

# AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Title Code - UPENG04488

NATIONAL ENGLISH DAILY

MORNING EDITION PRAYAGRAJ

Sunday 12 May, 2024

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

## Congress tried to frighten our own people citing Pakistan N-bombs: PM Modi

**BHUBANESWAR:** PM Narendra Modi claimed on Saturday that Congress was trying to instil fear among Indians by emphasising Pakistan possesses nuclear weapons but now "the situation in Pakistan is such that it's not even in a position to handle the bombs they have", reports Ashok Pradhan.

"They are out to sell the bombs. They are looking for buyers. They are unable to sell," Modi said, adding, "Because of Congress's weak approach, people in Kashmir suffered from terrorism for 60 years." Later, speaking in Jharkhand and attacking Congress MP Rahul Gandhi in particular, Modi said the number of seats Congress would win would not even equal Gandhi's age. In Odisha, recalling that India conducted nuclear tests (Pokhran 2) on this date (May 11, 1998), when Atal Bihari Vajpayee was PM, Modi claimed that it was for the first time after Independence



that people across the globe looked at an Indian leader with the utmost respect. India's first nuclear test was conducted by Indira Gandhi's govt in 1974. Speaking at an election rally at Phulbani, under Kandhamal Lok Sabha seat, Modi said: "This was the day when India demonstrated its strength to the world." He added, "On the other side, there is the thought of Congress party. Time and again, Congress tried to frighten our own country. They say be cautious. Pakistan has atom bombs.

These dead people also kill the heart of the country. Congress has always adopted

such an attitude." "Instead of giving them a befitting reply, Congress used to hold meetings with terror outfits. Congress feared annoying vote banks," he alleged. Later, speaking at Murve Maidan in Simaria, Jharkhand, Modi said the alliance and the local JMM-Congress govt was full of corruption. Accusing the JMM-Congress-RJD govt of running an opium industry in Chatra, he said people should not vote for them if they want to secure the future of their children.

Mountains of cash are being recovered from JMM and Congress leaders.

### If NDA returns, we will take back POK: Amit Shah

**HYDERABAD:** Union home minister Amit Shah said on Saturday India would take back Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) if the BJP-led NDA returns to govt at the Centre under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Shah said leaders like Jammu and Kashmir ex-CM Farooq Abdullah and Congress senior politician Mani Shankar Aiyar were talking about showing respect to Pakistan because it's a nuclear power. "Does not Kashmir belong to us? We will act decisively and take back PoK," Shah said. Shah's remarks at an election rally in Chevella, Telangana, were in response to Aiyar's statement that Pakistan has the nuclear bomb and therefore a cautious approach has to be adopted. Shah said the late former PM Atal Behari Vajpayee had conducted the Pokhran-2 nuclear test.

## Rahul Gandhi moots debate with PM Modi; he's merely an MP, mocks BJP

**NEW DELHI:** Reacting to Rahul Gandhi's call for a face-to-face debate on Lok Sabha elections with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP on Saturday questioned his knowledge of poll issues as well as his standing in Congress party, noting that he is neither the president of his party nor the leader of opposition in Parliament.

At a press conference, BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi asked in what capacity is Gandhi looking to debate with Modi as he is merely an MP of his party.

The remark comes as Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday said he or party chief Mallikarjun Kharge would be pleased to participate in such a discussion and expressed hope that PM Modi would also take part. "It would be a positive initiative for the major parties to present their vision to the country from one plat-



### Congress's Surat pick 'back', says party betrayed him first in 2017

**SURAT:** Suspended Congress leader Nilesh Kumbhani, whose nomination form was rejected over discrepancies leading to BJP winning the Surat Lok Sabha seat in Gujarat unopposed, resurfaced on Saturday after 20 days and alleged it was the grand old party that

had betrayed him first in 2017. Kumbhani said he was silent all these days because of his respect for state party president Shaktisinh Gohil and the party's Rajkot Lok Sabha candidate Paresh Dhanani. "Congress leaders are accusing me of betrayal.

form for a healthy democracy," Rahul wrote on X. He also added that the nation expects Modi to participate in the debate. Rahul's post was in reply to Justice (Retd) Madan B Lokur, Justice (Retd) Ajit P Shah and senior journalist N

Ram, who had written to him and the PM earlier this week, inviting them to a platform for a debate on the key election issues. "Congress welcomes this initiative and accepts the invitation for a discussion," Rahul said.

### HC allows medico to hold degree despite 'wrongly-gained admission'

The Bombay HC held that a student wrongly gained admission in 2012 to an MBBS degree course in a top Mumbai college as an OBC on a non-creamy layer certificate based on false and suppression of information, but observing that doctors are needed, did not cancel her admission as she had completed the course. "In our country, where the ratio of doctors to population is very low" withdrawing her qualification would "be a national loss, as citizens would be deprived of one doctor," said a division bench of Justices A S Chandurkar and Jitendra Jain, noting at the same time that the "unfair means" by her parents to secure her admission as an OBC has "deprived another eligible candidate". "If the medical profession is based on a foundation of false information.

### Pilgrims' rush at Char Dham leads to chaos, two lives lost

**DEHRADUN:** A huge crowd of pilgrims was seen at the Char Dham shrines on Saturday, a day after the yatra to the Himalayan temples began. Maximum rush was at Yamunotri -- around 45,000 pilgrims were reported at the small shrine town on the first day, making it difficult for people to even walk the narrow stretch leading to the temple. Similar scenes were witnessed at Kedarnath, too, where around 30,000 people turned up on day one. Meanwhile, two pilgrims -- Ramgopal (71) of Sagar district of Madhya Pradesh and Vimala Devi (69) of Unnao in Uttar Pradesh -- died after suffering a heart attack at Yamunotri on Friday, officials said. On Saturday, pilgrims were stranded at various points from Barkot to Janakichatti, with long queues of vehicles stretching till the early morning hours. The congestion on the trek route itself posed significant challenges for devotees.

Sunil Mandaviya, a pilgrim from Gujarat, said, "We were forced to sit in our car for seven hours without moving even an inch. All our food and water was finished and we had no idea when the traffic would resume." Sub-divisional magistrate of the area, Mukesh Ramola, said that traffic is being controlled by a one-way system at narrow and sensitive places on Yamunotri national highway. "In order to ensure this, vehicles are being stopped for some time in Damta, Dobata, Paligad, Ranachatti and Phoolchatti, and food and water is being provided for the onward journey in a controlled manner," he said. Uttarkashi district magistrate Mehrban Singh Bisht said that on the first day, there was a huge crowd on the Yamunotri trek route due to a large gathering of local villagers and pilgrims from outside. "Things were completely under control on Saturday," he claimed. However, Anil Kumar, a local taxi driver, said that if the police and administration do not take effective steps to monitor the situation, it will become very difficult for them to drive taxis this season.

## Shah attacks Telangana CM A Revanth Reddy over fake video

**Telangana** Union minister Amit Shah said on Saturday that by posting a fake video of him (Shah) on social media, Telangana CM A Revanth Reddy touched a raw nerve and invited trouble, reports Sushil Rao. "You have meddled with the wrong person. Now, the Delhi police are after you for circulating a fabricated and edited video of mine and that scaring you," Shah



said at a rally in Chevella, Telangana, in support of a BJP candidate on the last day of campaigning. Delhi police had registered a case on April 28 over the doctored video showing Shah advocating the aboli-

tion of reservation for SCs, STs and OBCs, and issued summons to Revanth to appear on May 1, which he skipped. A couple of days ago, Revanth, who is also party Telangana unit president, said: "Amit bhai is trying to scare me and using his ministry to do so. If a political party produced a doctored video against another party or leader, the party concerned has to complain. But in this case the complaint was filed by the home ministry. "BJP spokesperson Amit , on the other hand, said the morphed video had been altered to misrepresent Shah's remarks on the issue.

## Modi 'weak PM', does not care for tribals & women: Priyanka Gandhi

**AICC general secretary** Priyanka Gandhi on Saturday called Narendra Modi "a weak, coward and an unfit" prime minister who, she said, was not even able to explain to the people the work done by his govt in the last 10 years and what was in BJP's election manifesto, report Roushan Ali and Abhilash Botekar. "Even after being in power for 10 years, if a PM is crying out lies... it means he has done



nothing for them," Priyanka said. Campaigning for the Congress candidate in Maharashtra's Nandurbar earlier in the day, Priyanka said Modi did not care for tribals and women. "PM said that he is a worshipper of 'Shabari Mata'.

If that is the case, then why has he remained silent on the injustice meted out to tribal women in Manipur and to the women raped in Unnao, Hathras.

## From ghosts to 'orange turd': Highlights of Stormy Daniels' testimony against Trump

**NEW DELHI:** In a public spectacle in New York City, adult film actress Stormy Daniels took the stand in Donald Trump's criminal trial, delivering testimony that veered into unexpected and bizarre territories. Daniels, a pivotal figure due to her alleged past with Trump, faced a barrage of questions that not only dealt with the core accusations but also strayed into the realms of the paranormal and the absurd.

Trump, charged with 34 felony counts related to falsifying business records to conceal hush money payments, vehemently denies the allegations, including any encounter with Daniels.



As she recounted her version of events, the courtroom was gripped by her detailed narrative, so much so that Trump's legal team twice moved for a mistrial, citing the prejudicial nature of her testimony. Both motions were denied by Judge Juan Merchan. As per a Newsweek report, during her testimony, Daniels discussed an array of topics that seemed to stretch the bounds of relevance. The defense attempted to under-

mine her credibility by questioning her about her paranormal show, Spooky Babes, where she explores ghostly activities. Daniels admitted to profiting from her claims of communicating with the dead, attributing some mysterious happenings at her home to a possum rather than supernatural causes. The cross-examination took another odd turn when Daniels' "Making America Horny Again" strip club tour was brought up. This tour, playing on Trump's famous slogan, was highlighted by the defense to suggest Daniels had monetized her alleged encounter with Trump. Daniels distanced herself from the tour's name, indicating she had no control over its branding across various venues, despite acknowledging some promotional posts on her social media. Further, Daniels' use of colorful language came under scrutiny when she was confronted about a social media post referring to the flushing of an "orange turd." Daniels clarified that the post was hyperbolic and, although not explicitly naming Trump.

### Ramdev gets 2nd summons from CJM in 25 days

**DEHRADUN:** The court of Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) Rahul Kumar Shrivastav in Haridwar on Friday issued summons, for the second time in 25 days, to yoga guru Ramdev and his associate, Acharya Balkrishna, for failing to appear before the court in a case registered by the Ayush department, related to misleading advertisements of Coronil drug. The action followed an order by the Supreme Court last month, which led to the cancellation of 14 drugs manufactured by Patanjali. The court fixed the next hearing on June 7. The misleading advertisements included claims related to medicines for conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes, goitre, glaucoma and high cholesterol, leading to the cancellation of their licences.

### Registration of will not mandatory in UP: HC

**PRAYAGRAJ:** Registration of will is not necessary in Uttar Pradesh, the Allahabad high court ruled on May 10. On Aug 23, 2004, UP govt made registration of will mandatory. "Will in Uttar Pradesh is not required to be registered and no will that is not registered will be deemed void, whether it was executed before or after the UP Amendment Act, 2004", the court said. While deciding a reference, a division bench comprising Justice Siddhartha Varma and Ajit Kumar held that sub-section 3 of section 169 of UP zamindari abolition and land reforms act, 1950, in so far as it required a 'will' to be compulsorily registered to be contrary to the central legislation, Indian Registration Act, 1908, which made registration of will only optional at the end of the testator. Hence, the high court held the amendment of section 169 (3) of 1950 act to that extent it required a 'will' to be compulsorily registered void and accordingly struck down the said.

tered, it would not be invalid. The division bench made this judgment on May 10, while disposing of a 'reference' sent to it by the Chief Justice in a petition filed by Pramila Tiwari. The high court held sub-section 3 of Section 169 of the UP zamindari abolition and land reforms act, 1950, in so far as it required a 'will' to be compulsorily registered to be contrary to the central legislation, Indian Registration Act, 1908, which made registration of will only optional at the end of the testator. Hence, the high court held the amendment of section 169 (3) of 1950 act to that extent it required a 'will' to be compulsorily registered void and accordingly struck down the said.





