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

PM Modi files nomination from Varanasi; eyes third straight win with the blessings of 'Maa Ganga'

NEW DELHI: With much fanfare, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday filed his official nomination from Varanasi, seeking a third straight win from the constituency. The Prime Minister was accompanied by the likes of Union home minister Amit Shah, defence minister Rajnath Singh, BJP president JP Nadda along with a big band of NDA leaders including BSPP chief Om Prakash Rajbhar and dozen CMs of BJP and NDA states. Leaders from NDA's top brass like LJP chief Chirag Paswan, Chandrababu Naidu, Jitan Ram Majhi, Pashupati Paswan were among other partners present at the PM's nomination in the collectorate. The Prime Minister filed his nomination in the presence of four proposers. His two proposers including Acharya Ganeshwar Shastri Dravid, Baijnath Patel and CM Yogi Adityanath stayed with him when he filed papers. First proposer was Astrology scholar



Ganeshwar Shastri Dravid, who decided Ram Muhurt of Ram Janambhumi foundation laying and consecration of Ram Lalla, is proposer from City South assembly constituency. And the second proposer was Baijnath Patel from Sevapuri. The PM sought blessings at Kashi, took a holy dip in Ganga, offered rituals and Aarti at Dashaswamedh Ghat on the auspicious occasion of Ganga Saptami and boarded MV Swami Vivekanand Ro-Ro vessel to reach Namoo Ghat and to Kaal Bhairav temple ahead of filing his nomination, which according to the Hindu mythology is believed to be essential to pay

Confident of win, PM says will attend Italy G7 meet in June

LUCKNOW/VARANASI: Confident of an overwhelming BJP victory in the Lok Sabha elections, PM Narendra Modi said on Tuesday that he would attend the G7 summit in Italy (between June 13 and 15) after taking oath as PM following the announcement of poll results on June 4. "I have already received an invitation, and I am planning to attend it after taking oath (as PM)," Modi told the channel Aaj Tak after filing his nomination from Varanasi for a third consecutive time. "Main khud convince ho chuka hun ki parmatma ne mujhe bheja hai... Parmatama ne mere se kaam lena tay kiya hai. Ye urja aur prerna parmatama deta hai (I am convinced that God has sent me... God has decided to make me work.

Lok Sabha polls: Nearly a quarter of BJP candidates are defectors

NEW DELHI: Leaders who have changed allegiances being given a ticket to contest the elections is nothing new in Indian politics, but the scale at which this has happened with BJP's list for Lok Sabha polls is unusual. Almost a quarter of the list, or 106 of the 435, consists of those who have switched to the saffron party at some point in the last 10 years. Of them, 90 joined BJP in the last five years. The highest proportion of such candidates is in Andhra Pradesh, where BJP has put up six candidates. All but one of them has come from another party between 2019 and now. That includes switches not only from Congress and YSRCP, but ironically even from its current ally, TDP. In neighbouring Telangana, nearly two-thirds of the BJP's 17 candidates are imports from other parties, mainly BRS but also Congress. Six of the 11 such candidates have joined BJP in the run-up



Restore ridge in Delhi to original shape: SC to DDA

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked DDA vice-chairperson Subhasish Panda to restore the greenery in southern ridge's Satbari area where admittedly over 400 trees were felled to construct a 11 km road from Chhatarpur to SAARC University and ordered closure of the road. Panda admitted before the court that over 400 trees were felled. A bench of Justices A S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan said that this amounts to criminal contempt of court as the SC had earlier rejected DDA's application seeking permission for cutting the trees. switched sides from 2014 onwards. Two of them — Naveen Jindal and Ashok Tanwar — joined in the run-up to Lok Sabha polls. Untitled design (37) Next door, in Punjab over half the party's 13 candidates have been drawn.

Death sentence clause in SC/ST Act valid? Top court to examine

NEW DELHI: Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to examine the validity of a provision of the SC & ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 that mandates imposition of capital punishment on a person if false and fabricated evidence given by him leads to conviction, imposition of death penalty and execution of a SC/ST community member. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and K V Viswanathan was hearing a challenge to the rarely used provision on the ground that it is not consistent with the "rarest-of-rare" benchmark set by SC for awarding capital punishment. A five-judge SC bench in the Bachan Singh case on May 9, 1980, had ruled that death penalty could be imposed by courts on persons convicted only in 'rarest of rare' murder cases involving extreme brutality.

Retired Colonel, 46, working with UN killed in Gaza attack

Gaza-Waibhav Anil Kale, a retired Indian Army colonel serving as an observer with UN's department of safety and security (UNDSS), was killed in war-torn Gaza on Monday. Kale (46), survived by his wife and two teenage children who live in Pune, had joined UN barely a month ago and was headed for European Hospital in Rafah when his vehicle came under fire in Khan Younis. Another UNDSS staff was seriously injured. It was not immediately clear who was behind the attack on the clearly marked UN vehicle. Kale is the global organisation's "first international casualty" in Gaza since the latest Israel-Hamas conflict erupted on Oct 7, 2023. Condemning the incident, UN secretary general Antonio Guterres called for a "full investigation" into it. He said, "Humanitarian workers must be protected." Israel has reportedly launched an inquiry into the attack. Commissioned into the 11 J&K Rifles after passing out of Indian Military Academy in June 2000, Kale had served in different parts of the country, including 'field areas' in Kashmir and northeast, before he took premature retirement in 2022. "Kale was a jovial, enthusiastic all-rounder," an Indian Army officer said. Retired Colonel, 46, working with UN killed in Gaza attack. Kale served in J&K and Northeast, took early retirement in 2022. Commissioned into the 11 J&K Rifles after passing out of Indian Military Academy in June 2000, Kale had served in different parts of the country, including 'field areas' in Kashmir and northeast, before he took premature retirement in 2022. "Kale was a jovial, enthusiastic all-rounder. Before joining UNDSS, he worked in Amazon," an Indian Army officer said.



Delhi CM Kejriwal's PA will face 'strict action' over Swati Maliwal row: AAP

NEW DELHI: A day after AAP's Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal rushed to the police station after making a PCR call about CM Arvind Kejriwal's PA Bibhav Kumar having assaulted her, senior party functionary Sanjay Singh told reporters that Kumar had indeed "misbehaved" and the CM would take strict action against him. At a press conference Tuesday, Singh said, "Maliwal had gone to meet



Arvind Kejriwal at his residence. While she was waiting in the drawing room, Bibhav misbehaved with her. This is a highly condemnable incident. Kejriwal has taken cognisance of it and will take strict action. "Although Maliwal had gone to Civil Lines Police Station to file a complaint, she left without doing so after receiving some phone calls. She had told the cops that she would return but hadn't turned up till late at

night on Tuesday. The former chairperson of Delhi Commission for Women hasn't been seen in public either." As far as Maliwal is concerned, she has done great work for the country and society. She is an old and leader of the party and we all are with her," said Sanjay, indicating that the party wanted to put an end to the controversy quickly with Kejriwal all set to undertake hectic campaigning.

Supreme Court quashes 'absurd' FIR on 'Hinduphobic' books

NEW DELHI: Supreme Court on Tuesday cancelled criminal proceedings initiated against the principal of Indore's New Government Law College who was booked for promoting "Hinduphobia" and hurting religious sentiments after two books, 'Collective Violence and Criminal Justice System' and 'Women and Criminal Law', authored by Dr Farhat Khan were found in the insti-



tute's library. The court said the FIR allegations were "absurd" since the books were part of the syllabus approved by the academic council and could be found even in the SC library. As the counsel for

Madhya Pradesh also appeared, the bench of Justices B R Gavai and Sandeep Mehta asked why the state was so keen to proceed against the principal, Prof Inamur Rehman. As the counsel for Madhya Pradesh also appeared, the bench of Justices B R Gavai and Sandeep Mehta asked why the state was so keen to proceed against the principal, Prof Inamur Rehman.

Billboard collapse: Authorities in blame game; GRP gave nod without checks

Vatika Times MUMBAI: After the horrific gigantic hoarding crash in Ghatkopar claimed 14 lives, questions are being raised as to where the buck stops. Mumbaikars are bewildered by the collective negligence of govt authorities that allowed this mishap to occur. GRP granted permission to the agency to erect this billboard on its land without ascertaining if it was following civic guidelines on size and dimension - BMC turned a blind eye during its construction, then served notice last week, a full two years later - by which time Monday's disaster was in the making. On Tuesday, GRP



said it had started the process of removing the hoarding after BMC's May 2 letter, but the collapse occurred before it could be completed. On May 2, the N ward office had written to GRP, asking it to revoke permission given to the advertising agency, Ego Media Pvt Ltd, and remove all its hoardings. The massive arose from a complaint by former BJP MP Kirit Somaiya in April about Ego Media's involvement in cutting and poisoning trees that used to block its hoardings. "Permission was given to Ego Media to erect hoardings under then GRP Commissioner Quaiser Khalid for 10 years on rental basis," GRP said. Four hoardings and the BPCL petrol pump (on which the hoarding collapsed) are managed by the Railway Police Welfare Fund Association. Ghatkopar resident Salim Pathan told that in

submitted written complaints to BMC and GRP about the danger posed by illegal hoardings. GRP denied receiving a complaint. While BMC allows a hoarding size of 40x40sqft, the collapsed hoarding measured 120x120sqft. "But, BMC made no mention in its letter that the dimension was an issue," said a GRP officer. Sources in GRP said the hoardings were certified as "structurally safe and stable" by a structural consultant in April 2023. The hoarding that crashed had even made it to the record books for being the largest in Asia.

Jaishankar on US' sanction warning after Chabahar port deal

NEW DELHI: A day after US warned India of "potential risks of sanctions" for signing strategic Chabahar port agreement with Iran, external affairs minister S Jaishankar said that people shouldn't take a "narrow view of it", adding that the pact is "actually for everyone's benefit". Speaking at his book launch event in Kolkata on Wednesday, Jaishankar said, "I did see some of the remarks which were made, but I think it's a question of communicating, convincing and getting people to understand, that this is actually for everyone's benefit. I don't think people should take a narrow view of it." "They (US) have not done so in the past. So, if you look at the US' own attitude towards the port in Chabahar, the US has been appreciative of the fact.

Indian astronaut set to reach space station this year: US envoy

NEW DELHI: An Indian astronaut is likely to reach the International Space Station (ISS) on an American mission this year, US ambassador to India Eric Garcetti said on Monday. The US diplomat also said the joint Indo-US satellite NISAR, considered to be the world's most expensive satellite, will also be launched by year-end. Garcetti said the Indian govt has also suggested the name of the astronaut who will fly to the ISS. He, however, did not reveal the name, telling a news channel that the "Indian government has indicated who that astronaut is. I'll let them, you know, announce that at the proper time". Nasa administrator Bill Nelson, during his visit to India last year, had also indicated about

the US helping train and send an Indian astronaut to the ISS by the end of 2024. "The selection of the astronaut will be done by Isro. Nasa won't be a part of it. Details of the mission are being worked out by Isro," Nelson had said. Since its first modules launched at the end of 1998, ISS has been orbiting the Earth at an altitude of 400 km. Five space agencies of the US, Russia, European countries, Canada and Japan have collaborated on the development and operations of the ISS, and astronauts from 18 countries have gone to the space station till now. It will be a big opportunity for an Indian astronaut to visit the ISS as the space station is going to be retired by 2030, when Nasa plans to crash it into the ocean.

