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

PM Modi doubles down on 'asset redistribution' charge in Aligarh

● "PM speak about "appeasement" politics of Congress-SP, but the focus of the speech remained on "redistribution of assets"



ALIGARH: Picking up from where he had left off a day earlier at Banswara in Rajasthan, PM Modi attacked Congress for seeking to implement the "Maoist plan" for redistribution of wealth, but stopped short of suggesting that Muslims could be the prime potential beneficiaries of the scheme. "Today, I must warn the people of Aligarh and the nation about the dangerous intentions of Congress and 'INDI Alliance'. They have set their sights on your hard-earned money and property. Congress's shahzada' (prince) says if their govt comes to power, they will investigate who earns how much and has how

much property, how many vehicles, your fixed deposits. Not only this, their govt will take over property and redistribute it. This is what their election manifesto is saying..." Modi said, adding that he wanted to "alert" people about Congress's "intentions". Videos "This is akin to Maoist thinking... This is Communist thinking, which has ruined many countries... These family-oriented politicians have amassed vast fortunes by looting the people. They have never shared their wealth with the poor. Now, they have their eyes on the wealth of the people," Modi said. The fresh attack coincided with Congress's claim that

PM had lied about their manifesto. Modi, however, stuck to his guns referring to the manifesto and Rahul Gandhi's speeches. There was one variation, though. Unlike on Sunday, PM did not imply that Rahul Gandhi's pitch for redistribution of assets was aimed at benefiting "infiltrators" and "those with more children": the terms he used to refer to his predecessor Manmohan Singh's 2006 remark that Muslims should have the first claim on country's resources. PM did speak about "appeasement" politics of Congress and SP, but the focus of the speech remained on "redistribution of assets".

Repeating his 'mangal-sutra' comment made earlier, the PM said, "Just think, our mothers and sisters have gold. In our country, this gold is considered 'streedhan' (women's property) and is regarded as sacred. But, these people have their eyes on 'mangal-sutras' and the wealth of our mothers and sisters. They plan to confiscate property and money as they see fit, based on a survey they conduct, by changing the law... suppose if you own two homes -- one in your ancestral place and a small flat in the city for the children's future, they will snatch one saying that you don't need two places and give it to someone else - Congress will go that far." Earlier, the PM began his speech at the Numaish Ground in support of BJP Lok Sabha candidates Satish Gautam (Aligarh) and Anoop Valmiki (Hathras) and took a dig at Congress's Rahul Gandhi and SP chief Akhilesh Yadav.

Congress moves EC on PM Modi speech; calling a spade a spade: BJP

NEW DELHI: Accusing PM Modi of trying to create enmity between religious communities and lying to defame the rival party, Congress on Monday petitioned Election Commission and demanded that the PM be "disqualified" for egregious violations of election laws in his speech in Rajasthan on Sunday. Congress said the PM is a serial offender who has attacked the dignity of the Constitution by violating the principle of secularism which is part of the basic structure, adding that "this is not a candidate who will be silenced by a simple censure". An AICC delegation of Abhishek Singhvi, Gurdeep Sappal and Supriya Shrinete, which met the poll watchdog for detailed discussions, said "not just the PM, but the Election Commission



is on trial", adding that EC's past "inaction" has emboldened BJP and Modi to commit repeat offences. As part of the offensive to counter the PM's speech, party chief Mallikarjun Kharge has sought time from Modi to "educate" him about the Congress manifesto. AICC general secretary KC Venugopal said the PM is rattled by the response to Congress's 'nyay' promises, which has forced him to "spread lies and Hindu-Muslim narratives to hide his monumental failure as the

PM". The Congress response came a day after a provocative speech by Modi in Rajasthan, in which he insinuated that Congress would redistribute wealth to Muslims, and even women's 'mangalsutra' was not safe. Singhvi said naming of a religious group and blaming it for the deprivation of the majority while using the Hindu imagery of 'mangalsutra' is "aimed at creating enmity between groups, far worse than any ever made by a sitting PM in the history.

Now, eligible Indians can get long term Schengen visas

NEW DELHI: Frequent Indian travellers to Europe will no longer need to go through the hassle of repeatedly applying for Schengen visas. The European Union (EU) last week adopted a "more favourable" visa regime for Indians "with an established travel history, if (their) passport validity allows." They will now get up to five-year validity Schengen visas. Though less than America's 10-year visitor visas and United Kingdom's option of getting a visa valid.

FSSAI collects spice samples after Singapore, Hong Kong concerns

NEW DELHI/ MUMBAI: Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has begun collecting samples of spices in powder form of all brands, including MDH and Everest, from across India following concerns raised by Singapore and Hong Kong authorities. Centre for Food Safety (CFS) in Hong Kong has found ethylene oxide, a form of pesticide classified as carcinogen by The International Agency for Research on Cancer, in certain spice packs manufactured by MDH and Everest and has instructed vendors to stop sale of the products and remove them from retail shelves. While authorities in Singapore and Hong Kong have already initiated recall of Everest's fish curry masala as reported by TOI, MDH's Madras curry powder, sambhar masala, mixed masala powder, and curry powder have also been recalled by Hong Kong. Earlier, Singapore Food Agency (SFA) had recalled 'Everest' fish curry masala due to the presence of ethylene oxide, a pesticide that is not authorised for use in food beyond permissible limits and advised buyers against consuming it. The importer, Sp Muthiah & Sons, has been directed to recall the products, SFA said in a statement on April 18. A spokesperson for Everest said, "There have been reports of Everest being banned in Singapore and Hong Kong, but we want to clarify that this is false. Everest is not banned in either country. Singapore's food safety authority referred to Hong Kong's recall alert and asked our Singapore importer to recall and temporarily hold the product for further inspection. This is a standard procedure and not a ban. Only one out of 60 Everest products has been held for examination. We reassure our customers that our products are safe.

Court nixes CM Kejriwal's plea for daily doctor video consultation

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court on Monday denied chief minister Arvind Kejriwal's request for consultation with a private doctor through video conferencing, agreeing with the Tihar Jail authorities that he cannot be treated differently from other inmates and that the laws and jail manual must apply equally to all. "The request for private treatment can be permitted only if



the jail authorities are unable to provide the requisite medical facilities," it said in its order. It also refused to accept Kejriwal's plea

for insulin, observing that a person suffering from hyperglycaemia cannot be administered insulin on the basis of his request. It ordered constitution of a medical board by director, AIIMS, for the chief minister's treatment in jail. The board will have to submit its report to the court of special judge Kaveri Baweja at the earliest specifying whether there is any requirement for administering insulin to Kejriwal at this juncture. If there is a need for any medical intervention by any specialist in future.

Party says PM Modi only echoed public sentiment

NEW DELHI: PM Modi has called "a spade a spade" and has echoed people's sentiments, a defiant BJP asserted on Monday as opposition parties slammed Modi's speech in Banswara as "communally divisive". BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia told reporters that the opposition was hurting as Modi's remarks showed them the mirror. "His remarks have resonated with people already familiar with INDIA bloc's track record in appeasing infiltrators. Isn't it a fact that former PM Manmohan Singh, while addressing the meeting of National Development Council in 2006, had said that minorities, especially Muslims,



had the first claim on the country's resources?" Bhatia said. Addressing a rally in Banswara in Rajasthan, Modi had said Congress's pitch for redistribution of wealth and assets should be seen in the light of his predecessor's 2006 remark. The statement about Muslims having the first claim on the country's resources helped explain whom the redistribution of assets was meant for, he argued. BJP's offensive came as the PM doubled

down on his attack on Congress for expropriation of assets for redistribution even as he steered clear of listing Muslims as possible prime beneficiaries of such an exercise. BJP circulated parts of the Congress manifesto to slam the party for its wealth redistribution plan. "It is clear as daylight that Congress wants to take away our wealth, wealth of the poor and marginalised, SCs, STs, savings of women and redistribute it, specifically among the minorities, like UPA had wanted to," BJP's IT department head Amit Malviya said in a series of posts on X. Quoting from Congress's manifesto, Malviya added, "The economic empowerment of minorities is a necessary step for India to realise its full potential. We will ensure that banks will provide institutional credit to minorities without discrimination. We will ensure that minorities receive their fair share of opportunities in education, healthcare, public employment, public works contracts, skill development, sports and cultural activities without discrimination."

'One-sided': Mamata Banerjee slams HC's school hiring order

KOLKATA: Calcutta HC's verdict invalidating over 25,000 appointments by state School Service Commission (SSC) is "illegal and one-sided", Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee said on Monday, adding that her govt will move SC against it. Alleging that the verdict was passed "not in a mandir, masjid, gurdwara or church, but in BJP's bicharalaya (court)", she said, "There are selective



verdicts these days. If BJP files a PIL, they get bail; if others file a PIL, it is jail." Without naming Abhijit Gangopadhyay, BJP candidate for Tamluk Lok Sabha seat, she said at a rally in North Dinajpur's Raiganj that

MVA brass shares stage in Amravati

AMRAVATI: Twenty-four hours after Election Commission slapped a notice on Uddhav Thackeray for use of 'Jai Bhavani' in its anthem, the Shiv Sena (UBT) president defied the poll panel by vigorously chanting the slogan at a packed Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) meeting at Amravati -- the first mammoth show of strength on one platform by all three partners for Congress' Balwant Wankhade against BJP candidate Navneet Rana. The rally at Dyaneshwar Hall on Monday witnessed the presence of top MVA leaders, including Uddhav Thackeray, Sharad Pawar, Mukul Wasnik and Anil Deshmukh, marking their first joint appearance since the rollout of the seven-phased Lok Sabha polls on April 19.

SC sets aside Bombay high court order, allows raped minor to end 30-week pregnancy

NEW DELHI: Using its omnibus powers under Article 142 of the Constitution, the Supreme Court on Monday allowed termination of a 14-year-old girl's 30-week-old pregnancy, allegedly caused by sexual assault, following a medical board's opinion that though MTP at this stage is risky, threat to the minor's life is more if pregnancy continued to its full term. The minor's mother had appealed against a Bombay HC order refusing approval for medical termination of pregnancy as the MTP Act provides for an outer limit of 24 weeks for abortion of an unwanted pregnancy, which could be relaxed further if the pregnancy posed danger to life of the mother. The HC had relied on a medical board report from Grant Government Medical College and Sir J J Group of Hospitals, Mumbai. The SC found that the medical report relied upon by HC did not consider "impact of pregnancy on physical and emotional well-being of the minor.

HC order in SSC appointments case is similar to the one that a former judge had passed, only for SC to set it aside. Invoking Tagore, "Bicharer bani nibhrite kande (Justice weeps silently in isolation)".

Big conspiracy attempt in Rly Co-operative Bank!

With connivance of Management Committee and Men's Union

HIGH OFFICIALS OF UNION HAVE INTERFERENCE IN THE BANK

Prayagraj: Chairman, Managing Committee and Managing Director of Northern Railway Multi State Co-operative Bank, on the complaint of Manoj Pandey, National President of Indian Railway Employees Federation, on the instructions of Central Registrar Cooperative Societies, Government of India and Deputy General Manager, Reserve Bank of Co-operative Bank, found violation of bank bye-laws. Five directors of Prayagraj Mandal (all men's union officials)

were disqualified on charge. After the disqualification of the directors, Comrade Manoj Pandey, on the same grounds, accused 30 (thirty) out of 34 (thirty) delegates of the Prayagraj division of the Railway Co-operative Bank and declared them ineligible. While demanding immediate elections of Prayagraj Board, because only two years have passed since the bank elections (elections were held in April 22).

Giving the above information, Comrade Manoj

Pandey, General Secretary of North Central Railway Workers Union and National President of Indian Railway Employees Federation, said that information has been received from reliable sources that out of the five directors declared ineligible, three are 1-Shri Abhay Kumar, 2-Shri Raidas and 3. - Mr. Arvind Kumar Pandey has resigned from the posts of the union and has applied to the Management Committee to be made the Director again, the decision on

which will be taken in the Management Committee held in Lucknow on 26th April. For this, the higher officials of the Men's Union have met the Bank Management Committee and The President of the Indian Railway Employees Federation complains that they are also putting pressure on the Managing Director. Manoj Pandey has complained to Central Registrar, Deputy General Manager Reserve Bank and Managing Director Railway Co-operative Bank Lucknow through mail

and letter.