**S**econd randomization of EVM machines was done in Sangam Auditorium on Saturday in the presence of Hon'ble General Observer 51-Phulpur Parliamentary Constituency Dr. (TMT) B. Maheshwari, District Election Officer/District Magistrate Mr. Navneet Singh Chahal and representatives of political parties to conduct the Lok Sabha General Election-2024 in a safe, fair and transparent manner. On this occasion, representatives of political parties, Chief Development Officer Mr. Gaurav Kumar, Deputy District Election Officer Mrs. Pooja Mishra, Joint Magistrate Jagriti Awasthi and other concerned officers were present.

If the body creates the sickness, it will eradicate it too: Touch therapist

Prayagraj: If the body has created the disease then the body will also eliminate the disease. For this, we have to understand the signals of our body and help it in its functions in a natural way. Our body throws out excess moisture (water) twice a year through common cold and sneezing. This process continues for three-four days. If this happens, there is no need to worry or suppress the cold. Touch therapist Satish Rai said these things while addressing the people at the Reiki Center on Saturday. He told audience that about 55 percent of diseases are caused by wrong eating habits. However, due to extreme heat, the body's immunity decreases. Due to which the possibility of hair growth in the body increases. He said that we should understand the signals of our body and help the body in its efforts to cure the disease.

He said that watery nose and sneezing means the body is expelling excess water. Coughing means that the body is expelling the phlegm accumulated in the chest or throat. Itching means that part of the body needs more blood. Fever means there is a serious problem in the body and the white blood cells inside the body are reacting. There is pain in any part of the body, which means that part is filled with carbon dioxide, water and other toxic substances or air. If there are symptoms like feeling tired all the time or nervousness, then there may be lack of blood in the body. Due to less evaporation of water present in the body, Ssathish Rai said that the water present in our body and blood depends on our digestive power. When the digestive power is weak then the internal heat of the stomach decreases. Therefore evaporation of water in the body is less. Then due to increase in water content in the body the internal heat decreases. Due to which phlegm and cold accumulate in the lungs, chest and throat. When this water enters the veins of the head, headache occurs.

## Mother's relationship incomparable all over world: Shivani

Card making competition organized at St. Peter's School Chhatwa on Mother's Day

Meja: With the aim of showing love and gratitude towards all the mothers around the world, Mother's Day was celebrated with pomp and show on Saturday at St. Peter's School Chhatwa, Sirsa-Prayagraj. On this occasion, School Principal Shivani Kheda Soni said that Mother's Day is a special day celebrated all over the world to honor and appreciate mothers and maternal figures. It is celebrated every year on the second Sunday of May. This year it is on 12th May. On this day, children dedicate their day to mother and express love and gratitude with cards, flowers, cakes and gifts. He further said that mother is a word which fills everyone with emotions. A mother is definitely the most important person in everyone's life. A mother's love for her child definitely



cannot be compared to anything. Mrs. Soni said a mother's level of forgiveness is incomparable. A mother sacrifices her happiness for her child. No one else can take care of her children as much as a mother does. Mothers are great. Keeping these thoughts in mind, a card making competition

was organized for the students in which they made beautiful cards for their mothers. The winners of the competition were children of Mohammed, Kartik Keshari, Shanvi Keshari, Anishtha Verma, Anshika Gautam, Kavya Keshari, Aditya Kushwaha, Apeksha, Tanirika Singh, Mansi

Patwa, Sanchi Aggarwal, Naman Seth, Akarsh Kumar, Akarsh Vishwakarma, Aakriti Keshari, Ananya Keshari, Aaradhya Keshari, Aditri Keshari and Shaheen Shaikh. On this occasion, Mrs. Shivani Kheda Soni congratulated the students who won the competition by giving them certificates.

## Watch out for signs of hearing loss among kids

Prayagraj: Ritu, aged around 14 years, has come all the way from Handia to get her ear examined by a city-based ear expert who specialises in cochlear implantation. Ritu's relationship with the world around her could have been a lot different if her parents had identified symptoms of her hearing impairment earlier.

Throwing light on this oft-neglected ailment, the head of the department ENT, MLN Medical College, Prof Mangal Singh says that in the first few years of life, hearing is a critical part of a kid's social, emotional, and cognitive development. Even a mild or partial hearing loss can affect a child's ability to speak and understand language and as such, young children are more susceptible to middle ear infections than adults. Untreated ear infections can affect hearing in later life.

The expert explains that hearing loss is a common birth defect, affecting one to three of every 1,000 babies, for which a number of factors are responsible. The factors that could lead to hearing loss include premature birth, high bilirubin requiring a transfusion, improper medication, family history

of childhood hearing loss, complications at birth, frequent ear infections, and exposure to very loud sounds.

Many parents, especially those in rural pockets of the country, are unaware that most children born with hearing loss can be diagnosed through a hearing screening.

Talking of the symptoms of hearing loss, the expert said even if your newborn passes the hearing screening, continue to watch for signs that his or her hearing is normal. Parents should watch if their newborn gets startled or 'jumps' due to sudden loud noises. By 3 months, a baby should recognize a parent's voice. By 6 months, an infant can usually turn his or her eyes or head toward a sound and by 12 months, a child can usually imitate some sounds and produce a few words, such as mummy, papa, tata etc.

As your baby grows into a toddler, signs of a hearing loss may include limited, poor, or no speech, frequent inattentiveness, difficulty in learning, failure to respond to conversation-level speech or inappropriate answers to speech, said Dr Singh.

## HMD dedicates Dispojekt syringes with safety needle on Nurses Day to prevent NSIs

Varanasi: World-class manufacturer of cutting-edge medical devices, Hindustan Syringes and Medical Devices (HMD), has launched state-of-the-art and first-of-its-kind Dispojekt single use syringe with safety needle, which assures safety to nurses from needle stick injuries (NSIs). Dispojekt Syringes by HMD comes as a befitting tribute to the perseverance and resilience of nurses on the World Nurse Day. Approximately 27 million men and women make up the global nursing and midwifery workforce. This accounts for nearly 50% of the global health workforce. "Nurses worldwide face a significant risk of needle-stick injuries every day, posing a serious health hazard due to potential exposure to blood borne pathogens. Dispojekt Syringes addresses this concern effectively taking care of those, who takes care of us," says Rajiv Nath, Managing Director, Hindustan Syringes and Medical Devices (HMD).

According to a study conducted by Departments of Public Health Dentistry, Krishnadevaraya College of Dental Sciences, Bangalore, a total of 27.5% participants had needle stick injury during the previous 12 months. About 41.80% of NSIs occurred during device recapping. Most common reason for failure to report the incidents of NSIs, as declared by 29.09% of the participants, included the fear of being blamed or getting into trouble for having an NSI. Similarly, the Department of Community Medicine, Era's Lucknow Medical College and Hospital, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, conducted a study in 2021 which found that the overall prevalence of NSI was 20.1 per cent. Among sub-groups, needle stick injury was 26.6 per cent and 31.3 per cent in nurses, 37.5 per cent and 16.7 per cent in technicians, 15 per cent and 12.5 per cent in ward boys and 15.6 per cent and 9.4 per cent in sweepers of public and private hospitals respectively.

Moreover, the findings of the study conducted by Department of Community Medicine, CU Shah Medical College, Surendranagar, Gujarat, in 2023 also found the prevalence of NSIs among nurses and doctors was 58 per cent. "The nature of nursing work, which often involves frequent injections, blood draws, and other procedures involving sharp instruments, increases the likelihood of accidental needle sticks. Dispojekt will ensure next to nil vulnerability of nurses to potentially life-altering incidents," said Nath.

## VOTER AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Prayagraj: Under the Boating for Voting program, CDO and DIOS PN Singh flagged off the Jai Ghosh rally of all the 12 assembly constituencies with banners, balloons, flowers and balloons from the fort/VVIP Ghat. On this occasion, thousands of people including school principals, teachers, common people gathered for voter awareness in the Sangam area. DIOS PNSingh welcomed the CDO by giving a bouquet. Children of the scout band of GIC and KPIC welcomed everyone. DIOS PNSINGH said in his address that date-wise programs are being organized through a compre-

hensive action plan for 100% voting in the district. Under the boating program in the Sangam area, motor boats bearing the nameplates of the 12 assembly constituencies of the district were driven on the designated waterways and people present at Saraswati Ghat, Areal Ghat, Sangam were made aware about voting. Describing this program as unique and inspiring, CDO Sir informed everyone about the arrangements made by the Election Commission. CDO Sir gave detailed information about various apps. Do vote on 25th May, and also motivate your family and neighbours to vote. Appeal-

ing to the general public, he said that with your collective cooperation, the voting per-

a grand and attractive sand art at the venue, which was greatly appreciated. On one

uploaded it on his Whatsapp and made an appeal to vote to the people. DIOS

lookers at the ghat greatly appreciated this campaign. From the side of higher education, Professor Bhaskar Shukla, ADIOS LB Maurya, DK Singh, BS Yadav, Deputy Fair Officer, Anupam Parihar of Sweep team, Brijesh Srivastava, Rakesh Pandey, Shesh Nath Singh, Kiran Rai, Mukesh, Irshad, Hasbin, Arvind Gautam, Devendra Singh, along with more than 500 principals, teachers and female teachers of the city area were present. The oath was also administered by the CDO in the program. DIOS declared the closing with respect and gratitude to everyone. The program was conducted by Dr. Prabhakar Tripathi.



centage of Prayagraj will set a record.

Ajay ji, who is the icon of Sweep, created a figure showing awareness through

side of the stage, he signed on the wall of democracy and reiterated the pledge to vote. On the other side, he took a selfie at the selfie point and

PNSINGH said that this program of awareness in every village of both the Lok Sabha constituencies will continue till the next election. The on-

## Om Prakash 'Baba' Dubey, abjures from primary membership of SP

Varanasi: In a highly significant press conference on Saturday, Om Prakash 'Baba' Dubey, a popular leader from Purvanchal and former MLA from Badlapur assembly constituency, announced his abjuration from the primary membership of the Samajwadi Party. "I have decided to sever ties with the party due to the violation of political principles and purity," said former MLA Om Prakash 'Baba' Dubey. "I have informed the national president, Honorable Akhilesh Yadav ji, about my

decision by writing a letter." He further said, "I have taken this step due to the Samajwadi Party making Babu Singh Kushwaha, a criminal and corrupt person from Jaunpur, as its INDi alliance candidate by bringing him from Banda. In my letter, I have mentioned the criminal cases admitted by Babu Singh Kushwaha in his affidavit to the Election Commission."

"Dozens of corruption and criminal cases were registered against Babu Singh Kushwaha and he went to jail during the Congress rule at the Centre and the

Akhilesh Yadav-led SP government in the state. There is a lot of public outrage in the district over Babu Singh Kushwaha, who is out on bail, being sent by both the parties as the joint candidate of the INDi alliance," he said. Baba Dubey said, "Due to being against my personal and political principles, I have never accepted to support or campaign for any person with the above background and conduct, neither in the past nor will I accept it in the present. Therefore, I am abjuring from the primary membership of the Samajwadi Party.

## Resolution to offer golden crown in Sankatmochan Ram Darbar: Dr. Arvind Singh

Varanasi. Under the leadership of PM Modi, India has emerged as the fifth largest economic power in the world for the first time. Army is fourth in the world, we are exporting arms to more than 25 countries. India has set a new record in space research. PM Narendra Modi has been appreciated by all the countries in foreign diplomacy. The country's borders are completely secure today, and internal peace has increased. Terrorism is almost ending. Naxalism has also been controlled. These things were said today by Dr. Arvind Singh, President of Media Research and

Weapons Society in a hotel located in Cantonment. Mr. Singh said that I have no connection with any political party. As a journalist, the nation has always been first for me. The desire of the entire country is that India should appear at the highest position in the world. Whatever challenges India faces, they can be faced only under the leadership of Modi. Construction of a grand temple of Lord Shri Ram in Ayodhya, renovation of Baba Vishwanath temple in Kashi, abolition of Article 370 from Jammu and Kash-

mir, equal rights for women, implementation of CAA for providing asylum and citizenship to minorities from neighboring countries in India, The work of com-



pletely destroying terrorism and Naxalism and economically enriching the country's poor, labourers, farmers, youth and women is the result of PM Modi's strong desire. Dr. Arvind Singh said that five years ago, Kashi had taken a reso-

lution to make Narendra Modi the Prime Minister for the second time. Whose resolution was that if Kashi MP Narendra Modi becomes the Prime Minister again and a government with full majority is formed in the country, then I will offer a gold crown weighing 1.25 kg to Sankatmohan Hanumanji.

