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

Don't do pressers as media not neutral, says PM Modi

NEW DELHI: PM Modi on Thursday justified his decision not to hold press conferences by saying that the nature of media had changed and it was not the neutral entity that it used to be, with journalists promoting their views and ideologies. "I am answerable to Parliament. Today, journalists are identified with their own preferences. Media is no longer a non-partisan entity. People are now aware of your beliefs as well. Earlier, media used to be faceless... who is writing in the media, what is its ideology... nobody was bothered about it earlier. However, the situation is not the same any more," Brought new work culture, media's call to endorse it or not: PM Modi. The PM said a new culture had developed in politics which was centered on managing the media and not being concerned about performance. "However, I don't believe in treading that path. I have to work hard and reach out to each household of the poor. I can also get clicked cutting ribbons in Vigyan Bhavan.



However, I go to a small district in Jharkhand for a minor project. I have brought a new work culture and it is for the media to take a call whether they endorse it or not," he said. Asked about allegations that Election Commission's independence had been compromised on his watch, Modi shot back by recalling instances of CECs taking to politics and holding ministerial positions after their retirement under Congress regimes and by pointing out that EC was a single-member entity for 56 years. "The funny thing is that people who came out of Election Commission sometimes became governors. Sometimes they became

MPs. Sometimes they went to contest parliamentary elections against Advani ji, they are examples of people who served as chief election commissioner under previous govts. Election commissioners from that era, now retired, still tweet promoting the same political philosophy. They give their opinion and write articles. This only shows that it is only now that EC has become completely independent," the PM said, a reference to former CEC T N Seshan contesting polls against L K Advani and M S Gill being nominated to Rajya Sabha and later becoming a Union minister under UPA regimes.

'PoJK slipped away due to someone's weakness': Jaishankar's

NEW DELHI: External affairs minister S Jaishankar on Thursday took a veiled jibe at former prime minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, and the Congress party, stating that India lost control over Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) due to "someone's weakness or mistake." Jaishankar made these comments while speaking at an event titled 'Vishwabandhu Bharat'. The external affairs minister dismissed the notion of a 'Lakshman Rekha' when asked about China's potential response if India were to cross the proverbial line and integrate PoJK into the Union of India, considering that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor passes through Pakistan-occupied Gilgit Baltistan.

Congress pins hope on statehood & local connect

JHANSI: On a sweltering May evening, Congress's lone candidate in Bundelkhand, Pradeep Jain Aditya, embarks on a mass contact programme in Jhansi's crowded Sadar market. Though sweating profusely and visibly tired, Jain, accompanied by the workers of SP and AAP, makes sure that he enters every single shop in the market and interacts with every trader and businessman. Despite a strong pro-Modi sentiment in the constituency, Jain commands respect for the works he has done in the past while serving as an MP. To woo voters, Jain is selling the idea of a separate state of Bundelkhand. "Congress has always believed that smaller states should exist and that is why we passed the proposal in Vidhan Sabha. However, in a federal structure, one cannot force a state gov't. BJP has gov'ts in Madhya Pradesh as well as UP but they are no



Turnout in 1st 4 phases of Lok Sabha polls at 67%; 45.1 crore

NEW DELHI: Voter turnout in the first four phases of the ongoing Lok Sabha polls stands at 67%, Election Commission said on Thursday. Around 45.1 crore of 97 crore registered electors have voted so far, it said. Polling data available till now indicate the turnout in the first three

phases saw a dip compared to 2019, but the gap narrowed in the fourth phase - to 0.4 percentage points. The poll body is expected to release the final voting percentages for the fourth phase on Friday. EC's voter turnout app put it at 69.2%; the turnout in these seats.

longer talking about this issue which their own veterans like Rajnath Singh and Uma Bharti had flagged off a few years ago. We will try our best to ensure formation of Bundelkhand state if we form gov't," he says. Aditya Bhanu, who runs

Land acquisition valid only if it passes constitutional test: SC

NEW DELHI: In a landmark verdict to protect the interests of landowners against acquisition of their property by gov't, Supreme Court on Thursday ruled that all acquisitions would have to pass the test of Article 300A which grants people constitutional right to property and said acquisition can be done only for public purpose, under authority of law and after following a due procedure. Observing that under the current constitutional scheme, the right to property is protected as a constitutional right and has even been interpreted to be a human right, a bench of Justices Pamiidighantam Sri Narasimha and Aravind Kumar pronounced seven basic procedural rights of landowners which must be followed and fulfilled for any valid acquisition.

Maliwal records statement in assault case



NEW DELHI: Delhi Police on Thursday recorded AAP Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal's statement in connection with the alleged assault on her by chief minister Arvind Kejriwal's aide Bibhav Kumar. Maliwal's statement was recorded by a two-member team of the Delhi Police at her residence in Central Delhi. According to a police officer, Maliwal told police about the incident that happened at the chief minister's residence on Monday. The officer said that based on Maliwal's statement, police might register an FIR in connection with the matter. The police team, led by additional commissioner of police PS Kushwaha, was at the AAP MP's house for more than four hours. After recording her statement to the police, Swati Maliwal took to X and expressed hope that appropriate action will be taken in the case. "What happened to me was very bad. I have given my statement to the police on the incident. I hope that appropriate action will be taken. The last few days have been very difficult for me. I thank those who prayed for me. Those who tried to do character assassination, by alleging that that she was doing it on the instructions of the other party, may God keep them happy too," Maliwal wrote. She also urged the BJP to refrain from doing politics on the incident. Earlier in the day, CM Arvind Kejriwal chose to remain silent on Maliwal's charges and passed on the mic to senior party colleague and UP incharge Sanjay Singh to answer media queries on the issue. The two were present at Samajwadi Party headquarters with Akhilesh Yadav to address a joint press conference. On Tuesday, Sanjay Singh had confirmed that CM Arvind Kejriwal's personal assistant Bibhav Kumar misbehaved with AAP MP Swati Maliwal.

'INDIA bloc strong, inter-party support trickling down from top'

NEW DELHI: INDIA bloc candidate from Barabanki Lok Sabha constituency, Tanuj Punia, feels that Ram Temple is important for people, but survival comes first. He discussed the problems faced by the people and the poll prospects of INDIA bloc. "on't your friends pull you back? Everything is diametrically opposite. In the corporate sector, when you start working, there is always



accountability, and you get paid for what you do. In politics, you might never get paid for your work. The level of accountability lies with everybody and still some people may remain unhappy. My friends keep calling but our chats make me realise that my life is way more happening and socially impactful than many of them. All these elections, I have been able to garner a few thousand votes which shows that

there are people who have faith in me. Undeterred by the outcome, they have been with me. I may step back if I have stakes as an individual, but when you are the hope of others, you must keep going. In my constituency, 50,000-odd people have pinned their hopes on me. Issues are dominating this time because people are tired of tall claims and false promises.

In Bundelkhand, BJP banks on ration & shasan to ride out anti-incumbency

Bundelkhand region in UP, including Jhansi, sees improvements with projects like Har Ghar Nal, defense corridor, and BIDA. Political dynamics involve BJP, SP-Congress alliance, and issues like unemployment and development. The region has four LS seats and faces murmurs of anti-incumbency. The SP-Congress alliance aims to challenge the BJP stronghold by uniting caste groups. In Bundelkhand, BJP banks on ration & shasan to ride out anti-incumbency. **JHANSI:** Considered among the most backward regions of UP, Bundelkhand once found itself



regularly in the news for water scarcity, migration and farmer deaths. Over the past few years, however, projects such as Har Ghar Nal, the upcoming Jhansi node in the defence corridor and the Bundelkhand Industrial Development Authority (BIDA) have helped improve the situation. Bundelkhand has four LS seats — Jhansi, Jalaun, Hamirpur and

groups and tapping into issues such as jobs. Modi still a factor In Jhansi, where unemployment is a key issue, the contest is triangular: Sitting MP Anurag Sharma is again facing former Congress MP Pradeep Jain Aditya, while BSP has fielded Ravi Prakash Kushwaha. Sharma, who won in 2019 by a margin of over 3.65 lakh votes, has been pitching BIDA as a big achievement of the "double engine" gov't for the region's development and job generation. The Congress candidate has been accusing gov't of not adequately compensating farmers for land acquisition.

Water crisis, a perennial issue in Bundelkhand region

NEW DELHI JHANSI/JALAUN/HAMIRPUR/BANDA: Water crisis, a perennial issue in Bundelkhand region, has dominated the discourse in urban and rural areas alike with candidates across party lines raking it up. Added to that are the continuing demand for separate statehood and controversies around the long-pending Ken-Betwa river-linking project (KBLP). But neither Congress leader Rahul Gandhi



nor SP supremo Akhilesh Yadav talked about the statehood demand at their joint rally in Jhansi and Hamirpur on Tuesday. "We've been hearing about the river-linking project, but it has not materialised yet.