In this regard, Comrade Manoj said that there is a clear provision in Article 30(2) of the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act 2002 amended 2022 that the disqualified board members cannot become management committee members again for 3 years. Accusing the Managing Director and senior officials of the Union along with the Bank Management Committee, Manoj Pandey said that all of them are conspiring to tamper with the Acts of the Bank, which

will not be tolerated and if something like this happens then the court will take cognizance of it. He warned of knocking the door of court. Comrade Manoj has demanded through a letter sent to the Central Registrar that as per the provisions of Article 45(J){5} of the Amended Act 2022, instructions should be issued to quickly complete the process of filling the vacant 5 seats of the Management Committee. Do this so that the bank operations continue to operate smoothly.

Earth Day reminds us of environmental protection and sustainability: Ankita Khera

Earth Day celebrated with great pomp at St. Peter's Educational English Medium School

Meja: World Earth Day was celebrated with great pomp and enthusiasm on Monday at St. Peter's Co-Educational English Medium School, Janwar Meja Road, Prayagraj. During this, students showed their love for Mother Earth through their models. On this occasion, school principal Ankita Khera discussed in detail the importance of Earth Day and said that Earth Day is celebrated every year on 22 April. It is a reminder of the importance of environmental protection and sustainability. He further said that we celebrate Earth Day to raise awareness about the significant environmental challenges facing our planet and increase efforts to address them. Mrs Khera said Earth Day is an annual celebration that honors the achievements of the environmental movement and raises awareness of the need to protect the Earth's natural resources for future generations. Principal Ankita Khera told that the first Earth Day was celebrated on 22 April 1970. Earth is our home. To save our earth, we should plant more and more trees and avoid any type of pollution which is harmful for mother earth. In the same sequence, school manager Abhishek Khera also explained the importance of Earth Day in detail to the children present. During this period, all the teachers of the school were prominently present.



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Justice Sudhir Narayan inaugurated Echo and Rhythm National Art Exhibition

Prayagraj: Creation of art is for man and humanity. Today's creation is a search for the development of humanity and for that the artist creates from various dimensions of art. While inaugurating the exhibition, Justice Sudhir Narayan Aggarwal said. Resonance and Rhythm National Art Exhibition organized by Bharat Fine Art Academy Kanpur was inaugurated on Sunday at Gandhi Art Gallery NCZCC Prayagraj by Chief Guest Justice Sudhir Narayan Aggarwal. It was done by lighting the lamp and cutting the ribbon. Thereafter, the chief guest was welcomed by the director of the organization, Sumit Thakur, by giving him a corset and a flower bunch and the exhibition catalog was released by all the guests. Famous artists included in the exhibition include Prof. Dr. Sunil Saxena, Anup Kumar Singh, Anil Soni, Khushboo Upadhyay Soni,



Kamlesh Verma, Md. Suleman, Soumik Nandi, Payal Chakraborty Nandi, Sumit Thakur, R.S. Pandey, Rajeev Semwal, Shachikant Jha, Ravindra Kushwaha, Dr. Sachin

Saini Darshan Mantra was mesmerized after seeing the wonderful paintings of Archana Pandey, Dr. Kavari Vij, Sarvesh Patel, Shivam Prajapati. The Justice praised Archana Pandey, the co-ordinator of this grand National Art Exhibition, and said that the director of the institution, Sumit Thakur, has guided the artists of Prayagraj by bringing this magnificent exhibition to Prayagraj and senior artist Ravindra, the outgoing executive member of the State Lalit Kala Academy. Under the patronage of Kushwaha, this exhibition has created new steps of success and the Justice highly praised the paintings of all the artists. Piyush Pandey, Rashmi Shukla, Rajeev Dwivedi, Shubham Kushwaha, Neeraj Hindustani, Sneha Lata Srivastava, Pratibha Pandey and hundreds of artists and dignitaries of the city enjoyed the exhibition.

Cabinet Minister Swatantra Dev Singh to arriving today

Prayagraj: Saffron outfit media in-charge Rajesh Kesarwani said that Uttar Pradesh Cabinet Minister Swatantra Dev Singh will arrive in Prayagraj on Tuesday. He will participate as the chief guest in the Social Volunteer Conference of Phulpur Lok Sabha at 12:00 noon at Central Election Office George Town Club and at 2:00 pm at Central Office George Town Club Phulpur Lok Sabha Election Steering Committee and at 3:45 pm will participate in the Allahabad Lok Sabha Election Steering Committee meeting at Allahabad Central Election Office, Rampur.

First Win for Northern Football Academy "Goal" U14 Football Competition

Prayagraj: Under the auspices of Northern Football Academy, in today's match of Under-14 boys category in the "Goal" football competition at the football ground of Vishnu Bhagwan Public School, Jhalwa, Northern Football Academy registered its first victory by defeating Naini Boys 2-0. At half time NFA were leading by a solitary goal.



According to the chief instructor of the academy, Indranil Ghosh, Shaksham Oraon scored the first goal with a single attempt and the second goal was scored from a pass from Shaksham by Rudransh. Saksham Oraon got the Player of the Match award. Till now all the teams have played a total of two matches in which Vishnu Bhagwan has 6 points, Northern Academy has 4 points, Phaphamau FC has one point, Naini FC has zero points.

Hanuman Janmotsav: Mahabhishek today at Shri Bade Hanuman Ji Temple

Prayagraj: Mahabhishek will be held on Hanuman incarnation day on Tuesday at Shri Bade Hanuman Ji Temple located on the banks of Sangam. At ten in the morning, there will be worship of Lord Hanuman and Mahabhishek along with Chhappan Bhog and Maha Aarti. Hanuman ji will be greatly adorned by 51 Brahmins and Acharyas. Mahant Balbir Giri Ji Maharaj of Baghambari Math said that the incarnation day of Lord Hanuman is being celebrated with great enthusiasm on Tuesday. Like every year, this time also in Shri Bade Hanuman Ji Temple, Maha Shringar and Maha Abhishek will be held in a grand manner. The temple has been decorated with attractive flowers. Abhishekam will be done in the morning with 108 liters of milk, 31 liters of curd, 11 kg of cow ghee, 11 kg of honey, 11 kg of juice and 51 kg of Panchamrit etc. At the same time, at 4:30 pm, Bade Hanuman ji will be decorated and Maha Aarti will take place, in which gold and silver jewelry will also be displayed in his form. During this time, a store of whole vegetables will also be set up in the temple premises. At the same time, tents were also arranged to protect the devotees from the sun. Mahant Balbir Giri Ji Maharaj told that preparations have been made in view of the enthusiasm of the devotees in the Bade Hanuman Temple.



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Students of Rishikul Higher Secondary School excelled in exams

Prayagraj: 24 students of Rishikul Higher Secondary School located at Civil Lines Nyaya Marg participated in the high school examination of Uttar Pradesh Secondary Board. 11 students passed in first division and 12 students passed in second division. When the result of the school was 96%, school manager Harikrishna Valmiki congratulated the Principal. And congratulated the teachers of the school and wished for the bright future of the children and blessed them also.

Dr. Samuel Hahnemann's 269th birthday celebrated with great pomp IHWO took a pledge to propagate homeopathy

Prayagraj: The 269th birthday of Dr. Samuel Hahnemann, the father of homeopathic medicine, was celebrated with great enthusiasm in a hotel under the aegis of Ideal Homeopathic Welfare Organization Prayagraj. In which the program was first started by garlanding the portrait of Dr. Samuel Hahnemann and lighting the lamp.

Chief guest in the program, former Commissioner Badal Chatterjee said that Homeopathy will get preference as a first line medical system in the coming

times, he explained in detail about the features of Homeopathy. The students understood the information given by special guest Organon of Medicine speaker Dr. Gauri Shankar in the program very well. The keynote speaker, Dr. K.K. Srivastava, former Principal (Lal Bahadur Shastri Homeopathic Medical College), has been a teacher of Materia Medica. He supported the views of Dr. Gauri Shankar and while sharing his medical experience, said that in case of very high fever, Belladonna helps in

sudden illness. But if Acornite etc. are used then success is definitely achieved. In the technical session, Dr. GK Shanglu etc. shared



their medical experiences. Doctors said that if medicines are given keeping the symptoms in mind, then 100% success is achieved

in disease control. While giving information about Ideal Homeopathy Welfare Organization, Dr. Vikas Yadav reiterated his resolve to lay emphasis on the propagation of Homeopathy, Secretary Dr. S a n t o s h Kumar Yadav presented the progress report. Welfare Chairman Dr. Anand Prakash Singh stressed on taking homeopathic medicines only on the advice of

a skilled doctor. The program was presided over by senior homeopath doctor Dr. Rajesh Srivastava. National Executive Member Dr. Bhanwar Singh expressed his gratitude to all the visiting doctors. Mainly respected doctors like Dr. Rajesh Singh, Dr. Pushpendra Sharma, Dr. Zafar, Dr. Akhil Nigam, Dr. Pankaj Vishwakarma, Dr. RK Soni, Dr. Ankit Jaiswal, Dr. Sunil Patel, Dr. C. Yadav, Vinod Kumar Yadav etc. were present in the program. The program was concluded with the national anthem.

Poetic seminar organized by "Sahitya Surbhi"

Prayagraj/Bareilly: In the series of monthly (third Sunday) seminars of the literary organization "Sahitya Surbhi", the 361st (three hundred and sixty-first) poetry seminar was organized in the "Hindi Bhawan" of the organization's office, Prahlad Nagar, Maninath Road. The seminar was presided over by senior poet Himanshu Shrotriya Nisarkar ji. The chief guest and special guest were Randhir Prasad Gaur and lyricist Kamal Saxena. In the Kavi Gosthi, the city's renowned litterateurs, poets and ghazal writers, through their best creations, openly attacked the social inconsistencies and enthralled the gathering with humorous, satirical, pathos,

adornment and brave rasa pradhan poems. Lyricist Kamal Saxena, while reading his song, said, "The



dream nurtured by the eyes was broken by a little hurt. How thorn got defamed and Suman cheated us. Himanshu Shrotriya Nijjar said, Come let's discuss a little about the surround-

ings. About the increasing desert and decreasing green grass. In the poetry seminar that lasted till late night,

Himanshu Shrotriya Fair, Kamal Saxena, Rajiv Srivastava, Raj Shukla Ghazalraj, Prithviraj Singh, Kishan Behadak, poetess Mrs. Kiran Prajapati Delhi, and Mrs. Satyawati Satya also enthralled by reciting witty, lyrical ghazals. Organizer Mr. AK Singh Tanhan welcomed everyone with respect. The interesting and interesting stage management by Mrs. Kiran Prajapati Dilwari was commendable. Organizer Shri AK Singh Tanhan, overwhelmed by the 30 (thirty) years of successful service to the organization of the Founder/President Shri Ram Murthy Gautam Gagan, honored him with a shawl and a memento in the Sharadiya Abhinandan.

Workshop held on child safety and cyber awareness

Prayagraj: Under the direction of Police Commissioner Prayagraj and under the efficient supervision of Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police, Crime, under the joint auspices of SJPU Cyber Cell and Prime Rose Education Institute (NGO) and in collaboration with the manager Blue Bell School, Karaili. A workshop on Security/

While addressing the said workshop, SJPU in-charge Teerth Raj Yadav told the children present in the workshop that if anyone follows or harasses them when they go to school or market etc. then they should avoid crowded places or the nearest ATM centre. Things were told about going to the side (where CCTV cameras are in-



Cyber Awareness was organized at Blue Bell School Naya Pura Karaili. In which detailed discussion was held on the protection/protection/ rights of children as per the provisions given in the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015 and the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Model Rules 2016. While conducting the said workshop, Mr. Ajay Kumar Maurya Office SJPU told the children to call dial 112 and child helpline 1098 in case of emergency and also to protect them from sexual crimes against children, they were told Good Touch and Bad. Touch was explained in de-

stalled and guards are also available) and giving information to the family members and the police with the help of some elders. Cyber Security Expert (Computer Operator) Jai Prakash Singh, present in the workshop, told that in the present time, cyber crime is increasing at a very fast pace, hence, children should not keep the debit cards/credit cards of their parents/relatives under any circumstances. And personal data should not be shared with any unknown person and people were told not to play any banned game on mobile and not to open any unknown link under the influence of anyone's influence or greed.