Announcement of Kashi Sankalp-2 to offer the Golden Crown: Dr. Arvind Singh said that our resolution was fulfilled with the blessings of Ramlala. Modiji again became the Prime Minister of the country. After which, after PM Modi placed the golden

crown on his head, the golden crown was offered to Sankat Mochan on 16 September 2019 on the eve of his birthday amidst a grand procession and chanting of mantras. There is once again a determination visible in the minds of the people of the country to bring back the Modi government. Therefore, on the day of Akshaya Tritiya, I have taken a resolution that if Modi government is formed once again, I am announcing Kashi Sankalp-2 to place golden crowns on the heads of Ram, Laxman and Mata Janaki sitting in front of Hanuman ji in Sankat Mochan Temple.



# Incarnation day of Gyanavatar Swami Shri Yukteswar Giri ji celebrated in Kriyayoga Ashram

Prayagraj: The incarnation day of Swami Shri Yukteswar Giri Ji Maharaj was celebrated by lighting the lamp in the presence of Kriyayoga Guru Swami Shri Yogi Satyam at the Kriyayoga Ashram and Research Institute established on the banks of the holy Ganga.

On this occasion, a large number of devotees from India and abroad were present. Live telecast of the program was also

done through YouTube. People from different countries like Canada, Brazil, Singapore, Switzerland, America, Scotland, Japan, Nepal and various big cities of India came to watch the program.

During the program, Kriyayoga Guru Swami Shri Yogi Satyam Ji Maharaj told that in 1894 Kumbh Mela During the fair, the seekers present were informed about the meeting of Swami Shri Yukteswar Giri Ji with



Mahavatar Baba Ji and also told that Shri Yukteswar Giri Ji Maharaj was also instructed to compile the highest spiritual and religious book, Sacred Science, which was written by Swami Yukteswar. Giri ji wrote in very good and simple words and Swami Shri Yogi Satyam Ji also gave Kriya Yoga recharging and 10 minutes practice to the devotees while throwing light on various words of Yukteswar Ji Maharaj.

## Brave women who achieved rare feats, accorded warm welcome

Prayagraj: Pride of Prayagraj, Pacer Health Fitness Club Group conquered the peak Phulara Range 12 345 feet of Uttarakhand, which shows that the women of Prayagraj are not only work efficiently and are successful in business sector. In addition to being at the pinnacle in the adventure field, 13 women under the leadership of Dr. Ritu Jain and Lion Ragini Chandel, Region Chairperson of Lions Club, gave a warm welcome and felicitation to the 13 women on their arrival at the airport. Many women including Dr. Kavita Aggarwal, Dr. Anubha Verma, Dr. Anuradha Verma, Dr. Lalita Shukla, Dr. Jayita Saran, Dr. Nalini Rastogi, Rambha Chaturvedi, Seema Dwivedi, Dr. Sumita Parmar were included in the women's group. Lalu Mittal, District President of All India Industry Trade Board, inaugurated it in the city. He told about the great pride and honor for the women and encouraged the women by garlanding them and welcomed them with great enthusiasm. Among those who welcomed, Lt. Amarinder Singh, Lt. Anoop Singh, future president of Lions Club, Mahila Metropolitan President Apoorva Chandra Gangapur President, Rajendra Kesarwani Metropolitan President, Animesh Aggarwal and many businessmen and members of Lions Club were present.

## In Gurdwara, mother-daughter duo bowed their heads

Prayagraj: Gurdwara Pakki Sangat and Lakshmi Narayan Temple Kalyani Devi area, Kavita Tripathi and Shivangi Tripathi bowed their heads and prayed for the victory of Neeraj Tripathi. BJP media in-charge Gopal Ji Malviya said that 52nd Lok Sabha Allahabad BJP candidate Neeraj Tripathi's wife Kavita Tripathi and daughter Shivangi Tripathi went to Kalyani Nagar area and bowed their heads at Lakshmi Narayan Temple and Gurudwara Pakka Sangat Ahiyapur and prayed for victory. Contacted the public and took



charge of the election of BJP candidate Neeraj Tripathi. Listened to the public and sought blessings from the public. In this public relations, Mahila Morcha Chowk Mandal President Shikha Khanna, Councilor Sunita Chopra, former councilor OP Dwivedi Mandal, former Mandal President Kidganj Manoj Mishra, President Sumit Vaish, Ward President Vipin Chopra, Mukesh Srivastava Shakti Kedo convenor, members of Mahila Morcha, a large number were also involved. Workers and officials were involved.

## Tata Bhawans to offer new skill courses from July

Prayagraj: Two new Tata Bhawans, established at Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) in Prayagraj, are set to meet the advanced skill requirements of students and prospective employers while acting as technology hubs. These centers, located in Katra and Naini, will also serve as skill centers for large industries as well as Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). Constructed at a cost of ₹4 crore each, these well-embellished centers will start offering training from July 2024, as informed by the principal of the Government Carpentry and Industrial Training Institute, Prayagraj, Himanshu Dwivedi. The two centers have been set up in accor-

dance with a 10-year memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between Tata Technologies, a global engineering, and digital services company, and the Uttar Pradesh (UP) government.

The aim is to modernise 150 government-owned ITIs across 75 districts in the state as part of the initiative to conceive and implement projects of high social impact and complement the nation-building efforts of the government.

With a total investment of Rs. 4.887 crores, this ITI upgrade project will see the modernization of these centers on existing ITI premises, with around 10,000 square feet of ITI area being developed by the Gov-

ernment of UP. The upgraded ITIs will offer six new trades and 23 new short-term courses, catering to Industry 4.0 demands, and training over 1,20,000 students annually at full capacity once the ITIs are upgraded.

This initiative will improve industrial training and education, creating a better learning environment for youth to meet industry needs. Upgraded ITIs will offer guidance and experiential learning through physical and digital delivery as well as employability skills. They will also serve as skill centers and boost local artisan and handicraft industries by offering custom courses on product design and increasing their

artistic level.

Officials said that under the pact, 87% of the cost of this entire project is being borne by Tata Technologies Limited and 12% by the state government. Himanshu Dwivedi said that starting from July, two-year courses on the Internet of Things (IoT), one-year courses on Manufacturing Process Control and Automation, as well as Basic Design and Additive Manufacturing, will be conducted in collaboration with Tata Technologies. "Two trainers have also been provided by Tata Technologies to teach in each Tata ITI. Apart from this, four ITI teachers have also been trained in these new courses," he explained.

## Annual function of Alld Battery Welfare Association today

Prayagraj: Like previous years, this year also the annual function of Allahabad Battery Welfare Association has been organized on Sunday, 12th May at 2 pm at RR INN Banquet Hall, High Court Square. All of you electronic and print media friends are requested to kindly accept the cordial invitation for coverage and attend the program. Organizer: Allahabad Battery Welfare Association Applicant :- Pankaj Kishore Gupta (President) Arjun Gupta (General Secretary) Arjun Jaiswal (Treasurer) and all executive members.

## Gang stealing vehicles, selling spare parts busted, 4 arrested

Prayagraj: Civil Police of Prayagraj caught a gang of vicious thieves. Civil Lines Police caught the gang that stole a tractor from Prayagraj, took it to Pratapgarh and sold it to a scrap dealer along with one spare part of the tractor and a mixer machine. The gang used to steal any vehicle, tractor or mixer machine from Prayagraj, take it to Pratapgarh, cut it into parts and sell it.



## Cozy sleeping pods to debut at Prayagraj Junction

Prayagraj: Pilgrims and other visitors will soon be able to stay in compact, comfortable, and economical sleeping pods that are set to become operational at Prayagraj Junction railway station by the end of

May. Passengers will then be able to relax comfortably and catch forty winks while waiting for their trains in these cozy sleeping pods. This sleeping pod facility, comprising 115 pods, has been set up at the initiative of the Prayagraj division of North Central Railways (NCR) at the Civil Lines side of the junction station at a cost of ₹1.75 crore, said the railway officials. The only remaining task is to provide air conditioning to the pods. The facility is ex-

pected to provide an excellent option for economical short-duration stays for visitors during the Mahakumbh-2025, they added. Confirming the development, chief public relations officer of NCR, Himanshu

Shekhar Upadhyay, said the pod facility would be excellent for passengers wishing to take a brief break from their journey or rest while waiting for a train.

Officials said that among these sleeping pods, 20 will be reserved exclusively for women passengers, 16 for couples, and four for families. These have been constructed on a PPP model by a Delhi-based company, Piyush Traders, which is now almost ready. Once the AC connections

are provided in the sleeping pods, this service will be opened for passengers by the end of May, officials added.

Once fully ready, these air-conditioned compact eight-feet-long and six-feet-wide pods, having beds that are fully enclosed and have charging points besides potable water, would allow passengers to take a break and catch up on their nap time while traveling or on a tour, officials shared.

Passengers availing the pod facility will also be provided with cloakroom facilities, a reception booth, deluxe washroom/toilet, a house pantry, and a Wi-Fi network, among other amenities. The rent for using a single seater sleeping pod for 12 hours will be Rs. 500, Rs. 1,000 for a double bed pod, and Rs. 1,500 for a family pod, as per the proposed rates. The booking will be on a flexi-fare basis. For this, an online booking facility will be provided, officials added.

## This summer, doctors brace themselves for rise in food poisoning cases

Prayagraj: In last few weeks, patients of food poisoning have increased in government as well as in private hospitals. According to Dr Anupam Jaiswal, MD Shakuntala Hospital, that the leading cause of food poisoning is consumption of contaminated food or water. It spreads by bacteria, viruses, toxins, and chemicals which, post entering the human body, cause the onset of stomach pain, nausea, diarrhea or vomiting. Raw meat, food sold in the open by roadside vendors, and contaminated water are common carriers of disease causing microbes.

Similarly heat stroke cases have also fall in complaining for headache, drying of skin, cramps, weakness, vomit, increased heart rate, or shallow breathing, it's quite possible you're suffering from a heat stroke. The very first sign of heat stroke is dizziness which is usually followed

by a bunch of other conditions such as nausea, seizures, etc.

But when it turns severe, it usually leads to a condition of coma. To prevent heat stroke, doctors advise that one must overdo with clothes, which typically traps the body heat inside and causes problems. Additionally, staying in cooler areas helps avoid heat stroke conditions.

Dr Jaiswal said that jaundice is a common water-borne disease. It can be a result of Hepatitis A and is mainly caused due the consumption of contaminated food and water. Jaundice THAT spreads due to Hepatitis A is transmitted by the feces-oral route.

Whereas Of all summer diseases mumps is another extremely contagious viral disease. As a summer disease in India it occurs mainly in children during peak summer time. It is contagious in nature and gets

transmitted when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

According to Dr Sudha Yadav, HOD skin department MLN Medical College sunburns and rashes patients have increased which is due to exposure to the sun for longer durations is not healthy for humans or animals due to penetration of UV rays in the body. People who encounter lower levels of melanin formation are even prone to skin cancer as it causes melanoma.

Skin rashes: During summers, skin rash is a common skin problem amid children and adults. This typically happens when an individual sweats too much. The sweat accumulates in the clothes and constant rubbing or wearing the sweat-laden clothes for a prolonged period causes itchiness and further leads to rash. Skin reddening, dryness, irritation are the visible signs of skin rash.

## Prayagraj records sudden surge in power demand

Prayagraj: With the rise in temperature, power demand in Prayagraj has also increased rapidly this year. As per records of power department, 21.17 crore units have already been used in seven divisions of Prayagraj city in April this year. The power consumption last year during this period was only 18.70 crore units. As compared to last year, there has been 12% increase in power consumption. Officials said that the number of air conditioners, coolers etc have increased causing more power consumption.