Groundwater level has also fallen over the years, making it difficult for us to even find water to drink," says Sanjay Vishwakarma of Atrauli village in Mahoba district, 160km from Jhansi. Villagers in Banda, Lalitpur and Jhansi districts share similar woes. Though it got a concrete push during the Modi gov't's first term, its implementation was approved only in 2021.

'War ties': Norway fund to sell Adani Ports stake

MUMBAI: Norges Bank, Norway's central bank, has decided to exclude Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone from its government pension fund over ethical concerns. This means the \$1.7-trillion fund - the world's largest sovereign wealth fund by assets under management - will sell its remaining stake in Adani Ports. The Norwegian pension fund invests in equities and bonds across most countries and markets. In a statement, Norges Bank said it has decided to exclude Adani Ports due to "unacceptable risk that the company contributes to serious violations of individuals' rights in situations of war or conflict". The port operator, part of billionaire Gautam Adani's conglomerate, has been under its watch list since March 2022 and that "observation now ends given the exclusion decision".

As Sena faces Sena, Nashik battle hinges on loyalty-legitimacy

NASHIK: When BJP suggested that Maharashtra deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar's close aide Chhagan Bhujbal, a Cabinet minister and prominent OBC face, would be a better bet in terms of the winnability factor in Nashik, CM Eknath Shinde flatly refused. In fact, Shinde had spoken his mind about a candidate of his choice, well before the Mahayuti partners commenced their seat-sharing talks. As the Nashik impasse continued, Bhujbal felt "humiliated" by the delay in announcing his name and backed out of the race. Finally, on May 1, the ruling alliance announced Shiv Sena MP Hemant Godse as its choice — just 48 hours before the deadline for filing nominations. At first

glance, it may seem Shinde was trying to act bossy with a more dominant alliance partner. However, he had his reasons. Shinde knew he is battling a pro-Uddhav Thackeray sentiment in Maharashtra for having split the party even though Election Commission the assembly Speaker, and Supreme Court had all recognised his faction as the real Shiv Sena. He had time and again claimed at public forums that he was the ideological successor to party founder Balasaheb Thackeray. From that perspective, pushing for a candidate of his choice in Nashik, that goes to the polls on May 20, was Shinde's way to obtain legitimacy for his unit within as well as outside the governing alliance.

Cong, SP synonymous with nepotism, hooliganism and terrorism: Arun Kr Saxena

Prayagraj: Minister of State, Independent Charge, Forest Environment, Uttar Pradesh, Dr. Arun Kumar Saxena, during his stay in Prayagraj, met BJP candidate from Allahabad Lok Sabha, Neeraj Tripathi and BJP candidate from Phulpur Lok Sabha. While camping in support of Praveen Patel, he said that during the 10 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's tenure, India's respect has increased in the entire world and due to the efficient leadership of the Prime Minister, India today stands at the fifth position of the world's economy and Pakistan is the fifth largest economy in the world. He is

begging and the gang of separatist leaders who broke the country has vanished today and those who used to show evil eyes to India are today standing with their heads bowed before India. They said that under the misrule of Congress, India had become a base for terrorists and there used to be bomb blasts inside the country every day, but today under the leadership of Modi, India destroys the bases of terrorists by entering Pakistan. He said that inside this country Congress has worked to promote fear, hunger, terrorism, corruption, goondaism, Naxalism, nepotism. And



said that terrorism by Congress and SP is another name for nepotism and corruption. He said that there

was goondaraj in Uttar Pradesh under the misgovernance of SP. Today, under the leadership of Yogi,

the name of Ram of goons and mafia is coming true and Uttar Pradesh is moving towards the best state. He was present. Told the people that if security and good governance is to be established within the country and the state and development works are to be given momentum, then the candidates of Bharatiya Janata Party should strengthen the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi by winning a huge majority.

Media in-charge Rajesh Kesarwani said that the Minister reached the residence of former Kayat Pathshala President Chaudhary Raghavendra Nath Singh re-

garding the election camping and met the people of Yash Hospital, Para Medical Staff and told the people that the candidates of Bharatiya Janata Party had won with an overwhelming majority. Asked to do this and while taking it, he had darshan of Hanuman ji and wished for the victory of Bharatiya Janata Party. On this occasion, BJP Metropolitan President Rajendra Mishra, Dr BB Aggarwal, Media Incharge Rajesh Kesarwani, Vivek Mishra, Mayank Aggarwal, Anand Vaishya were present. Sudarshan, Sanjay Srivastava, Sunil Srivastava, and other workers were present.

Havan ritual regarding voting awareness in Bahadurganj

Prayagraj: Umesh Kumar, a senior businessman of Bahadurganj Prayagraj, to give concrete shape to the slogan of making the Modi government the government of the country for the third time and this time on 400 votes and for maximum voting. According to Gupta alias Chappu, he is awakening people to vote by performing rituals in Moti Park Laxman Bazar, which starts from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon every day, in which havan is performed to generate inclination among the general public towards voting. Common people can also participate in the ritual as per their devotion and encourage people to participate in the ritual. Regarding the ritual, Umesh Kumar said that maintaining the dignity of the nation is Sanatan Dharma. To fulfill the resolve of the BJP government and the country's successful Prime Minister Narendra



Modi, who are determined to protect the country, this ritual has been started to bring awareness about voting among the people and is getting huge support from the general public and Laxman Bazar Vyapar Mandal. And there is a lot of enthusiasm among the people about voting and Modi government again. The successful Prime Minister of the country has brought the name of the nation to the top at the world level. He has made every impossible task possible, be it Ram Mandir, Article 370, every impossible thing. Modi ji has completed the task, even if it is triple talaq, this ritual is to fulfill Modi ji's resolve of turning 400. God will definitely fulfill his wish. This ritual will continue till the end of the elections. The common people will ensure their participation.



Congressmen welcoming former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh and Rajya Sabha MP Digvijay Singh

Mayor visited Muslim dominated areas

Prayagraj: Mayor Umesh Chandra Ganesh Kesarwani visited Muslim dominated areas in Attarsuiya area. BJP media in-charge Gopal Ji Malviya said that today Mayor Umesh Chandra Ganesh Kesarwani sought votes in support of 52nd Lok Sabha Allahabad BJP candidate Neeraj Tripathi. Visited Muslim areas and made people aware of the working of Modi government. People welcomed



the Mayor very much at various places in those areas. This public relations was led by Giri

Shankar Prabhakar Giri Baba (former councillor). In conjunction with District Vice President Grijesh Mishra and Ward President Ajay Srivastava. Mandal Vice President Mayank Aggarwal, Manoj Mishra, Mohammad Intezar Ahmed (Munna Bhai), Anupam Srivastava, Saurabh Kesarwani, Deepak Kesarwani, Himanshu Verma, Sagar Gupta, Bunty, Sameem Farooqui, Yusuf Haider workers were present.

Public meeting of PM, CM almost fixed

Prayagraj: Brainstorming is being done by the Bharatiya Janata Party re-

the sixth phase of elections to be held on 25th May in Phulpur and Allahabad Lok



garding the election program of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. District spokesperson Rajesh Kesarwani said that the Lok Sabha Regarding

Sabha, the organization organized a public meeting and road show of national and state level leaders to influence the voters in favor of Bharatiya Janata Party. According to the or-

ganization Manthan, a huge public meeting of Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 22nd and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's road show and public meeting on 19th May has almost been decided. Home Minister Amit Shah, Defense Minister Rajnath Singh, Apart from this, National President JP Nadda, Union Minister Anupriya Patel, Union Minister Smriti Irani, Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya, Deputy Chief Minister Brijesh Pathak, Cabinet Minister Omprakash Rajbhar, Cabinet Minister Swatantra Dev Singh, Cabinet Minister Anil Rajbhar, and many other leaders are planning to organize a public meeting program. preparations have been made.

Himani Shivpuri to share her theatre and acting experiences

Prayagraj: From theater to Bollywood films and TV serials, the famous theater person who has created a distinct identity among the audience by the name of "Razia", sometimes "Kammo" and sometimes "Sushma" ji. Serial and cine actress Himani Shivpuri will be among you tomorrow on the land of Sangam. Under a new initiative Vimarsh by North Central Zone Cultural Centre, Prayagraj (Ministry of Culture, Government of India), the fifth edition of Vimarsh-5 program will be organized on Friday at 6 pm in the cultural center premises. Center Director Prof. Suresh Sharma said that NCZCC has been inviting distinguished personalities related to literature and theater throughout the year for direct communication with literature, theater and art lovers, in this sequence, this time Dadasaheb Phalke and Sangeet Natak Akademi Award-winning cine actress Himani Shivpuri. Has been invited, in which she will share her theater and acting experiences among the audience. Apart from being active in theater for 35 years, he has proved his acting prowess in many famous films and serials.



Lucknow: The Training and Placement Cell, at the Faculty of Engineering and Technology, University of Lucknow, orchestrated a placement drive where 31 students secured positions in Deloitte, Talent Serve, and KP Reliable companies.