Mayor inaugurated Central Election Office

Prayagraj: The central office of 52nd Lok Sabha Allahabad candidate Neeraj Tripathi City Southern was inaugurated by Mayor Umesh Chandra Ganesh Kesarwani. BJP media in-charge Gopal Ji Malviya said that the chief guest included Mayor Umesh Chandra Ganesh Kesarwani and Mahila Morcha's state minister candidate Mr. Neeraj Tripathi's wife Kavita Yadav Tripathi and special guest Rajendra Mishra Metropolitan President Gyaneshwar Shukla City Southern Assembly coordinator Suresh Maurya, conducting the program The assembly in-charge did it. Mayor Umesh Chandra Ganesh Kesarwani in his speech inaugurated the office and the work will be implemented. The election strategists will sit from here and decide the strategy. Everyone will benefit from the publicity. Former MLA



Prabhshankar Pandey, senior BJP leader Murari Lal Aggarwal, District Vice President Girish Mishra, District Vice President Manoj Jaiswal (Modi), Senior Councilor and publicity material head Giri Shankar Prabhakar (Giri Baba) Ajay Agrahari, Shailendra Mishra, Brijesh Mishra, Dinesh Vishwakarma, all President of Mandals, President of Mahila Morcha, Booth Management Work Head Deep Dwivedi Ram Ji Kesarwani, Metropolitan Election Incharge Rajesh Kesarwani, Election Office Head Ashok Malviya, Manoj Mishra, Alok Shukla, Kshama Dwivedi, Beauty Srivastava, Shikha Khanna, Rupali Awasthi, Social Media chief Rahul Bhardwaj, Madhumita Nath, woman councilor Sunita Chopra, Kiran Jaiswal, senior officials and workers etc. were included.

Voter, education and participation prog held under SVEEP

Prayagraj: SVEEP program a well-organized voter, education and voter participation program was organized by the Labor Department in coordination with the Labor Department on Monday in coordination with the Labor Department, in the premises of Shirdi Sai Electrical Limited, Naini, Prayagraj, as per the instructions given by the Chief Development Officer. Voter Education and Electoral Participation Program (SVEEP) program was organized. During the program,

District School Inspector, Prayagraj Shri P.N. Singh (Assistant Nodal Officer Sweep) made the voters present on the spot aware that this is a great festival of democracy. Empower and strengthen democracy by using your invaluable votes in this great festival. Your vote will decide the political direction and condition of the country. Shri Singh was present as the keynote speaker in the said program. Apart from this, the Assistant Labor Commissioner, Prayagraj also motivated



the present voters to increase the voting percentage by voting as much as

possible. During the program, Mr. B.N. Maurya, Assistant District School In-

pector, Prayagraj, Mr. Anupam Parihar, Sweep Nagar Incharge, Prayagraj,

Mr. Sheshnath Singh, Labor Enforcement Officer Mr. Brijanandan Ojha, Dr. Mahendra Pratap Singh, Mrs. Aradhana Shankhadhar, Mrs. Amita, Mrs. Pratima Maurya, Mr. Nimesh Kumar Pandey and Mr. Avnish Kumar Tripathi and Operating Manager of Shirdi Sai Electrical Mr. Vishal Moga and HR Manager Mr. Arun were present. The program was conducted by Sweep Nagar in-charge Mr. Anupam Parihar. About 250 people participated in the said voter awareness program.

Hindu side says forcible possession of temple land does not make it Waqf property

KRISHNA JANMBHOOMI-IDGAH SUIT

Prayagraj: The Hindu side in the matter of Krishna Janmbhoomi and Shahi Eidgah suit in Mathura on Monday countered the Muslim side's contention in the Allahabad High Court that the dispute is related to a Waqf property. The property in question was a temple and "after taking forcible possession of the same they started to offer Namaz but by this, the character of land cannot be changed", the counsel for the Hindu side argued, adding it was not a Waqf property and the Waqf Act is not applicable to it. Since it "is not Waqf property, this court has jurisdiction to hear the matter", the counsel said. The Muslim side had questioned the maintainability of the suit, claiming the disputed Shahi Idgah Masjid is a Waqf property and thus the jurisdiction to hear the matter is only with the Waqf Tribunal and the civil court has no jurisdiction to hear the case. Justice Mayank Kumar Jain, who was hearing the petitions on the maintainability of the suit, fixed April 30 as the next date of hearing.

Replying to the arguments from the Muslim side, the Hindu side submitted that the suit is maintainable and the plea regarding non-maintainability can only be decided after leading evidence. "The plea regarding the application of Places of Worship Act as well as Waqf Act can only be determined by evidence by the parties in suit and cannot be decided while hearing an application under Order 7 Rule 11 of Civil Procedure Code," the counsel submitted. Earlier, Vishnu Jain, appearing on the Hindu side, had said that merely by saying that now a mosque is there on the property, the Waqf Act will not apply. The religious character of the property cannot be changed merely demolishing it. He further submitted that it has to be seen and decided whether the alleged Waqf deed is valid or not. "If property is not a valid property of Waqf, it would not be a valid Waqf. All these things are to be seen during the trial and thus the present suit is maintainable," he had argued.

Fire station in-charges discussed fire safety arrangements and security

Prayagraj: Avinash Chandra, Director General of Police, Fire and Emergency Services, Uttar Pradesh, discussed the fire safety arrangements of all fire station in-charges in Fire Station Civil Line Prayagraj and wheat fields in rural areas of the state. He reviewed the work of fire fighting in the increasing incidents of fire. Apart from this, discussed about the fire safety system of school/hospital/high rise building/hotel/mall. After this, reviewed the schemes being run in the district in which fire fighting rules were not followed. A review was

conducted regarding the buildings in the district where legal action would be taken under the Fire Prevention and Fire Safety Act-2005, instructions were given to take legal action against those going there. Dr RK Pandey Chief Fire Officer said that under the scheme program, in 2 years, 4800 houses including about 210000 persons in multi-storey buildings/malls/hospitals/hotels/guest houses/college/schools/college/shops/gas agencies/petrol pumps have been provided shelter. Training was given. In the review meeting, Dr. RK

Pandey, Chief Fire Officer Prayagraj, Mr. Avadh Narayan, In-charge Fire Officer, Civil Line, Mr. Mahanthu Choudhary, In-charge Fire Officer, Naini, Mr. Ramai Ram, In-charge Fire Goods Officer, Soraon, Mr. Dharmendra Kumar Yadav, In-charge Fire Officer, Honorable High Court Allahabad, Mr. Jitendra Kumar Chaurasia Second Fire Officer, Honorable High Court Allahabad, Mr. Siya Sharan Singh Meja Fire Station, Mr. Chandrakant Tripathi Incharge of Fire Station Bara, Mr. Rajesh Kumar Singh Incharge of Fire Station Koraon, Mr. Sudhir

Singh Incharge of Fire Supply Center Handia Prayagraj were present. Director General of Police Mr. Reviewed the training and public awareness campaign conducted by fire and emergency services on Fire Safety Week from 14th April to 20th April and public awareness campaign in rural areas. 100 fire alerts have been made in each block in the district. They have been directed to be given re-training in each fire station. All in-charges have been directed to review the work done by the 2300 fire alerts made in a total of 23 blocks in the district.

Bhupendra Kr Srivastava "Piyush" hits campaign trail

Prayagraj: Ex-AU student leader and lawyer's brother Bhupendra Kumar Srivastava "Piyush" has hit the campaign trail with a visit to Old Tehsil, District Court, Bindki, Fatehpur district and met all the advocate colleagues in the elections for the upcoming Bar_Council_of_Uttar_Pradesh polls. He is seeking election for the Post of member Bar_Council_of_Uttar_Pradesh. After campaigning in Allahabad and Kaushambi, he sounded the poll bugle by visiting Old Tehsil, District Court, Binki Tehsil of Fatehpur District and sought their cooperation and blessings and first preference (1) vote in the elections. Bhupendra Kumar Srivastava "Piyush" is a former Student Leader AU, Advocate High Court Allahabad, Minister - Prayag Advocates Association and Candidate - Upcoming Bar Council of Uttar Pradesh.



Use of garlic, Omega 3, broccoli, green tea & nuts beneficial in fatty liver: Dr. Bhanwar Singh

Prayagraj: A joint meeting of Ideal Homeopathic Welfare Organization and Himalaya Company was held in a hotel at Rambagh. As the chief guest in the

meeting, National Executive Member Dr. Bhanwar Singh explained about the symptoms of fatty liver, ways to avoid it and the diet. Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD) is a term used for several conditions caused by the accumulation

of fat in the liver, most commonly seen in people who are overweight or obese. Symptoms of fatty liver include pain in the upper right stomach; other symptoms include loss of appetite, nausea and weight loss, yellowness of skin and eyes, swelling in stomach and legs etc. One should eat a balanced diet and avoid greasy foods etc. Using garlic, omega 3 fatty acids, broccoli, green tea and nuts etc. in your diet can be

beneficial. To keep the liver healthy, one must drink a glass of lemon water every morning. Use of turmeric protects the liver from damage and also eliminates the increased fat in the liver. Mainly present in the meeting were Dr. Bhagwan Keshari, Dr. Akhil Nigam, Dr. Kapoor Kesarwani, Dr. Devesh, Dr. Sumit, Dr. Zafar, Dr. Umesh Kumar Vishwakarma, Dr. Gyanendra, Mohammad Khurshid, Dr. RK Soni, Dr. SN Mishra, RC Gupta, Dr. A large number of people including Pankaj Vishwakarma, Dr. Sunil Kumar Patel, M.R. Karthik Kumar, Manager Luvkumar Maurya, Dr. Rohit Pandey, Dr. Sanjay Singh, Dr. Kashiram, Dr. Pushpendra Sharma, Dr. Ankit Jaiswal were present.



meeting, National Executive Member Dr. Bhanwar Singh explained about the symptoms of fatty liver, ways to avoid it and the diet. Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD) is a term used for several conditions caused by the accumulation

Celebrated Earth Day with great pomp

Prayagraj: Imperial School of Excellence celebrated Earth Day with great pomp. World Earth Day is celebrated every year on 22 April with the aim of making people aware about the environment and climate change. The reason behind celebrating this day is Climate. We try to make people aware about many important issues like change and pollution. There is a saying that we have not inherited the earth, rather, we have borrowed it from our children. This means that we should use all the resources present on the earth in such a way that we can leave a favourable environment and resources for our future generations to live. Therefore, in this article we are going to tell you about some such tips, by adopting which you can save natural resources and also reduce the damage to the environment. You can keep the windows and balcony doors of your house open during the day. Due to which sunlight will come into the house and light will spread in the house. With this you will

not need to light the light bulb. You will also feel good when sunlight comes into your house, because it will give you Vitamin D and your mood will also improve. This can be a good way to save electricity. Apart from this, if you want, you can also do some of



your work during the day in your balcony or veranda of your house. Due to outside light, you will not face any problem in working and electricity will also be saved. On this issue, School Director E.R. Noor Uddin Saifi, Principal E.N. Wilson Vice Principal Upendra Rai and all the teachers were present.

Its 'Police Pathshala' in dacoit-infested belt; vanishing reminiscent of bullet echo

Prayagraj: In a paradigm shift, the narrative in the dacoit-infested belt of Chitrakoot this Lok Sabha election, has shifted to books from bullets, with none other than the cops conducting 'Patha Ki Police Pathshala' for the unprivileged kids in areas such as Markundi, Manikpur, and Bahilpurwa.

In areas which used to echo with bullets from the 1970s till 2018, these kids are attending schools,

singing rhymes and learning tables, courtesy the men-in-khaki, who in their new role are approaching parents and guardians to send their children to schools. "After the elimination of major bandit gangs, cops are working as Mitra Police to win the trust of villagers and are working to promote education," ADG (Prayagraj zone) said. Insisting that the exercise is part of community policing, he said, "Initially, cops also turned

teachers and took classes under 'Patha ki police pathshala'.

Cops ranking from constable to superintendent of police play different roles while organizing a series of janchaupals to win the trust of villagers who had maintained a distance from police between 1970 and 2018. The jan chaupals are organized in dacoit-infested belt in Manikpur, Markundi, and Bahilpurwa localities where dacoits (referred to as baaghi) such as Shiv Kumar

alias Dadua, Babuli Kol or Ambika Patel alias Thokia and Gauri Yadav's writ used to run large, till they were eliminated one by one.

After the elimination of bandit gangs, cops faced difficulties in connecting with villagers, who initially maintained distance from police due to various reasons. "Once the dacoit menace ended in the hilly terrain, the task before us was to help the unprivileged, adivasi, and vansai people get into the main-

stream of the society. Since it was not easy for cops to connect with people there, we thought of wooing them through the promotion of education," claimed Arun Kumar Singh, superintendent of police, Chitrakoot.

