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Prime Minister Narendra Modi has stressed conducting simultaneous elections under the One Nation One Election by urging youth to have elaborate discussions on it. He said multiple elections hinder the pace and speed of the work done for the country. Prime Minister Modi was speaking at the annual National Cadet Corps (NCC) rally at the Cariappa Parade Ground in New Delhi yesterday. The theme of this year's rally was 'Yuva Shakti, Viksit Bharat'.

PM BYTE:

Prime Minister Modi, termed the youth of the country as the force for global good and asserted that future of world cannot be imagined without them. Mr Modi said, NCC has constantly inspired the youth towards nation building. During the event, a cultural programme was performed by more than 800 cadets, showcasing commitment of NCC towards nation building. The rally also witnessed participation by 144 young cadets from 18 friendly foreign countries.

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Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launched WAVES Bazaar, WAH Ustaad challenge and WAVES Awards in New Delhi yesterday. The Union Ministers also launched 'Create in India Challenge' Season 1, inviting international participation as a part of WAVES 2025. WAVES Bazaar is a premier global e-marketplace for the media and entertainment industry, offering buyers and sellers a platform to connect, collaborate, and grow. Addressing the gathering, Mr Vaishnaw expressed hope that with the initiative, India will soon become the capital of creative economy.

ASHWINI BYTE:

Speaking on the occasion, Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat emphasized that the initiatives launched are set to amplify the nation's soft power on the global stage.

SHEKHAWAT BYTE:

Information and Broadcasting Secretary Sanjay Jaju said the WAVES Bazaar is a transformative initiative which will bring together buyers and sellers of media-related content. WAH Ustaad is a unique classical and semi classical talent hunt. The nominations for WAVES Awards will open from the 15th of February.

Minister of Horticulture, Salhoutuonuo Kruse yesterday visited the Atoizu Horticulture Farm to review its progress and initiatives. During her visit, Ms Kruse met with District Horticulture Officer, Zunheboto, Dr. Alongba Tzudir and his team and discuss various strategies for improving of the farm, and enhancing support and services provide by the department to the farmers.

India's fast-bowling spearhead, Jasprit Bumrah, has been named the winner of the ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year award for his exceptional performances in 2024. The pacer took an astonishing 71 wickets while bowling 357 overs in 13 matches, at an average of 14.92 last year. On the other hand, Indian opener Smriti Mandhana has been crowned the ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year for her outstanding performance in 2024. The India vice-captain, Mandhana, set new career standards in ODIs, scoring more runs than ever before in a calendar year.

And, Goa secured a dominant 362-run victory over Nagaland in the Ranji Trophy Plate Final, clinching the prestigious title after setting a challenging target of 578 runs. Despite strong resistance from Hem (54) and Nischal D (31), Nagaland's second-innings challenge fell short as they were bowled out for 215.