Power department officials said that power demand has increased suddenly in April month with rise in temperature. The power consumption in April this year broke the record of consumption of the same month during last few years. Highest power consumption has been recorded in Bamrauli division where 3.90 crore unit has been consumed this month while Karelalbagh is lowest in power consumption with 1.80 crore of units consumed.

It is expected that power consumption and demand will increase in the upcoming months of June and July. In seven divisions of the city, the power consumption was 18.70 crore units in 2023 in April while this year in the same month 21.17 crore units have been consumed which is 12 percent more than last year. Chief Engineer PK Singh said temperature soared after Holi and in April it rose upto 44 degrees Celsius. People used more air-conditioner and coolers which resulted in extra power consumption and demand. Instructions have been issued to check and repair faults in transformers, cables and other equipment in all subdivisions, he added.

## HC expresses displeasure over officials using social media to showcase their works

Prayagraj: The Allahabad High Court has expressed its displeasure over the officers broadcasting videos of their actions. While hearing the petition of Adarsh Kumar, a resident of Kanpur, Justice JJ Munir asked the Secretary Personnel for an affidavit in this regard. But in the affidavit filed by the Secretary Personnel, the rules of government servants were presented, on which the court expressed displeasure and said that this court is well aware of the law and service rules.

The High Court has directed the state government to prevent the officials from airing such videos showing their activities in channels, social media or print media. Also, the court has directed the Additional Chief Secretary Personnel to file an affidavit keeping these points in mind. The court said that it wants to know that the officers are dealing with the media and social media ignoring the service rules made for them. What kind of training is given to the newly appointed government officials, be it central or state? Such training has very limited impact on officers unless they are reminded of their responsibilities during fieldwork.

The court said that this court has taken judicial notice of the fact that often the district level officials conduct media coverage of their activities and later broadcast it on videos, video channels, social media, print media etc. with pretentious titles. In such a situation, it is the responsibility of the government to prevent the officials from doing such acts. The court has directed the Additional Chief Secretary Personnel to file a better affidavit in this matter within a week.

## Miscreants set on fire vehicles parked outside ex-Pradhan's house

Bhadra, Naini: Last night at around 2:00 pm, some unknown people set Safari and Scorpio vehicles on fire, which were parked outside the house of former Gram Sabha Bhadra Umarganj head Zaheer Ahmed. In order to spread anarchy, they sprinkled oil on them, set them on fire and ran away. As soon as these people had completely set themselves vehicle on fire, they broke the glass of another car parked next to the Scorpio, poured oil on it and set it on fire. Then suddenly, when the gateman of the railway gate located in front of the house came out of the duty room, his eyes fell on the flames burning in the vehicles, the gateman ran towards the house to inform the family members, and started shouting outside the house. Seeing the noise, the people who committed the incident fled from the spot.

As soon as the sleeping family members came out after hearing the gateman's voice, they were stunned to see the fire in the vehicles. The family members hurriedly took water to extinguish the fire. They ran and tried to extinguish the fire. After much effort the fire was brought under control. But by then the safari was completely burnt from inside. The first information about this was given to the constable posted at the concerned police station, Mama Bhanje Pond, through mobile at 2:35 in the night. The constable who reached the spot inspected and forwarded the information about the incident to the concerned Kotwali Naini police station. Oil was spilled at some distance from the burnt vehicles at the spot, and a brick was lying inside the safari vehicle, which was used to break the glass. On the basis of this evidence, it can be clearly inferred that the anarchists carried out this act after careful and complete planning.

## Gambler arrested

Prayagraj: Prayagraj's Dhoomanganj police arrested liquor smuggler and mafia Gurmeet Singh alias Deepak Sardar, police caught him red handed while gambling, recovered Rs 1.25 lakh in cash.

## 3 accused arrested

Prayagraj: Kareli police arrested 03 accused. Stolen yellow and white metal jewellery, Rs 135000/- in cash, 02 motor cycles and 02 illegal country made pistols of .315 bore and 02 live cartridges of .315 bore were recovered from their possession.

## Ex-CMO duped on pretext of trading

Prayagraj: Former CMO Alok Verma cheated, cheated of Rs 1 crore 26 lakh in the name of trading. Former CMO lodged FIR in cyber police station, accusing a person named Anurag Thakur of cheating.



## Editorial

### As Putin starts his new term, is the world heading towards multi-polarity?

Russian President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin was sworn in on Tuesday at a grandiose ceremony in the Kremlin. He starts his fifth term—another six years at the helm of power. Russians seem generally happy with the authoritarian leader. Once a superpower, it had lost global standing after the collapse of the Soviet Union. However, Putin revived the military power and took strong stands at global forums. Putin's actions in annexing Crimea were viewed as positive assertions against the scheming West. He began the Ukraine offensive after repeated warnings about Russia's cut-offs for NATO's eastward expansion. Russia withstood the Western financial sanctions admirably. Putin managed to get good direct or indirect support from China, India, and many countries in West Asia. Putin was seen not only as an authoritarian leader but also as someone who could fan nationalism. There are other authoritarian leaders who are similarly popular in their nations, for example, China's Xi Jinping and Turkey's Erdogan. It is important to understand Putin as a leader. Putin was born on October 7, 1952, in Leningrad, Soviet Union (now Saint Petersburg, Russia). His grandfather, Spiridon Putin, was a personal cook to Vladimir Lenin and Joseph Stalin. Putin's mother was a factory worker, and his father was a conscript in the Soviet Navy, serving in the submarine fleet in the early 1930s.

At the age of 12, he began to practice sambo and judo. He enjoyed reading the works of Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels, and Lenin. Putin studied German in high school and speaks both German and English as additional languages. Putin studied law and graduated in 1975. He joined the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU); he remained a member until it ceased to exist in 1991.

#### Putin's Political Rise

Putin has held continuous positions as president or prime minister of Russia since 1999. Prime minister from 1999 to 2000 and from 2008 to 2012, and as president from 2000 to 2008 and since 2012. He is the longest-serving Russian or Soviet leader since Joseph Stalin. In 1975, Putin joined the KGB, the security agency for the Soviet Union. He resigned from the rank of lieutenant colonel on August 20, 1991. During the 1991 Soviet coup d'état attempt against Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, he supported Boris Yeltsin. He began his political career in Saint Petersburg. In 1996, he moved to Moscow to join the administration of President Boris Yeltsin. He briefly served as the director of the Federal Security Service (FSB) and then as secretary of the Security Council of Russia before being appointed Prime Minister in August 1999. Following Yeltsin's resignation, Putin became acting president and, in less than four months, was elected to his first term as president. In 2003, a referendum was held in Chechnya, adopting a new constitution that declared that the Republic of Chechnya was a part of Russia while retaining autonomy. Subsequently, Putin was re-elected in 2004. Due to the constitutional limitations of two consecutive presidential terms, Putin chose to serve as prime minister again from 2008 to 2012 under Dmitry Medvedev. He returned to the presidency in 2012 and was re-elected in 2018. In April 2021, after a referendum, he signed into law constitutional amendments that included allowing him to run for re-election twice more, potentially extending his presidency to 2036. In June 2023, he survived the Wagner Group rebellion. And finally, in March 2024, he was re-elected for another term. It appears that under Putin, the Russian political system has been transformed into an authoritarian dictatorship. Early in his presidency, Putin organised the 89 federal subjects of Russia into seven administrative federal districts.



## Pitroda's jeans and genes: India isn't America, Sam

I have been to Casablanca once. In and around Casablanca, there is plenty to see. It is a historic city. But like many others, such as the impact of the 1942 film, that I headed straight for Rick's Café. This of course is not original. It is of recent vintage. Rick Blaine's nightclub, made famous by the film, never existed. It was fictional. Lines from the film, like Humphrey Bogart's "Here's looking at you, kid", have become immortal. Another such immortal line, though it was never spoken in the film, either by Humphrey Bogart or by Ingrid Bergman, was "Play it again, Sam". But everyone thinks it figured in the film, so much so that Woody Allen had a film by that name. Sam was of course the pianist. We have another pianist in the form of Sam Pitroda, who strums at the piano chords from abroad. In view of what has been happening, the expression "Play it again, Sam" must have passed through the minds of many people. He has to strum the chords from abroad. When he returns to India, he might have problems because of the "National Herald" case.

In the 1980s, Sam Pitroda was described as the trigger behind India's telecom revolution (STD booths), though Arvind Panagariya's



book (India, the Emerging Giant, p.374) suggests Sam Pitroda did his best to protect his turf and obstructed introduction of cellular technology. Otherwise, the mobile revolution would have occurred earlier. I didn't meet Sam Pitroda in the 1980s. I got to know him when he was Chairman of the National Knowledge Commission. He is a wise man and I have always been educated by him. Many years ago, when ancestry testing was not that common, at least in India, I got mine done. Most people know that this is a mitochondrial DNA test, through the mother's line. Most Indians who have done this ancestry mapping find a familiar pattern. Out of Africa circa 100,000 BCE, into India circa 35,000 BCE and so on. Mine was slightly different. It floated around in southern Europe till around 500 CE and then

proceeded to the region around Uttar Pradesh, courtesy the female slave trade done by the Arabs. This kind of ancestry mapping through the mother is probabilistic, not deterministic. Earlier, villages kept records of ancestry. My father revisited his ancestral village (he left it after 1947) in Bangladesh and dug up those village records. These are deterministic. Karnasuvarna is in Murshidabad district, near Berhampore. At one point, it used to be the capital of the Gauda kingdom. Through those village records, my father traced the earliest known ancestor (Boron Dev) back to Karnasuvarna, circa 1500 CE. From there, Boron Dev migrated to the Sylhet region of what is now Bangladesh.

Before Karnasuvarna, Boron Dev had been in Kanyakubja (Kannauj) in Uttar Pradesh.

On both the father's side and the mother's side, we converge on Uttar Pradesh. What am I, as per Sam Pitroda's taxonomy? Part Arab, part White — I guess. By the way, there are general accounts of Brahmanas from Kanyakubja moving to Bengal and Odisha. (My wife's line belongs to one of these.)

I have seen several genetic studies done of Bengalis and they reveal the obvious. Bengal, like all of Bharatavarsha, was a complete melting pot. You cannot have those stereotypes of Arab, White, Africa and China. For Bengal, you do have a small percentage of East Asian genetic makeup. But that's not the same as Chinese and this percentage is more pronounced in Bangladesh than in West Bengal, depending on the part of that country.

Of course, Sam used China for all of India's east, not just Bengal. Having been born in the North-East, I am upset when people from other parts refer to those from the North-East as "Chinky". There is nothing "Chinky" about those Indians. But having been a frequent visitor to Delhi once upon a time, Sam must have been aware of that negative appellation. Or perhaps, despite moving to the US in the mid-1960s, he was aware of West

Bengal's famous slogan from the late-1960s and the 1970s: "China's Chairman is Our Chairman." More disturbing is the mindset revealed by the Pitroda worldview. There cannot be anything indigenous in Bharatavarsha, in the genes or otherwise. It must have been imported — by Arabs from the west, by Africans from the south, by Chinese from the east and by Whites from the north. Perhaps this is a natural mindset for a person who has spent the formative years, and the rest of the career, in the United States. After all, in that country, the indigenous population was killed, subjected to ethnic cleansing, enslaved and packed off to reservations by White settlers and invaders. That's a historical fact, regardless of what the US says today about native Americans and native Alaskans. Ditto for a country like Australia. India is the only large country which continues to have indigenous populations (reflected in genetic studies too), though definition of "indigenous" depends on how far back you go. But the limited point is that the Pitroda worldview is incorrect. Many people, including Indians, wear blue jeans. I have seen Sam Pitroda wear them too. But that doesn't make you an expert on genes.

### Chinese 'long game'

The Elysee Palace said last week, "Exchanges will focus on international crises, first and foremost the war in Ukraine and the situation in the Middle East." The statement came ahead of Xi's visit, clearly showing France wanting to engage Beijing in the two most prominent global crises of the world that particularly involve the security of Europe, because if a war in Ukraine is an 'existential threat' to the continent, the war in the Middle East directly influences radical Islamic sentiments, something Europe, including France, is heavily suffering. Beijing has professed neutrality in the Russia-Ukraine war, though it claims to have a 'no-limits partnership' with Moscow. Also, China has amicable ties with Iran and was a factor behind once much acclaimed Saudi-Iran rapprochement.