With the idea getting acceptance, regular exercises are being taken up now under 'Padega Chitrakoot-Bathega Chitrakoot'. Apart from education of kids, the cops have also taken help from women volunteers in im-

proving the image of police among women under Mission Shakti campaign. "Under it, the women policemen knock at the doors at villages and blocks to apprise women about their rights," said a senior cop.

The scheme 'Chuppi Todo-Khulka Bolo' has also been launched to solve the grievances of women. To increase voting percentage, cops are also undertaking regular patrolling and awareness initiatives.

Suman Jaiswal received Vivekananda Excellence Award

Jhansi : Pimples. Principal of New RSJ Public School, Suman Jaiswal has been honored with the Vivekananda Excellence Award. Suman Jaiswal was given this award



at the education awards ceremony held in Lucknow. This award was given in recognition of the efficient guidance, leadership and management of Suman Jaiswal. Suman Jaiswal has been working in the field of education for decades and is playing an important role in promoting education. The school family along with parents and intellectuals congratulated her on her achievement.

World Earth Day celebrated at IFFCO

Prayagraj: World Earth Day was celebrated in the training center of IFFCO Phulpur with the collaboration of IFFCO Phulpur, Times of India and Jeevan Jyoti Hospital, in which the main speaker was Dr. Arpit Bansal, Doctor from Jeevan Jyoti Hospital. This year's theme is Earth vs Plastic, which aims to draw the public's attention to the ill effects of plastic on the earth. Dr. Arpit Bansal said that we should reduce the use of plastic in our everyday life and avoid single use plastic as much



as possible. Because plastic pollution is contaminating the earth and the sea, which is having adverse effects on our health and we should take an oath today that how can we personally minimize the use of plastic. Chief Guest Senior Executive Director (Unit Head) Sanjay Kudesia said that this is not a one day seminar, rather we should reduce the use of plastic throughout the year. Nano fertilizer is environment and soil friendly, which we are promoting. The program was conducted by Umesh Kumar and Amit Srivastava. General Managers Sanjay Vaish and MD Mishra, JGMs MD Mishra & Dr. Anita Mishra, HOD Human Resources Shambhu Shekhar, President of IFFCO Officers Association Anurag Tiwari, General Secretary Swamyam Prakash and a large number of IFFCO employees were present in the program.

Isha volunteers lead plastic cleanliness drive ahead of World Earth Day

Prayagraj: Ahead of the World Earth Day on April 22, volunteers from Isha Foundation in Prayagraj took proactive steps towards environmental conservation by organizing a plastic cleanliness drive at Sangam and Bade Hanuman Mandir. Volunteers gathered near the Ganga ghat early morning on Sunday in order to address the pervasive issue of plastic pollution. The Sangam area, renowned for hosting the Kumbh and Magh melas, had been marred by plastic littering its riverbed and surrounding spaces.

With unwavering determination, volunteers meticulously cleaned the area, hand-picking plastic waste and debris, ensuring the sanctity of this sacred site. Their efforts were not confined to mere cleanup; they actively engaged with the public, raising awareness about the importance of maintaining cleanliness and safeguarding the environment.

Volunteers worked with boatmen and nearby shopkeepers, urging them to maintain plastic-free areas. The collective voice echoed with slogans like "Mitti Bachao, Plastic Hatao, Jeevan ko Khushal Banao." Volunteers also took pledge to minimize the use of plastics in daily activities, marking a commitment towards sustainable living practices.

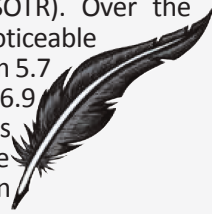
NOTICE

I am Rama Shukla wife of Avadh Narayan Shukla resident of 157/5 Jayantipur Prayagraj. The registry of my land was done on 03/12/2010 in book number 1, volume number 1464, priest number 109 to 138, serial number 5620. It has been lost somewhere. If anyone misuses our registry papers, it will be illegal.

Editorial

The role of state fiscal capacities in national growth

India's economic progress is a composite reflection of the growth trajectories of its states. Given the federal structure of the country, each state operates with a degree of autonomy in implementing policies that drive their individual economies. This results in a broad spectrum of growth rates across states, highlighting significant disparities. For the nation to achieve holistic growth, it is imperative for all states to experience economic advancement. Despite this, there is a notable discrepancy in the attention paid to fiscal matters at different levels of government. The Union Budget, detailing the central government's finances, often garners substantial scrutiny and debate for its potential impacts on the nation's economic direction. In contrast, state budgets, which are crucial for addressing local needs and fostering regional development, do not attract a similar level of public and analytical scrutiny. Fiscal capacity, the government's ability to generate revenue from available tax and non-tax bases, is crucial for several reasons. First, it underpins a government's ability to provide essential public goods and services. These range from healthcare and education to infrastructure and defense, which are fundamental to the welfare of the citizenry and the smooth functioning of the economy. Without adequate fiscal capacity, governments may struggle to maintain these services at levels that meet public demand and expectations, potentially leading to social unrest or a decline in the quality of life. Second, fiscal capacity is vital for economic development and growth. Governments need resources to invest in infrastructure projects like roads, bridges, and digital networks, which are critical for enhancing productivity and competitiveness. Such investments not only improve current living standards, but also set the stage for future economic expansion. The Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) in 2017 and the World Bank in 2015 highlighted the risk of economies falling into a 'middle-income trap' where they are unable to transition to high-income status due to inadequate fiscal capacity among other factors. Moreover, fiscal capacity is essential for macro-economic stability. It allows governments to manage economic cycles more effectively, applying fiscal stimulus in downturns and restraint in booms to maintain economic stability. The Covid-19 pandemic's impact on Indian states underscored this point, as reduced fiscal capacities constrained their ability to respond effectively to the crisis and its economic repercussions. Finally, a robust fiscal capacity enables equitable social development. It allows for redistributive policies that can mitigate income inequality and fund social safety nets for the vulnerable. Studies have shown that factors such as high per capita income, education levels, and low corruption contribute to higher fiscal capacity, which in turn can be used to foster a more inclusive society. Given that state governments account for over 60 per cent of general government expenditure in India, enhancing their revenue-generating capacity is imperative for the needed investment in areas such as education, research and development, and skill development. The Reserve Bank of India recently released a report on state finances, which gives an insight into the state budgets of 2023-24. It has some important findings. First, revenue mobilisation in Indian states comprises both tax and non-tax revenues, with a significant portion coming from state's own tax revenues (SOTR). Over the years, there has been a noticeable increase in SOTR, growing from 5.7 per cent of GDP in 2003-04 to 6.9 per cent in 2022-23. This growth, particularly in the post-GST era, reflects a shift in the composition of tax revenues.



Beyond Politics: Protecting Sanatana Dharma from Misguided Extremism

One of the primary issues of the 2024 national election campaign has become Sanatana Dharma. The BJP accuses the Opposition of insulting Sanatana Dharma. The Opposition rebuts this by saying that the BJP is deliberately politicising the issue, and misleading ordinary voters. Elections will come and go. Political parties will win and lose. But in a country where the overwhelming majority is Hindu, the debate is one of pivotal importance, transcending transient political dividends. It has a bearing on the very nature of Sanatana

Dharma, its evolution, its philosophical wisdom, its inherently eclectic and inclusive character, and all the factors which make it different from Abrahamic faiths. Let me clarify at the outset that I am a proud Hindu. The number of books I have written on the Hindu faith, and the sheer profundity of its thought as well as the remarkable achievements of Hindu civilization which forms the foundational period of our history, bears testimony to this. My real worry, however, is that this acrimonious political wrangling on

Dharma could reduce this great religion to a new level of fundamentalist illiteracy. And such a consequence goes far beyond the immediate political fortunes of expedient politicians. The crux of the matter is: what is Sanatana Dharma? Is it an unchanging monolith? Is it compiled in a single text, like the Bible or Koran, which cannot be transgressed by believers? Is it written in stone, to be interpreted by one Pope or Ayatollah? Or, has it evolved to be what it is precisely because it is none of the above? It is exceptionally significant that in its entire

history, not a single Hindu has been burnt on the stake or killed for blasphemy, as is not uncommon in some other faiths.

What this means is that Sanatana Dharma has allowed for differences of opinion within its fold, including trenchant criticism of some aspects of it, by its own followers. The Hindu faith had not one but six systems of philosophy attempting to understand the truth behind the vast and bewildering plurality of the cosmos. Each of them had a different interpretation.

BJP is dreaming of returning to power by crushing the movements and opposing voices

This time, the first phase of voting for the Lok Sabha elections is to be held on April 19 and the entire BJP lobby including the Modi government at the Center is trying to win more than 400 seats. But it seems that by giving the slogan of 'This time we cross 400', BJP does not want to win so many seats but wants to snatch them. Otherwise, any government would not only get nervous due to so many protests from different sections of the people all over India, but would also try to pacify the angry people and also accept their legitimate demands. But despite opposition on many issues across the country, not only the Modi government at the Center and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, but even a single BJP worker is not ready to bow down. Not only this, the Modi government at the Center is eager to come to power at the Center for the third time by crushing every protest, every movement and every person who opposes its policies like an intoxicated elephant. In fact, if we look at the two tenures of the Modi government at the Center in the last 10 years, we find that it has not refrained from crushing any movement, any protest or any opposition. Be it the movement by ex-servicemen demanding One Rank One Pension, be it the movement of farmers, be it the



movement of the country's daughters and women wrestlers, or any demonstration by unemployed youth demanding jobs, be it the movement of women employees of Anganwadi centres, or the protests against EVM Tehelka, or the movements in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh to the North-Eastern states. In this way, if we look at the last 10 years of the tenure of the Modi government at the Center, about twenty types of movements took place at various places; But most of the movements were either crushed badly by this government which suppressed democracy or they were suppressed to such an extent that their voice could not reach the country and abroad. The remaining work in ending these movements was done by a special group of Modiya and those people who have got contracts for various odd jobs in the country. However, if we look

at the movements going on in the country in the last 10-12 years, then first of all we have to look at the protests that took place across the country against the Anna movement and the Nirbhaya incident, due to which the UPA central government was ousted. However, the UPA central government of that time also tried to crush both types of movements; But not to the extent that the Modi government at the Center has done anything to crush all the movements. If we talk about the time after Prime Minister Narendra Modi came to power at the Center, then the Patel movement of Gujarat, Maratha movement of Maharashtra, farmers movement of Maharashtra, farmers movement of Tamil Nadu, Anganwadi movement, teachers' movements in different states.

Apart from the movement of unemployed youth and the movement of

women wrestlers, all the farmers' movements across the country and the farmers' movement that started in the year 2020 have been crushed by the Modi government at the Center and the BJP state governments. Their demands and problems have been ignored. And the agitators and protesters have been kicked and water cannons have been used. In the first farmer movement against the three agricultural laws, an attempt was made to end the movement by putting all kinds of pressure on the farmers, and this time, when the central government did not fulfill its promises, the farmers decided to march to Delhi. So the attack on them was intensified. Attempts were made to harm them in every possible way, which again led to the martyrdom of 16 farmers. There is still a ban on farmers coming to Delhi as if they are not food providers but terrorists. Recently, Section 144 was imposed in Delhi for more than a month to stop the farmers and even today Section 144 is applicable at some protest sites in Delhi. For example, after the protest by women wrestlers was crushed at Jantar Mantar, Section 144 is still in force and no victim can sit there and raise his voice. Recently, regarding crushing the farmers' movement, Rajasthan's Jat leader Hanuman Prasad Beniwal

wrote on Twitter handle '@narendramodi ji, the way he arrogantly wrote on India is!

Let me remind you that you did not fulfill the promise made to the farmers during the farmers' movement. Therefore, the step to agitate again for the farmers and their rights was forced to be taken. On one hand you say that violence has no place in democracy. Farmers are being shelled at the behest of the other government, keeping in mind the current situation after the Rashtriya Lok Dal, which fought for the farmers of Western UP, joined hands with the BJP, it is your utmost responsibility to Take cognizance yourself and agree to the demands of the farmers! L

Leader of the main opposition Congress, Rahul Gandhi has spoken many times about suppressing the voice of the people by the Modi government at the Centre. Fearless and impartial journalists and intellectuals of similar nature are also unhappy with this attitude of the government.

