under the proposed Higher Education Commission of India (HECI), according to the draft Bill.

The new version of the legislation has also removed a controversial proposal to move grant disbursal authority from autonomous bo-

odies and bring it directly under the control of the Human Resource Development Minister. Instead, a new autonomous body will be created to supervise the doling out of funds to higher education institutions, according to a senior Ministry official.

UGC and AICTE are autonomous bodies which oversee the accreditation, regulation and maintenance of teaching, examination and research standards for universities and technical education institutions across the country. These academic functions will now be moved to the new HECI, as proposed in the draft Bill.

However, AICTE and UGC are also responsible for disbursing public funds to Universities and colleges.

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60% girls in Delhi colleges anaemic

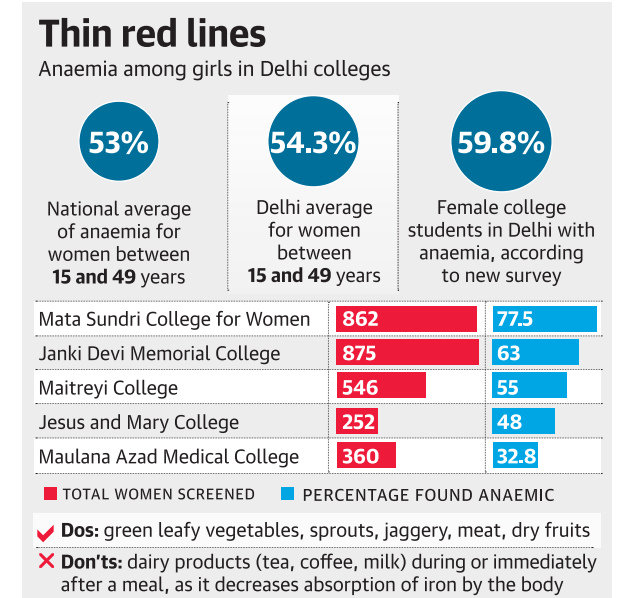
Detection camps at 12 colleges show incidence higher than national average

NIKHIL M BABU
NEW DELHI

When 18-year-old Anu (name changed) stood in a queue at Atma Ram Sanatan Dharma College for a blood test, she had no idea that she would be detected with "severe" anaemia, which is risky, according to doctors. "I never thought I had anaemia. I did not feel any of its symptoms," she said.

About 60% of female students in Delhi colleges are anaemic - well above the national average - according to an analysis of data collected from ongoing anaemia detection and awareness camps of the Delhi government accessed by *The Hindu*. The findings, which are yet to be made public, are based on tests on a total of 5,224 female students in 12 city colleges, of whom 3,128 (59.9%) were found to be anaemic.

The national average of



anaemia among women between 15 and 49 years is 53% and in Delhi it's 54.3%, according to National Family Health Survey-4.

While the national average came down from 55.3%

quickly over a few days, it can even lead to cardiac failure," said Dr. Nitin Gupta, senior consultant, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital.

The students found anaemic during the camps have been referred to nearest government hospitals for treatment. Also, the health department has asked all State government-run hospitals to make sure that students detected with "severe" anaemia are provided "out-of-queue treatment".

'IFA tablets for colleges'

State programme officer (adolescent health) Dr. Gautam Singh agreed that the percentage of women with anaemia is indeed very high. "We plan to extend distribution of IFA tablets to colleges," he said.

During the camps, 94 of the 3,128 female students were detected with "severe" anaemia.

It's raining discounts for vehicle buyers

Automobile manufacturers roll out the red carpet to buyers to clear inventory

LALATENDU MISHRA
MUMBAI

Facing a slump, the automobile industry is offering heavy discounts to entice passenger car and two-wheeler buyers. The benefits, including exchange bonus and discounts, range from ₹50,000 to ₹1,50,000 depending on the brand and the manufacturer. But these schemes will not apply to newly launched cars and SUVs. Tata Motors, for example, is offering benefits of up to ₹1.5 lakh while Hyundai's benefits range from ₹65,000-95,000 depending on the model.

Maruti Suzuki, the biggest



Big drive: The discounts range from ₹50,000 to ₹1,50,000 depending on the car brand. PTI

car maker, has cut prices of several models by ₹5,000 to pass on the benefit of reduction in corporate tax by the government. This is apart from the discounts being offered by the company and its

dealers. Two-wheeler maker Bajaj Auto has already advertised benefits of up to ₹7,200 per motorcycle while Honda Motorcycles is planning to announce its scheme shortly.

Car sales have been declining for nine months, and last month the passenger vehicle sales had dropped by around 40% causing concern. Automakers are saddled with unsold stock at factories and dealerships and with the GST Council not reducing rates on automobiles, manufacturers are dropping prices and rolling out the red carpet to buyers to clear their

inventory.

Even luxury car maker Mercedes-Benz India has joined the benefits party. It has introduced mobility solutions "Wishbox" which is a compilation of customised financial solutions to help customers buy a new car. These include low or zero down payment. The exact benefits could not be established.

Hyundai Motor India is offering benefits of up to ₹95,000 on Grand i10, ₹65,000 on Elite i20, ₹65,000 on Santro and ₹80,000 on Creta, besides offering four years extended warranty.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

10 killed as oil tanker hits auto in Jind

Eight of them were returning from Army recruitment drive

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

Ten people, including eight young men returning home from an Army recruitment camp, were killed in Haryana's Jind on Tuesday night when a speeding oil tanker collided with the autorickshaw they were travelling in near Ramrai village. One person was injured.

The men, aged between 18 and 21, had gone to Hisar for medical examination as part of the recruitment drive. On their way back, they had boarded an autorickshaw. The oil tanker hit the vehicle on Hansi Road,



Relatives of the deceased waiting outside the mortuary in Jind. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

shaw was overloaded. It seems the tanker driver hit the autorickshaw head-on in a bid to avoid the potholes on the road," said Jind SP Ashwin. Tanker driver Bachu Khan, a resident of Barmer in Rajasthan, fled after the accident. He was arrested on Wednesday.

The police team had a tough time pulling out the auto from under the tanker. The tanker was lifted with the help of two cranes. The victims included brothers, Sanjay and Parminder, from Badtana village. While Sanjay died, Parminder suffered grave injuries.

Delhi tenants to get free electricity

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Tenants in the Capital will now get free electricity up to 200 units under a new Delhi government scheme.

Tenants will also be entitled to get prepaid power meters installed at the rented properties which will supply electricity at subsidised rates under the "Mukhyamantri Kirayedar Power Meter Yojana", Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced on Wednesday.

DEATHS ON PAGE 2