The selected students were felicitated by the University's Vice-Chancellor Prof. Alok Kumar Rai and the Faculty's Dean Prof. A.K. Singh, and were bestowed with blessings for their promising futures.

The Training and Placement Cell Incharge, Dr. Himanshu Pandey, highlighted that Prerna Maurya, a BCA student, clinched a position as an Associate Analyst with a package of 3.82 lakhs per annum in Deloitte. In Talent Serve, three Computer Science Engineering students - Arvind Srivastava, Ritwik Dwivedi, and Utsav Barnawal, were appointed as Graduate Engineer Trainees (Full Stack Engineer) with a package of 6.0 lakhs per annum. Furthermore, at KP Reliable, 27 Mechanical Engineering students (Abhijeet Singh, Abhinav Srivastava, Abhishek Dubey, Abhishek Verma, Adarsh Singh, Akash Pandey, Anand Kumar Bamawal, Anil Kumar, Ayush Chaudhary, Deependra Kumar Singh, Deepali Singh, Harsh Kumar, Harshit Singh, Kapil Dev Yadav, Mohammad Ahsan, Pankaj Kumar, Prakash Singh, Prashant, Prince Jaiswal, Rajat Maurya, Rishi Tiwari, Rohit Dwivedi, Sarvesh Dubey, Soumya Singh, Shrish Tripathi, Suraj Rathore, Tushar Mishra) were appointed as Graduate Engineer Trainees with a package of 2.88 lakhs per annum.

POCO F6 to mark India Debut of Snapdragon 8s Gen 3 processor

Varanasi: At an exclusive media event in New Delhi, Qualcomm Technologies, Inc. showcased the Snapdragon® 8s Gen 3 Mobile Platform, delivering the most sought-after capabilities for the Snapdragon 8 series for extraordinary, premium experiences. POCO also announced that they are among the first smartphone brands in India to adopt the Snapdragon 8s Gen 3 Mobile Platform on their new POCO F6 launching later this month.

Speaking about the relationship with POCO, Savi Soin, Senior Vice President and President of Qualcomm India said, "Our focus on delivering premium experiences has been crucial in driving long-term partnerships in the industry. Our latest Snapdragon 8s Gen 3 Mobile Platform provides a host of flagship level, specially selected capabilities, packed with the latest on-device AI experiences. What brings POCO and Qualcomm together is our shared commitment to bring best in-class smartphone experiences to people and we

look forward to bringing these extraordinary experiences to the people of India with their latest device launch."

Speaking about the platform capabilities, Saurabh Arora, Mobile, Compute and XR Business Development Lead, Qualcomm India Pvt. Ltd. said, "We are excited about the launch of POCO F6 powered by Snapdragon 8s Gen 3. This platform is specially curated to deliver experiences that enhance your creativity, entertainment, productivity, and beyond. With capabilities including on-device generative AI, advanced photography features, hyper-realistic mobile gaming, blazing connectivity and lossless high-def sound, the Snapdragon 8s Gen 3 is designed with your favorite Snapdragon 8-series platform features for an extraordinary user experience." Himanshu Tandon, Country Head, POCO said, "As pioneers of innovation in the Indian smartphone market, POCO is thrilled to unveil its latest collaboration with Qualcomm Technologies.

BJP did the best work by following the ideals of Sardar Patel: Anupriya Patel

Prayagraj: A conference was organized today at Chaudhary Shiv Jokhan Inter College, Koraon in support of BJP candidate from Allahabad parliamentary constituency, Neeraj Tripathi. In which the national president of Apna Dal S, Anupriya Patel, through a virtual dialogue, urged the people of the society to press the lotus button and make the BJP candidate win with full votes in the elections to be held on May 25. On this occasion, he said that BJP has done the best work by following the ideals of Sardar Patel. Our society was given the highest respect. On this basis, today our society is going to form the Bharatiya Janata Party government for the third time. In a working meeting of City South, National General Secretary Dr. Radha Mohan Das Aggarwal urged the responsible officials present to review the booth level work done so far and prepare a road map for the next one week and work with all their might. Told that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting will be held at the Parade Ground on May 22, Amit Shah's meeting will be held at Meja Assembly at 12 noon and Chief Minister Yogi's meeting will be held at Karchana at 4 pm on the same day. While giving instructions to prepare for that meeting also, he ensured arrangements even for polling. Enlightened conference was organized in Meja Vidhansabha.

In which Chief Guest MLC Dr. K.P. Srivastava was overwhelmed by the enthusiasm and welcome of the people and said that I am the son of this soil whom BJP has honored today. Cabinet Minister Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi has appealed to the goldsmith community that under the good governance of BJP, traders are happy and safe and anarchy is over in the society. The working culture of the BJP government, free from hunger, fear and corruption, is ruling the hearts of the people today. This is the reason why the entire Vaishya community stands strongly behind BJP today and is going to make Neeraj Tripathi win from the city south with historic votes.

The Pathway to Prudence - Promoting Safe Lane Changes in Varanasi

Varanasi: The condition of Shastri Bridge, built in 1976 in Mirzapur, has significantly deteriorated, necessitating lane changes for travelers heading towards Varanasi. It's an urgent matter demanding serious consideration. People must now consider and adopt alternative routes as this bridge is becoming hazardous day by day. People must opt for safer options, with traffic being diverted towards NH 2 (currently NH 19). The Shastri Bridge, nearing 50 years old, is experiencing a crisis due to overloading, posing a potential risk of a major accident.

Spanning across the vast expanse of the Ganga River, the Shastri Bridge has served as a crucial transportation link for the entire region since its construction. However, it has faced multiple floods and subsequent repairs, struggling to withstand heavy traffic over time. Now, its capacities have been exhausted,

and it lacks its former strength. People must understand that while the Shastri Bridge may have once symbolized strength, it now poses a potential hazard. Its condition has deteriorated to the point where even pedestrians are endangered due to numerous potholes.

Although the government has approved the construction of a new six-lane bridge, interim measures are essential. NH 2 (now NH 19) stands as the best alternative for lane changes towards Varanasi, necessitating collective action to avert the crisis surrounding the Shastri Bridge. Traffic redirection towards Varanasi Toll through lane changes is imperative.

Moreover, the overloading of trucks and other vehicles contributed to the poor condition of the bridge. Recently, cracks were observed in parts of the bridge, indicating the serious consequences of continuous overloading.

Despite the bridge being constructed almost 50 years ago, it has undergone several repairs. However, in recent years, it has been plagued by persistent crises. In 2021, the replacement of bearings and beam grouting were carried out, costing a total of 4.62 crore rupees. Additionally, carbon fiber wrapping and cable grouting work were also completed for approximately 28 spans of the bridge. Despite all efforts to save the bridge, serious issues arose within four months. As a result, the bridge had to be closed again in November 2022.

The project manager of the Bridge Corporation, Mr. R.S. Upadhyay, had previously stated that the bridge had met all load test standards in 2021. However, despite these assurances, cracks appeared in the structure, raising safety concerns. Subsequently, additional repairs were carried out at an additional cost of Rs. 7.48 crore.

The bridge was reopened for transportation in November 2023 after five months of work. Nonetheless, a serious threat to the safety of both the bridge and commuters has emerged.

While the government has recently approved the construction of a six-lane bridge and bypass to address increasing traffic needs, the daily traffic volumes through the Shastri Bridge indicate looming crises. Rather than blindly crossing this bridge, people should utilize alternative routes to avert potential accidents. Moreover, ensuring one's safety is paramount. This imperative not only applies to one's driving vehicles but also poses a risk to pedestrians.

Residents say, "Local travelers understand how dangerous this bridge has become due to overloading and heavy traffic. We witness the perilous condition of the Shastri Bridge with our own eyes every day.

Investiture Ceremony held for young leaders of GHS

Prayagraj: If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, become more and do more, then you are a leader.' - John Quincy Adams.

The Installation Ceremony for the new office bearers of Girls' High School and College for the academic session 2024-25 was organized on 16th May, 2024. The esteemed Chief Guest for this special event was Mr. Sanjay Khanduja and Guest of Honour Mr. Vinod Kumar Singh. The

ceremony initiated with the Lord's Prayer and Scripture reading, seeking the divine presence. The Principal, Rev. Dr. Vinita Eusebius extended a warm welcome to the Chief guest. She mentioned that in leadership, what matters is foundational values such as integrity, service and stewardship. People of integrity are persons who live well-balanced and well-rounded lives. There is no disharmony between their thoughts, words and acts.



They walk the talk. In a graceful procession, the badge holders, led by

the Head Girl Devanshi Singh, made their way onto the stage. The distinguished

guests and the Principal proceeded to light the ceremonial lamp. Badges and sashes were then presented to the Head Girl, House Captains, and College Prefects. The Principal symbolically passed on the Lamp of Light and Guidance to the Head Girl. Each office bearer lit their lamp from the Head Girl's, signifying unity and shared vision. The Chief guest administered the Oath, which was solemnly pledged by the office bearers, affirming their commitment to uphold

the honour and legacy of the institution. The chief guest congratulated the office bearers and imparted inspiring words of wisdom, motivating the students to strive for excellence. He pressed on that good leaders take trouble to coach, empower and persuade those who follow them. The ceremony culminated with a Prayer of Dedication and Benediction by the Principal, instilling a sense of spirituality and dedication among the students.