Experts and scholars belonging to the rural context are also continuously opposing the policies of the government.

But the government does not care about all this. In fact, now even the police pick up people sitting in any protest and put them in jail, even if.

Why China Blocks the Dalai Lama's Sri Lanka Visit

China has been blocking His Holiness the Dalai Lama's visits to Sri Lanka. Recently, a renowned Sri Lankan Buddhist monk revealed this in a media interview. When asked about China's view on the Dalai Lama, the most venerable Dr. W a s k u d u w e Mahindawansa said, "We respect him and invited him to Sri Lanka, but China did not like that. China pressed against our government as well, we don't like that. He is a Buddhist leader, he has freedom, and we have the freedom to invite." This incident wasn't an exception; China has been blocking His Holiness the Dalai Lama's visits to Sri Lanka since 2015. In fact, China has never shied away from expressing its displeas-

ure whenever the Dalai Lama moves from one place to another or meets any person of repute. For China, the Dalai Lama, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989, is a 'separatist'. China has even called him 'wolf in monk's robes'. Why does a benevolent exiled leader agitate an aspiring superpower so much? The answer lies in the complex history of Tibet and the Chinese subjugation of the same over the last 70 years Tibet lies in the confluence of Central, South and East Asia. It has a recorded history dating back to 602 AD when Namri Songsten became the first king of Tibet, uniting the central Tibetan states. There are records of conflict between China and Tibet, which was ended by the China-

Tibet Peace Treaty 821 AD. The treaty famously mentions, "Tibetans shall be happy in Tibet, and Chinese shall be happy in China." After more than 700 years, China and Tibet both sustained subsequent Mongol invasions. In the latter half of the 16th century, Altan Khan, the Mongol ruler, gave the title of Dalai Lama to Sonam Gyatso, leader of the Gelugpa school of Buddhism. In return, the Dalai Lama decreed that Altan Khan be reincarnated as Kublai Khan, which gave legitimacy to his rule. This event marks the founding of modern Tibet. For the next two hundred years Chinese tried to take hold of Tibet but could not succeed, and their influence declined in the first half of the 20th century.

Iran-Israel conflict will now be shaped by 3H—Houthis, Hamas, Hezbollah

"Unprecedented" is the adjective used in almost every global newspaper's description of Iran's retaliatory attack against Israel on 14 April, which the Benjamin Netanyahu government responded militarily by firing missiles at an Iranian airbase in Isfahan Friday morning. Iran's counter-attack last week wasn't exactly unpredictable—Tehran made it pretty clear it would respond to a suspected Israeli attack on its consulate in Syria on 1 April that killed two of its senior military commanders. It named its operation "True Promise", reflecting its vow to punish those who attacked its diplomatic mission. But the barrage of Iranian drones and missiles—approximately 300—had no precedent. Neither did the suspected Israeli strike near an Iranian military base that followed. It was the first time, after 45 years of an icy shadow war, that we saw a direct confrontation between the regional archenemies. And that is why the new arc of violence in the Israel-Iran conflict, now marked by direct confrontation, is ThePrint's Newsmaker of the Week. Some view Iran as dealing the first hand or lighting the first match. But certain analysts suggest Tehran's calculation involved not just send-

ing a message to Israel but also to its own proxies in the region. Sanam Vakil, Director of the Middle East and North Africa programme at the Chatham House think tank, told The Guardian: "Iran's calculation was that if [it] didn't respond, Israel will keep trying to push back and degrade the axis of resistance across the region. This was about reinforcing its red lines and some measure of deterrence." For five days, the world waited with bated breath for Israel's response. The German and British foreign ministers flew into Israel earlier this week in efforts to prevent an escalation of the conflict, but it was clear that Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu was going to strike back. It was just a matter of when and how. By launching direct attacks on each other's soil after decades of covert operations, cyber attacks and proxy wars, Israel and Iran have diverted from longstanding foreign policy strategies. On the one hand, Iran had always followed a policy of "strategic patience", which involves proping up proxy forces in the Middle East to fight off Israel and its Western allies, while also projecting power in the region. Hezbollah in Lebanon is

a prime example of this. In 1982, when Israel invaded Lebanon to expel the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) sent in what was known as the "Prophet Mohammad Corps" to Syria, which was then sent to Lebanon to fight against Israeli forces. This was the birth of Hezbollah. "The Islamic Republic is a survivalist regime," explains Arman Mahmoudian, a lecturer of Russian and Middle Eastern Studies and a PhD candidate in politics and international affairs at the University of South Florida, in an article for Gulf International Forum.

"Hezbollah's foundational purpose raises the question: why has the militant group thus far avoided confrontation? The brief answer is that Hezbollah is too valuable an asset to be deployed recklessly," he adds. By launching 300 drones and missiles into Israel, Tehran effectively abandoned this policy and any previous reluctance it had in attacking Israel directly. Similarly, Israel seems to have diverted from its "reverse periphery doctrine". Previously, under Israel's first prime minister David Ben-Gurion, Israel followed the "periphery doctrine" in a bid to end its isolation in the Middle East.

CEIB pushes private bank required clearance, threatening loans

Delhi: The Central Economic Intelligence Bureau has written to the finance ministry's department of financial services to require all private banks to obtain CEIB clearance, as with government banks, before lending to a company with an enforcement case. Businesses under investigation by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) or Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) or Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) may find it difficult to obtain loans once CEIB's report becomes mandatory. The existing 'antecedent verification report', confined to public sector banks, gives financial institutions timely CEIB information to assess and mitigate risk and conduct complete due diligence against fraud. CEIB generated almost 6,000 antecedent studies for banks seeking approval for high-value loans in 2022-23.



These loan proposals totaled around Rs 39 lakh crore. In FY 2021-22, 1,300 loan applications totaled Rs 4.5 lakh crore. Before making large loans, government banks need CEIB approval. Before publishing reports on economic offenders, CEIB thoroughly checks data. These reports are for banks' risk assessment and decision-making alone.

Even if an entity is under investigation, banks can grant or deny loans. NPAs or entities facing fraud or money laundering investigations are under observation.

Sources said these reports use the bureau's rich economic offenses database. Over 18 enforcement agencies are uploading case data and FIR details to CEIB's economic offence database, which will soon be renamed the National Economic Offence Record, in real time using an online application. In another proposal, CEIB may issue a unique code for each economic offender or company. The 'Unique Economic Offender Code' will be connected to an individual's Aadhaar number or a company's PAN.

Green Apple invests in Indian solar projects

Delhi: Apple is producing billions of dollars in India through factories and is also becoming green. The company, which is expected to earn \$14 billion in India this year, is going green with renewable solar energy projects. Apple has partnered with CleanMax to invest in six rooftop solar projects totaling 14.4 megawatts to support its growing corporate operations in India. Apple noted in its sustainability announcement that the new capacity powers its headquarters, two retail locations, and other operations in India locally. The company stated it promotes water security



in Telangana and Maharashtra where its operation is. Manufacturing supply chain collaboration creates long-term collaborations to restore ecosystems, solve community water requirements, and improve watershed climate resilience. Apple has begun fresh water replenishment in Northern and Southern California, Arizona's

Colorado River Basin, and Telangana and Maharashtra, where water impacts are seen locally. Apple is using innovative methods and long-term contracts to save and benefit entire watersheds, similar to its renewable energy buying strategy. Since 2023, Apple has invested \$8 million in high-stress watersheds to replenish freshwater.

Tata Sons requests RBI IPO waiver after debt reduction

Delhi: Tata Sons has asked RBI for an exemption from a mandated IPO a month after raising over Rs 9,000 crore from TCS stake sale. The \$150-billion salt-to-software Tata Group's holding firm told RBI in the new proposal that it has cut its debt significantly. Tata Sons must eliminate its debt to avoid RBI

classification as a 'upper layer' NBFC. Tata Sons' FY23 report shows Rs 21,909 crore in debt and Rs 451 crore in cash and bank balances. Last year's debt statistics improved dramatically. Tata Sons sold TCS shares last month to pay off foreign and domestic creditors, raising Rs 9,362 crore (\$1.1 bil-

lion). Tata Sons declined to comment, while RBI didn't react to TOI's email until press time. Tata Sons, a CIC registered with the RBI, must be listed by September 2025. Tata Trusts, a group of public charities, controls the corporation, which is considering avoiding the IPO. A firm must have public

CAPSULES

Vishal Mega Mart selects ICICI and Kotak for a massive IPO

Delhi: According to persons acquainted with the situation, Indian grocery chain Vishal Mega Mart Pvt has chosen banks as it moves forward with a planned IPO in Mumbai this year. These individuals, who wished to remain anonymous due to the confidentiality of the discussions, stated that Vishal Mega Mart selected Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd and ICICI Bank Ltd to assist in setting up a share sale as early as the fourth quarter of this year. According to the persons, Partners Group Holding AG and Kedaara Capital, two private equity firms that hold it, would be able to reduce their ownership stakes through the IPO. The people claimed that other banks will probably be brought on board to work on the IPO. According to them, the Gurugram-based business might raise anywhere from \$850 million and \$1 billion through the IPO. Partners Group, Kotak, ICICI, and Vishal Mega Mart did not immediately respond to requests for comment made outside of business hours, while a spokesman for Kedaara declined to comment. In 2018, investment firm TPG Capital sold Vishal Mega Mart to Switzerland-based Partners Group and India-focused private equity firm Kedaara for an undisclosed sum. Food and groceries, fashion and general products, and private labels are all available at Vishal Mega Mart. Because of its potential for expansion, India has become a burgeoning market for deals, especially initial public offerings (IPOs).

Adani Group will buy My Home's TN cement business for 414cr

Delhi: Ambuja Cements, owned by Adani Group, agreed to buy My Home Group's cement grinding mill in Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu. The 1.5-MTPA cement grinding machine was acquired for Rs 413.75 crore. Ambuja Cements told the stock exchange it will use internal accruals to acquire. Ambuja will increase its southern Tamil Nadu and Kerala coastal presence with the acquisition. The Adani Group now has 78.9% of cement capacity after this acquisition. "We are pleased to announce this acquisition, strengthening our regional presence," stated Adani



Group CEO Cement Business Ajay Kapur. "In addition to the infrastructure and geographical advantages, Ambuja Cements will also inherit the existing dealer network and retain current

employees, facilitating a smooth transition and enabling the rapid ramp-up of utilisation." Ambuja Cements will use its coastal position and marine infrastructure and equipment to

Zomato doubles its platform charge to Rs 5 in a year

Delhi: Based on information found on the company app, Zomato has raised its platform fees—a cost charged to consumers as part of food delivery orders—to Rs 5. Zomato did not answer any questions. Businesses are taking advan-

operate efficiently and produce high-quality products. The Tuticorin unit, on 61 acres near the port, has a long-term fly ash supply deal. Ambuja Cements gains southern market access and a dealer and employee.

Apple may hire 5 lakh Indians in 3 years



Delhi: Government sources expect Apple and its vendors to employ over 5 lakh Indians over the next three years. Apple's distributors and suppliers employ 1.5 lakh Indians. Tata Electronics, which operates two Apple plants, creates the most jobs. "Apple is employing more in India. Its vendors and components suppliers will employ five lakh people in the next three years, conservatively," a senior government officer told PTI. Apple would not comment on the forecast.

Apple wants to increase Indian output by five-fold to USD 40 billion (approximately 3.32 lakh crore) in 4-5 years. Counterpoint Research reported that Apple dominated the India market in revenue for the first time in 2023, while Samsung led in volume sales. The company reported that Apple surpassed

10 million units in shipments and topped revenue in a calendar year for the first time. According to commercial intelligence platform The Vision, Apple's iPhone shipments from India increased nearly 100% to USD 12.1 billion in 2023-24 from USD 6.27 billion in 2022-23.

Over 10% of Tesla Workers Will Be Fired

Delhi: Tesla announced it would lay off more than 10% of its workforce to cut costs and two top executives left, indicating upheaval. The corporation lost 14,000 jobs amid rising competition and falling sales. At a crucial time for Tesla, Elon Musk's managerial moves and layoffs demonstrate his unpredictability. Musk has not detailed a plan to reverse a loss in car sales, and he appears focused on long-shot endeavors like a self-driving taxi rather than new models that might help Tesla compete with established carmakers and Chinese rivals.