Children of ML Public School hoisted the flag in CBSE Board Exam 10th and 12th

School student Saksham Yadav topped his class by getting 100 percent marks in mathematics

Meja. The children of ML Public School located in Bagaha, Sirsa tehsil area have brought glory to their school by achieving 100% success in CBSE board exams of class 10th and 12th. It is noteworthy that in high school, Saksham Yadav has topped the school by securing 100 percent marks in mathematics and 95 percent marks in total. Similarly, Ashutosh Singh scored 93 percent, Sifa Khatoun scored 92 percent, Ananth Kumar 91 percent, Anmol Shukla 89 percent, Rivanshu Mani 88 percent, Yashita Srivastava 87 percent, Shivansh Shukla 87 percent, Vaibhavi Tiwari 87 percent, Shivansh Shukla 86 percent. Utkarsh Bind has

scored 86 percent, Palak Mishra 86 percent, Shivam Yadav 85 percent, Yamini Prajapati 84 percent, Atharva Dwivedi 83 percent, Aviral Shukla 83 percent, Nikita Patel 82 percent, Rishabh Shukla 80 percent. Whereas in Intermediate, Tanisha Keshari got first position by scoring 90 percent marks, similarly Adarsh ??Yadav got 75 percent, Krutika Pandey got 75 percent, Vedic Pathak got 73 percent, Yash Mishra got 72 percent, Aastha Keshari got 72 percent, Naisa Singh Yashi Srivastava has brought glory to the school by scoring 70 percent marks, Shubhi Dubey has scored 70 percent marks. The manager of the



school, Ved Prakash Gupta, wishing a bright future for the talented successful

candidates and wishing all the best to all the students including the school princi-

pal Satish Upadhyay for bringing glory to the school and the region, said that the

examination results of the school established in a rural environment increase every year. Like this year also it has been 100 percent. Here, along with education, values are also imparted. School Director Babita Gupta while congratulating the children and teachers of the school said to work hard in the same manner in future also and to continuously advance the children. During this, Abhiranjan Gupta, Vipin Shukla, Gaurav Pandey, Savita Shukla, Kamlesh Sharma, Manoj Kumar, Meenakshi, Reena, Pooja, Iti Singh, Rishu, Kuldeep, Ravi Kumar, Vijay Kumar, Vipul Yadav, Madan Kumar etc. were prominently present.

Swatantra Dev Singh, Narendra Kashyap arriving today

PRAYAGRAJ: Giving information, BJP media in-charge Rajesh Kesarwani said that on May 15, the Backward Classes Conference of Allahabad Lok Sabha will be organized at Bindeshwari Garden Naribari at 3:00 pm, whose chief guest will be Uttar Pradesh Cabinet Minister Swatantra Dev Singh and special guest will be Uttar State Minister of State Narendra Kashyap and Gujarat MLA Hardik Patel will be present. Apart from this, the Backward Classes Conference of Phulpur Lok Sabha will be organized on May 15 at 12:00 noon at Swastik Guest House Gaddopur Phaphamau, whose chief guest will be Rajya Sabha MP and BJP Backward Classes Morcha National President. Laxman ji will be there and the special guests will be Uttar Pradesh Minister of State Narendra Kashyap and Gujarat MLA Hardik Patel.

Due to old rivalry, alcoholic man killed farmer

Jaunpur: Late on Monday night in Sarai Khwaja police station area, an old farmer, who was sleeping at some distance from his house, was killed by a drunk youth by attacking him with an axe and sickle. The son of the accused himself gave information about the incident to the family members of the deceased. The family members caught the accused and informed the police. Police started investigating the matter. After having food and drinks late night on Monday-Tuesday Dayamiani in Harbaspur village of Sarai Khwaja police station area, Lalji Yadav (65) went to sleep at Pahi, located about a kilometer away from his house. Late in the night around 12, the neighbour Dharmendra Nishad, under the influence of alcohol, attacked Lalji with an axe and a sickle and killed him due to an old rivalry. On reaching home, when the accused's wife saw his blood stained hands, he said that he has just come after committing a murder. Hearing this, the accused's son Azad Nishad informed the deceased's family and the police. The police reached the spot and arrested the accused and started investigating the case. The villagers told that the deceased Lalji was a farmer by profession. Due to old rivalry, the man killed him. Police station in-charge Rajesh Kumar Mishra said that a case of a man killing an old farmer under the influence of alcohol has come to light. The accused has been arrested and a case has been registered and legal action is being taken.

Body of vegetable seller found hanging, allegations against cops

Kanpur: The body of a vegetable seller was found hanging in Sachendi police station area on Tuesday. The family has alleged that the outpost in-charge posted in the area used to extort illegal money from him in exchange for setting up a shop and also took vegetables for free, which is why he committed suicide. The police have taken the body into their custody and started investigation. Assistant Police Commissioner Panki Tej Bahadur Singh said that Sunil Rajput (30), resident of Sachendi area, used to support the family by doing vegetable business in Chakarpur Mandi. On Tuesday morning, information was received that he committed suicide by hanging himself. On receiving the information, the police team reached the spot along with the forensic team and investigated the spot and collected evidence. On the other hand, the family of the deceased alleges that the outpost in-charge Satyendra Kumar posted in the area was making illegal recovery from the vegetable seller Sunil and also used to take free vegetables every day. It is also reported that the vegetable businessman has made a video before committing suicide, in which he has made serious allegations against the police. ACP Panki says that the investigation of the entire episode is going on. Further action will be taken on the basis of evidence and proof. If the family's allegations are confirmed, strict action will be taken against the culprit.

Krishna Shroff to show action in Khatron Ke Khiladi 14

Varanasi: India's No. 1 stunt-based reality show "Khatron Ke Khiladi" is all set to return with its 14th season. It promises to be full of desperate stunts, thrilling tasks and moments of indomitable bravery that will keep the audience glued to their seats. This season is set to see new heights of courage and determination as renowned celebrity from the world of fitness and entertainment Krishna Shroff has joined the show as a contestant. Daughter of Bollywood legend Jackie Shroff and sister of action star Tiger Shroff, Krishna will not only bring her own brand of daredevilry to the show but also a legacy of talent to the show. With her fitness background and her fearless attitude, Krishna Shroff is expected to be a strong contestant for the new season. At the same time, popular model, actor, rapper and fitness enthusiast Asim Riaz is gearing up for his next big adventure as he will join the upcoming season of the show as a contestant. Asim rose to fame with his performance in 'Bigg Boss 13' in which he emerged as the runner-up and since then, he has won the hearts of his fans who love him for his fitness game. Known for his chiselled physique, he is all set to showcase his astonishing mental and physical supremacy in the face of hair-raising terror.

Expressing her excitement, Krishna Shroff says, "I am so grateful for this opportunity and the fact that I get to experience something unique! I love challenging myself, so what can be better than seeing how much I can challenge myself physically and mentally during my journey in Khatron Ke Khiladi?" Talking about joining the show, Asim Riaz said, "I am thrilled to conquer challenges and test my limits on Khatron Ke Khiladi 14. Khatron Ke Khiladi 14 will soon air on Colors."

Safety seminar organized at Fatehpur Railway Station

Prayagraj: A safety seminar was organized at Fatehpur Railway Station under the chairmanship of Assistant Divisional Safety Officer Prayagraj, Officer P.P. Trehan. In this seminar, Station Superintendent of Fatehpur Station M.S. Mishra was also present. In this seminar all the employees were made aware of their duties. In view of the summer season, special education was given about the action to be taken in case of fire and buckling in the track.



In this seminar, the employees will be taught the precautions to be taken during shunting, exchange of all right signal, action to be taken in case of signal not being received, action to be taken in case of hanging part in the train, hot axle, smoke, coal fire, level crossing gate. But the precautions to be taken were explained in detail. The seminar was attended by Absar Ahmed, Safety Consultant/Engineering; Safety Advisor/Traffic, Manoj Kumar; Safety Advisor/RSO, Chandrika Prasad; Safety Consultant/Carriage Wagon, A.C. Gupta; Ashok Kumar Yadav, Traffic Inspector, Sandeep Kumar of Railway Protection Force were present. More than 60 employees participated in this seminar.

SHUATS open badminton tournament concludes at SHUATS

Prayagraj: Today the chief guest at the closing ceremony of SHUATS Open Badminton Tournament was Dr. Enid S.Masih (Head Department of Business Studies). At this Occasion Chairman of the Athletic Committee Dr. C. John Wesley and Dr.Sunita B John, Secretary, Athletics Committee SHUATS Prayagraj honored the chief guest by presenting a flower with pot. In his address, the Chief guest appealed to the players to maintain and play with the true sports man Spirit and to maintain mutual harmony. He urged all the players to have a high attitude and play the game in a positive manner. He Said the benefits and effects of sports and games for the development of good Per-

sonality for students. She recalled the contribution of Dr. Devraj Badagu Ji to university sports. His cordiality and friendship with the

Men Double Category - Winner -Dr. C. J Wesley and Harsh, Runner up -Anil Samuel and Sharan, Score -Dr. C. J Wesley and Harsh

egory, Winner -Jai Shri and Divya Yadav, Runner up -Dr.Deepti Joshi and Somya. Score -Jai Shri and Divya Yadav won the match by 21-9,21-13.

3.Mixed Doubles - Winner -Dr. C.J Wesley and Somya Dwivedi, Runner up -Harsh and Divya Yadav, Score -Dr.C.J Wesley and Somya Dwivedi won the match by 19-21,21-10,21-18. Promising Player of the tournament -Asish Charan (Men Category) and (women's category) Ayushi Singh.

Badminton Coach Mr. Tanveer Ahmed was the Organizing Secretary of SHUATS Open Badminton tournament. On this occasion Dr.Devi Singh, Dr. Gourav Yadav, and Physical Education Staff and Students were also present.



players was also recalled. The result of the Final match was as following- Mens Single Category - Winner -Virendra Kumar, Runnerup -Shivam, Score -Virendra won the match by 21-7, 21-11.

won the match by 21-17,21-19.