Conspiracy by anti-social elements to defame Yeshu Darbar by making false allegations

Naini, Prayagraj: Yeshu Darbar Church of SHUATS was closed from 1st January 2024 but Yeshu Darbar is being defamed by some anti-social elements on the basis of a false incident.

Associate media in-charge Mr. Kaushal Saxena said that a false complaint had been given by a man in police station Naini, Prayagraj that last one month ago he was taken to Yeshu Darbar and given money for conversion whereas the truth is that Yeshu Darbar has been closed for the last 4 months. There is a restriction on the movement of any outsider. Apart from this, neither is anyone made to wear a cross locket nor any kind of water is sprinkled in the court of Yeshu Darbar. Yeshu Darbar is being defamed by the said person by making false, fabricated and baseless allegations of conversion etc. SHUATS and Yeshu Darbar refute the false incidents and demand from the police administration that strict legal action should be taken against those who gave false and fake complaint and defame SHUATS and Yeshu Darbar.

Mother's Day celebrated with great enthusiasm by Juhi Seva Sansthan

Prayagraj: Mother's Day program held on the occasion of Mother's Day by Juhi Seva Sansthan was organized in a very beautiful manner. Many children participated in it. Participated in dance games and all the mother powers were honoured by giving them body clothes & certificates. Journalists were also honored in a very beautiful way, which was done by Juhi Seva Sansthan. Juhi



Srivastava present in the lamp illumination, Anuradha Srivastava, Nilma Singh, Sanjay Prasad ji, Dr. Pramod Shukla Sushant Kesarwani in which Mrs. Neelima Singh Rajshree Tandon as judge, Sanjay Purusharth, announcer Awadhesh Kumar Nishad ji were present as special guest, Dr. Pramod Shukla as guest, Vimal Gupta Shyam Dev Rajesh Jain Sameer Jain Padmun Jain Dinesh Jain Raju Jain Sapan Jain Akash Jaiswal Tehseen Ahmed Sushant Kesarwani Vinod Jaiswal ji Sita Devi Amit Kesarwani Maa Saraswati Vandana dance Ashish Jain did dance competition 1st Angel Verma 2nd Anshika 3rd Samridhi Gaur Everyone performed the program in a very beautiful manner in which Sunita Pal Manju Gautam Meena Kesarwani Meenu Gupta was present. Sapna Srivastava Winner Kanchan Saral Sangeeta Roshan Rehman Rajkumar was present.

Voter's inclination in Meja hinges on bridge construction over Ganga

Prayagraj: Our correspondent visited the villages of Paranipur, Bigahni, Vighaan, Bhingari, and Bhuipara in the Meja area of Allahabad Parliamentary Constituency - 52 to meet with residents and learn about their perspectives on the election. During the candid discussion over election, people in the Meja region stated that there has been debate for decades about building a bridge across the Ganga from Paranipur to Lakshagriha. Many governments have come and gone, but the Ganga Bridge has remained unbuilt. They walked away from each election with a list of promises. The completion of this bridge will go a long way in making people's lives simpler throughout the Meja area.

Currently, crossing the Ganga through Prayagraj takes four to five hours. The residents of Meja are concerned with commercial and social issues that span the Ganga. Voters in the Meja region said they will vote for the party's candidate who guarantees the construction of a bridge over the Ganga. Surprisingly, they have complete trust in Modi's assurance. The BJP

is the party in charge of both the central and state governments. They are quick to recall that Neelam Karwaria, a former MLA from the BJP's Meja Assembly constituency, had guaranteed the bridge's completion.

A proposal was sent to the government, and the bridge was also proposed, but construction work could not begin, so the entire area has high hopes from the Modi government since the BJP government has completed a lengthy list of development projects in the Meja area over the previous decade.

In such a circumstance, the voters of Meja have not just optimism, but complete faith. The Modi administration will undoubtedly complete the building of the Ganga bridge from Paranipur to Lakshagrih during its third term, and all electors in the Meja region are certain to vote for the BJP. Voters feel that the BJP should win key elections with large margins.

Mega Service Camp launched

Prayagraj: Jawa Yezdi Motorcycles is set to extend its highly successful Mega Service Camp to Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh. 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 Allahabad from May 17th and May 18th, exclusively catering to Jawa motorcycle owners of the 2019 and 2020 models in the region. The service camp will be held at: Classic Indian Motors - Part Of Banglow No. 31/23, Amarnath Jha Marg, Allahabad, Pin 211002

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 Trichy, Anantapur, Pondicherry, Jabalpur, Goa and Kolhapur. This initiative reaffirms the brand's commitment to prioritizing customer satisfaction and providing an unmatched ownership experience. Owners of Jawa Yezdi Motorcycles are encouraged to reserve their slots at the nearest brand dealership. Don't miss the opportunity to ensure your motorcycle receives top-notch care and experience the commitment to customer satisfaction firsthand.

'Traders are completely safe now'

Prayagraj: Uttar Pradesh Government's Industrial Development Minister and Prayagraj City South MLA Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi on Thursday held a meeting with officials and workers of Meerapur, Chowk and Muthiganj divisions in support of BJP candidate from Allahabad Lok Sabha constituency, Neeraj Tripathi. In which he appealed to everyone with full force to make the BJP candidate victorious with huge votes. Minister Nandi addressed

Thakur Harinarayan Singh Degree College Karailabagh, Meerapur Mandal in Prayagraj, Muthiganj Mandal in Malviya Nagar and Swarnakar Dharamshala Kalyani Devi of Muthiganj Mandal. In a meeting with officials and workers, he appealed to convey the achievements of the Central and State Government to the people. Minister Nandi said that the

BJP government, working with the basic mantra of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Prayas and Sabka Vishwas, has changed both the direction and condition of the country. The bless-



ings and trust of the public are with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. No matter what tactics the opposition adopts, the public is not going to be misled. Today the entire country is united and determined to make Prime Minister Narendra Modi the Prime Minister of the country for the third

time. Before the year 2014, entrepreneurs in the state did not want to set up industries, but today the picture of the country and the state has changed. Before 2014, there was reign of ter-

ror in the country. There used to be explosions in Delhi, Mumbai, Ayodhya, Banaras, now India's prestige is increasing even in foreign countries.

Minister Nandi said that traders are completely safe under BJP rule. The opposition has no issue to present its point among the

public in the Lok Sabha elections. Minister Nandi appealed to everyone to choose such a candidate who can play an important role in the development of the country. Under the strong leadership of the country's successful Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, BJP will win all 80 seats in the state. The Central Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has successfully implemented many such schemes in the interest of the common people, which are having a positive impact on the normal life. The government has brought special schemes for youth, women and farmers of every section. By taking advantage of this, people are not only raising their standard of living but are also providing employment opportunities to others. Opportunities ranging from cheap loans to jobs are being created.

Modi's definition of secularism inspires no confidence: Shekhar Bahuguna

Prayagraj: During a candid discussion with mediapersons on Thursday, senior Congress leader Shekhar Bahuguna lamented that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has over the years made an ingenious attempt to define secularism in terms of government schemes that do not discriminate between Hindu and Muslim.

"Does that mean a party which is not in government cannot be communal? Why were then the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, Jan Sangh and Bharatiya Janata Party condemned all these decades, before they came to power, for communalism? It is obvious that secularism is not merely about non-discrimination in government schemes, and the prime minister is trying to conceal the true intent of his politics using sophistry and subterfuge. While Modi's track record bears

testimony to the fact that his claim that he "doesn't do Hindu-Muslim" is a blatant lie, he said in an interview after filing his nomination from the Varanasi seat on Tuesday, "If I give houses, I talk about saturation, 100% delivery. This means that if there are 200 homes, in a village, what community, what caste, what religion - that's not a factor. If there are 60 beneficiaries in those 200 houses, all 60 should get the benefits. And 100% saturation is social justice and true secularism." Over the past decade, the prime minister and his cabinet colleagues have repeated this logic on countless occasions," he opined.

To further elaborate his arguments, he said, "Communalism is not the denial of a gas cylinder under the Ujjwala scheme to a Muslim woman, or the refusal to give cash assistance to a



Muslim farmer under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme. A toilet built with taxpayers' money in the courtyard of a Muslim family grappling with wretched poverty is no evidence of secularism either. Even the Manmohan Singh government didn't discriminate against Hindu, Muslim or Sikh workers in giving work under MGNREGA, but they certainly didn't present this as the benchmark for their

secular credentials. Affirmative action for a backward caste or community is a perfectly legitimate action, but discrimination at the policy level on the basis of religion is difficult in a modern nation state in this age of information explosion. No government can say Brahmins will not get treatment at a public health centre, or Muslims will have to pay more taxes. Modi and the BJP know they don't have

to deploy such barbarism and delegitimise themselves in the international community. They know that there are subtle ways of suppression and dominance and the world is also not oblivious to such sinister designs."