Undoubtedly, the Middle Kingdom has its own cards to play.

"We must continue to engage China, which is objectively the international player with the greatest leverage to change Moscow's mind," an unnamed French diplomat had told Le Monde. With Russian President Vladimir Putin due to visit China this month, Macron must have tried to persuade Xi to ask Russia to engage in Switzerland talks to be held next month, to discuss Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's '10-point plan', which was forwarded by Zelensky at the end of 2022 but was rejected by Moscow. Reports say some 160 delegations have already been invited.

The 'Systematic Rivalry' Since March 2019, the European Union has referred to China as a

"systemic rival", and France is the most important member of the bloc—the EU's only remaining 'permanent-5' member of the UN security council. The 27 members of the supranational political and economic union are divided on their attitude towards China, particularly France and Germany, which stress the need to engage with the rising Asian giant. Europe has been wary of China's business practices; for example, last year, the EU opened a probe into China's subsidies for electric vehicle makers, which is the "highest-profile case against China since the EU probe into Chinese solar panels a decade ago". Also, virtue signalling is a divine right the West claims to possess, and hence they have been giving lectures to China over the issues of human rights, only to fall.

### To suggest 'Squad' will replace Quad is silly and baseless

An emerging quadrilateral framework between the US, Japan, Australia and the Philippines has triggered a bizarre debate over the future of Quad. It is being claimed that 'Quad', the four-way grouping between India, Japan, Australia, and the US is apparently "losing its relevance" and its premier status in the regional multilateral matrix due to India's purported "reluctance to call out China", and its "unwillingness" to prioritize the framework's security agenda or deliver on core military goals. We are being told (the source is unclear) that a tired Washington is fed up with India's pussyfooting over Quad and has decided to "replace" the framework with another emerging bloc tentatively called the 'Squad', where India's spot is taken over by the Philippines. I have come across some whacky arguments over the years. This one probably takes the cake. Before we delve into why such a theory is baseless, uninformed, and unmoored from reality, the regional incidents that triggered the development of the latest ad-hoc network are worth recounting. Philippines, under president Ferdinand Marcos who was elected into the office in 2022, has become the next big flashpoint in the South China Sea and a lightning rod for China's assertiveness in the South China Sea. Marcos has reversed former president Rodrigo Duterte's policy of extreme appeasement of China, which had seen the Philippine Navy give up patrolling of even its exclusive economic zone (EEZ), hewed closer towards the US, its treaty ally, and has taken a more confrontational stance against China's naked aggression in the Indo-Pacific — thereby incurring Beijing's wrath.

China, through its infamous 'nine-dash line' and wanton flouting of international laws of the sea,

claims almost the entirety of South China Sea that includes Philippines' 200-nautical mile exclusive waterways as well as its resource-rich Second Thomas Shoal, a submerged reef situated in the Spratly Islands. Beijing didn't take kindly to Manila's policy reversal and responded with a flurry of provocative moves and grey-zone tactics that included firing water cannons, ramming Filipino vessels and guiding military-grade laser beams at Philippine coast guard ships to prevent sailors from reaching BRP Sierra Madre, a rusty tank-landing ship from the World War-II era that sits atop the Second Thomas Shoal to enforce Manila's permanent claim to the reef. In response, the Joe Biden administration has been steadily intensifying strategic and security cooperation with its treaty ally and held its first joint naval and air drills with the Philippine defence forces last month in the disputed South China Sea, that also saw the participation of Japan and Australia. Defence chiefs of the four nations, who had met on the sidelines of the Shangri-La security dialogue in Singapore last year, attended a series of meetings in Hawaii on May 2 and decided on an "ambitious" course of action that includes reestablishing deterrence against China's hostility in South China Sea and deepening interoperability and security ties within the group that Pentagon officials, according to Bloomberg, are informally calling 'Squad'. All four treaty allies have promised to hold more maritime military drills and provide more muscle to Philippines in countering China's hostile behaviour. At a post-meeting presser, US defence secretary Lloyd Austin said that China's recent behavior in the South China Sea was "irresponsible" and "disregards international law."

### Deciphering Tehran's 'neighbourhood first' policy

Experts argue that Tehran, by accepting the invitation of Pakistan's President Asif Ali Zardari, reflected strategic calculus, culminating in Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi's three-day visit to Pakistan, starting with his arrival in Islamabad on April 22, making him the first Iranian leader to visit Pakistan in eight years. During his visit, the two nations signed over eight agreements and memoranda of understanding (MoUs), strengthening bilateral cooperation and fostering regional security and economic prosperity. That said, his visit came at a crucial time. Just a week before the visit, Iran had launched rocket barrages

using a mix of missiles and drones at Israel in retaliation for the Israeli Air Force airstrike on the Iranian embassy complex in Damascus. This reminded us of the beginning of 2024, when regional security was seriously threatened as Tehran and Islamabad's diplomatic relations took a dip after the artillery strikes conducted in each other's territory.

#### A bid to revive diplomatic relations?

At the outset, one may argue that President Raisi's Pakistan visit reflects Tehran's attempt to win Islamabad's support (in the backdrop of retaliation against Israel), perhaps even

reflecting/demonstrating Pakistan's importance in Tehran's neighbourhood policy and its relations with regional economies. That said, Islamabad has serious limitations in the context of internal/domestic security or foreign policy, coupled with a crippled economy, forcing it to take calculative measures even before committing political support through foreign policy engagements without seeking anything in return. That said, for Islamabad, its policy towards Tehran is centred on:

It is without a doubt that this visit reflects Tehran's willingness to engage with Pakistan in the context of economic

engagement, perhaps bringing more collaborative opportunities in terms of strengthening economic cooperation and reaffirming Tehran's commitment to strengthen its engagement with Islamabad and bolster relations. That said, President Raisi's visit did not reflect (or demonstrate) regional influence, making it a focused visit to strengthen relations with Pakistan. During a discussion with an expert from the University of Tehran, he opined that the visit may have carried remnants of recent events, reflecting Iran's commitment to de-escalate and revive regional stability, emanating from his conversations with IRGC leadership.



## Jawa Yezdi Motorcycles brings its Mega Service Camp in Faridabad



**Faridabad** : Jawa Yezdi Motorcycles is set to extend its highly successful Mega Service Camp to Faridabad, Haryana. Following the successful phase I of service camps across states, the phase II of service camps will further expand to more cities. This event will take place in Faridabad from April 26th to April 27th, exclusively catering to Jawa motorcycle owners of the 2019 and 2020 models in the region. The service camp will be held at Northern Motors - A-5, Neelam Bata Rd, Nehru Ground Haryana - 121001. As part of the camp, owners of 2019-2020 Jawa motorcycles are entitled to a comprehensive vehicle health check-up and a free replacement of select parts. Leading original equipment suppliers, including Motul, Amaron, and Ceat Tyres, will be actively participating to assist customers. In a continued commitment to long-term customer satisfaction, Jawa Yezdi Motorcycles is offering complimentary extended warranties based on the motorcycles' health evaluation. Additionally, a designated zone will be set up for owners interested in upgrading their motorcycles to

assess the exchange value. Building on the success of phase I service camps, which have already serviced over 6250 Jawa motorcycles, Jawa anticipates servicing around 10,000 bikes by the end of June. Looking ahead, Jawa will organize Mega Service camps (Phase II) in multiple cities across the country in the coming months. The next camp will be organized in Jammu, Haldwani, Magalore, Siliguri and Jodhpur. This initiative reaffirms the brand's commitment to prioritizing customer satisfaction and providing an unmatched ownership experience.

## Karnataka man who beheaded minor fiancee held after 36 hours



**MADIKERI:** Thirty-six hours after M Prakash alias Omkarappa, 34, in a fit of rage beheaded the minor girl he was engaged to reportedly out of anger over the postponement of their wedding, Kodagu police arrested him on Saturday morning from near Garavale village in Somwarpet taluk, even as he was readying to commit another murder. SP K Ramarajan revealed that Prakash was planning to kill the deceased girl's elder sister, who lived in Garavale village, and had opposed the alliance.

The sister, who is married to a farmer, did not attend the engagement ceremony, police said. After Prakash's arrest, police recovered the girl's head from a bush near her residence in Kumbaragadige. They also recovered the machete used to kill the girl. Police seized a single barrel gun from the accused with which he allegedly planned to shoot the elder sister. Prakash fled with the severed head after beheading the minor on Thursday evening. He told police that he was furious that the wedding

had to be postponed for two years after an anonymous caller tipped off child welfare officials about the engagement. Officials from the child welfare department had counselled both families saying that if they went ahead with the wedding, it would attract provisions of the Pocco Act and Child Marriage Act. After the murder, Prakash hid himself behind a bush near the girl's residence. He fled when the coast was clear, but left the severed head in the bush. He hid in forest-like patches in the vicinity.

## CAPSULES

### CDRI leads the call for action to accelerate investments in resilient infrastructure

#### GURUGRAM :

The International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI) opened today at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. ICDRI is the flagship event of Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), an international organization launched by Prime Minister of India in 2019. CDRI currently has 46 members. The theme of ICDRI 2024 is 'Investing today for a more resilient tomorrow.' ICDRI is a two-day event that brings together governments, the global infrastructure community, multilateral development banks, the private sector, and the media to support the development of disaster resilient infrastructure. Inaugurating the event virtually, Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, highlighted that damages to infrastructure systems caused by disasters are reported in dollars, but the true impact is felt by people and communities. The Prime Minister congratulated CDRI on its rapid growth since 2019, and its programmes which are supporting the development of resilient infrastructure, including across 13 Small Island Developing States. He closed his remarks with the hope that ICDRI would catalyze action to help achieve 'shared global resilience'.



## HDFC Bank Educated over 2 Lakhs Citizens on Safe Digital Banking Practices PAN India in FY24

**AMBALA/HISAR:** HDFC Bank as a part of digital banking awareness drive, conducted a series of secure banking workshops pan India. The Bank organized over 16,600 workshops sensitizing over 2,00,224 citizens on safe digital banking practices. These workshops were aimed at educating school and college students, law enforcement agencies, senior citizens, self-help groups, customers and employees. Through these interactive sessions, participants gained valuable insights on safe digital banking practices so



that they don't fall prey to cyber frauds. Commenting on this Mr. Manish Agrawal, Executive Vice President - Credit Intelligence and Control - HDFC Bank said, "Cybercrime is a serious threat to indi-

viduals and organisations alike. Lack of awareness among the citizens so that they do not share confidential banking data or click on unverified links. The

objective of these workshops is to educate participants on various modus operandi used by fraudsters and the secure banking practices that they need to follow so that they do not become victims of such online frauds. These awareness workshops are in line with HDFC Bank's philosophy and core value i.e. Customer Focus." The workshops included real life examples, stories and videos which helped participants understand various Modus Operandi used by fraudsters and tips on how to stay safe from such frauds.

## Tata Motors celebrates 4 lakh happy customers of the Magic; introduces first-in-its-segment, Magic Bi-Fuel

**GURUGRAM / FARIDABAD :** Tata Motors, India's largest commercial vehicle manufacturer, celebrates the remarkable milestone of 4 lakh happy customers of the Tata Magic - India's most preferred van. On the momentous occasion, the company has introduced a new variant, the Magic Bi-Fuel, to further increase the convenience of its customers. Renowned for its reliability, efficiency and affordability in the last-mile transportation, the 10-seater Tata Magic has



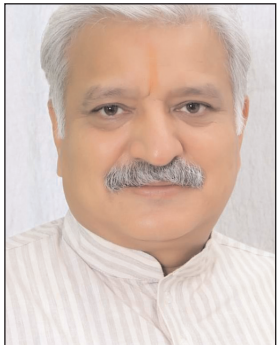
been the ideal choice of commuters and operators. The sleek design, safety and passenger comfort of the Tata Magic have been pivotal to its continued success over the years. The Tata Magic comes equipped with an array

of value-added features such as an Eco switch, gearshift advisor and enhanced driver ergonomics, all aimed at reducing the total cost of ownership. The Magic is perfectly suited for student and staff transportation, and last-mile mobility. The Magic-Bi-Fuel is powered by a 694cc engine and comes with 60-litre CNG tank along with 5-litre petrol tank, with a cumulative range of ~380 kilometres on a single fill. Offering unparalleled performance and

low maintenance costs, the Magic comes with an exceptional warranty of 2 years or 72,000 km. Commenting on the milestone, Mr. Anand S, Vice President & Head - Passenger Business, Tata Motors Commercial Vehicles said, "We are elated to achieve the milestone of 4 lakh happy customers for the versatile Magic brand. Celebrating 4 lakh journeys of trust, efficiency and comfort, the Magic continues to be the heartbeat of India's bustling mass mobility.