Women's Single Category - Winner -Divya Yadav, Runner up -Jai Shree Gupta, Score -Divya Yadav won the match by 21-13,21-11. 2.Women's Double Cat-

Observer inspected second training of polling personnel

Prayagraj: Observer General Dr. (TMT) B. Maheshwari, District Election Officer inspected the second training of polling personnel at Bishop Johnson Girls School and College and Mary Lucas School and College. Observer General Dr. (TMT) B. Maheshwari, District Election Officer/District Magistrate Navneet Singh Chahal and Chief Development Officer Gaurav Kumar along with Chief Development Officer Gaurav Kumar on Tuesday at Bishop Johnson Girls School and College and Mary Lucas School and College with a view to conduct the Lok Sabha General Elections-2024 in a free, fair and peaceful manner. Reached the second training program of polling

personnel which started from 14.05.2024 and inspected each training room. After reaching the training room, the observer has asked the polling personnel undergoing training to get thorough information about the details related to the voting process. He said that if you get proper training, there will be no mistakes in discharging your responsibilities and you will be able to complete the election process with great efficiency. He asked all the polling personnel undergoing training to keep providing all the information related to voting in a timely manner without any errors.

District Election Officer Navneet Singh Chahal asked the polling personnel undergoing training to re-

ceive the training with full dedication and concentration. He said that the better



you get information about the voting process, the more easily and efficiently you will be able to complete the voting process, hence get in-depth information about the details related to

the voting process being explained in the training. Chief Development Officer

Gaurav Kumar informed the polling personnel about the Election Commission's guidelines, voting process, operation of EVM machines and tagging and sealing of CU, BU and VVPAT, clear-

ing of EVMs after mock poll and after the end of voting. Detailed information was given about the precautions to be taken in sealing and filling the forms properly. Thereafter, the District Election Officer distributed Postal Ballot/EDC (Election Duty Certificate) to the polling personnel and other officials of the district Prayagraj posted in the district. The additional facilitation centers set up at Bishop Johnson Girls School and College and Mary Lucas School and College were inspected for voters who are working in government service and are engaged in election work in the sixth phase of elections, to vote through postal ballot. He reached each table of both the facilitation cen-

ters and asked the concerned officials about which polling personnel will be given postal ballot paper for voting, who will be given EDC, which forms will be filled, which attachments will be attached, how to make entry in the register etc. After obtaining detailed information, necessary guidelines were given. He said that if any officer shows negligence or indifference in this work, then strict action will be taken against the concerned. On this occasion, Deputy District Election Officer Pooja Mishra, Joint Magistrate Anubhav Singh, District Development Officer Bholanath Kanojia, Project Director AK Maurya and all the concerned officers were present.

Blind Spot Peril: The Unseen Dangers of Lane Changing on Shastri Bridge

Varanasi: The Shastri Bridge, constructed fifty years ago over the Ganga river in Mirzapur, has now turned into a major hazard for travelers. The way people change lanes on the bridge, inadvertently creating a hazard, can prove to be highly life-threatening.

The bridge has accumulated numerous potholes due to overloading and the transit of heavy trucks and trailers, resulting in further degradation of the upper level of the roadway. During rainfall, these potholes

become waterlogged, further exacerbating the risk. Presently, the bridge harbors many undisclosed hazards, heightening fears of a potential serious accident. There is a growing concern that one day the bridge might fall which could lead to a serious accident. Travelers should be directed towards alternative routes, yet individuals persist in navigating the dangers posed by this hazardous bridge.

The bridge once a symbol of strength, is now

struggling under the weight of overloaded trucks, adverse weather conditions, and recurring floods, pushing the traffic beyond its designed capacity. It is situated over the River Ganga in the city of Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh, India, and serves as a pivotal transportation network in the region. Despite the routine inspections, the sheer volume of traffic has exceeded its capacity. Consequently, the situation is escalating into a significant crisis with each passing day.

Amazon aims to launch 50 Indian startups in global markets in 2024

Varanasi: Startups stand to win total rewards worth over \$1.5 million including \$100K in grants from Amazon and also get a shot at funding from VC partners; Amazon to provide dedicated support to all finalists to launch in international markets

Propel Season 4 (Propel S4) brings together all key stakeholders like VC partners, revenue-based financing partners, cross-border logistics & payments players and Amazon leaders to

provide Indian startups the right guidance and mentorship to create global brands Amazon Smbhav Venture Fund, Peak XV Partners, Fireside Ventures, DSG Consumer Partners, Accel, V3 Ventures and Elevation Capital are the VC partners for the program in 2024. They will feature on the panel to evaluate the winners of Propel Season 4.

Previous winners of Propel include Slurp Farm, Sirona Hygiene and Wellbeing Nutrition from

Season 1, Soletreads, Ecoright and GoDesi from Season 2 and Mirana Toys, Avimee Herbal and Perfora from the season 3. Amazon India today announced the launch of the fourth season of Propel - a global business accelerator for startups in the consumer products space. This one of its kind program has been designed to provide dedicated support to emerging Indian brands and startups reach customers around the world using ecommerce exports.

Observer inspected nomination & election control room

Complainants can contact between 9 to 11 am, lodge complaints & offer suggestions

Mirzapur: In order to ensure fair, transparent and smooth conduct of Lok Sabha General Election-2024, the Observer (General) appointed by the Election Commission of India for 79-Mirzapur Parliamentary Constituency, Mr. M. VALLALAR, after reaching the district today, reached the nomination room and met District Election Officer Priyanka Niranjan and saw the nomination process and took information. Thereafter, the observer inspected the Election Control Room set up in the Collectorate

premises and inquired about the complaints received through C-Vigil and other means and their disposal and directed the officers and employees present to follow the Model Code of Conduct as well as to dispose of the complaints on time. Chief Revenue Officer Satya Prakash Singh, City Magistrate Lal Bahadur Singh should be present during the inspection. Giving information, Liaisoning Officer of Observer/District Horticulture Officer Meva Ram said that the observer is staying in Ashtabhujia



Inspection House (Western Room). The mobile number of the General Observer is 8423179079 and PNT number is 05442-298 200. In case of any irregularity and vio-

lation of Model Code of Conduct related to Lok Sabha General Election, any common man, candidate contesting election, office bearer/member of political party can contact on his mobile number or PNT number and register a complaint. He said that Hon'ble Observer can be met at Ashtabhujia Inspection House between 09 am to 11 am and complaints/suggestions related to fairness, transparency in elections or violation of Code of Conduct and other complaints related to elections can be registered.

Thieves strike at college, act captured on CCTV

Prayagraj: Dr. Devendra Pandey, Manager, Raj Narayan Pandey PG College, Berui Sahaso, Prayagraj informed that on the intervening night of May 13/14, at around 12:10 am; unknown thieves reached the educational institution. Unknown thieves have stolen goods worth about three lakh rupees including 2 Iron girders, 10 bundles of aluminium, 10 quintals of rods and angles, 10 Door (Aluminium) 6 Iron Grill. The act of two thieves who were committing theft has been captured in the CCTV camera installed in educational institution. The manager has lodged a complaint and asked authorities to take appropriate legal action.

Archit Singh got 97% marks

PRAYAGRAJ: Archit Singh son of Santosh Kumar Singh Joint General Manager Finance and Accounts Department working in IFFCO Phulpur unit, has brought glory to IFFCO Phulpur unit by passing the CBSE Intermediate Board Examination. Archit Kumar Singh is studying in Delhi Public School Devrakh Naini. Archit made his parents proud by scoring 97 percent marks in CBSE Intermediate Board Exam. Whereas he got 99 percent marks in two other subjects. There is a wave of happiness among the people of Ghiyanagar on his achievement.



Urvish Ratan got 93.8 percent marks

PRAYAGRAJ: Urvish Ratan elder son of Beena Gautam lecturer Civics Government Girls Inter College Katra Prayagraj has brought glory to Katra Prayagraj by passing the CBSE High School Board examination. Urvish Ratan is studying in Patanjali Rishikul. By scoring 93.8 percent marks in CBSE High School Board Examination he has brought glory to his mother and father Rajeev Ratan (Commercial Tax Department Varanasi) and also to Prayagraj. Urvish Ratan got 93.8 percent marks and got 97 percent marks in two other subjects that too without any coaching on the basis of his hard work and responsibility. Due to which there is a wave of happiness in the family.



DRT Alld differ on acquiring actual possession of property by bank, no relief

PRAYAGRAJ: R.M. Kushawaha, Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal (DRT) heard counsel Arif Iqbal are present on behalf of the S. Applicant. Counsel Sri Pawan Kumar Mishra is present on behalf of the respondent bank. Arif Iqbal presented strong arguments on behalf of the applicant



It is submitted by Counsels for the S. Applicant that in pursuance of the order dated 09.01.2024 passed by Additional District Magistrate (F&R), Sultanpur, the Nayab Tehsildar has issued the Notice on 29.04.2024, vide which he is going to take physical possession of the property in question on 16.05.2024. Further submitted that in the order of the ADM, there is a direction to the Police Authority as well as SDM, therefore, Nayab Tehsildar cannot issue the Notice for taking physical possession of the property.

Upon this, Counsel for the respondent bank submitted that respondent bank/civil authority will go to take physical possession of the property after issuing the fresh notice of 15 days and seeks time for filing reply. Respondent bank is directed to file reply on or before next date fixed under copy to Counsel for the S. Applicant. Case is adjourned. On the basis of which, further power cannot be delegated.

GHS Investiture

Ceremony on May 16

PRAYAGRAJ: Girls High School and College's Annual Investiture Ceremony will be organised on Thurs-



day. Sanjay Khanduja, Chartered Accountant, Prayagraj has agreed to be the chief guest on the occasion. This information has been given by Rev. Dr. Vinita Eusebius, Principal of Girls High School and College.

Money returned to victim of online fraud

PRAYAGRAJ: A total of Rs 7,500/- was returned to the victim of online fraud by Cyber Crime Cell Commissionerate Prayagraj. Currently, the Cyber Crime Cell Commissionerate Prayagraj team of Crime Branch is continuously making meaningful efforts with the aim of stopping the increasing cyber crime and providing relief to the general public. A total of Rs 7,500/- (Rs seven thousand five hundred) was returned to the victim of cyber crime. The said action increased the confidence of the general public in the police and the meaningful efforts of Cyber Crime Cell Team Commissionerate Prayagraj were greatly appreciated by the victim Jasveer Singh, son of Jaswant Singh, native of Adhu Kamalpur, Akbarpur, Kanpur Dehat. Present address Blood Bank, Rajapur Police Station Cantt, District Prayagraj.

Villagers expressed confidence in candidate who can accelerate development

Prayagraj: In direct connection with the general public about the challenges in the trans-Yamuna area of the Allahabad parliamentary constituency, the general public stated that the shuttered companies in the Naini area of trans-Yamuna should be revived so that the youth may find work.

The trans Yamuna region's identity is that in every election, candidates from various parties vow to create businesses, but once elected, no serious attempts are made to support these businesses.