"But what has gone uncontested is this incorrect way of defining secularism. Democracy and secularism are more about freedom, rights, equality and justice

than about distribution of largesse by the state. We fought against the British not because of bread and butter. That struggle was for freedom, for sovereignty, and for self-esteem. Secularism, too, is more about equality and self-respect than livelihood and survival. A Muslim man getting five kg rice, which is equal to what a Hindu or Sikh get, is not secularism or social justice. Ask a Muslim, living in permanent fear and vulnerabilities, and you will get the answer. A community whose patriotism is always on test, whose nationalism is perpetually suspect, whose sense of belonging is constantly challenged, demands more in the name of secularism than free ratio and doles," he stressed. "Modi's definition of secularism doesn't inspire confidence about the final stage," he rued prior to signing off.

16 football players selected in Prayagraj selection trials

Prayagraj: Physical Education Foundation of India (PEFI) is organizing Under-17 National Football Championship in Vardaman West Bengal in the month of June in which Uttar Pradesh state football team will also participate. Physical Education Foundation of India (PEFI), Sports and Youth IPEFI is a national sports promotion organization certified by the Ministry, Government of India. According to Nandini Rawat, Secretary, Uttar Pradesh, the first phase of trials for the selection of Uttar Pradesh football team

was held in Prayagraj on 1st and 2nd May at Vishnu Bhagwan Public School, Jhalwa. In which a total of 42 football players from Prayagraj, Kaushambi, Varanasi, Kanpur participated.

Selector football coach Indranil Ghosh told that trials of players' individual skills, dribbling, shooting, receiving technique, playing matches were conducted in which 16 players were selected for the final selection trials. The names of the selected players are as follows: 1) Sai Teja 2)



Rehan Siddique 3) Mohan Sahu 4) Garv Wadhvani 5) Vaibhav Arya 6) Shivam

Saroj 7) Vaibhav Mishra 8) Mayank Maurya 9) Shubhankar 10) Rahul

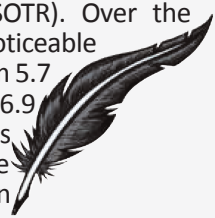
Chandna 11) Nikhil Yadav 12) Ansh Tiwari 13) Himanshu Yadav 14)

Adarsh Jaiswal 15) Karthik 16) Rudransh (stand by). According to PEFI Uttar Pradesh Secretary Nandini Rawat, the final selection trials of Uttar Pradesh (Under-17) football team will be held in Prayagraj on 18th and 19th May. Apart from Prayagraj, 22 players from Noida, 18 from Lucknow, 15 from Agra will be selected for the final trials. All selected players are to report to Football Coach Indranil Ghosh at CAV Inter College Civil Lines on May 18 (Saturday) at 3 pm with their complete kit.

Editorial

The role of state fiscal capacities in national growth

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



Primary issues of the 2024 national election campaign has become Sanatana Dharma

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

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

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

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

What this means is that Sanatana Dharma has allowed for differences of opinion within its fold, including trenchant criticism of some aspects of it, by its own followers.

The Hindu faith had not one but six systems of philosophy attempting to understand the truth behind the vast and bewildering plurality of the cosmos. Each of them had a different interpretation.

Did not fulfill the promise made to the farmers during the farmers' movement

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



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

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

Apart from the movement of unemployed youth and the movement of

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

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

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

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

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

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

Why China Blocks the Dalai Lama's Sri Lanka Visit

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

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

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

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

"Hezbollah's foundational purpose raises the question: why has the militant group thus far avoided confrontation? The brief answer is that Hezbollah is too valuable an asset to be deployed recklessly," he adds. By launching 300 drones and missiles into Israel, Tehran effectively abandoned this policy and any previous reluctance it had in attacking Israel directly. Similarly, Israel seems to have diverted from its "reverse periphery doctrine". Previously, under Israel's first prime minister David Ben-Gurion, Israel followed the "periphery doctrine" in a bid to end its isolation in the Middle East. The idea was to pursue relations with non-Arab states at the 'edges' of the Middle East, mainly Iran and Turkey. With Iran and Israel diverting from their traditional strategies, the big question is whether an all-out war is on the horizon and whether it's one that could drag in Israel's ally, the US. For now, those fears seem to be abating for two reasons. First, Israel and Iran's responses following the tit-for-tat attacks, which some newspapers have described as "muted". Second, the relatively small scale of Israel's attack on Friday morning, which seems to have given some analysts hope that the pol-

icy of conventional deterrence has returned. A report by Reuters noted the absence of an official comment from the Israeli leadership on Friday's strike, while Iranian television reports "played down the attack" by not opting for the common term used to describe Israel—"Zionist entity". The Iranian state media also seems to have downplayed sounds of an explosion in Tabriz near an area called Vadi-e-Rahmat, which the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said is currently in a "peaceful situation". Further, no fatalities were recorded after Iran's attack on Sunday and Israel's attack on Friday and most importantly, no nuclear sites in either country were targeted. Experts like American political scientist and author Ian Bremmer have gone as far as to say that Israel's strike was "deescalatory". Could it be that Netanyahu's war cabinet eventually opted for a relatively smaller attack than Iran's barrage of 300 drones and missiles because the Joe Biden administration said it wouldn't be involved in any retaliation on behalf of Israel? Or perhaps the small scale was considered enough to satisfy the domestic audience while preserving some diplomatic support that Israel

regained after months of international criticism for its actions in Gaza? Either way, Iran doesn't appear keen to respond. A senior Iranian official told Reuters there were no plans to retaliate against Israel for its Friday attack. Does that mean things have returned to status quo ante? The short answer is 'No'. Both Israel and Iran will have to rethink their respective policies of "strategic patience" and "reverse periphery doctrine". A new ground has been set and many levers remain in play—the situation in the Red Sea with Yemen's Houthis, Hamas in Gaza, and Hezbollah in Lebanon. Any movement on these levers could jeopardise this perceived reprieve.

"Unprecedented" is the adjective used in almost every global newspaper's description of Iran's retaliatory attack against Israel on 14 April, which the Benjamin Netanyahu government responded militarily by firing missiles at an Iranian airbase in Isfahan Friday morning. Iran's counter-attack last week wasn't exactly unpredictable—Tehran made it pretty clear it would respond to a suspected Israeli attack on its consulate in Syria on 1 April that killed two of its senior military commanders.

Awfis Space Solutions Limited's initial public offering to open on May 22, 2024



GURUGRAM : Awfis Space Solutions Limited (the "Company"), largest flexible workspace solutions company in India as per CBRE report, proposes to open its initial public offering of Equity Shares ("Offer") on May 22, 2024. The Anchor Investor Bidding Date is one Working Day prior to Bid/Offer Opening Date, that is, on May 21, 2024. Bid/ Offer Closing Date will be on May 27, 2024. The Price Band of the Offer has been fixed from ₹ 364 per Equity Share to ₹ 383 per Equity Share. Bids can be made for a minimum of 39 Equity Shares and multiples of 39 Equity Shares thereafter. The Offer comprises a fresh issue of up to [?] Equity Shares aggregating up to ₹ 1,280.00 million ("Fresh Issue") and an offer for sale of up to 12,295,699 Equity Shares ("Offered Shares") aggregating up to ₹ [?] million, comprising up to 6,615,586 Equity Shares aggregating up to ₹ [?] million by Peak XV Partners Investments V (formerly known as SCI Investments V) ("Peak XV" or the "Promoter Selling Shareholder"), up to 5,594,912 Equity Shares aggregating up to ₹ [?] million by Bisque Limited and up to 85,201 Equity Shares aggregating up to ₹ [?] million by Link Investment Trust (collectively, the "Selling Shareholders" and such offer for sale of Equity Shares by the selling shareholders, the "Offer for Sale"). The Offer will constitute [?]% of the post-offer paid up equity share capital of our Company.

Anmol India Ltd. Reports Robust Earnings for FY24, EBITDA Grows 14.67% YoY

CHANDIGARH: Anmol India Ltd. (BSE: 542437, NSE: ANMOL), one of the leading players in Supply chain management industry, Commodity Trading, and Coal Import, in its board meeting held on May 14, 2024 has approved the audited Financial Results of the Company for the quarter and year ended on 31 March 2024. For the quarter ended 31 March 2024, the company reported its revenue from operations at Rs. 402.88 Crores, a growth of 8.85% YoY. The EBITDA was reported at Rs. 7.14 Crores, with the PAT coming in at Rs. 3.91 Crores. For the year ended 31 March 2024, the revenue from operations rose 6.45% YoY, from Rs. 1410.24 Crores (FY23), to Rs. 1501.24 Crores. The EBITDA recorded a robust growth of 14.67% YoY, from Rs. 36.53 Crores (FY23) to Rs. 41.89 Crores (FY24). PAT rose 12% YoY, from Rs. 18.66 Crores (FY23), to Rs. 20.90 Crores (FY24). Commenting on the FY24 Performance, the Management added, "It is with great pleasure that we announce the company's full-year FY24 financial results, which reflect our commitment to sustainable growth and resilience. We are delighted to report a commendable 6.45% increase in Revenue from Operations, surging from Rs. 1410.24 Cr in FY23 to Rs. 1501.24 Cr in FY24. Our business model's enduring strength and the effectiveness of our strategic initiatives have enabled this growth. Further, our EBITDA continued to expand, rising from Rs. 36.53 Cr in FY23 to Rs. 41.89 Cr in FY24, a notable increase of 14.67 percent."