## BJP leader Amarjeet Chhabra campaigned vigorously in favor of Naveen Jindal and sought votes

**Kaithal:** State President of Haryana Rice Millers Dealers Association and senior BJP leader Amarjeet Chhabra said that under the able leadership of the country's successful Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the country has set a new direction and our country is being recognized all over the world. Has been named. Modi government has created a new India. He said that the Modi-Nab government has been working well in the public interest for the last 10 years. The development and beneficial policies of the BJP government have proved to be a boon for the upliftment and welfare of every section of the society. Amarjeet Chhabra was appealing for votes by campaigning in various



areas of the district in favor of BJP candidate Naveen Jindal from Kurukshetra Lok Sabha constituency. Amarjeet Chhabra said that today the policy of the country's government is right. The work that Modi government has done in empowering women has not been done by any government till date. The country has to be made a developed nation by 2047 and BJP will form the government for the third time with the blessings of the public

with the slogan of 400 crosses and for the third time Narendra Modi will be crowned the Prime Minister. The wave of BJP is going on in the country and the state and the people of Haryana will work to bloom lotus flowers on 10 Lok Sabha seats. He claimed that BJP candidate from Kurukshetra Lok Sabha constituency Naveen Jindal is getting full support from people of every section day by day and with the blessings of the public, Jindal will win the elections with record breaking votes. BJP leader Amarjeet Chhabra said that today Congress is not even getting candidates to contest the Lok Sabha elections and the family of BJP is continuously increasing.

## Eraaya Lifespaces Ltd. Acquires Luxury Staycation Property and Commercial Retail Spaces

**CHANDIGARH :** Eraaya Lifespaces Ltd. (BSE: 531035) is pleased to update the developments taking place in its hospitality business (i) acquisition of luxury Staycation property at Lonavala with an investment of about INR 30 Million, and (ii) acquisition of commercial retail spaces with an investment of about INR 470 Million in the largest mall located near the International Airport at Mohali, the satellite city of Chandigarh, the heart of the richest state in India, Punjab, which demonstrates its strong commitment to expanding its hospitality business and diversifying its portfolio in the growth potential business



areas. Eraaya of Designer, Luxury Staycation properties demonstrates an intense understanding of the booming leisure tourism market and a strategic approach to meeting the needs of discerning travellers. The Destination Lonavala: Situated amidst the lush greenery of the Western Ghats and conveniently located near major urban centres like Mumbai and Pune, Lonavala

is a popular destination for weekend getaways and leisure trips. The serene surroundings, pleasant climate, and range of recreational activities make it an ideal location for a luxury Staycation property. Eraaya Lifespaces' investment in a Luxury Cottage located at the pristine allows it to cater to the demand from urban dwellers seeking a luxurious escape from city life without having to travel far. By ensuring that

its Boutique Staycation property in Lonavala will be ready and operational by this current mid-year, Eraaya Lifespaces demonstrates its commitment to meeting the demands of travellers eager to explore exceptional destinations. Whether guests are seeking a serene retreat amidst nature or an indulgent urban escape, Eraaya Lifespaces' properties will be designed to offer unforgettable experiences tailored to their preferences and desires. he Hospitality Industry in India Market size is estimated at USD 247.31 billion in 2024, and is expected to reach USD 475.37 billion by 2029.

## PM Narendra Modi on said he would be a "shield for the Constitution"

**RAIPUR:** PM Narendra Modi on said he would be a "shield for the Constitution" and attacked Congress over a remark by its South Goa candidate Captain Viriato Fernandes (retired) that the Indian Constitution was "imposed on Goa" after its liberation from the Portuguese rule in 1961. At a rally, Fernandes had said that while pressing for the demand for dual citizenship, he had explained to Rahul Gandhi in 2019 how the Constitution was 'imposed' on Goans. Attacking Congress at a rally in Chhattisgarh, Modi said: "A Congress candidate in Goa is saying that the Constitution of India will not work there. Isn't this a disrespect of Babasaheb? Isn't this a disrespect of the Constitution Babasaheb's Constitution is working in J&K." "This is a deliberate move to break the country.



## Industrial output grows 5.8% in FY24, slows a tad in March



**New Delhi:** The country's industrial output growth slowed marginally in March but manufacturing and electricity sectors remained robust, offsetting the slowdown in mining, while growth for the full fiscal year remained stable, data showed on Friday.

Numbers released by the National Statistical Office on Friday showed the index of industrial production (IIP) rose an annual 4.9% in March, slightly lower than the downwardly revised 5.6% in Feb but above the 1.9% posted in March last year.

For the 2023-24 fiscal year, industrial output growth rose to 5.8% from 5.2% in the previous year. Industrial output grows 5.8% in FY24, slows a tad in March. The manufacturing sector rose 5.2% in March, higher than the 1.5% posted in March last year, while the electricity sector grew 8.6% compared with a 1.6% contraction in the same month a year earlier.

The mining sector grew 1.2% in March, slower than the 6.8% recorded in March last year. The manufacturing sector expansion was consistent with other data such as the PMI for manufacturing, which had predicted stable expansion for the sector on the back of robust domestic demand. The consumer durables sector grew 9.5% in March compared with a contraction of 8% in the year earlier period, while consumer non-durables grew 4.9% during the month compared with a contraction of 1.9% in the year earlier period. The capital goods sector, which is seen as a gauge for investment

activity, rose 6.1% in March, slower than the 10% recorded in March last year, while the infrastructure/construction goods sector rose 6.9% during the month, slightly slower than the 7.2% in March last year. "On the consumption front, output of consumer durables grew by 9.5% whereas non-durables output growth turned positive, rising by 4.9% following two consecutive months of contraction. However, the sustenance of this trend remains to be monitored in the upcoming months," said Rajani Sinha, chief economist at ratings agency CareEdge.

## ED attaches 53cr assets of Navi Mum developer

**Mumbai:** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached immovable properties worth Rs 53 crore located in Navi Mumbai in the case of Monarch Universal Group. The ED initiated an investigation based on multiple FIRs registered by the police under various sections against Monarch Universal Group, Gopal Amarlal Thakur, Hasmukh Amarlal Thakur, and others for allegedly cheating flat buyers by



collecting money from them for flats and not registering the same in their names. ED investigation showed that Gopal Amarlal Thakur diverted and siphoned off a huge amount of investors' money to various sister entities

and, through a complex web of money trails, parked substantial proceeds of crime with various builders in Navi Mumbai. Gopal Thakur of the group was arrested in July 2021. He is currently in judicial custody.

## Maoist IED blast kills woman in Bijapur district

**RAIPUR:** A 25-year-old woman was killed when a Maoist pressure IED exploded in Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh's Bastar division on Saturday, just 20km from where 10 Maoists were killed in a gunfight a day before. The victim, Shanti Punem, was col-



lecting tendu leaves near

Mallur village when she stepped on a camouflaged IED, police said. The explosion was heard in the village. Locals found Shanti's body and alerted police. The site is not far from the site of Friday's 11-hour gunfight.

## No bail to DHFL promoters seeking relief for spending half of term in jail

**MUMBAI:** Refusing to grant bail to DHFL promoters Dheeraj and Rakesh Wadhawan, who sought the relief on the grounds that they had already spent more than half the maximum sentence of seven years in jail, a special PMLA court said the one year that the duo consumed in stalling their bail pleas had to be deducted from the computation of the time they had spent as undertrials. The brothers were arrested in 2020 in a money laundering



case in which Yes Bank founder Rana Kapoor and others are also accused. In Dec last year, Kapoor was granted bail in the case after the judge pointed out

that he had spent more than the minimum punishment period of three years, without the framing of charges and a trial. In an 83-page order, the judge had cited a

table chronicling 207 dates in the case, emphasising that Kapoor was not responsible for the delays. Section 436A of the Criminal Procedure Code allows the release of undertrial prisoners upon completion of half of the maximum jail sentence. In the case of the Wadhawans, the judge, though, said the section does not provide an absolute right of bail and it may be denied where the trial is delayed because of the accused.

## Congress's Surat pick 'back', says party betrayed him first in 2017

**SURAT:** Suspended Congress leader Nilesh Kumbhani, whose nomination form was rejected over discrepancies leading to BJP winning the Surat Lok Sabha seat in Gujarat unopposed, resurfaced on Saturday after 20 days and alleged it was the grand old party that had betrayed him first in 2017. Kumbhani said he was silent all these days because of his respect for state party president Shaktisinh Gohil and the party's Rajkot Lok Sabha candidate Paresh Dhanani. "Congress



leaders are accusing me of betrayal. However, it was the Congress which betrayed me first in the 2017 assembly elections when my ticket for Kamrej Assembly seat in Surat was cancelled at the last moment. It was the Congress which made the first mistake, not me," Kumbhani told

reporters here. "I did not want to do this but my supporters, office staff and workers were upset because the party is being run by five self-proclaimed leaders in Surat and they neither work nor allow others to work.

Though AAP and Congress are part of

INDIA alliance, these leaders raised objections when I used to campaign with AAP leaders here," he claimed. Asked if the turn of events in the ongoing Lok Sabha poll was his revenge on the Congress, Kumbhani refused to give a direct reply and reiterated his charge about cancellation of ticket in the 2017 state polls. Kumbhani, who had earlier served as a Congress corporator in the Surat Municipal Corporation, fought the 2022 assembly polls from Kamrej but lost to the BJP.

## TISS student moves HC against suspension for attending protest

**MUMBAI:** Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) research scholar, Ramadas KS, has moved the Bombay High Court against the institute's suspension order. He was suspended for two years from the institute and debarred from entering all the four campuses, in an order passed last month. In his petition, Ramadas has appealed to the court to set aside the inquiry report of the institute's empowered committee and the revocation of the suspension order and restore his entitlements as a student. He said that he was 'unlawfully, arbitrarily and unfairly suspended by the institute' Ramadas has also asked for the withdrawal of the public notice issued by the insti-



tute on April 20, two days after the suspension order was passed. The public notice, stated the petition, was 'malicious' and 'defamatory' in nature and 'puts his life and academic pursuits under grave threat'. He also pointed out that his legitimate participation in student life and exercise of his constitutional rights has been deemed as 'anti-national' by the institute. The petition also seeks directions to the union ministry

of social justice and empowerment to ensure the continuation and monthly disbursement of the national fellowship he was entitled to. In his petition, Ramadas mentioned that he did not receive the fellowship amount for April 2024, in pursuance of the suspension order. Ramadas has also set an interim stay on the suspension order and the continuation of the fellowship pending the hearing.

## With the help of silicone models and photoshop, ma comes to life again

**Glittering** lehengas, elaborate rituals, and sumptuous food. The wedding of Gujarat-based real estate developer Piyush Patel's twin daughters in February last year had it all. Yet, one absence loomed large: that of their mother Daxaben, who passed away months before the event due to a brain stroke. The void was hard to fill, but Patel was determined to plug it a little. He decided to commission an artist and give his daughters a surprise they'd remember the rest of their lives: a life-size hyper-realistic silicone model of their mother, adorned in a bright turquoise saree, real gold jewellery, and a warm smile. Seeing it, not just the daughters, but many



other guests present cried, he recalls. "It was like she was really there, blessing our daughters," he adds. From photographs to pooja rituals, Daxaben's model marked her presence at the wedding ceremony. It sits in their home even today, with fresh clothes and makeup, for occasions like birthdays, festivals, and more.

**MODEL MOM** Vadodara-based artist Vibha Patel, who made the stat-

ue, says she gets many requests to make silicone models for people who've lost near and dear ones, but they often back out after getting to know the cost. Such models typically cost around Rs 3-5 lakhs to make. While not everyone can afford a silicone model, people are finding different ways of keeping the memory of their late mothers alive. From rings made from strands of their hair that were preserved

for years, to using technology to photoshop them into wedding albums, the modes adopted are many.