"As we prepare the company for the next phase of growth, it is extremely important to look at every aspect of the company for cost reductions and increasing pro-

ductivity," Musk said in an email reviewed by The New York Times. "There is nothing I hate more, but it must be done," said Drew Baglino, a senior vice president who helped the company grow from startup to electric car leader, quit hours after the email. "I made the difficult decision to move on from Tesla after 18 years yesterday," Mr. Baglino wrote on X. Mr. Baglino is one of

three managers identified as top executives on the company's website besides Musk. "Someone has to take the fall for the sharp deceleration in deliveries growth, near record inventories, and declining margins and it wasn't going to be Elon," he said on X. Tesla also appeared to lose an executive vital to self-driving technology regulatory approval. Former Obama adviser Rohan Patel.

Apple pulls WhatsApp, Threads from China App Store

Delhi: The Chinese government ordered Apple to ban WhatsApp and Threads from its Chinese App Store for "national security" reasons. Apple said the Cyberspace Administration of China, which governs and censors China's severely limited internet and online content, ordered it to remove the two Meta apps. Meta owns Facebook. VPNs allow people to access WhatsApp and other foreign apps and websites even while China's Great Firewall prohibits them. If their iCloud accounts are outside China, Chinese Apple users can download WhatsApp and Threads. China's Communist party tightens internet control by censoring critical social media topics and monitoring



conversations. It advocated regulations to limit kids' online time. It was unclear what the administration's national security worries were. WhatsApp and Threads were removed before a US legislative vote on a bill that would require ByteDance to sell TikTok or be banned from the US market. Lawmakers have pushed to prohibit TikTok or transfer it from Chinese control, citing national security worries about China's impact on the American public and data retention.

HDFC Bank CEO tells investors transformation will bring rewards

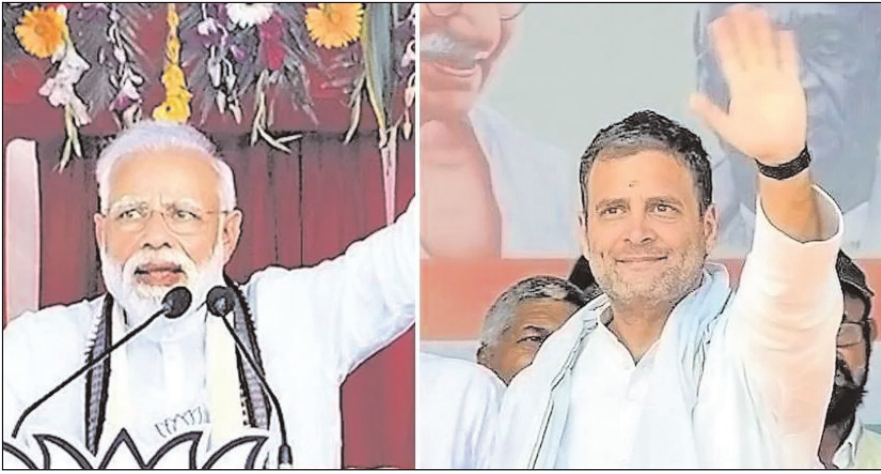
Delhi: HDFC Bank CEO Sashidhar Jagdishan has asked investors to be patient during the bank's transition. He compared it to Mumbai's coastline road and promised benefits after the transition. Jagdishan remarked in an investor call after the bank's results that the firm wanted to sustain its deposit franchise. He noted that when faced with unreasonable pricing, like in the fourth quarter, the bank will slow down rather than use pricing to gain market share.

Paytm approved for UPI ID migration



Delhi: The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has permitted Paytm operator One97 Communications (OCL) to begin customer migration to a new PSP the bank controls. SBI, Axis, HDFC, and YES Bank will be Paytm's PSPs. Paytm users will need permission to use a new UPI ID with one of the four banks' UPI handles. Paytm may urge you to change your '@paytm' handle to a UPI handle linked to one of the banks listed (such as yourname@axis). Bank selection is available. This shouldn't affect UPI payments. Paytm will continue to transfer and receive money. This modification lets Paytm offer UPI services. A UPI handle update prompt may appear soon. To ensure uninterrupted UPI payments for customers and merchants, Paytm will transition users from its Paytm Payment Bank to Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, SBI, and YES Bank. Users with @paytm handles will migrate first. Users can continue offering UPI through partner banks with NPCI clearance. The Paytm app will let them make UPI payments from their bank accounts. Create bank-specific VPAs: Paytm now lets users set up VPAs with SBI, Axis, HDFC, and YES Bank. Your new VPA may be yourname@sbi or yourname@axis, depending on the bank.

PM Modi, Rahul Gandhi escalate Lok Sabha fight day after phase 1



Delhi: Senior leaders across the political spectrum stepped up their campaigning a day after over 100 million people voted across 21 states in the first phase of the Lok Sabha elections. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the Congress has accepted defeat, while former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi accused the BJP-RSS of threatening democracy. Modi told a gathering in Nanded, Maharashtra, for Nanded and Hingoli Lok Sabha candidates

that the Congress is a hindrance to development and cannot be trusted to advance the nation. The Parbhani public meeting was also his. The PM called Gandhi "Congress's shehzade" and predicted he will lose Wayanad like he did Amethi in 2019. The Congress's shehzada sees a Wayanad issue. Gandhi is running for a second term in Wayanad against Communist Party of India's Annie Raja and NDA's K Surendran in the second phase on April

26. They're not campaigning. Congress can't find candidates either "No leader was named. He added the INDIA bloc lacks a face the people can trust with their future. He said Congress leaders have conceded loss before polls, notwithstanding their claims. "After June 4, INDIA bloc members will fight like hell. "Teach them a lesson in elections," Modi said, adding that INDIA bloc parties are competing for 25% of Lok Sabha seats.

AAP establishes Ram Rajya website

Delhi: The Aam Aadmi Party launched "AAP ka Ram Rajya" website before the Lok Sabha elections to exhibit its Delhi and Punjab governments' work that they compare to "Ram Rajya". At a joint press conference, AAP officials invited voters to visit the website and evaluate their governments' performance. They said chief minister Arvind Kejriwal had built good schools, mohalla clinics, free water and electricity, and free bus rides for women in the last 10 years to realize "Ram Rajya" and that the Bhagwant Mann government had done similar work in Punjab in the last



two years. In March, the Delhi AAP government invoked Lord Ram to submit its budget in the Delhi Assembly, declaring "Ram Rajya" impact of its policies. On Ram Navami, aapkaramrajya.com launched. Sanjay Singh, a senior AAP Rajya Sabha member, said the world was learning from Kejriwal and the AAP during the event. In the past, people said "learn from America," but today the US President's wife wants Arvind

Kejriwal to build schools. He remarked, "Now, Americans learn from Kejriwal's work," referring to Melania Trump's 2020 visit to a Delhi government school. The website and its YouTube channel feature AAP government projects and policies in Delhi and Punjab and people's favorable feedback. In Arvind Kejriwal's 'Ram Rajya', no one is big or small and everyone works for the common good.

Congress names 3 LS and 16 assembly Odisha candidates

Delhi: The All India Congress Committee (AICC) named Odisha candidates for 16 assembly seats and three parliamentary constituencies. The party, which had announced 17 Lok Sabha candidates, added two new names and modified one con-

stituency's candidate. The party named Dulal Chandra Pradhan for Sambalpur Lok Sabha, where Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan is running for the BJP and Pranab Prakash Das for the BJD. Debakanta Sharma was nominated for Aska Lok Sabha, while

Binod Bihari Nayak replaced Mohan Hembram in Keonjhar. The party announced 16 assembly constituency candidates and Lok Sabha nominees. Sipra Malliack for Kendrapara Sonali Sahoo, a BJP convert to Congress, was nominated for Khurda.

CAPSULES

Nitish Kumar criticizes Lalu for dynastic politics

Delhi: In reference to Prasad's huge family, the Bihar CM questioned the need for so many children and said that after boosting his sons, his girls should enter politics. At an election rally in Katihar, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar criticized RJD president



Lalu Prasad for pushing his family in politics. Kumar's statements seemed to target Prasad's political dynasty, including his wife Rabri Devi and son Tejashwi Yadav, who have held high-profile political posts. In reference to Prasad's huge family, the Bihar CM questioned the need for so many children and said that after boosting his sons, his girls should enter politics. The state had no roads and no development by RJD. Growth began after I became CM "Kumar stated. Tejashwi Yadav told Patna media, "With folded hands, I say Nitish can say whatever he wants. Respect him and call him my guardian. I always pray for his health. However, would personal attacks help in the Lok Sabha elections? Personal attacks—what will Bihar's people gain? This is not a family conflict." Why doesn't he mention Bihar's special package and status? Why is he mute on improving health and education? What about giving state kids government jobs?" Yadav said Misa Bharti, Lalu Prasad's daughter and RJD leader, stated, "What can I say about Chacha Ji (Nitish)'s comment? He knew this while the JD(U) was in Bihar's 'grand alliance'.

Voters get handmade presents and selfie points in Noida, Greater Noida model booths

Delhi: Nearly 15 model polling booths are at schools and colleges in Noida and Greater Noida, and educational institutions are using unique methods to make voting day fun. Of the 51 model polling booths in the district, 15 are in educational institutions, according to Atul Kumar, additional district magistrate. Model polling booths will be installed in eight Noida schools and two Dadri schools and one university. In Jewar, four schools will have model stalls. Kumar said educational institution workers



and management are making voting day unique. Sharda University officials in Knowledge Park-3, Greater Noida, said international students will greet and assist voters on election day. The university has

picked 27 international students to help voters at replica polling stations on campus since Indian students will vote at home. "By being closely associated with the elections, the international students, who are mostly

from central Asia, Africa and Europe, will get a first-hand experience of voting day in the biggest democracy in the world," stated. Noida, will give first-time voters red flowers and 'I Voted' badges. Our pupils prepare to support the electoral management team when the school becomes an election booth. "We are having students make "I Voted" badges and a "Proud Voter" selfie point where voters can take pictures," Tricolor balloons and banners will beautify the school.

Akhilesh promises 'wind of change from West UP'

Delhi: At a joint gathering of the opposition INDIA bloc in Amroha Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi attacked the ruling BJP and articulated their agenda. Akhilesh Yadav told fans, "The winds of change emerging from western UP will sweep across the nation, ushering in a transformation that will not only reshape Uttar Pradesh but will also sweep the BJP out of power." He criticized the BJP's failure to improve farmers' livelihoods and reduce unemployment. "BJP's first-day display yesterday was a disaster. Their deception film failed."



BSP MP Danish Ali, who joined Congress, was supported at the event. Did any farmer quadruple his income? Youth unemployed. BJP's traditional voters are rallying against it. They hold panchayats and vote against the BJP. I applaud their political awakening against the BJP "Yadav referenced western Uttar Pradesh's 'Kshatriya dissatisfaction'

Recent caste Mahapanchayat in Muzaffarnagar protested BJP ticket allotment that underrepresented Thakurs. Respect for communal heroes like Raja Mihir Bhoj was also questioned. Yadav reiterated the opposition's claim that the BJP wanted a two-thirds majority in Lok Sabha elections to rewrite the Constitution. , saying, "We want Dr.

BJD 'Doubles Down' on Odisha Assembly Polls

Delhi: Naveen Patnaik, seeking a sixth term, will run in two assembly constituencies. These constituencies are Hinjili in southern Odisha's Ganjam district and Kantabanji in western Odisha's Balangir district. The Biju Janata Dal's 2019 strategy saw the chief minister contest from two assembly constituencies: his hometown Hinjili and Bijepur in western Odisha's Bargarh district. In a video message, CM Patnaik announced the BJD's fifth list candidates, including his own, with a 'namaskar' and 'juhar' to greet western.

Feedback focuses on pollution and infrastructure: BJP

Delhi: In its Delhi-specific manifesto consultation, BJP has received over 15,000 public proposals. Prior to the Lok Sabha elections, the party's campaign last month sought public opinion on Viksit Bharat. A Delhi vision document from the BJP is expected in the first week of May after analyzing the ideas. Sources in the party claimed the ideas include reducing pollution and improving road and metro infrastructure. The most common accusations were about registering illegal colonies and shutting local shopping centers. On March 1, 4.75 lakh unlicensed colonies applied to the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) for PM Uday Yojana house ownership rights. 22,034 conveyance deeds and authorisation papers have been



granted, whereas 56,306 have been disposed of. Officials said the remaining applications are in various stages. DDA said it had taken recent steps to encourage approximately 40 lakh individuals living in 12.5 lakh unauthorised colonies to join the four-year-old plan. But the numbers aren't good. Residents reported attaching a power of attorney was difficult. They argued the system guarantees ownership rights but lacks recreation places and parks. Another issue was about local malls being sealed. Over six years, a moni-

toring committee shuttered thousands of properties in the national capital. Until last year, 5,639 properties were closed. After a judicial committee ordered de-sealing, the civic body appealed to the Supreme Court, claiming revenue loss. They proposed more city flyovers and expressways. People also urged the Delhi government to manage pollution more strictly. A BJP official said 30% of complaints were over civic concerns like overflowing drains, substandard neighborhood roads, or inconsistent water supplies..