CAPSULES

'INDIA bloc my brainchild, very much part of it': Mamata

NEW DELHI: A day after announcing that Trinamool Congress (TMC) will extend "outside support" to the INDIA alliance to form government at the Centre if it wins the Lok Sabha elections, now Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee has taken a U-turn and said she is "very much part of INDIA alliance" at the national level. Addressing a rally in Bengal's Tamluk, the TMC chief said, "At all India level, some people have misunderstood my statement yesterday. I am very much part of the INDIA alliance. The INDIA alliance was my brainchild. We are together at the national level and will continue to be together." The clarification comes a day after her "outside support" remark led to speculations of her exiting the united opposition alliance against the BJP. At the same time, Mamata made it clear that though her party is part of the INDIA bloc at the national level, in West Bengal Trinamool is fighting against the partners CPM and Congress. She also alleged that the two parties have joined hands with BJP in the state. "Do not count on the CPM and the Congress in Bengal. They are not with us, they are with the BJP here. I am talking about that (INDIA bloc) in Delhi," she said. Talking about the statement TMC leader Kunal Ghosh also asserted that the party is still very much part of the INDIA alliance. "She has clarified herself and there is no misunderstanding at all... She was there during the formation of the INDIA alliance. She was in INDIA, TMC is in INDIA and will be with the alliance... Congress's Adhir Ranjan Choudhary earlier on Thursday said he does not trust the TMC chief alleged that she can even go with the BJP."

Lalu Prasad sitting in Congress's lap to make his son CM: Amit

NEW DELHI: Union home minister Amit Shah on Thursday launched a scathing attack on Lalu Yadav during a rally in Bihar and said he is "sitting on the lap" of the Congress only for power and to make his son the chief minister. Speaking at a rally in Bihar's Sitamarhi, Amit Shah said, "Today Lalu Yadav, for the sake of power politics, to make his son the chief minister, has gone and sat in the lap of the Congress party, which has spent its entire life opposing the backward and extremely backward classes." Lalu Prasad's Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) is a member of the opposition INDIA bloc. "Congress, RJD never thought of conferring Bharat Ratna on ex-Bihar CM Karpoori Thakur, it was done by the Modi government," he said adding that "Bihar needs 'vikasraj', not 'jungleraj'."

State level meeting of Indian Association of Press and Mediamen concluded

Chandigarh: The state level meeting of the Indian Association of Press-Mediamen was held in Sector 29 D on Wednesday. National President Pawan Sahyogi, while addressing the local journalists, said that there are many challenges before the journalists. Besides, the problems of the publishers are also no less. The association will present the strong side of the journalists before the concerned authorities and will try for speedy resolution.



Publishers and editors from Haryana, Punjab, Chandigarh participated. The meeting was mainly attended by the National President of the Association, Pawan Sahyogi, General Secretary Dr. D.D. Mittal and National Secretary Narender Sharma Parwana who came from Delhi. State Chandigarh Convenor Dr. Vinod Sharma welcomed the officials of the national team. During the meeting, problems faced by media persons, editors and publishers were specifically discussed.

There was also discussion on strengthening the organization. The National President and General Secretary assured to solve all the problems. In the end, State Coordinator Dr. Vinod Sharma said that soon the State Executive will be formed and the executive will be announced by the Centre. Shiv Kumar Verma, SP Chopra, Amit Verma, Ramesh Sachdeva, Rakesh Kumar, Rimpi etc. attended the meeting.

MERIL's Myval THV Series Achieves Global Recognition in Heart Valve Sector at EuroPCR 2024

PANIPAT – Exciting news from Meril Life Sciences! The LANDMARK trial's 30 days primary outcomes were presented on 15th May at EuroPCR 2024, Paris, France. LANDMARK was recognized by EuroPCR as one of the top three late breaking trials poised to revolutionise current practices in the field of Interventional Cardiology. The LANDMARK study showed that the performance of Myval THV series in terms of safety and effectiveness was non-inferior to the contemporary THV series



(24.7% vs. 27.0% occurrence of primary composite endpoint which is composite of deaths, stroke, major bleeding, acute kidney injury, major vascular complications, moderate or severe valve regurgitation, and the need for new permanent pacemaker implantation as per the third Valve Academic Research Consortium consensus) with no difference in the itemized components of the primary composite endpoints. The other secondary endpoints including technical success at exit from procedure room, device success at 30 days and early safety at 30 days were comparable in both the groups. Mr.

Sanjeev Bhatt, Sr. Vice President - Corporate Strategy at Meril said, "In a successful development in structural heart interventions, the LANDMARK RCT has revealed compelling results for the novel Myval transcatheter heart valve (THV) series, confirming its non-inferiority to other contemporary THV devices. The results of the LANDMARK trial are not just a win for us but for the entire medical community and, most importantly, for patients undergoing TAVI. This study not only

CEO asks students to choose colleges with fewer Indians, sparks debate

NEW DELHI: A Dubai-based CEO ignited a debate online with her post suggesting that students should apply to International universities that have less number of Indian students. In a post on X, formerly known as Twitter, Shreya Pattar, founder of Shreya Pattar Ventures said, "Any Indian student planning to move abroad for higher education should check how many Indian students that university has. The more the number of Indian students, the lower that university should be on your list of places to join. A big Indian community of students doesn't come with a 'home'ly feeling."

Explaining her stance, Pattar highlighted what she referred to as 'toxic Indian patterns' within the community, such as excessive drama, unprofessionalism, lack of positive role models, absence of leadership or mentorship for juniors, self-centered behavior, cliques, gossiping, and a lack of seriousness about the future. Pattar further emphasized, "If you plan to move out of the country, make sure you are also staying away from that mindset, attitude, and nature of people. You shouldn't need such people around you to 'feel at home'. And if you DO, then might as well just not move abroad."

The post has garnered over eight lakh views online, eliciting both agreement and criticism. Some users supported her perspective, stressing the importance of broadening horizons and avoiding comfort zones within familiar communities, while others countered that personal success abroad hinges on individual efforts rather than the ethnicity or background of fellow students. One user said, "I respectfully disagree. Having a community of Indian students can provide a sense of familiarity and support, especially in a new country. It's about finding the right balance between comfort and exposure to diverse."

Yoga camp at Maharishi Dayanand Public School concluded

Chandigarh: Chandigarh Yoga Sabha, Sector 30-A has concluded a yoga camp at Maharishi Dayanand Public School, MDAV Bhawan, Dariya. Under the guidance of Principal Suresh Sharma and General Secretary Naresh Kumar, a free yoga training camp was organized especially for children under the leadership of Yoga Charya Bhupender Negi and his team. Bhupender Singh Negi got yoga asanas done in this camp. To sharpen the memory of the children, he demonstrated to



the children yoga and pranayama activities like putting ghee in the nose, doing Jal Neti, Surya Namaskar, Bhramari, Shitali etc. The students also practiced it. During the comedy session, the children burst out laughing. With this yoga the person becomes free from worries and

happiness appears on the face. President Suresh Sharma and General Secretary Naresh Kumar told that in Chandigarh Yoga Sabha Sector 30, people suffering from cervical neck pain, knee pain, back pain, constipation, gas, acidity, obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure, cold, cough,

dysentery, stress, All diseases like arthritis, insomnia etc. are treated through simple yoga asanas, pranayam, mudra meditation and Shaktarma. Panchakarma in which there are also arrangements for massage and steam bath etc. About 100 students participated in this camp. Students' experiences were also taken on this occasion. They told that by doing these activities the memory power has increased. Doing yoga gave him a feeling of freshness, energy and concentration.

CSIR: No circular issued on ironed clothes

NEW DELHI: A day after CSIR reposted the visual of a campaign 'Wrinkles Achhe Hain', posted by one of its institutes, it clarified on X Wednesday that it has not issued any order to its labs to refrain from wearing ironed clothes. On May 7, CSIR-NIScPR posted on X that "Join CSIR's #WAHMondayscampaign and say #WrinklesAccheHain. Wear your non-ironed clothes every Monday. Let's iron out climate change, not our clothes!" CSIR Wednesday said, "With regard to certain news reports, CSIR wishes to clarify that NO CIRCULAR or OFFICIAL ORDER has been issued by CSIR HQ to its labs asking staff to refrain from wearing ironed clothes."