**FRAMED IN** Noida-based digital artist Divyanshu Garg, who goes by the name @ind\_cyborg on Instagram, has received multiple requests over the last few months. Earlier this year, he received one such request from Ami Kaur, who is from a Sikh family living in Thailand. Kaur's younger brother got married two years ago, but their mother was alive to only attend the engagement, and then succumbed to cancer. As his second marriage anniversary was approaching, Kaur decided to approach Garg to recreate.

## Punjab accepts IAS BJP pick's resignation, rejects VRS

**BATHINDA:** Punjab govt has reportedly accepted the resignation of IAS officer Parampal Kaur Sidhu — BJP candidate for Bathinda Lok Sabha seat — rejecting her plea for VRS and associated benefits, reports Neel Kamal. She will not get retirement benefits like pension, which according to her, would have been around Rs 1 lakh a month. Parampal alleged AAP govt was "harassing her" as it fears her candidacy. She said Punjab govt did not treat other officers opting for VRS in the same manner. "But contesting as a BJP candidate from Bathinda is a reward for me which is more than the pensionary benefits," Parampal Kaur told TOI. Earlier, the state govt had asked her to resume duty immediately or face action. Parampal was to retire on Oct 31, 2024, but sought VRS in April.



## EC: 65.7% voted in Phase 3, women's tally higher than men in 4 states



**NEW DELHI:** The Election Commission on Saturday said that the third phase of voting for Lok Sabha elections on May 7 held across 93 constituencies saw a voter turnout of 65.7%, similar to the data updated by the poll body in its mobile app on May 8. Like the earlier two phases, this time too the voting percentage among men (66.9%) was higher than among women (64.4%). However, four states and Union territories — Bihar, West Bengal, Goa and Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu — saw more

women voters exercise their franchise. As per data, South Goa, three constituencies in Assam — Dhubri, Guwahati and Kokrajhar — and Bidar in Karnataka also saw a higher women turnout than men. EC also released the number of electors of 96 parliamentary constituencies where voting will be held on May 13. Amreli in Gujarat, which recorded the lowest overall polling, also saw only 46.2% women casting their votes. Dhubri in Assam, where overall voting has been the highest so far, saw

maximum turnout of women voters at 92.2%. EC said a copy of Form 17C has also been provided for every polling station in a constituency to candidates through their polling agents. "Actual data of Form 17 C shall prevail which is already shared with candidates. Final turnout will only be available post-counting with the counting of postal ballots and its addition to the total vote count," said EC. In the first phase of Lok Sabha elections, the voter turnout was recorded at 66.1% and 66.7% in the second phase.

## Lok Sabha elections: Phase 4 campaign for 96 seats in 10 states ends

**NEW DELHI:** The high-stakes campaign for phase four of Lok Sabha elections came to a close on Saturday amidst scorching heatwave conditions across various regions. This phase covered 96 seats across 10 states, including all constituencies of Andhra Pradesh (25) and Telangana (17), with simultaneous assembly polls for 175 seats in AP scheduled for Monday. Other states where polling is scheduled include 13 seats in UP, 11 in Maharashtra, eight each in MP and Bengal, five in Bihar, four each in Odisha and Jharkhand, and one in J&K. With the end of phase 4, polling in 23 states and Union ter-

ritories will be completed. Of the 96 seats, BJP had won 42 in 2019. Among the notable contestants in this round are Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav (Kannauj), NCP's Omar Abdullah (Srinagar), Union ministers Giriraj Singh (Begusarai) and Nityanand Rai (Ujjain), Congress's Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury (Baharampur), Trinamool's Mahua Moitra (Krishnanagar) and Shatrughnan Sinha (Asansol), AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi (Hyderabad), and AP CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's younger sister YS Sharmila of Congress (Kadapa). Close contests are anticipated in UP,

with SP chief Akhilesh facing BJP's Subrat Pathak in Kannauj, while in Unnao, BJP MP Sakshi Maharaj is up against SP's Annu Tandon. Tandon had unsuccessfully contested against Sakshi Maharaj as a Congress candidate in 2014 and 2019, after winning the seat in 2009. In Bihar, JD(U) heavy-weight Rajiv Ranjan alias Lalan Singh contests against RJD's Kumari Anita in Munger. Anita is the newly-wed wife of Nawada jailbreak convict Ashok Mahto. Don-turned-politician Anant Singh, who is out of jail on a 15-day parole, campaigned for Lalan.

## 'India is open & welcoming': EAM rebuts Biden's 'xenophobic' remark

**NEW DELHI:** External affairs minister S Jaishankar has rejected recent remarks by US Prez Joe Biden describing India as "xenophobic" and emphasised that the country has been open and welcoming to people from diverse societies. Jaishankar also refuted

the allegation that the Indian economy was faltering. Union minister said that the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) introduced by PM Narendra Modi-led govt showcases India's welcoming approach. On April 2, Biden had said the "xenophobic" nature of India, China,

Japan and Russia is responsible for their economic troubles and argued that America's economy is growing because it welcomes immigrants to its soil. He made the statement while campaigning for his re-election at Washington fundraising event.

## CAPSULES

### BJP 'whistleblower' on Prajwal held in harassment case

**MYSURU:** BJP functionary G Devarajegowda, the first to alert his party last year about sleaze and sexual abuse videos allegedly involving JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna, was arrested late Friday in a sexual harassment case, reports Milton Lawrence. Devarajegowda, also an advocate, was held near Chitradurga and brought to Holenarasipura, Hassan, on Saturday. He was later remanded in judicial custody for 14 days by a local court. Devarajegowda's arrest came a day after he sought anticipatory bail from a local court on May 9, but it posted his plea for hearing to May 15. A woman had filed a complaint on April 1 this year saying she had contacted Devarajegowda to find a buyer for her property around 10 months ago. She claimed he had been regularly contacting and harassing her over the phone and abused her this Feb. He has been booked on charges of sexual harassment and voyeurism. Citing Prajwal's videos, Devarajegowda had urged BJP not to ally with JD(S) for the Lok Sabha elections as he felt it would hand Congress and other parties ammunition to target the saffron party. Later alleged that state Congress chief and deputy CM DK Shivakumar was behind the leak. The BJP functionary also accused SIT officials probing Prajwal's case of coercing him into dropping Shivakumar's name from his statement.

## Have 1 more video, claims Bengal CM Mamata

**KOLKATA/HOOGHLY/HOWRAH:** Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee alleged on Saturday that "not everything" about governor CV Ananda Bose had surfaced yet and claimed she possessed "one more video, a pen drive". She demanded Bose's resignation, declaring that even sitting beside him felt sinful to her. "One more kelenkari (scandal), deed after deed, scandal after scandal. Who are you to torture Bengal's women?" she asked Bose. The CM's remarks came in response to a former Raj Bhavan staffer's allegation that Bose had molested her within the premises. Kolkata police claimed on Friday that they had obtained



CCTV footage from Raj Bhavan's PWD wing, depicting the complainant leaving the premises "dishevelled and in tears" on May 2. Banerjee announced her refusal to visit Raj Bhavan again. "If you call me to the street (outside Raj Bhavan), I will meet you there. From what I hear about your

deeds and scandals, it would be a sin to even sit beside you," she said during a rally in Hooghly's Adisaptagram. She described Bose as a person "with little shame" at her second rally in Howrah's Jagatballavpur. "I want to say that this is not a one-off incident. Mothers and sis-

ters, I know of several incidents (happening) over a considerable period of time. He occupies an important post and that is why it is unseemly to say everything. But women are now feeling scared to meet him. I would rather meet you on the footpath than go to your residence. Not one but many women have been abused. This is the true character of washing machine BJP," she said, linking Bose to BJP. Responding to Bose's statement about not allowing "didigiri" (bullying), the CM said: "What is my fault? I did not know anything. He said 'Didigiri nahi chalegi.' I support that. There should be no dadagiri or didigiri.

## In a 1st for Meghalaya, female officer gets state's DGP post

**SHILLONG:** Matrilineal Meghalaya got its first woman police chief with governor Phagu Chauhan on Saturday appointing Idashisha Nongrang as the new director general of police (DGP). She is set to take charge from May 20 after retirement of the incumbent LR Bishnoi on May 19. "Breaking barriers and making history, she becomes the first tribal lady from our state to hold this position — a moment of immense pride for all of us," chief minister Conrad K Sangma said, even as he congratulated the first

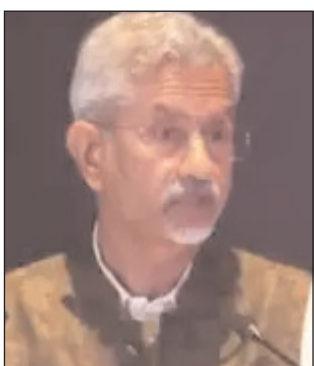


lady police chief of the state. "From amongst the empanelled list of IPS Officers duly recommended by the Empanelment Committee of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) in its meeting held on 2nd May, 2024, and in the interest of public service, the Governor of

Meghalaya is pleased to appoint Smti Idashisha Nongrang, IPS (RR:1992), Director General of Civil Defence & Home Guard, Meghalaya, Shillong as the Director General of Police (Head of Police Force), Meghalaya, Shillong in the Apex Scale of Pay (Level 17) in the Pay Matrix for a fixed period of 2(two) years with effect from 20th May, 2024 to 19th May, 2026," a notification issued today by the home department read. The UPSC had recommended three names — Idashisha Nongrang (1992 batch), RP Meena (1993).

## 'Arbitration fosters economic growth': Jaishankar

**NEW DELHI:** External affairs minister S Jaishankar emphasized the benefits of arbitration during the inauguration of the Arbitration Bar of India in Delhi on Saturday. Speaking at the event held at Bharat Mandapam, Jaishankar acknowledged arbitration as a fundamental aspect of modern dispute resolution. "We all do know it as an efficient and equitable method of resolving disputes and providing a streamlined alternative for what can often be very intricate judicial processes. So whether it is in domestic or international arenas, arbitration certainly inspires confidence, it fosters economic growth, and it



upholds the rule of law," the EAM said. Jaishankar stressed the significance of arbitration in India, particularly during a period of rapid economic growth in a globalized context. He noted that high-quality arbitration plays a crucial role in attracting foreign direct investment, which is essential for the country to fully capitalize on its advantages in democracy, demographics, and demand. The EAM

also highlighted the government's efforts in streamlining interstate commerce through the Goods and Services Tax, fostering a unified national market, and promoting digitally enabled delivery. These initiatives, along with legal reforms such as the insolvency and bankruptcy code and amendments to financial laws, have contributed to creating a stable and positive business environment. Jaishankar emphasized the importance of strengthening dispute resolution mechanisms, including commercial courts and alternative dispute resolution, as they enhance investor confidence.

## Rahul after accepting invitation by ex-judges for public debate

**NEW DELHI:** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday accepted an invitation to a public debate with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which was requested by two former judges and a senior journalist through a letter sent to both the leaders. Former Judges Madan B Lokur, Ajit P Shah, and senior journalist N Ram wrote a letter inviting Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for a public debate on the Lok Sabha Election to give a proper response to the allegations and challenges that either side had put up against each other. They also said that the public is concerned as they have only heard allegations and challenges from either side and have not heard any meaningful responses. Replying to the invita-



tion, Rahul said on X that such a debate "would be a positive initiative for the major parties to present their vision to the country from one platform for a healthy democracy". "Congress welcomes this initiative and accepts the invitation for discussion. The country also expects the Prime Minister to take part in this dialogue," he said. "I have discussed your invitation with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge. We agree that such a debate will help people understand our respective vision and enable them to make

an informed choice. It is also critical to put to rest any unsubstantiated allegations attributed to our respective parties. As the principal parties fighting the election, the public deserve to hear from their leaders directly. Accordingly, either myself or the Congress President would be pleased to participate in such a debate," Rahul said in his letter. "Please do let us know if and when the Prime Minister agrees to participate, following which we can discuss the details and format of the debate. Thank you once again for your initiative. I look forward to participating in a productive and historic debate," he added. In their letter to the leaders, the former judges and journalist said that it will be great if public listen to their responses and this is the reason a public debate.