The situation remains the same, which is why MPs from the party in power in the state and center are required so that the region can be developed and the shuttered units in

Naini may be reopened. When our delegation visited Mukundpur, Parva, Shambhu ka Pura, and Atkhariya villages in the trans-Yamuna area, the villagers expressed their desire to elect an MP who can solve basic problems, improve the irrigation system by arranging tube wells for irrigation on a large scale, and ensure that the tap water scheme reaches every house and provides a sufficient supply of drinking water. Can fix the water problem and give attention to the village's minor and major difficulties, such as drains and roads. When asked which party's MP they would want to elect, everyone agreed that if Modi was there, they may prefer a BJP MP.

"The BJP candidate from our region, Neeraj Tripathi, is anticipated not only to control the difficulties of the village area, but also to promote confidence-based growth in the trans-Yamuna area. The inhabitants of the trans-Yamuna area can reopen Naini's shuttered railways. This is the people's optimism in the trans-Yamuna area. The people of the trans-Yamuna area have great aspirations for the candidate Neeraj Tripathi, the future MP Neeraj Tripathi, since they believe he would lead the trans-Yamuna region ahead on the path of development and work to better the common people's living conditions," said an elderly who was quietly listening to our conversation.

Cyber cell launches drive to save senior citizens from frauds

Prayagraj: With rising cases of senior citizens falling prey to cyber frauds, the Cyber Cell team of Prayagraj police has launched a drive to approach old people and make them aware about different modus operandi of cyber crimes. Cops are taking help from the Senior Citizen's Council to reach out to elderly people and giving them tips to avoid being duped by the fraudsters.

Cyber cell of Prayagraj police is organising seminars and workshops to raise awareness and control cases of cybercrimes. The cyber cell officials said focus is being laid on raising awareness regarding cyber crimes as it is the best way to control such incidents. Prayagraj police cyber cell in-charge Vinod Kumar said during last few weeks, the cyber cell has organised ten seminars under the special cyber awareness drive launched under guidance of ADCP Crime. The drive has been launched with the help of Senior Citizens Council and Pensioners Welfare Association.

Till now Cyber Cell has reached out

to over 4000 senior citizens and pensioners and made them aware of the different modus operandi of cyber fraudsters. They were asked not to share any details of their bank accounts, ATM cards or OTPs with any person over the phone. They were provided with cyber helpline numbers and asked to report any such attempt on 1930, he added. Cyber cell in-charge Vinod Kumar said that although cyber fraudsters are targeting persons of every age group, senior citizens are more vulnerable to such frauds, he added.

Cyber cell cop Jai Prakash said the cyber conmen often get data of bank customers and pensioners which they use to mislead and dupe them. Senior citizens have been given detailed information regarding digital arrest and pretexts like online trading, share market investment, KYC update which are usually used by cyber conmen. Moreover, information about the new modus operandi of conmen in which they are calling bank customers posing as crime branch and government officials was also given to senior citizens.

Efforts taken to encourage the usage of sanitary pads

PRAYAGRAJ: On the occasion of Mother's Day, rural women were made aware about the problems related to menstruation today under the Nari Suraksha Pad Bank by Humanity India Trust. Efforts were also made to promote the use of sanitary pads and explain them to women.

Today, this was the fifth consecutive month of Nari Suraksha Pad Bank, under which every month an effort is made to make women aware about menstrual related problems in the presence of members of Humanity India Trust in all four villages for creating awareness about sanitary pads and also the



work of distributing free sanitary pads to the identified women is done. 50 to 70 women from every village have been identified by the Nari Suraksha Pad Bank, in which special attention has been paid to

working class, orphan and widow women. This campaign is being run in one village for 6 months. After completion of 6 months, next 5 villages have been identified in which this program will be started from July. Founder and President of the organization, Dr. Surya Bhan Kushwaha said that if any man or woman in the family takes responsibility for all this and starts promoting sanitary pads, then women can be saved from the problems faced during menstruation. In today's program with Dr. Surya Bhan Kushwaha, Ed. Pradeep Kumar and Deepti Kushwaha were present.

Employees compete to cast votes



PRAYAGRAJ: There was a competition among the employees to vote on their issues through ballot paper. Today in Prayagraj, from the first day of training for the Lok Sabha elections 2024 on 25th May, there was a competition among the employees to cast their vote. The government has encouraged the employees to cast their vote. Beautiful arrangements have been made table wise for the same. Giving the above information, em-

ployee leader / Ateva Media Incharge Ravi Shankar Mishra said that Ateva Prayagraj, under the leadership of District Officer, District President Mr. Jitendra Kumar Jeetu, appeals to all the employees/teachers that you Please vote once for your issue. Ateva Prayagraj officials will always help you in case of any problem in voting. Among the people who made teachers and employees aware for today's first training and voting are

Ateva District President Jitu Bhai, Suresh Yadav District Patron, Rajendra Babu Kesarwani District Patron, Phoolchand Yadav District President PWD, Raachal Pal District Minister PWD, Dharamraj Yadav, Vijay Bharat. Dharmendra Yadav District Organization Minister, Amar Yadav Convener Dhanupur, Vivek Yadav, Shashikanta Saini, Ravi Shankar Mishra District Media In-charge Ateva, and all the hardworking friends of Prayagraj were present.

Discussion on *Chaupal* organized in view of Lokmat Samvad

Prayagraj: Under Lokmat Samvad's door to door Chaupal program, a discussion on Chaupal was held at the house of well-known social worker Dr. Abha Tripathi in the Medical College Council, in which mainly social worker doctors

Abha Tripathi, District President of Rashtra Sevika Samiti Poonam Mishra, renowned writer, social worker and former state president of Swadeshi Jagran Manch Dr. Vimala Vyas, President of Bharat Vikas Parishad Maya Dwivedi, Professor of Acupressure Institute Dr. Anshu Aggarwal, Advocate Manju Rani Thakur, Welfare Organization While talking about the importance of voting, many

women including its President Vandana Mishra said that the importance of each vote is so much that it is very important for the building of the nation. If we think

that our opponent is weaker than us then This is our misconception because being overenthusiastic and overconfident can prove dangerous for us. For the progress of the country, it is necessary that we vote and discharge our role responsibly. Abha Tripathi

said that public interest is more important than democracy and public opinion, such a leader and party which can increase the pace of development by reducing the obstacles to economic prosperity. Speed up. Second, include the people deprived of the benefits of development in the development process. Third, there should be a party and leader that develops infrastructure like roads, rail, water, air, communication etc. Fourth, there should be such a leader and party which ensures both internal and external security. Equip the armies with authority, weapons and security equipment. Fifth, the leader and party should be such that they promote and preserve the culture of the country.

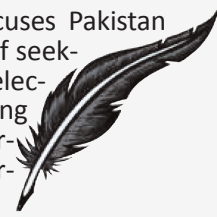


Editorial

Trudeau is again up in political arms against India

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is again up in political arms against India. While speaking at an event to celebrate the Khalsa Day, he witnessed and perhaps was happy to hear pro-Khalistan slogans. Trudeau remarked, "Our job is not to crack down on political protest." Of course, it depends on what kind of protests he and his Western allies would crack down or bless. It also depends whether an event is just a political protest or part of an exercise to promote separatism, spread hatred and parade propaganda materials. If it were a protest in Canada that aims at creation of a separate state in India by people who generally vote for Trudeau's party, naturally he would refrain from cracking down and may, in fact, bless it with indirect support. This statement of his may actually politically cost him, because all Sikh population in Canada are not votaries of separatism. But his main target is India and the Indian government, which is reflected in his statement on the sidelines of the event that he cannot ignore the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar in June last year that his government believes was engineered by the Indian government agents. The Khalistanis in Canada are certainly aware that Trudeau cannot materially assist their demand, but they are taking advantage of his anti-Indianism. Trudeau also knows that a new state of Khalistan is not going to emerge in India, yet he is using it as a political toll with a belief that his party or coalition partners may get Sikh votes. What Trudeau is unable to realise is the fact that his political ambitions are threatening to severely disrupt friendly, cooperative and constructive ties between two resilient democracies—India and Canada. The reaction of the Ministry of External Affairs to Trudeau's remarks amply amplifies this: "PM Trudeau has made such remarks earlier as well. His remarks illustrate once again the political space that has been given in Canada to separatism, extremism, and violence." In addition, arrest of three Indian nationals suspected of involvement in the Nijjar killing could have been an internal law and order operation by the Canadian government, but the way it was reported and the manner in which the Canadian Prime Minister used it to score a political point also indicates the anti-Indian sentiment and actions by him. Trudeau said that this arrest was important because "Canada is a rule-of-law country" and it is committed to "protecting all its citizens." Trudeau repeatedly views a declared terrorist Nijjar as nothing but a Canadian citizen. Trudeau believes separatist speeches are freedom of expression and individuals, who are declared as terrorists by India, cannot be considered terrorists until his government says so. Had it not been for his anti-Indianism, the arrests of these nationals would not have been timed to be announced during national elections in India and a Prime Minister of the country would not be making a comment on an issue which is part of internal law and order proceedings. No wonder, Canadian police are yet to share the detailed information of the arrests with their Indian counterparts. This is not an example of cooperation between law enforcement agencies of the two countries; rather it showcases Trudeau's determination to score political brownie points for domestic political purposes! In the meantime, the Trudeau government released an interim intelligence report alleging Indian interference in Canadian elections. The timing of the release of this report is also part of the political strategy of Prime Minister Trudeau.

This report interestingly accuses Pakistan and China along with India of seeking to influence Canadian elections. It concludes by saying that China is the "main perpetrator of foreign interference against Canada." It says that there was no indication of Indian-based disinformation.



Implications on time-tested India-France ties, lessons for the US

On his first visit to Europe since 2019, Xi Jinping met French President Emmanuel Macron on Monday. He heads next to Serbia and Hungary, both of whom have maintained close ties with Russia despite its continued war in Ukraine. Xi lauded China's ties with France as a model for the international community amid threats of a trade war over Chinese electric cars and French cognac. On the very first day, Xi also met the European Commission president, Ursula von der Leyen. She urged him to reduce trade imbalances and use his influence with Russia over the war in Ukraine. Xi is likely to exploit the 'blow-hot-blow-cold' differences within the EU about how to deal with China. Will the European countries, especially France, get persuaded to be less reliant on the US and reduce the dominant cross-Atlantic influence? Interestingly, Xi was greeted by demonstrations for supporting Russia and enabling it to fight Ukraine.

China-EU Relations Complexities

China has three times the population and two times the area of the European Union (EU). The EU and China are among each other's largest trading partners. Yet, since March 2019, the European Union has referred to China as a "systemic rival". In December 2020, the two sides



proposed to pursue an investment deal that was first launched in 2013, referred to as the Comprehensive Agreement on Investment (CAI). But there was no consensus, and in May 2021, the European Commission announced plans to reduce dependence on China in strategic areas of the economy. The EU has put an arms embargo and numerous anti-dumping measures against China in place. Many European countries still see China essentially as a "market of opportunities" while it "exports massively" to Europe. In 2023, China was the third largest destination for EU exports of goods (8.8 per cent) and Chinese goods were the EU's 20.5 per cent imports. Among EU Member States, the Netherlands was the largest importer of goods from China, and Germany was the largest exporter of goods to China. Only Germany, Finland, Ireland, and

Luxembourg had trade surpluses with China; the other 23 EU members had trade deficits. The largest deficit was held by the Netherlands (€95 billion).