BJP's CAA card has confused Matua voters in Bongaon



BONGAON: A palpable quiet looms over the sleepy villages and bustling market places in Bongaon, with just a week to go for polling (May 20) in this Lok Sabha constituency, tucked away on the India-Bangladesh border. "We will vote on May 20, but no one has come here yet to ask for votes," said Kalpana Sardar (40), a housewife from Petropol village adjoining the border gate, even as the outer wall of her pucca house has Trinamool Congress graffiti on it. There are no party flags anywhere across the paddy fields or the large ponds around house, except for some wall writing by TMC and BJP to be spotted infrequently. Videost's a direct fight between sitting BJP MP Santanu Thakur and Trinamool Congress (TMC) nominee Biswajit Das. Both belong to the dominant Matua community in this seat. CPM's Pradip Biswas is hardly talked about even as the seat was a Left bastion before TMC took it over. Inevitably, the first job for whoever wins this round will have to be addressing the

utter confusion that prevails among Matuas, who constitute about 70 per cent of about 19 lakh voters of Bongaon making them the deciding factor in the constituency. In fact, there is hardly any election activity to be noticed along the two-and-half hour drive from Kolkata right up to the Petropol border with Bangladesh, where van-carts are still ferrying citizens from both sides on official permits locally known as "multi visa" as they visit relatives or buy and sell goods from either side.

No writ petition can be filed against Air India, rules SC

NEW DELHI: Supreme Court on Thursday said no writ petition can be filed against Air India as it has ceased to be a public body after Tata group owned Talace India purchased 100% equity in the airline in Jan 2022. A bench of Justices B R Gavai and Sandeep Mehta gave this ruling while answering a question whether writ petitions by erstwhile employees of Air India, which were maintainable being filed years before its privatisation, could still be continued against the airlines even after its privatisation. Upholding a Bombay HC

decision, the bench said, "There is no dispute that (after) govt of India having transferred its 100% share to Talace India Pvt Ltd, (it) ceased to have any administrative control or deep pervasive control over the private entity (Air India) and hence, the company after its disinvestment could not have been treated to be a State anymore after having taken over by the private company." "Thus, unquestionably, Air India after its disinvestment ceased to be a State or its instrumentality within the meaning of Article 12 of the Constitution. Once

Air India ceased to be covered by the definition of State within the meaning of Article 12, it could not have been subjected to writ jurisdiction under Article 226 of the Constitution," the bench said. It further said on the matter, "Air India, erstwhile govt-run airline having been taken over by private company Talace India, unquestionably, is not performing any public duty inasmuch as it has taken over govt company Air India Limited for ... commercial operations, plain and simple, and thus no writ petition is maintainable against Air India."

Vantara lauded for timely rescue of ailing elephant, calf in Tripura

NEW DELHI: In a timely rescue operation, Anant Ambani's Vantara mobilised from Gujarat a large convoy of vehicles, including ambulances, feed vehicles, and a team of personnel, to rehabilitate an ailing elephant and her calf in Tripura's Unakoti

district. An online video showing the rescue and rehabilitation effort has gone viral. In the video, a woman -- later identified as 'Go Green and Help Stray Animals' organisation general secretary Kuntala Sinha -- can be heard thanking Anant Ambani and

Vantara's team of doctors for their prompt action and saving the elephants. She said the Vantara team reached Unakoti within a day of her approaching them for help in treating the elephant. The convoy made the remarkable 3,500-km journey.

CAPSULES

Lightning kills Kerala tourist on Goa beach

PANAJI: A 35-year-old tourist from Kerala died in a lightning strike at Goa's Miramar beach on Tuesday, police said on Thursday. While Akhil Vijayan, his wife, friends, and children were scurrying back to their car from Miramar beach to escape the rain, lightning struck, leaving Vijayan, his wife, and a male friend unconscious. Vijayan's wife and his friend regained consciousness soon, police said. They suspected Vijayan had a heart attack and admitted him to GMC hospital. The postmortem attributed the Ernakulam resident's death to "electrocution and blast injuries consistent with lightning strike", police said.

Wildlife struggles in scorching summer as temperatures sore in India

During the summer months, animals often face the challenges of heatstroke and viral infections. The situation is worsened by the scarcity of water, hindering their ability to stay hydrated and regulate their body temperatures effectively. **Climate-driven heatwaves impact wildlife** Heatwaves can lead to dehydration, reduced body salt levels, decreased appetite, and lowered production in animals. Human-induced climate change has caused significant harm to wild animals in India, particularly due to the prevalence of extreme heatwaves. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecasted that northwest India will experience heatwave conditions for the next five days, particularly affecting Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Delhi.

Over 30% Covaxin takers suffered from health issues after 1 year: Report

NEW DELHI: A study conducted by researchers at BHU examining the long-term effects of Bharat Biotech's Covaxin vaccine revealed that nearly one-third of the people who received Bharat Biotech's anti-Covid vaccine Covaxin reported 'adverse events of special interest,' or AESI. Out of 926 participants examined for the study, nearly one-third reported AESI, with viral upper respiratory tract infections being the most common complaint. AESI such as stroke and Guillain-Barre syndrome were reported in one percent of individuals.



The study, conducted from January 2022 to August 2023, involved 635 adolescents and 291 adults who received the Covaxin vaccine. Common AESI observed in adolescents included skin and subcutaneous disorders, general disor-

ders, and nervous system disorders. In adults, general disorders, musculoskeletal disorders and nervous system disorders were prevalent. The study found that females, adolescents with pre-vaccination Covid-19, people with

underlying health conditions and those who developed typhoid after vaccination had respectively 1.6, 2, 2.7, and 3.2 times higher odds of persistent AESIs. Further, adults with pre-existing health conditions had more than double the odds of experiencing AESIs and persistent AESIs, according to the study. Adults who received three doses of vaccine and those who received only one dose of BBV152 had four and two times higher risk of AESIs respectively compared to those who received two doses of Covaxin.

'What happened to me was very bad': Swati Maliwal breaks silence

NEW DELHI: Hours after recording the statement of Aam Aadmi Party MP Swati Maliwal in the assault case, Delhi Police filed an FIR late Thursday night naming Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's aide Bibhav Kumar. Maliwal also broke her silence on the incident and said "the last few days have been very difficult". This was her first public reaction after the alleged assault on her on May 13 at CM Kejriwal's residence. Breaking silence days after the alleged



assault, Maliwal on Thursday wrote on X, "What happened to me was very bad. I have given my statement to the police on the incident that hap-

pened to me. I hope that appropriate action will be taken." She also mentioned that the last few days have been very difficult for her. "The last

few days have been very difficult for me. I thank those who prayed for me. Those who tried to do character assassination, said that she was doing it on the instructions of the other party, may God keep them happy too. An important election is going on in the country, Swati Maliwal is not important, the issues of the country are important," she added.

In a "special request", the AAP MP asked the BJP not to politicise the incident.

What Priyanka Gandhi said on Swati Maliwal assault case

NEW DELHI: Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi on Thursday came out in support of AAP MP Swati Maliwal, who was allegedly assaulted by Arvind Kejriwal's ex-aide, but avoided any direct comment on the case calling it AAP's internal issue. "If any atrocity happens to any woman anywhere, we stand with the woman. I always stand with women - irrespective of which party they belong to. Secondly, AAP will discuss amid themselves and make a decision. It is up to them," Priyanka said when asked about the alleged assault which has put not just the AAP but also other parties of opposition's INDIA bloc on the back-foot. The opposition leaders have avoided a direct remark on the alleged assault case even as the BJP has stepped up the ante demanding action

against Bibhav Kumar, who was PA to Arvind Kejriwal. Swati Maliwal, who has fought against injustice and violence against women for years, has chosen to remain silent on the issue, adding to the intrigue. The AAP has accepted that Bibhav misbehaved with Maliwal at Kejriwal's residence and has maintained that action will be taken against the former PA. Earlier today, Kejriwal did not respond to queries on the case during his joint press conference with Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav in Lucknow. When asked a pointed question during the press conference,

Kejriwal was shielded by Akhilesh who said "there are other issues that are more important than this." The BJP has slammed Kejriwal for

his silence on the issue and sought his resignation. "She is certainly the leader of the opposition party but BJP is fighting to ensure that she gets justice. In the police general diary it was mentioned that a call had been received by police and it was made through Swati Maliwal's mobile the caller mentioned that 'I am speaking from CM's residence and he made me thrashed from his PA Bibhav Kumar'. It's not important which party she belongs but she should get justice," said BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia. "Arvind Kejriwal should answer and if you are a coward CM and cannot speak even a single word then you should resign because the women of the country are angry and feeling insulted and only Arvind Kejriwal is responsible for this," he added.