## BJP won't win in Odisha even in next 10 years, says CM Naveen Patnaik

**NEW DELHI:** The government has finally notified the Inter-Services Organisations (Command, Control and Discipline) Act, which will also pave the way for creation of the long-pending unified theatre commands in the most radical military reorganization envisaged since Independence. The enforcement with immediate effect of the ISO Act, which received presidential assent on August 15 last year after the bill was passed by Parliament during the monsoon session, comes soon after the BJP manifesto last month promised its government will "establish military theatre commands for more efficient operations" after creating the chief of defence staff (CDS) post in December 2019. Parallely, CDS General Anil Chauhan chaired a "Parivartan Chintan" here on Thursday-Friday, during which 12 sub-committees made presentations on different domains and aspects towards jointness and integration "in light of the imminent theaterization", officials said. The flurry of activity shows the stage is now being set for the creation of integrated theatre commands (ITCs), which stalled after the first CDS Gen Bipin Rawat's death in a helicopter crash in December 2021, amid festering inter-service turf wars. India certainly needs a cost-effective war-fighting machinery through ITCs instead of the existing 17 single-service commands (Army 7, IAF 7 and Navy 3), which have little synergy in planning, logistics and operations, and often pull in different directions. The ISO Act empowers military commanders of existing tri-service organizations with full administrative and disciplinary powers over the Army, Navy and IAF personnel serving under them.



## How intel on presence of senior Maoists led to 11-hour encounter

**RAIPUR:** At least a dozen Maoists were gunned down in a fierce, 11-hour encounter in a forest in Bijapur district's Gangaloor region on Friday. With this, the number of Maoists neutralized this year has risen to 103, including 29 in a single operation in Kanker.

All the security personnel in Friday's operation are safe, said officers, adding that automatic weapons, a grenade launcher and explosives have been recovered from the battle zone. The bodies are being taken to a police camp for identification. An officer said that the toll may rise as the exact number of deaths will be known when separate teams of security personnel converge at a place.

According to police, the operation was launched on the basis of specific inputs about the presence of commander-ranked Maoists and over 150 cadres in the region. Over 1,000 security personnel, drawn from CoBRA, Special Task



Force and District Reserve Guards units in multiple districts, set out from different camps of Bijapur, Dantewada and Sukma districts at 6am on Friday, said officers. The forces converged in a patch of dense forest near Pidiya village, around 40km from Bijapur and 470km south of Raipur. Police say Maoists fired the first shots, and the forces retaliated. For 11 hours, gunfights erupted at different locations in the forest as forces pursued the Maoists. The combat continued even after darkness fell. Dantewada SP Gaurav Rai confirmed on Friday night that bodies of 12 Maoists had been found at the encounter

site. Police said there were inputs about the presence of Western Bastar division special zonal committee member Pap Rao, Darbha division SZC Chaiti, PLGA company number 2 commander Vella, Gangaloor area committee secretary of Platoon 12 Dinesh Modiyam and more than 150 cadres. Chhattisgarh chief minister Vishnu Deo Sai lauded the forces for the operation. "Since BJP has formed govt in Chhattisgarh, action against Maoists has intensified... Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji and Union home minister Amit Shah ji also wish that Naxalism should end.

Force and District Reserve Guards units in multiple districts, set out from different camps of Bijapur, Dantewada and Sukma districts at 6am on Friday, said officers. The forces converged in a patch of dense forest near Pidiya village, around 40km from Bijapur and 470km south of Raipur. Police say Maoists fired the first shots, and the forces retaliated. For 11 hours, gunfights erupted at different locations in the forest as forces pursued the Maoists. The combat continued even after darkness fell. Dantewada SP Gaurav Rai confirmed on Friday night that bodies of 12 Maoists had been found at the encounter

## Air quality drops to poor due to dust load, max temp better at 38.7C

**New Delhi:** The city witnessed slight drop in the day temperature and cooler easterly winds towards the late evening. However, the day remained warm and dry. Despite a yellow alert, no rain was recorded till Saturday night. Due to strong dust storm on Friday night, city's dust load increased leading to deterioration of air quality to poor.

India Meteorological Department (IMD) had issued a yellow alert for very light rain and thunderstorm on Saturday with possibility of further drop in the maximum temperature.

On Saturday, the maximum temperature was 38.7 degrees Celsius, a notch above normal, against 39 degrees Celsius a day earlier. The minimum temperature was 24.9 degrees Celsius, a notch below normal, against 27.7 degrees Celsius a day earlier. Meanwhile, IMD has recorded 0.4mm rainfall at base station Safdarjung on Friday night which followed the dust storm. Several other areas of the city too recorded rainfall ranging from 'Trace' level to 1.5mm, becoming the first incident of rain this month. So far, city has recorded net 0.4mm

rainfall for May which is 94% deficit, while in May 2023, Safdarjung had recorded 111mm rainfall.

According to IMD, there is chance of rain on Sunday. "The city is likely to see very light rain with thunderstorm. The wind speed may reach 30-40kmph which may bring the day temperature down. Thereafter, the maximum temperature will start rising again," said an IMD official. The maximum temperature today may hover around 38 degrees. Meanwhile, the city's air quality index, on a scale of 0 to 500, was 239 against 180 a day earlier.

## BJP in cahoots with West Bengal coal mafia: Trinamool Congress

**KOLKATA:** Trinamool Congress has alleged that coal smugglers had come to see off Union home minister Amit Shah at Andal airport in West Bengal on Friday. Shah had participated in rallies at Krishnaganj, Rampurhat and Raniganj. TMC general secretary Abhishek

Banerjee made the allegation during a road show at Uluberia on Saturday. Speaking to reporters, state minister Sashi Panja also alleged that BJP was hand-in-glove with Bengal's coal mafia. "Many involved in smuggling of coal were seen during the departure of home minister

Amit Shah," she alleged. TMC said Joydev was a coal smuggler and listed out names of 16 BJP functionaries who had come to see off Shah. The list was signed by Bappa Chatterjee, BJP's Asansol organizational district president. TMC also shared a photograph.

## Man commits suicide after killing mother, wife and three children in Sitapur

**LUCKNOW:** Six members of a single family were found dead in Palhapur village of the Rampur Mathura Thana area in the Sitapur district on Saturday.

Police said that Anurag Thakur (42), a resident of the village, first shot his mother, Savitri (65), then his wife, Priyanka (40), daughters Ashwini (12) and Ashvi (10), and son Advait (6) before shooting himself.

The superintendent of police in Sitapur, Chakresh Mishra, said that Anurag, who was



allegedly addicted to drugs, had a dispute with his family members over being taken to a de-addiction cen-

ter. The incident occurred in the early hours following the altercation. All six individuals were declared

dead at the scene, and their bodies have been sent for post-mortem. Mishra stated that the perpetrator was believed to be mentally disturbed. After fatally shooting his family members, he took his own life. A forensic team is collecting evidence at the scene, while the police continue their investigation into the matter. A heavy police force has been deployed in the area. Wing (EOW) Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in Uttar Pradesh.

## After Polls, BJP Will Remove Yogi: CM

**New Delhi:** Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal alleged on Saturday that BJP will send all top opposition functionaries to jail if they formed govt and will also end the careers of their own senior party-men to impose "dictatorship" in the country. In a rousing speech at the party headquarters amidst loud sloganeering, a day after he was released on interim bail, AAP national convener said BJP had ended the political career of some of its own party functionaries and next in line was UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath. "They ended the politics of Lal Krishna Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi, Shivraj



Singh, Vasundhara Raje, (ML) Khattar, Raman Singh... I can give in writing that they will change the UP chief minister within two months if they win the Lok Sabha polls. They will finish Yogi Adityanath politically," he alleged. "They are going to launch a dangerous mission - one nation, one leader," he added. In his address that lasted a little over

20 minutes, Kejriwal said he was arrested to send out a message in the country that anyone can be put behind bars even if there was no case against that person. Kejriwal said not only some of his own party colleagues, but also then Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren and ministers of Trinamool Congress had been sent to jail in the past few months. If

BJP won in the parliamentary elections, other opposition leaders like Mamata Banerjee, MK Stalin, Tejashwi Yadav, Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan, Uddhav Thackeray and others would be put behind bars, he warned. "But I have good news. I spoke to a lot of poll experts and concluded that BJP was falling short of a majority and may not get more than 220-230 seats.

INDIA alliance is forming govt at the Centre and AAP will be a part of it.

We will get full statehood for Delhi," Kejriwal said as people raised pro-AAP and anti-BJP slogans.

## Assam-origin Ayesha Hazarika creates history, appointed member of Britain's House of Lords

**GUWAHATI:** In a first, a British-Indian person of Assamese origin, Ayesha Hazarika has been appointed as a member to the House of Lords, the upper chamber of the British Parliament. A journalist, broadcaster and stand-up comic, Ayesha has her ances-



tral roots in Upper Assam's North Lakhimpur. She was born in Bellshill in 1975 and raised in Coatbridge in Scotland. She hails from an Indian Muslim family, with first generation immigrant parents. Her father Liyaqat Ali Hazarika, a doctor by profession moved to Glasgow in the 1960s. Hazarika has been made the "Baroness Hazarika of Coatbridge" after taking a seat in the House of Lords on May 9. She donned the traditional scarlet robes for her formal introduction ceremony. She has

previously served as a special adviser to British politicians. "What an incredible, special day spent with family and friends. Especially my amazing parents who came here as Indian Muslim immigrants and worked so very hard. It is genuinely the honour of my life to join the House of Lords as a Labour peer," she wrote on X after she took her oath. Hazarika was awarded with the "Member of the Order of the British Empire" in 2016 for her exemplary political service.

## Judge dismissed for 'giving electric shocks' gets back job

**AHMEDABAD:** The Gujarat high court has ordered taking a lower court judge back into judicial service eight years after he was sacked on various charges, including inflicting electric shocks on court staff "in order to get sadistic pleasure and to physically harass them on the court premises". This case involved civil judge and judicial magistrate first class Kamlesh Alwani, who was inducted into judicial service in 2005. His services were terminated in 2016 after an inquiry and disciplinary proceedings. When he was suspended in 2012, various charges were slapped on him. During the inquiry, the vigilance officer found that the judge had allegedly administered electric shocks to four employ-



ees of the court in Savli. The staffers - peons Deva Bhalani, M H Joshi and P C Joshi and watchman Tanvir Meer - claimed that the judge inflicted electric shocks on them using a tubelight starter. To establish the charge of torture, the statements of the alleged victims were recorded. Alwani was also being probed by the department on 22 other charges, which were not so grave. The inquiry report was submitted to the discipli-

nary authority in 2014 with the finding that he was guilty of torturing the court staffers. As this conduct was unbecoming of a judicial officer, the high court imposed a major penalty on him and his services were terminated in 2016. He challenged the decision of the HC's administrative side through advocate Vaibhav Vyas, who argued that there were many charges that were not substantiated including that of tor-

turing the court staffers. He argued that the inquiry officer relied only on the statements of witnesses and ignored the expert opinion of a deputy engineer of Madhya Gujarat Vij Co Ltd (MGVCL) which said that electric shocks cannot be administered in the way the victims were claiming. The lawyer submitted that the inquiry officer overlooked the expert opinion and wrongly held the judge guilty of such a serious charge. On behalf of the high court's administration, it was argued that the findings of the inquiry were accepted by the committee of the high court and the committee arrived at the conclusion that the judge had committed an act "which was unbecoming.

## Groom, 3 others charred to death as truck hits car

**JHANSI:** Four persons, including a prospective groom and an 11-year-old boy, were charred to death and two others were seriously injured when their car's CNG cylinder exploded after an accident in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh, late Friday night. The incident took place when a truck hit the car from behind causing the CNG cylinder fitted on the car's rear side to explode and set it afire.

Six people were going from Eirach to Baragaon for the wedding when the accident occurred. Two of them managed to escape, while four were burnt alive on the spot. The deceased were identified as Akash Ahirwar (24), the prospective groom, his nephew Mayank (11), Akash's brother Ashish (26) and driver Jay Karan. Police admitted the injured to Jhansi medical college. Superintendent of Police Gyanendra Kumar Singh said the bodies were sent for postmortem.