Between 2013 and 2023, the EU's trade in goods deficit with China varied between €104 billion in 2013 and €397 billion in 2022. In 2023, the EU trade in goods deficit with China stood at €291 billion, which was €106 billion lower when compared with 2022 (-27 per cent). The most imported products from China were telecommunications equipment, electrical machinery and apparatus, and automatic data processing machines. Motor cars and motor vehicles registered the highest increase in imports in 2022.

As China now has excess capacity in many areas, it undercuts and exports massively to Europe. In September 2023, the EU launched an investigation into

whether to impose punitive tariffs to protect EU producers against cheaper Chinese electric vehicle (EV) imports. During her meeting with Xi, Von der Leyen signalled the EU's continued discontent with China, which she said was "currently manufacturing with massive subsidies". This could lead to deindustrialisation in Europe and the loss of jobs, particularly in the German car industry. The EU also suspects that sanctions on exports to Russia are being circumvented by Chinese companies. In February 2024, the EU proposed sanctions that would target Chinese companies aiding Russia's war effort in Ukraine. Meanwhile, Xi maintained that Beijing was not "a party to or a participant in the Ukraine conflict, and that China was striving for a peaceful settlement of the crisis". The European Commission, the EU's authority on trade issues, has opened more than 20 competition probes targeting China in recent months, including into the supply of cars, wind turbines, and medical devices. The EU arms embargo since China's suppression of the Tiananmen Square protests of 1989 remains a major impediment to developing stronger EU-China cooperation on foreign policy and security matters. The EU has been repeatedly raising human rights issues related to Uighurs. France was the first Western

country to formally recognise the People's Republic of China on January 27, 1964. Beijing and Paris are thus marking 60 years of diplomatic relations. France maintains the One China policy and Beijing as the sole legitimate government of "China", but maintains unofficial relations with Taipei. The Chinese-French relationship was raised to the level of "global strategic partnership" in 2004. During an April 2023 visit to China, French President Macron called for Europe to reduce its dependence on the US and avoid being drawn into a confrontation between the US and China over Taiwan. Macron emphasised his view of strategic autonomy, suggesting that Europe could become a "third superpower." According to Macron, Europe should focus on boosting its own defence industries and reducing dependence on the US dollar. Xi sensed an opportunity in this, and thus chose France as the sole major European power to visit. Xi acknowledges the French leader's stature as an EU powerbroker. Xi, on his arrival, said that ties between China and France were "a model for the international community of peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation between countries with different social systems". "It is in our interest to get China to weigh in on the stability of the international order," said Macron.

Nuclear threat is greater than ever since Cold War

The shadow of 'Armageddon' is creeping back as Russia and the US abandon critical nuclear treaties amid growing Chinese belligerence. Image: AFP. In response to "threats" from Western officials to deploy NATO troops to Ukraine, Russian President Vladimir Putin has ordered nuclear weapons drills near Ukraine, as stated by Moscow on Monday. It's as if the world has donned a blindfold and is walking, unseeing, towards the cliff's edge. Thermonuclear war—the greatest existential threat to humanity—looms, and yet many governments and their citizens appear largely indifferent to the danger. The prospect of nuclear annihilation, once an ever-present fear during the Cold War, has faded into the

background, replaced by a sense of complacency. Yet, the shadow of 'Armageddon' is creeping back as Russia and the US abandon critical nuclear treaties. At the same time, growing regional tensions led by Chinese belligerence and turbocharged by a loss of faith in security guarantees created by America's isolationist stance are creating a chain reaction that massively increases hydrogen bombs and the inevitable rise of new nuclear powers. The INF treaty that denied the US and Russia nuclear and conventional ground-launched ballistic and cruise missiles with ranges of 500 to 5,500 kilometres was abrogated by Moscow in 2019 and the US soon afterwards. This puts Europe on a hair trigger with

such short-range missiles, armed with nuclear weapons at each other, and with the war in Ukraine still very much on the margin for annihilation, which has been drastically reduced. This is just the beginning. Last year, Russia suspended the last nuclear arms control treaty between Moscow and Washington, New START, which was signed in 2010. Now both countries are free to have many more hydrogen bombs and delivery platforms. Thus, the superpowers have no effective arms control agreement between them. The Dominos are falling very fast. The core emotion of A One important factor is the American unwillingness to be the global policeman. Serious questions are being raised in Seoul and Tokyo.

Integrity of EVMs

Doubts over the integrity of EVMs are influenced by results. The BJP developed doubts over EVMs after losing two successive Lok Sabha elections in 2004 and 2009. GVL Narsimha Rao, Psephologist turned politician, wrote a book titled Democracy at Risk! Can We Trust Our Electronic Voting Machine (2010) that was prefaced by LK Advani. However, they overcame the moral crisis after a resounding victory in 2014. The Aam Aadmi Party ungrudgingly accepted massive victories through EVM in the Delhi elections in 2015 and 2020, but tried to prove that the results of the elections in five states in 2017 were rigged. In Chhattisgarh, the Congress felt its victory in the 2019 assembly elections was due to the support of the voters, but its loss in 2023 was due to manipulation in the EVM. Last year, the Congress blamed its losses in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh on EVM but attributed its triumph in neighbouring Telangana to its positive campaign. Can things get more ridiculous? The diversity of results in the EVM era has actually been greater than in the pre-EVM era, not due to technology but political dynamics. Whatever the people might say of the 'scientific rigging', it was not the introduction of the EVM but a

popular movement spearheaded by Mamata Banerjee that unseated the Left Front in West Bengal after 34 years. Assembly elections in West Bengal were conducted on EVMs both in 2001 and 2006, but it was only in 2011 that the Left Front was unseated. The BJP has been continuously in power in Gujarat since 1995 (pre-EVM days). This includes the period from 2004 to 2014, when a Congress-led UPA was in the Centre. Power keeps alternating between the Congress and the BJP in Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh, regardless of the introduction of the EVM or the ruling party in the Centre. Thus, no formula could be set that might validate a conspiracy theory. The days of paper ballots were not without their share of controversy. In March 1971, the discovery of surplus ballot papers found in Chandigarh created political furore. On March 25, 1971, shortly after the conclusion of the Fifth Lok Sabha elections, a delegation of Members of Parliament, including Digvijay Narain, M S Gurupadaswamy and L K Advani met the then Chief Election Commissioner, S P Sen-Varma, at his residence and produced him a bunch of ballot papers for the Tarn Taran Parliamentary Constituency in Punjab. All these ballot papers,

serially numbered, were in good condition. The delegation alleged that thousands of such ballot papers meant for various parliamentary constituencies in Punjab, Haryana, and Chandigarh had been recovered from a godown in Chandigarh, and since the printing of ballot papers was far in excess of the actual requirement, the polls in most of these constituencies were vitiated. Sen-Varma immediately deputed the Deputy Election Commissioner, P.I. Jacob, to proceed to Chandigarh to investigate the matter. Jacob had reached Government Press, Chandigarh, at about 10 am on March 26. He found that ballot papers for 23 parliamentary constituencies in Punjab, Haryana, and Chandigarh were printed in that government press. In fact, the authorities had kept the margin of error at only two per cent, far lower than the permissible limit of five per cent, to account for the wastages. Only 252,631 surplus ballot papers were printed for 23 parliamentary constituencies, when the figure could have been far more. However, the problem arose when, along with 6,000 waste papers shredded to pieces by official orders, after the election results were declared, these surplus ballot papers were removed intact by the contractor.

Israel-Hamas war: Exceptional destruction on both sides

This war between Israel and Hamas has gone on for an unprecedented more than 200 days, with exceptional destruction on both sides. The declared objectives of both sides have not been achieved. While it has broken various myths and presumptions, it has established that a war between a state and a non-state actor may be an ongoing tirade, but its outcome is totally unpredictable. Even though decimated, the Hamas leadership continues to remain in the fray, denying outright victory to beleaguered Netanyahu, who is on the verge of losing their sole supporter and protector—the US President Joe

Biden, facing an uphill election, is losing credibility abroad and at home for his Jekyll and Hyde approach. Their frustration with Netanyahu was more than evident when they outlined certain red lines, seeing the terrible humanitarian disaster in the plight of Gazans and Palestinians. Its misadventure of attacking the Iranian consulate in Damascus, which had the potential to expand the disastrous war beyond Gaza, did not amuse them either. Although the Iran-Israel showdown was managed, given the US commitment to the security of Israel, aid and arms continue to be provided, thereby

letting the war go on. The Houthis are threatening to take the 'Ships war' to the Mediterranean. They have already hit 107 ships since November, adversely impacting maritime traffic. Such US policy has provoked the conscience of a large number of students across the Ivy League and other universities, as the Arab lobbies in the West have acquired much greater salience. Arabs have traditionally voted for Democrats, but this time around, as per observers, it may not be so, and that could make a big difference for Biden's re-election, which is naturally even more important for him.

Hence, his warnings to Netanyahu and his ultra-right-wingers to ceasefire and even his first time abstaining from UNSC Resolution 2728, as well as telling Bibi that in an escalation with Tehran, Washington would not support him, may have carried a message because of which talks between Hamas and Mossad and the CIA, with the help of Egypt and Qatar, are still going on and likely to produce some kind of truce and exchange of hostages and prisoners. On the other hand, Hamas also cannot go scot-free and take refuge behind the suffering internally displaced million plus Gazans.

Vi becomes the first in the industry to achieve SOC 2 Type II Attestation; reinforcing commitment to customer trust and data security



GURUGRAM / HISAR : Leading telecom operator Vodafone Idea (Vi), today announced that it has achieved SOC2 Type II attestation. Currently, the only telecom operator in India to successfully complete the SOC 2 Type II attestation, this marks Vi's commitment to maintaining highest standards of data security and safeguarding sensitive client information and their privacy, while mitigating Distributed Denial-of-Service (DDoS) attacks. Awarded after a stringent evaluation process conducted by AICPA (Association of International Certified Professionals)

Accountants) registered independent CPA and VISTA InfoSec is based on the SOC 2 "Trust Service" for managing customer data on key parameters like security, availability, processing integrity, confidentiality, and privacy. The attestation demonstrates a company's ability to not only implement critical security policies but also prove compliance over an extended period. Commenting on this attestation, Mathan Kasilingam, CTSO, Vi said, "Our customers trust us with their most sensitive and confidential data. This attestation reaffirms that our security

measures meet best-in-class standards, thereby providing our customers with added confidence that their data is in safe hands." The SOC 2 Type II audit confirms that Vi's internal controls, policies and procedures conform to stringent security and operational standard. This implies that Vi has robust design and operating effectiveness of its security controls along with highest level of DDoS protection. It has a faster detection and response to any sort of security threat and thus is a reliable service provider for all the businesses.