Local representation for small traders in Jammu's development effort in Election

Delhi: The Jammu region is bustling with central government infrastructure and education projects ahead of the Lok Sabha elections. After fulfilling promises to establish prominent institutions like IIT and IIM, the central government has pledged a 32,000 crore infrastructural drive to modernize the region. In laying the foundation stone for the new Jammu airport terminal, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stressed the need for a well-developed, connected, and educated Jammu. Sankalp of 'Viksit Jammu & Kashmir' was taken. I believe in you and know we will create Jammu & Kashmir 'viksit' "Prime Minister Modi



summed up the government's aim for the region. Local companies worry about Jammu's conventional markets despite these massive infrastructure investments. President of the Apsara Road Traders Association Anil Kohli decried the lack of attention to underground wiring, water problems, and traffic management. To help traders and

shoppers, he advocated for more accessibility and local representation. A lack of state government and local representation has hurt small enterprises in Raghunath Bazaar, Gandhi Nagar, and Apsara Road marketplaces. Local shopkeeper Indu Bhushan Sharma said elected locals would better understand and handle community concerns than officials.

NHAI Is Seeking to Raise Rs. 45,000 Crore by Selling 33 Projects

Delhi: The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has revealed its intentions to raise Rs 45,000 crore in the current fiscal year by selling off 33 of its projects. This goal represents a noteworthy rise of about 12% over the numbers from the prior year. The projects that have been identified have a total length.

Subhash Chopra is named head of the poll committee by Cong

Delhi: Deepak Babaria, the Congress's Delhi in-charge, declared that former MLA Subhash Chopra will serve as the head of the party's election management and coordination committee for the Delhi Lok Sabha elections. Chopra will serve as the chairman of an 18-person group that will manage the poll campaigns. Delhi Congress head Arvinder Singh Lovely stated, "Subhash Chopra has considerable experience in planning for parliamentary elections, and his experience will be hugely beneficial in managing the Lok Sabha elections in Delhi." Under the direction of Prasad Harichandan, the TNNC Congress forms a 26-person committee for the Odisha elections, with a focus on dissident management, candidate coordination, and strategy planning. AICC wants to use influential people to help run a successful campaign.

1.7L Can Vote From Home

Delhi: By May 3, Delhi residents 85 and older and disabled can register to vote from home. Officials say booth-level officers across the city have been given the list of qualified voters who can vote on ballot papers from home. Form 12D will be filled out to register for the facility starting April 29, the date of the Delhi notification, and lasting five days, or until May 3. "BLOs are informing eligible persons of the facility and obtaining consent to use it. An official stated they can fill out the form after the election announcement. "The persons with disabilities can also register themselves through the Election Commission's 'Saksham' mobile application," he said. The Election Commission reports 1,69,740 registered Delhi voters who can use this option. There are 96,646 85-year-old registered voters. According to the official election roster issued on Jan. 22, 71,794 people with 40% impairments have registered. The facility will be offered



to qualified Lok Sabha voters for the first time. In October 2019, the Union ministry of law and justice changed the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 on the Election Commission's advice, allowing seniors over 80 and disabled people to vote via postal ballot in the 2020 Delhi assembly elections. Nearly 3,000 chose the facility. The EC considers home voting a progressive tool to empower voters who face impediments to voting at polling places. BLOs retrieve Form 12D from the elector's home after completing the proper paperwork, officials said. The list of electors will be given to candidates for accountability and transparency. A representative can accompany poll officials to observe the process if they choose. The bal-

Actual: 20,552 illegal borewells in Delhi

Delhi: In its report to the National Green Tribunal (NGT), the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) found 20,552 unlawful borewells in Delhi, 11,197 of which had been sealed and 8,178 still need to be addressed. Delhi has the most unlawful borewells—9,128—and DJB sealed 5,901..

lot papers will be printed immediately after nominations, submission, examination, and withdrawal. Nearly a week before May 26, eligible electors can vote. Voters will also receive SMS reminders on when their home voting facility will be active and when the election staff will visit.

25m high rail road to cross Barapullah in Delhi for RRTS train



Delhi: The National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) will finish a 260-metre-long special span on a viaduct or railroad at 25 meters, the second highest point on the Regional Rapid Rail Transit (RRTS) line, by month's end. The highest point in the 82-kilometer track between Delhi and Meerut is

Ghaziabad RRTS station, erected 28 meters above the Delhi Metro Red Line station. Dhaura Kuan station on the pink line is the highest point on the Delhi Metro in the Capital at 23.6 meters. "The Ring Road and Barapullah flyover are heavily trafficked. This crossing required a customized span to minimize traffic disruption.

Prefabricated buildings are preferred for heavy construction. However, installing a prefabricated structure over Barapullah may have delayed vehicle travel. We built the railroad span in-situ over the flyover instead of pre-fabricating them "An NCRTC official explained why the railroad span was unique.

MCD plantation in Delhi would have flowering and fruiting trees

Delhi: Senior municipal officials said the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) will plant flowering and fruiting trees as part of its annual plantation effort to boost biodiversity in the Capital. MCD, which manages 15,226 neighbourhood parks and

12,700km of roads in Delhi, will plant 619,000 plants this year, up 18% from 525,000 last year. Delhi's regular plantation initiatives increase greenery, especially during the monsoon. These annual drives are coordinated by the forest service. MCD, New Delhi Municipal

Council, Delhi Development Authority, Public Works Department, power discoms, and education department conduct these drives. According to New Delhi forest department directions issued over the past year.

HKV eateries closed for noise pollution

Delhi: The Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) sealed three restaurants in south Delhi's Hauz Khas area for operating without a CTO license and fined them Rs 30 lakh. DPCC reported to the National Green Tribunal (NGT) that Hauz Khas village restaurants, pubs, and cafes were holding live music events on rooftops with loudspeakers and other sound equipment, producing noise pollution. The committee listed 31 inspected businesses, three of which were sealed. The submission



came after a Hauz Khas village resident addressed the tribunal in April last year and again earlier this year, stating that pub noise pollution continued despite the NGT's orders. DPCC informed the tribunal that three

restaurants, pubs, etc. were sealed on April 6 due to licensing violations. The local SDM reported that three units against whom the DPCC issued closure directives under section 33(A) of the Water Act, 1974 and 31(A) of the

Air Act, 1981 were sealed on April 6. A combined committee identified these three units functioning without CTO during earlier inspections "DPCC report, April 16. It stated that BSES and Delhi Jal Board reports on water and electricity stoppage were anticipated. DPCC and the sub-divisional magistrate (Hauz Khas) inspected the area in December and found 10 restaurants violating noise standards. They were fined Rs 10,000 apiece under the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000.

Illegal settlements on Yamuna continue to dump sewage

Delhi: Delhi's environment department informed the National Green Tribunal that 186 unauthorised colonies in Zone O of the Yamuna floodplains have not received no-objection certificates from landowning agencies to build sewage lines to treatment plants, causing discharge into the river. The government said it was working hard to speed things up. The Delhi chief secretary submitted that 472 colonies were not connected to a sewage treatment plant. 206 colonies are under con-



struction with a December 2025 deadline, however 161 are still unfinished. "311 of 472 illegal colonies will have decentralized STPs or sewerage networks. It stated that the forest department, ASI, and DDA had yet to issue NOC for 161 unauthorized colonies. A

December 2022 NGT plea addressed illegal sewage dumping in Vasant Kunj drains. The tribunal investigated sewage entrapment and government efforts to stop illicit dumping. The submission said that creating connections was often impossible and that work would be

completed in 18 months after acquiring the NOC. Delhi generates 792 MGD of sewage, but its STPs can only handle 632 MGD. Only 550 MGD is treated, leaving roughly 250 MGD untreated. Unauthorized colonies, which lack a sewer network, dump untreated sewage in the open or use septic tanks that are emptied by vehicles and tankers into drains, eventually reaching the Yamuna. Trucks unlawfully dumping sewage were fined 17.19 lakh and 63 vehicles seized, according to the petition.

RWA cell meeting was organized by BJP Delhi Pradesh

Delhi: An organizational meeting was organized by the Delhi State RWA Cell as per the instructions of Bharatiya Janata Party's Delhi State President Virendra Sachdeva at the BJP office located on Pandit Pant Marg in Connaught Place, Delhi. This meeting was organized under the leadership of RWA cell president Shivani Ahuja. On this occasion, RWA National President Mahendra Nagpal and BJP All Cell President Ashok Thakur from Bharatiya Janata Party participated. Many members including Ashish Mittal contributed immensely in this program. On this occasion, RWA officials and BJP workers from all areas of Delhi were present. All the guests were honored on this occasion. In this meeting every-

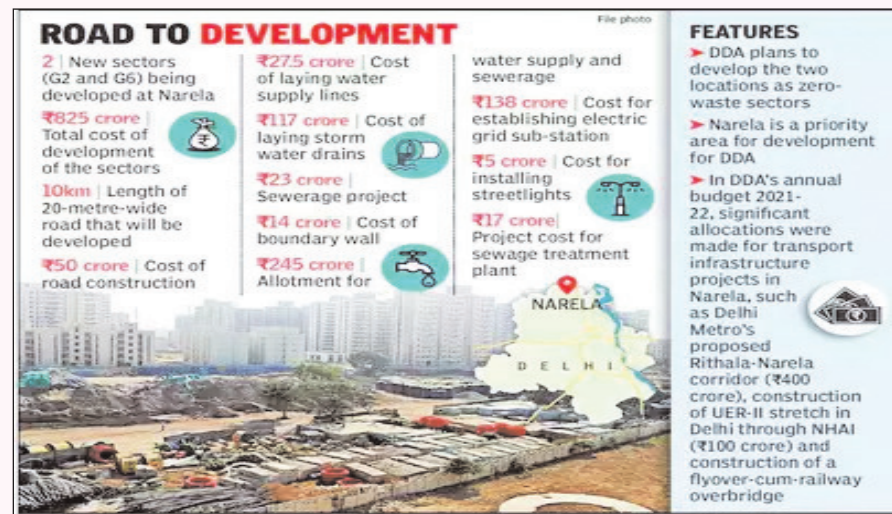


one resolved all the problems in RWAs and gave their feedback on the upcoming

Lok Sabha elections and also supported the Modi government.

Delhi : The Delhi Development Authority has chosen to carry out road building and repair work in order to enhance connection to the future apartments and inventory that has already been sold in Narela. The long-standing demand from the locals led to the decision. According to officials, the current policy is for building a single road that faces the housing units (mainly forthcoming). Its goal is to make excavating for installing subterranean service lines easier. But the majority of the housing developments are now finished, and the subterranean utilities have been installed. As a result, it was decided to carpet the entire highway, and a design was created accordingly. In certain

DDA roads in Narela will be renovated



sectors, work has already begun, and in others, the tendering procedure is in progress," an official stated. By the end of this year, the authority hopes to have all of Narela's roadways covered, including those that face the forthcoming areas. "We aim to eventually cover all roads in the A1-A4 and A1-A10 sectors in the Narela area," said the offi-

cial. In order to guarantee the smooth and safe operation of vehicles on the highways, plans are also in place to install or replace power poles. "The organization given the task of laying these roads will be in charge of maintenance and upkeep for an additional year after that. Furthermore, we'll make sure that no damage or excavation

is done to these roadways without first obtaining consent from the service providers. The official stated, "We have written to other agencies to begin sanitation work and to lay water and sewer lines." The authorities have so far committed to fixing about 50 kilometers of road with complete carriageway development.

After 15 years, MCD intends to carry out a stray dog census in every zone

Delhi: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) is putting up a new strategy to scan stray dogs in all 12 zones, following a 15-year lapse. After the plan is finalized, we will begin the process of producing the tender document," an official stated. According to him, there has probably been a significant increase in the number of stray dogs since 2009, which calls for a new survey. The source noted that MCD expects the census will aid in verifying the number of stray people and expediting the sterilization procedure. The number of dog bite instances reported this year, from January 1 to March 31, was at least 17,859. Twenty of MCD's twenty-one animal birth control centers are now undergoing immunization and sterilization. The local authority declared that "at least 11 centers are operated by NGOs/private veterinary doctors."