DealShare Maha Loot Sale – started from 1st May

New Delhi : DealShare Maha Loot sales started from 1st May 2024, featuring great deals and offers across categories like Grocery, Packaged food, Personal care and Home & Kitchen. DealShare gives the lowest price guarantee so that people can face the rising inflation boldly.

At DealShare, we strive to provide our customers with the best products at affordable prices. As part of the DealShare Maha Loot sale, DealShare customers

can get great deals like 1kg Detergent Powder @ Rs 25, Buy 2 get 1 on Shampoo & Tooth Paste, up to 50% off on Home appliances & kitchen items and much more. In this DealShare Maha Loot sale, customers can get many items like Tea @ 99, Biscuits @ 99, Namkeen @ 99 per kg, Ghee @ 399/ltr, Almonds @ 299/500 grams, and buy 1 get 1 on big brands like Ariel, Sunfeast, etc. DealShare CEO Mr. Kamal Deep Singh said "We aim to bring change to every home.

DealShare is a simple way for the common man to get the best deals, keeping both his pocket and budget safe. Along with this, we also promote MSME, SME, local and regional brands through our platform. DealShare Maha Loot Sale has started from May 1 with these promises. Every month more than 10 lakh customers shop through our app to whom we provide such great offers. Take advantage of these amazing deals from DealShare.

10 'negligent' forest staffers suspended

Following a review meeting on forest fires and upcoming Char Dham yatra on Wednesday, Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami ordered suspension and disciplinary action against 17 forest department employ-



ees on grounds of

"negligence and dereliction of duties". Of these, 10 have been suspended, 5 others have been 'attached to headquarters' and show cause notices have been issued to two employees.

State level meeting of Hindustan Scouts and Guides today

Chandigarh: Hindustan Scouts and Guides is recognized by the Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India. It is providing guidance through activities across the country. State Secretary Dr. Vinod Sharma from Chandigarh told that the state level meeting of Hindustan Scouts and Guides will be held on 9th May at Arya Samaj, Sector-



7-B, Chandigarh at 10.00 am. Heads of all educational institutions have been requested to participate in this meeting either personally or as the

most responsible person of the institution and avail the opportunity of the said activity for the students.

Reputed institutions have been informed and invited to the meeting. For more information, you can get information on mobile numbers: 9 8 1 6 5 5 0 7 5 2, 9872319475. This meeting is specifically for information and enrollment of schools in Scouts and Guides activities.

Fertility Specialists at Nova IVF Fertility, Rohtak observe 5-6 couples with this genetic condition in a year

Rohtak: This World Thalassaemia Day, Nova IVF Fertility, releases insights into this genetic condition. Fertility experts see at least 5-6 couples a year with this genetic condition in the age range of 25-35 years. According to state government data, Haryana is home to approximately 3,000 individuals afflicted with thalassaemia. Couples carrying the Thalassaemia gene generally do not display any symptoms and are

healthy. Sometimes they display a history of miscarriage or already have a child with this genetic condition. However, they can transmit the genetic disorder to their children, potentially creating serious health issues. When both couples have the thalassaemia trait, their unborn child is at risk of inheriting the condition. This genetic disorder affects haemoglobin formation in the blood and people with

Thalassaemia condition generally require life-long blood transfusions. Dr Sandeep, a fertility Consultant at Nova IVF Fertility in Rohtak, said, that considering Thalassaemia is common in regions like Haryana, we recommend thalassaemia testing in routine workup of infertility. In patients who are thalassaemia minor, their partners are tested. If a partner is also a thalassaemia minor, then the embryo must be tested. We recom-

mend IVF treatment combined with PGT M. IVF treatment includes fertilizing eggs with sperm outside the body and creating embryos. PGT M can be performed before pregnancy to greatly reduce the risk of having an affected child. PGT M involves testing embryos created through in vitro fertilization transferring unaffected embryos into the uterus, reducing the chance of passing down genetic conditions.

HDFC Bank Parivartan supports social sector start-upswith Rs 19.6 crore grants

HISAR/AMBALA, May 8, 2024: HDFC Bank, India's leading private sector bank, today announced the winners of its Parivartan Start-up Grants programme for FY2024. This year, 41 incubators and accelerators in the field of social impact entrepreneurship will receive grants totaling Rs 19.6 crore to support 170 start-ups working across specific focus areas. This year's programme is undertaken in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission, a Government of India initiative under NITI Aayog. The focus areas for the 2024 grants include Climate Innovation, Financial Inclusion, Agriculture and Sustainable Rural Economy, Accessible and Affordable Healthcare, Education and Livelihood Enhancement, Gender



Diversity and Inclusion. The start-ups that have received grants come from various states across the including Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Delhi, and Haryana, with the largest number originating from Maharashtra. Over a half of the 170 start-ups hail from over 60 tier II/III cities. Ms. Nusrat Pathan, Head CSR, HDFC Bank said "Our Parivartan Start-up Grants programme reaffirms our steadfast commitment to fostering social innovation and driving positive change in our communities. Innovation is the key to addressing the development needs of society.

Through strategic collaborations and targeted investments, we aim to nurture and amplify the impact of innovative social start-ups across key sectors, ultimately contributing to a more sustainable and inclusive future for all." The grants were awarded to leading and emerging incubators such as HTIC at IIT Madras, Awadh at IIT Ropar, T-Hub (Hyderabad), FITT - IIT Delhi, RISE Foundation at IISER (Kolkata), VJTI (Mumbai), Forge Forward (Coimbatore), NTIBIF at NIFTEM (Kindli). Some of this year's high-impact tracks were developed in association with nodal agencies.

Children in Urban India Are More Likely to Develop Environmental-Induced Asthma, Warn Experts at Paras Health on World Asthma Day

Panchkula: A growing concern for child asthma in India is the alarming rise of environmental asthma, particularly in urban areas. Experts at Paras Healthcare on World Asthma Day warn that children residing in cities are significantly more likely to develop asthma induced by environmental factors like burgeoning outdoor air pollution, traffic-related air pollution, nitrogen dioxide, and second-hand smoking exposures. "There are many studies also that suggest significant impact of outdoor air pollution on the children in urban India, making them significantly more vulnerable to asthma," said Dr. Surinder Kumar

"There are many studies also that suggests significant impact of outdoor air pollution on the children in urban India, making them significantly more vulnerable to asthma"

Gupta, Associate Director, Pulmonology, Paras Health Panchkula. According to a World Health Organization (WHO) report, ambient air pollution, or outdoor air pollution, is estimated to have robbed children under 15 of a staggering 2.3 million years of life in 2019 alone. This translates to a significant health burden, highlighting the

urgent need for stricter air quality regulations and cleaner air initiatives to safeguard the well-being of India's future generation." There are several myths associated with asthma like people commonly believe that asthma is incurable disease but in 98% cases, it is easily treatable and other common myth is inhaler becomes habitable which is

not true.

Dr. Robin Gupta, Consultant, Pulmonology, Paras Health Panchkula, stated, "This increased risk is attributed to several factors associated with city life, including declining air quality in metro cities as well as tier 2 & tier 3 cities where pollutants like PM10 and PM2.5 are contributing highly to trigger more asthma problems among children. Moreover, urban environments often have higher concentrations of allergens like dust mites, pollen, and mold spores, which can exacerbate asthma symptoms."

The irrigation department will manage 22 major city drains

Delhi: All major 22 city drains would be turned over to the Delhi government's Irrigation and Flood Control Department (I&FC) by the end of May for improved maintenance and operation, an MCD official said. Delhi's urban development department ordered on April 29 that 'all concerned departments shall hand over the 22 open drains to the I&FC department' by May 31. The Delhi High Court ordered the Delhi government to assign all open drains in the city to one agency on April 8 to streamline drainage management, prevent flooding, and improve Yamuna water quality. A Delhi official said this will be a thorough exercise. "As per the court's order, the I&FC will submit a report which will include assessment of the quantity of silt in these drains as well as an action plan for desilting," said the spokesman.

'Not polarising to show Congress brought religion-based quota': PM



NEW DELHI: "To show that Congress violated the Constitution by enacting laws to provide reservations on the basis of religion is not polarisation," PM Narendra Modi asserted, taking head-on the criticism that he has tried to promote polarisation through his speeches. The second round of polls, Modi also stood by his statement that his predecessor Manmohan Singh had indeed said Muslims had the first claim on the nation's resources. He also declared that he was determined to fulfil BJP's commitment to implement a Uniform Civil Code. "It is clear that separate laws for communities are detrimental to the health of society. We cannot be a nation where one community is progressing with the support of the Constitution while the other community is stuck in a time warp due to appeasement. We will do everything in our capacity to make UCC a reality in India," the PM said, while also

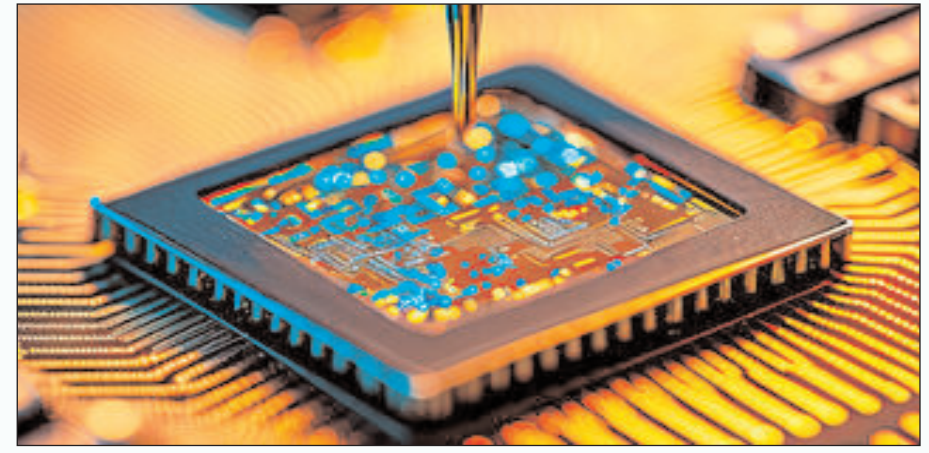
renewing his vow to move forward on his 'one nation-one poll' plan. Modi expressed confidence of getting a third straight term, and said he was striving for a 400-plus tally to foil the "evil designs of opposition parties to take away reservations and rights of SCs/STs and OBCs and give it to their vote bank". The PM came down hard on the push for redistribution through measures such as wealth and inheritance tax. "I do not think they are solutions by any stretch of imagination. These are actually dangerous problems disguised as solutions. Would you work day and night if the govt

would take away your money at the end in the name of redistribution?" he asked, adding these ideas would "kill" the start-up revolution and were merely a way to please "the opposition's vote bank". He further said that these ideas carried the risk of creating "complete and irreversible communal disharmony". "Our Constitution protects the property of all minorities. This means that when Congress talks of redistribution, it cannot touch the properties of minorities, it cannot consider Waqf properties for distribution, but it will eye the properties of other communities," he added.