The group of student district took a stand against a teacher

NEW DELHI: The group of students at a primary school in Chhattisgarh's Bastar district took a stand against a teacher who arrived intoxicated. The viral video depicts the intense scene as the teacher hastily starts his motorbike amidst a barrage of slippers thrown by the students, ultimately fleeing the premises. This dramatic confrontation sheds light on the challenges faced by students in accessing quality education and the pressing need for accountability within the education system. As per the 'X' post, the incident took place at Pilibhatta Primary School, where the teacher's recurrent presence in class while under the influence of alcohol had become a growing concern. Rather than fulfilling his teaching duties, he frequently resorted to sleeping on the floor, disregarding the needs of his students. Frustrated by his behavior, the students confronted him,

Such incidents not only tarnish the reputation of the education system but also have detrimental effects

only to face verbal abuse in return. Matters reached a tipping point when the teacher arrived intoxicated once again last week, prompting the students to take decisive action. This incident is not isolated, as another disturbing event recently surfaced in Chhattisgarh's Bilaspur district. A teacher was caught on camera openly carrying alcohol onto school premises, displaying a blatant disregard for the standards of conduct expected in such settings. The footage serves as a stark reminder of the urgent need for enhanced oversight and accountability measures within edu-

cational institutions. Such incidents not only tarnish the reputation of the education system but also have detrimental effects on the well-being and academic progress of students. As these videos continue to circulate online, they serve as a clarion call for authorities to address systemic issues and ensure that students are provided with a safe and conducive learning environment. Reactions on post In response to the viral video, social media users have expressed admiration and support for the students' actions. With comments such as "Well done, children," "Bright future with these kids," and "Salute to students," there is widespread praise for the students' courage and determination in standing up against perceived injustice. One user highlighted the inspirational aspect of the students' actions, stating, "These kids must

Lorenzi Apparels Ltd. Receives Trading Approval for listing of its Bonus Shares

CHANDIGARH: Lorenzi Apparels Ltd. (BSE: 540952, NSE: LAL), a prominent player in the realm of manufacturing, designing, and marketing readymade garments, has announced that it has received the trading approval for listing its bonus shares from NSE and BSE effective 16 April 2024. Lorenzi Apparels Ltd. is a prominent player in the realm of manufacturing, designing, and marketing readymade garments, catering to the diverse fashion needs of both men and women. With a comprehensive array of formal, semi-formal, and casual wear, it prides itself on delivering quality attire that resonates with contemporary trends and timeless styles. Operating through retail outlets and e-commerce platforms, the company ensures accessibility and convenience for its clientele. At the heart of its operations lies a meticulous garment manufacturing process encompassing cutting, stitching, sewing, fin-



ishing, inspection, and packing. While maintaining stringent quality standards, Lorenzi Apparels Ltd. also engages in strategic partnerships with third-party contractors for garment production on a job work basis.

These collaborations involve the dissemination of detailed technical specifications, including designs, patterns, quality standards, and fabric preferences. By leveraging the expertise of external manufacturers and providing precise guidelines, the company ensures the realization of its vision for exceptional apparel, while fostering a net-

work of trusted collaborators. Lorenzi Apparels Ltd. is not only committed to delivering superior quality garments but also places a strong emphasis on sustainability and ethical manufacturing practices.

The company actively seeks to minimize its environmental footprint by implementing eco-friendly production processes and sourcing materials responsibly. Moreover, it upholds fair labor standards throughout its supply chain, fostering safe working conditions and equitable treatment for all involved parties.

CAPSULES

Jefferies stops coverage on Paytm until regulatory issues ease

Jefferies stops coverage on Paytm until regulatory issues ease Jefferies Financial Group Inc. has become the first major foreign brokerage to drop coverage on Paytm-operator One 97 Communications Ltd. until the news flow around the struggling Indian fintech major "settles down".

The investment bank has moved the stock to "not rated", weeks after lowering it to underperform after the Reserve Bank of India last month ordered Paytm Payments Bank to halt its key operations, citing non-compliance.

Paytm has seen its shares lose more than half of their value since the banking regulator's surprise clampdown amid concerns over the continuity of its business model.

"Without a banking license, Paytm's business model will now become similar to pure payment service providers," analysts Jayant Kharote and Prakhar Sharma wrote in a Feb. 18 note. "Paytm's focus will now move to ensuring customer retention, and we believe it will dip" into its 85 billion rupees (\$1 billion) cash reserves for spends on retaining users, the analysts said.

The RBI last week granted Paytm an extension of deadline to wind down much of its business. The company has been given until March 15 to stop accepting new deposits, from Feb. 29 earlier. Meanwhile, the company has tied up with Axis Bank to replace affiliate Paytm Payments Bank to continue its merchant payments settlement operations, allowing it a shot to stay in business.

Karya, NGO create Kannada Q&A bot for TB

Bengaluru: Not-for-profit organisation Karnataka Health Promotion Trust (KHPT) has teamed up with Bengaluru-based data cooperative Karya to develop a voice-based tuberculosis Q&A bot in Kannada. Currently, the app is in beta. A patient can ask in Kannada, "What types of food are okay to eat with my TB medicines?". And get the response in the same language: "You don't have to worry too much about what you eat with your medication. Most things are okay, but it's good to eat lots of Vitamins A, C and E. You can get this by adding more fruits and vegetables to your diet! Here are some examples of what you can add: orange, mango, sweet pumpkin and carrots, guava,

amla, tomato, nuts and seeds." The app has a call to action button which connects them to a helpline when necessary. The Global TB (tuberculosis) Report 2022 showed that 21.4 lakh TB cases were notified in India in 2021, 18% higher than 2020. KHPT has built a digital Kannada repository in ten dialects including Mangaluru Kannada, Sirsi Kannada, Belagavi Kannada, Mandya Kannada and Ballari Kannada through an exhaustive data collection exercise. This includes data anonymised from those affected with TB, caregivers, social workers, frontline health-care workers and communities to improve health outcomes of TB patients. KHPT and Karya interviewed 1,600 people to

obtain 1,000 hours of data. They collected details on symptoms, treatment adherence, side effects, cost of treatment and benefits of the direct benefit transfer programme.

"We used the automatic speech recognition (ASR) engine to capture human speech by identifying lexicon models and acoustic patterns of speech and converting it into text," said Bisujaksha Vedantham, lead for digital transformation in KHPT. Vedantham said the pilot is currently being run in 13 districts. Mallika Biddappa Tharakan, lead - knowledge management at KHPT, said 700-800 people across these districts are covered in the initial pilot programme.

Big consumer divide: Mass market lags, premium end soars

MUMBAI: It's the great consumption divide in India: discretionary spending remains subdued in the mass markets, but the premium end seems to be faring well, an analysis of the commentary made by companies in their December quarter earnings calls showed. Bata India, for instance, said the mass market segment continues to be a "drag" on its overall growth even as its portfolio of premium brands have seen robust demand. Tanishq has seen a

slowdown in the sub 50,000 and 1,00,000 categories (in terms of transactions by new customers). And, in the quick service restaurant space, pricey gourmet pizzas seem to be the flavour of the season. "Lower-income households (under 3-5 lakh annually) have been hit the most. High inflation has reduced the ability to spend on discretionary items," said Rishav Jain, MD at consulting firm Alvarez & Marsal. 'Consumer sentiment still subdued'

However, discretionary spending of the top three-five crore households (earning over Rs 10-15 lakh annually) is less impacted. Categories such as international travel, premium alcohol, premium beauty and personal care, premium home improvement have performed relatively better. In macroeconomic terms, we call it the K-curve," Jain added. Brands with a good part of their consumers extending to lesser affluent households and deepening their pres-

ence to smaller cities have witnessed low or negative same-store sales growth in the past few quarters, analysts said. Companies are struggling to get consumers to transact more, with even the festive season having failed to fuel mass discretionary consumption. "Consumer sentiment remains subdued, despite the third quarter traditionally being a strong and festive quarter... reflecting a cautious approach to mass discretionary spending," said Ravi Jaipuria.

Chocolates with betel instead of cocoa, but just as delicious

Bengaluru: How about chocolates made out of betel leaf instead of cocoa beans? If you are wondering how they'd taste, here is what researchers at Bengaluru-based Indian Institute of Horticulture Research (IIHR) said:

"They are quite yummy... you won't miss the cocoa much." IIHR has been working on chocolate bars made out of betel leaf powder, betel leaf oil extract, sugar and preservatives. Prototype of the betel chocolate-making technology, along with the chocolates, were showcased at the National Horticulture Fair, which was inaugurated on IIHR campus in Hessarghatta Tuesday. Principal scientist Hima Bindu told TOI: "We wanted to make this crop a value-added product which benefits farmers and is also welcomed by urban residents. We want to highlight its medicinal properties

too — antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, etc." The idea of a betel leaf chocolate was born when betel vine growers in Ramanagara and surrounding areas, along with Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, faced problems during the Covid lockdown. "Betel vine is a heritage crop. We got appeals from farmers to come up with solutions as they didn't know how to sell the produce. While we were exploring options, the idea of betel-flavoured chocolates was conceived." Explaining the process, Bindu said the leaves are dried, converted into powder and laced with other ingredi-

Teamo Productions HQ Ltd. Producer Mohaan Nadaar's "Bina Shakkar Ki Chai" Completes First Shooting Schedule

CHANDIGARH: Teamo Productions HQ Limited (TPHQ), under the leadership of producer Mohaan Nadaar, successfully completed the first shooting schedule of its latest cinematic endeavor, "Bina Shakkar Ki Chai," a film that intricately weaves together the myriad emotions that color life's canvas. The ongoing project will cost about INR 40 Million and is expected to generate INR 55~60 Million of revenue for the company. The shooting for the project will be completed by 5th May 2024. The movie is scheduled to be projected / showcased at vivid festival circuits starting 31st May 2024 and thereafter will be released across various platforms. Mohaan

Nadaar, Managing Director of Teamo Productions HQ Limited (TPHQ), expressed profound admiration for the directorial prowess of Sai Deodhar, affirming, "We are immensely proud of Sai Deodhar, whose directorial vision breathes life into this enchanting narrative. 'Bina Shakkar Ki Chai' is not just a story; it's a testament to the indomitable spirit of individuals who dare to dream. As we embark on this cinematic journey, we are thrilled to announce the successful completion of the first shooting schedule, setting the stage for what promises to be a truly captivating film experience." Director Sai Deodhar, reflecting on the essence of the film, shared,

"With 'Bina Shakkar Ki Chai,' we aim to craft a poignant tale that resonates with audiences on a deeply human level. I am filled with gratitude for the dedication and talent of our ensemble cast and crew." The cast comprise of the legendary Revathi, Seema Sajdeh, Rajesh Sharma, Shruti Prakash, Revathi Pillai (of Kota Factory fame), Lalit Prabhakar, among others. Ketki Pandit, Co-Founder and Producer at TPHQ, said, "As we celebrate the completion of the first shooting schedule, we are excited to witness the magic unfold on screen, touching hearts and inspiring audiences." Shrabani Deodhar, CEO of TPHQ and National Award-win-

ning filmmaker, commented, "We look forward to bringing this slice of life to audiences, reminding them that amidst life's challenges, joy and fulfilment can be found." "Bina Shakkar Ki Chai" promises to serve audiences a delightful blend of laughter, tears, and introspection, inviting them to savor life's experiences, whether sweetened or unsweetened. The film commenced its shooting journey on April 8, 2024, at a picturesque location in Mumbai, adorned with a vintage charm and lush greenery, marking the completion of its first shooting schedule. The film has already started with the second schedule with Revathi and Seema Sajdeh.

Brief court on steps taken to control noise pollution: HC

Hyderabad: Asking TSPSB and govt officials to be honest in their communication, Telangana high court directed director general of police and Hyderabad police commissioner to brief the court within two days the steps they are taking to control noise and sound pollution at function halls in Hyderabad and all over the state. The court, while making S e c u n d e r a b a d Cantonment Board as a respondent to the case, issued notices to the state govt, municipal, police and pollution control officials. The case was posted to Thursday for further hearing. A bench of Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice J Anil Kumar, which took up a letter written to them by an additional chief engineer.