Modi dubbed Rahul Gandhi's proposal to conduct a survey to estimate people's assets "Maoist thinking and ideology" and a "recipe for disaster" which would lead to "raiding every home". Asked about the opposition's charge that he would change the Constitution in case he got a super mandate, Modi said, "It is ironic that people who have changed the Constitution maximum number of times are saying that we will change the Constitution. But before asking such a question, you should analyse my track record." Exuding confidence about BJP's prospects in the South, Modi said opposition parties had raised a "false bogey of discrimination" to divert attention from their failures. On foreign policy, he was unfazed about India being seen as disregarding the "rules of the international order" to pursue its national interests.

Beyond Rs 76k-crore: Government to scale up semiconductor package

NEW DELHI: Government is looking at rolling out a fresh multi-billion-dollar incentive package for semiconductor companies after nearly exhausting the Rs 76,000-crore plan that was launched in Dec 2021 for supporting investing companies, top sources told TOI. Preliminary work on the new package, which is "in all likelihood be much bigger than the previous one", has already begun, even though announcements in this regard will be made only once the new govt takes charge post the national elections, they said. "The new package would be one of the key agendas for the new govt and will be taken up on a priority basis," one of the sources said, pointing out that new proposals that are coming in for semiconductors necessitate a fresh package. "The matter would be tabled before the new Cabinet as some of the proposals are at an advanced



stage and would require immediate assurances from the state in terms of incentives," the source said. Success of Dec 2021 package is prompting the govt to work out a new one, especially in view of the aggressive stance of countries such as the US and China, which have announced much bigger packages for companies that are investing in semiconductors. Under the current plan, govt extends fiscal support of up to 50% of a project's cost to eligible display and semiconductor fabricators. This has been almost exhausted after

the spate of investments that came in India, which had previously failed to get any credible proposals for semiconductor manufacturing after trying for decades, finally managed to score big after American Micron emerged as the first major player to enter the space with a Rs 22,500-crore testing and packaging unit in Gujarat in June last year. This was followed up with approval to three proposals worth nearly Rs 1.3 lakh crore in Feb this year. These comprise: Rs 91,000-crore project of Tata to set up India's first semiconductor fab unit.

Modi praised me earlier but now wants my defeat: Sharad Pawar

PUNE/NASHIK: Sharad Pawar on Sunday said PM Narendra Modi is inconsistent with his views and his stand. "When he spoke in Delhi, he said I have done historic work as Union agriculture minister. In Baramati, the PM said he came into national politics by holding my finger. But now, he says that anything and everything should be done to defeat me in Baramati," Pawar said at a public rally on Sunday.

Delhi plans to plant 2.3 lakh trees and 3.8 lakh bushes in parks

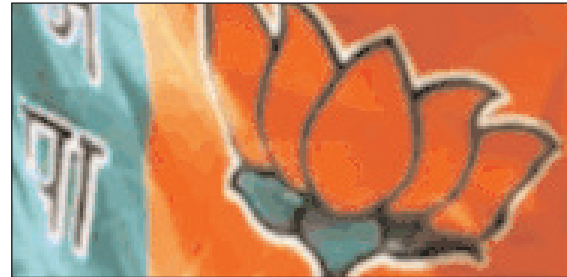
Delhi: To reduce dust pollution and increase green cover, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi plans to plant 2.3 lakh trees and 3.8 lakh bushes in parks, schools, open spaces, and roadsides this year. In 2023-24, the city planted two lakh trees and 3.25 lakh plants. The horticulture department requested zonal office requirements to complete the assignment. "We will plant when the details are acquired. An officer stated schools, hospitals, parks, and below flyovers are used for this. He stated that the government will continue roadside tree planting in some colonies at homeowners' request.

MCD plans to carpet or repair 50 km of interior roadways by Oct. to reduce dust. Between April 2023 and February 2024, 139 km of roads were resurfaced or repaired. A civic council wants to resurface 180km of roads by Oct. Road maintenance and resurfacing are ongoing. After winter, we started dense carpet work on damaged areas. Work is being done with MLA or Mukhyamantri Sadak Punarnirman Yojna non-plan head funding "said the official. Our 52 mechanical road sweepers are for PWD roads. He added that 195 water sprinklers, jet machines, and 30 mobile anti-smog guns are reducing dust pollution on roadways. PWD gave MCD 60 anti-smog weapons to reduce dust near construction sites. In highrises, 15 smog cannons are deployed. The official claimed these work as needed. In response to summer fires, MCD has limited unauthorised entry and the carrying of cigarettes, bidis, lighters, and matchboxes. "Supervisory staff must notify Delhi Fire Services immediately of fires.

Junior engineers and supervisors have SOPs for 24/7 landfill supervision. The official stated fresh solid garbage is unloaded, compacted, and coated with bio-cover to prevent fires.

UPA govt. faltered on free ration, ours giving succour to 80 crore: BJP

NEW DELHI: BJP on Sunday claimed that Congress-led UPA had expressed inability to distribute free ration despite a Supreme Court order and contrasted the approach of the Manmohan Singh govt with free ration being given to over 80 crore people by the Modi govt under PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana since the pandemic. "On 6th Sept 2010,



Manmohan Singh said, 'govt will do all it can to provide affordable food to those below the poverty line but cannot implement Supreme Court's order to give free

foodgrain to the poor'. He further said 'Supreme Court should not go into the realm of policy formulation', BJP IT department head Amit Malviya said as he shared a media

report of 2010. BJP functionary said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi provided free ration to over 80 crore people. "If Congress comes, it will kick the stomach of the poor," he added. In Aug 2010, Supreme Court had said agriculture minister Sharad Pawar should figure out how to give away the excess foodgrain to poor families.

EC publishes a "rate list" for enticing competitions

Delhi: you can get a buffet or a packed lunch that includes two curries, rice, achar, roti, and sweets for Rs 80. You can also get a mini meal of chhole bhature or poori aalu for Rs 37. You can also get a small cup of tea or coffee for Rs 6. These prices do not include the cost of a roadside eatery or canteen. Every cup of tea or coffee, packed lunch, or small meal provided to a political worker conducting a

campaign during the capital election will be tracked and contributed to the candidate's overall poll expenditure. Not only will food costs be important, but so will the price of the chairs and tables that will be used at candidate polling places or during election gatherings. The candidates' election expenses also include the cost of renting vehicles for campaigning, posting posters, banners, and

hoardings, hiring a man to beat a drum, hiring horses and elephants for a road show, and hiring videographers, photographers, and drones to record the events. Every penny spent by the candidates is tracked from the time of nomination filing to the casting of ballots, with the total amount not to exceed the Rs 75 lakh cap on election expenses set by the Election Commission of India.

China continues LAC infrastructure build-up 4 years into face-off

NEW DELHI: Four years into the face-to-face military confrontation in eastern Ladakh, which also triggered tensions all along the Line of Actual Control, there has been no let-up in the way China continues to build border infrastructure and dual-use 'Xiaokang' villages, strengthen military positions and deploy additional aircraft at its air-bases facing India. Latest satellite imagery, intelligence reports and other inputs show this ongoing Chinese activity in all the three sectors of the 3,488-km LAC, stretching from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh, defence and security establishment sources told. "People's Liberation Army (PLA) is relentlessly consolidating its military positions and support infrastructure in various depth and staging areas along the LAC, including near the buffer zones created after troop disengagements in eastern Ladakh," a source said. China con-



tinues LAC infra build-up 4 yrs into face-off, shows latest sat imagery. Increased PLA activity is seen in the eastern sector near Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh and Naku La in north Sikkim, a defence source said. India also continues to match PLA with 'mirror military deployments'. China, for instance, recently completed construction of a road from the north of Samzungling to the Galwan Valley, providing the PLA with a 15-km shorter alternate axis to rapidly build-up troops in the area. A no-patrol buffer zone was created around Patrolling Point-14 in Galwan Valley three weeks

after the violent clash in which 20 Indian soldiers and an unspecified number of Chinese troops were killed there on June 15, 2020. Similarly, sources said, PLA has been progressively strengthening military and transport infrastructure to the rear of the other buffer zones on both banks of Pangong Tso, including the Kailash range, and Gogra-Hot Springs, all of which have largely come up in areas that India considers its own territory. PLA has also been focussing on last-mile connectivity through roads, bridges, tunnels and helipads to its forward positions. , while also construct-

ing new bunkers, camps, underground shelters, artillery position, radar sites and ammunition dumps in other stretches of the LAC. "This increased PLA activity is especially being seen in the eastern sector, across Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh and Naku La in north Sikkim," another source said. India, of course, continues to match the PLA with "mirror military deployments", while it has also majorly cranked up infrastructure and capability development along the frontier, as earlier reported by TOI. China has also offset some of its air combat disadvantage due to high-altitude terrain constraints by deploying additional fighters, bombers, reconnaissance aircraft and drones after upgrading its airfields like Hotan, Kashgar, Gargunsa, Shigatse, Bangda, Nyingchi and Heping, among.

Sahil Khan held in C'garh in 15k cr betting app case

MUMBAI: Actor Sahil Khan was arrested on Sunday in connection with his alleged role in the Rs 15,000 crore Mahadev betting app case. Khan (50) was produced in court and was sent to police custody till May 1. An SIT of crime branch nabbed him from a hotel in Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh. Khan, who had been working as a fitness expert until recently, had fled the city on April 24 and had been dodging the police by constantly changing his location. After his anticipatory bail application was rejected by Bombay HC on April 24, police had been trying to nab him. To track down his whereabouts, police were tracking his location which showed he was constantly on the move at different points of time. - Gadchiroli in Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Telangana, and Chhattisgarh. A senior crime branch officer said Khan was a partner in a betting app firm. "He had been promoting the app through social media and had also forged some documents.

One-year DDA flat maintenance with RWAs

Delhi: Delhi Development Authority would give residents' welfare societies maintenance work within a year of creation to ensure flat maintenance. This will also apply to Diwali Special Housing Scheme 2023 units. This conclusion followed Real Estate Regulatory Authority criteria. A maintenance fee is normally collected by DDA during allotment. It has maintained flats for 10-20 years, depending on the scheme. A DDA official stated that applicants must join the registered agency or RWA to maintain common services. Per pocket, one RWA will be registered. All new DDA plans require upfront monthly costs for one year, depending on flat type. "DDA shall do daily maintenance from maintenance charges for one year or until RWA is formed, whichever comes first. An RWA will get the balance

maintenance fund if it is founded before one year. If a RWA is not created within a year, it will be done on actuals "said the official. "For subsequent years, the necessary arrangement will be communicated to the residents," he said. Residents expect standard changes to speed up DDA flat maintenance, which had been delayed for a long period. The authority defined maintenance as green space maintenance, campus, colony, and housing pocket cleaning, light fitting replacement in common areas, lift maintenance and operation, and common area electrical bill payment. "After transfer, the urban authority will be responsible for common areas in many housing pockets. The authority indicated in a pamphlet that DDA will maintain the area until the urban body takes possession.

Government, Ladakh delegation meet on issues of UT



NEW DELHI: The Centre is holding a meeting with a delegation from Ladakh here on Monday on their key demands, including statehood for the high-altitude region, two Lok Sabha seats and bringing the area under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. A 14-member delegation of the Apex Body Leh (ABL) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) is meeting the High Powered Committee (HPC) for Ladakh headed by Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai.

"We are going to discuss our demands, including statehood for Ladakh and two Lok Sabha seats," Apex Body Leh member Chering Dorjay Lakrook told PTI. The demands of the delegation are statehood for Ladakh, two Lok Sabha seats (one for Kargil and one for Leh), job opportunities for the residents of the Union Territory and constitutional protection under the Sixth Schedule, sources said. Ladakh currently has one Lok Sabha constituency. Ladakh, which no longer has any MLA constituency,

was part of Jammu and Kashmir state. The erstwhile state was bifurcated on August 5, 2019, into two Union Territories -- Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. Article 370, which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir, was also abrogated on that day. As per the provision of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, Jammu and Kashmir has been made a UT with a legislative assembly and Ladakh has been made a UT without any assembly. There were four repre-

ex-Cong MP Kaypee from Jalandhar are SAD candidates

Delhi: The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) named five additional Punjab Lok Sabha candidates SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal stated that his wife and sitting MP Harsimrat Kaur Bada would be the Bathinda candidate during his visit to Jalandhar to induct former Congress MP Mohinder Singh Kaypee. In Ferozepur, Sukhbir's party nominated Nardev Singh Bobby Mann. Newcomer Kaypee will run in Dalit-dominated Jalandhar Lok Sabha, while Ranjit Singh Dhillon will run in Ludhiana. Sukhbir

nominated former cabinet minister Sohan Singh Thandal for Hoshiarpur, another Doaba reserved parliamentary constituency. Former Chandigarh deputy mayor Hardeep Singh Saini is running for the party. Our party is the only regional one battling divisive national parties. The SAD president said these parties want to divide communities and cause conflict. Former Congress MP Mohinder Singh Kaypee, 67, joined the SAD earlier in the day, jolting the party. Kaypee was welcomed

into the party by Sukhbir in the afternoon at his Jalandhar home. Sukhbir named Kaypee the Jalandhar reserved Lok Sabha candidate minutes after entering. Kaypee, a former PCC president and three-time MLA, had been in touch with Sukhbir for days and attended many closed-door meetings since the Congress denied him the ticket. He ran in this Dalit-dominated parliamentary segment, but the Congress chose former chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi.

Three electrocuted by live wire trap laid by poachers

BHOPAL: Three members of a family were electrocuted by a live wire trap laid by poachers to snare wild boar in Madhya Pradesh's Sidhi district late Saturday. The victims were identified as Prashant Kewat (22), Anil Kewat (32), and

Narmada Kewat (50), who lived in Devri village on the edge of Sanjay Gandhi National Park. They used to catch birds by covering entire trees with large nets tied to bamboo poles, Majhauri police station in-charge Deepak Singh Baghel.

Every evening, they would do a recce to locate the trees where the maximum birds were resting. Then, they would return to place their nets on those trees, Baghel said. "They left home around 3pm and went to the jungles.

CAPSULES

Maharashtra top cop orders anthem, tiranga drill at Red zone thanas

GADCHIROLI: Sixty-three police posts in Maoist-affected Gadchiroli, located in Dandakaranya in Red corridor, will soon start hoisting the tricolour every day, and sing national anthem twice a day, reports Soumitra Bose. The practice would start from two new frontier police posts-Wangeturi and Gardewara - at the gateway of Maoist headquarters Abujmarh, in a challenge to the guerrillas, who have indoctrinated tribals to spurn patriotism and rebel against the state. Earlier, Maoists in Gadchiroli would damage the tricolour on Independence Day and Republic Day, and not allow tribals to sing the national anthem. State director general of police Rashmi Shukla began practice of singing the anthem at Gardewara post, where tricolour was hoisted in her presence on Saturday. Sixty-three police posts in Gadchiroli, the Maharashtra Maoist-affected zone in the heart of Dandakaranya in the Red corridor, will soon start hoisting the tricolour every day and sing the national anthem twice a day. The move is a challenge to the guerrillas, who have over decades indoctrinated tribals in "liberated zones" to spurn patriotism and rebel against govt. The practice will start from two new frontier police posts - Wangeturi and Gardewara - at the gateway of Maoist headquarters Abujmarh. Earlier, Maoists in Gadchiroli would damage the tricolour on Independence Day and Republic Day, and not allow tribals to sing the national anthem. DGP Rashmi Shukla started the practice Saturday at Gardewara, where the tricolour was hoisted in her presence.

Agra is known as the 'Dalit capital of northern India'

Delhi: Politics, history, and tourism mix in Taj Mahal. The monument symbolizes the city's previous splendor, but Dalit influence shapes contemporary politics. Agra is known as the 'Dalit capital of northern India' due to its 25% SC population. BJP has ruled this region since 2009, with former Union minister Satya Pal Singh Baghel in charge. Party fielded him again. This strong-

hold illustrates the region's complex Dalit politics., BJP organized the 'Anusoochit Jaati Mahasammelan' to highlight Dalit politics' influence on Agra's politics. The convergence of Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav and Congress' Rahul Gandhi in Agra emphasizes Dalit voter outreach. Their united demonstration during the 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra' addressed

Dalit welfare concerns to get support. As part of the seat-sharing mechanism in India, SP fielded shoe baron Suresh Chandra Kardam, a former BSP worker. Since its 1984 founding, the Mayawati-led BSP has failed to win this SC seat. BSP nominating Pooja Amrohi as its Agra candidate shows a renewed push to challenge the political system. Pooja is the daughter of former UP Rajya Sabha

member Satya Behan, a Congressman. The city's footwear market supremacy, which employs Dalits and Jatavs, highlights economic undercurrents shaping political inclinations. Past assembly elections have reflected these changes. When Mayawati became CM in 2007, BSP won six of nine Agra assembly seats. Even without her, it won six of nine in 2012.

Protest march case: SC stays proceedings against Karnataka CM

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday stayed proceedings against Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and others in connection with a protest march held in the state in 2022. A bench of Justices Hrishikesh Roy and P K Mishra issued notice to the Karnataka government and the complainant in the case. The top court also stayed the high court order, which had imposed a fine of Rs 10,000 on him as well as Congress general



secretary and Karnataka in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala, state ministers M B Patil and Ramalinga Reddy, and directed him to appear before a special court on March 6. The case was registered against the Congress leaders after they took out a march to lay siege to the then chief minister Basavaraj Bommai's

residence in Bengaluru, demanding the resignation of K S Eshwarappa, who was then the rural development and panchayat raj minister in the southern state. The agitation was staged after a contractor, Santosh Patil, died by suicide accusing Eshwarappa of demanding 40 per cent commission for a public work in his village. According to police, the case pertained to blocking roads and causing trouble to commuters.

Met museum head talks art of repatriation and relevance

It's not easy running one of the world's largest museums with more than 1.5 million works spanning 5,000 years. And certainly not easy amidst heightened scrutiny over looted objects and mounting pressure for repatriation. Max Hollein—who took charge of the Metropolitan Museum of Art (Met), New York as director in 2018 and CEO last July—knows this all too well. Fresh from signing a MoU with India's Ministry of Culture, being "blown away" by the Sanchi Stupa, Jantar Mantar and the Kanheri Caves and ahead of delivering a lecture at the CSMVS on Friday, Hollein remained composed as he sat down for a chat about policing its art and artefacts with a problematic past, recent restitutions and keeping the museum



relevant in an age of sensory overload. What kind of collaborations do you foresee with the signing of the MoU with India's culture ministry It marks a continuation of our close collaboration on multiple levels and reflects our mutual willingness to further expand on that partnership. We've done a number of important exhibitions on Indian art. We've run fellowship programs in India for a decade to train the next generation of conservators. The MoU

signals our commitment to continue mounting important exhibitions at the Met, ideally ones that will have strong resonance in India and can also be exhibited in India. institutions. We want to foster collaborations between institutions, bring more staff together and develop more fellowship programs focused on educational and cultural exchange. The US government was reported to return over 1,400 artefacts to India last year.

MLA alleges Rs 138cr tender for uniforms favours Rajasthan, Gujarat cos

MUMBAI: Allegations of favouritism have surfaced in a Rs 138-crore tender to buy school uniforms by the state school education department. Samajwadi Party MLA Rais Shaikh alleged that to favour textile manufacturers from Gujarat and Rajasthan, tender conditions were drafted in such a way that the Maharashtra-based power loom cloth makers kept out and that there was no reservation for them in the tender. The Maharashtra Prathamik Shikshan Parishad (MPSP) unde



r the school education department recently floated a tender for 1.2 crore metres of cloth for their free school uniform scheme. In a letter to CM Eknath Shinde, Shaikh has demanded that the tender be scrapped and that the

Maharashtra State Powerloom Corporation (MSPC) be made the nodal agency for procurement. "Half of the country's looms, i.e., 13 lakh, are in Maharashtra. However, the school education department wants to buy

cloth from Rajasthan and Gujarat textile manufacturers," Shaikh said. A conspiracy was hatched in the tender to keep loom owners of Maharashtra out, he said. The textile manufacturers who wanted to participate in the bid for cloth procurement are required to have productivity of 1 lakh meters per day, a three-year turnover of more than Rs 55 lakh, and a one-time supply of at least Rs 60 lakh., Shaikh said. School education department officials said that they would look into Shaikh's allegation and check if there is any substance in it.

Demanding strict action against officials responsible

New Delhi: Health minister Saurabh Bharadwaj has written to lieutenant governor VK Saxena demanding strict action against officials responsible for the non-availability of medicines and consumables at Delhi govt health facilities. He also demanded a "time-bound inquiry" against them for misrepresenting facts and misleading govt on the issue. The letter was sent on Thursday in response to a story, 'Boy with broken arm turned away by hosps'. On April 1, an 8-year-old boy with a broken arm was turned away by two state-run hospitals, Dr Hedgewar Aarogya Sansthan and Chacha Nehru Bal Chikitsalaya, a dedicated paediatric facility. While one hospital claimed it did not have cotton, the other said it had no orthopaedic doctor at the time to treat the boy. The boy's father, a guard with a monthly salary of Rs 15,000, had to ultimately take him to a private hospital.

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 a 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 redefining 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.

CAPSULES

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

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 valued 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

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-

le 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.

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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.