Sleeping partner cannot answer': Finance minister Nirmala

NEW DELHI: Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman was a topic of discussion among the opposition leaders and the public after she appeared to be stumped by a question asked by a stock broker regarding taxes. The question asked was: "As a broker, when we are putting a trade for retail investor, we are attracting a number of taxes like CGST, IGST, stamp duty, STT, long term capital gain tax. So today, Centre is earning more than the broker. I am investing everything, I am taking all the risk but Centre is taking away entire profit of mine. You are my sleeping partner, I am a working partner with my finance, my risk my staff everything, so what do you want to say on this?" He then continued with



a second question: "Today, if anybody wants to buy a house in Mumbai it is a nightmare because I am paying tax as I have white money. Now we have to pay everything by cheque. So my bank balance is purely after paying all taxes to government of India again when I am buying a house, I have to pay stamp duty, I have to pay GST, it amounts to 11%. In a city like Mumbai, when I am buying a house, 11% goes out of my pocket

towards purchase of house. So how you will assist a small person with limited resources to buy a house and how can a broker can function with lots of taxes where government of India is my sleeping partner and I am a working partner with no income?" The finance minister initially skipped the question saying, "I have no answer for that", but then gave a short cryptic reply: "A sleeping partner cannot answer sitting here". Though

the response got a round of laughs at the event, the Congress attacked the finance minister for her reply: "The public is troubled by taxes. The ministers of the Modi government are smiling." The general public also questioned the finance minister and heavily criticised her for her response. Some made fun of her response on social media with a user on X (formerly Twitter) posting, "You have a good question, but your question hurt me". Nirmala Sitharaman was speaking at the BSE's Viksit Bharat event on Tuesday where Sitharaman had asked the major stock exchanges to work with Sebi to ensure stringent compliance with robust regulatory standards to further investor confidence. "

JJP will support the Congress-led opposition's bid

Delhi: Former deputy CM Dushyant Chautala said that BJP's estranged ally JJP will support the Congress-led opposition's bid to overthrow Haryana's Nayab Singh Saini government. He warned his MLA colleagues that defying a whip to support the BJP would result in disqualification. Chautala's announcement came a day after three Independent MLAs quit from the BJP-led coalition, lowering its strength to 43 in an 88-member legislature after ex-CM Manohar Lal Khattar and Independent MLA Ranjit Singh Chautala resigned last March. Even though the alliance is two short of a majority, Saini said his government would finish its term without a hitch. "We weren't a minority government earlier and aren't now," he declared in Sirsa. In October, Haryana will have elections. Three Independents withholding support might hurt the BJP's Lok Sabha chances, even if the government is technically safe.

Precision herbicides use essential for cotton protection – Godrej Agrovet

Delhi: **Bhatinda/ Mansa/ Fazilka:** Cotton, a cornerstone of India's agricultural landscape, plays a pivotal role in the nation's economy. Contributing significantly to agriculture and industrial development, it also aids in employment generation. However, it faces a significant threat from weeds, causing substantial yield losses ranging from 40% to 85% thereby impacting the quality and increasing production costs. "To effectively manage weeds in cotton, it is imperative use both pre and early post and emergence herbicides smartly, especially during the crucial period when the crop and weeds compete. Hence using right herbicide at the right time and in right quantity aid control the weeds effectively. and at the right time knowing when weeds can be problematic is the foundation for sustainable and resilient farming," said Rajavelu NK, CEO- Crop Protection Business, Godrej Agrovet Limited. Highlighting the techniques that can aid reduce weed competition he said that manual weeding and frequent inter-cultivation, like hand hoeing have shown effective results. Farmers practicing hand weeding twice during critical growth stages observe a significant increase in cotton yield. Mechanical methods such as power weeding offer cost-effective weed control

and improved soil aeration. However, challenges arise from labor shortages and excess soil moisture, especially during frequent irrigation or heavy rains in the kharif season, hindering timely cultural practices. To overcome these, adopting herbicides during critical periods becomes essential for effective weed control, ensuring higher yields. "Identifying the critical period of weed competition is crucial for effective weed management in cotton. As a long-duration crop, cotton faces a critical weed competition period of up to 45 Days After Sowing (DAS), during which maintaining a weed-free condition is imperative for optimal results. This makes the need to protect cotton crop during early post-emergent phase viz. 5-15 DAS extremely crucial," added Rajavelu. Due to the varied weather patterns the weed emergence and type of weeds are changing. With effective weed management becoming a critical issue due to this, it is advisable that farmers select the right herbicide. Be it solo or scientific in-can mixture herbicides, it is important for farmers to go as per the label recommendation and avoid own tank mix combinations which may not be advisable given the uncertainties of weather and weed emergence that can happen at the farmer field.

Delhi high court orders parents to pay for school AC

Delhi: The Delhi High Court recently ruled that parents must pay for school air conditioning, just like laboratory costs. While dismissing a public interest litigation, the division bench of acting chief judge Manmohan and justice Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora made the comment. The petition asked the Delhi government's DoE to restrict a private school from charging for classroom air conditioning. Air conditioning is a school facility, thus parents must pay for it like lab and smart class fees. When choosing a school, parents must consider the facilities and expenses for their children. The bench ruled on May 2 that school management cannot bear the cost of such facilities. Manish Goel filed the PIL because his child's Delhi private school charged Rs 2,000 per month for AC. The petitioner said the school management should give AC to kids with its own funds. The bench heard from the DoE that it was investigating and asking for an action-taken report after



UP leads 2024 JEE (Advanced) aspirants at 11%

Delhi: Uttar Pradesh will have 11% of JEE-Advanced 2024 candidates, the entryway to 23 IITs. According to JEE (Main) qualification data, over 54% of the 2.5 lakh IIT entry candidates are from six states and approximately 73% from 10. Although over 75% of enrolled applicants took both the January and April sessions of the JEE (Main), an entrance test for centrally financed technical institutes and others, just 28% improved their scores in the second sitting. One of India's toughest competitive tests, JEE (Advanced), requires students to place in the top 2.5 lakh in JEE (Main) and vie for 17,000 IIT seats.

many complaints. "This petition includes respondent No. 5 school's 2023-24 fee receipt for air-conditioner charges in annexure P-2. Thus, after informing the DoE of the fee and charge schedule, the rates were likely raised. The court said there was no im-

propiety in the school's fee because the petitioner admitted that kids have air conditioning in their classrooms. Bench ruled the plea unmaintainable. "The DoE is investigating and awaiting the action report. The judge dismissed the PIL.

CAPSULES

Canada will limit international students' job dreams to 24 hours per week.

Delhi: The Minister of Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship of Canada has announced that international students can only work 24 hours per week. Marc Miller announced on social media X. "We removed the 20-hour/week work requirement for international students to aid post-pandemic rehabilitation. I stated today that this provision would be lifted and that off-campus student employment hours will be limited to 24 hours/week starting this autumn "on his official X account. International students might work more than 20 hours per week off campus under the old rule. The rule expired April 30, 2024. Miller added that kids on academic break can work unlimited hours. According to Miller, this adjustment will let students focus on their studies instead of working lengthy hours. International students come to Canada to study first. Students can work while focusing on class with this improvement. He claimed the program will remain strong while protecting youngsters. According to the Canadian government, recent US and Canadian studies have shown that students working more than 28 hours per week perform worse academically and are more likely to drop out. Most nations that accept international students have limited their working hours while studying. Australia now allows students to work 48 hours within two weeks. US students must also meet additional standards before working off campus.

JNU VC: No faculty de-reservation

Delhi: Delhi University and Jawaharlal Nehru University oppose UGC's draft Guidelines for Implementation of Reservation Policy in Higher Education Institutes, which propose de-reserving SC, ST, and OBC faculty jobs if adequate reserved candidates are not available. The proposed rules, presented in the last week of December, are open for comments until January 28. The rules state: "Only SC, ST, or OBC candidates can fill SC, ST, or OBC vacancies. A reserved vacancy can be de-reserved and filled by following the de-reservation method." It adds "in rare and exceptional cases when a vacancy in a



"DU will not de-reserve any above-category posts." Teachers' groups are worried. The idea will aid discrimination against reserved category candidates and worsen representation if promoted, teachers claimed. They wanted the draft guidelines removed immediately. Promotion criteria state that "if sufficient numbers of SC and ST candidates... are not available, such vacancies may be de-reserved"

Group A service cannot be allowed to remain vacant in public interest, the university concerned may prepare a proposal for de-reservation of the vacancy giving following information." No proposed rules have been with-

drawn. Jawaharlal Nehru University vice-chancellor Santishree D. Pandit wrote: "As VC, JNU, I want to assure stakeholders that no JNU positions have been de-reserved. We have excellent reserved candidates." The Supreme Court shared her sentiment, she said. UGC chairperson M Jagadesh Kumar said there will be no de-reservation of reserved category posts in central educational institutions. The ministry of education said the 2019 Act on central institution reservation forbids de-reservation. JNU Students' Union plans to burn Kumar's effigy. Delhi University registrar Vikas Gupta told "No de-reservation.

School fee hikes under scrutiny

Delhi: The vigilance directorate wrote to the director of education concerning fee hikes in 18 schools and five private, unaided institutions and certain schools' failure to fill the 25% economically weaker sections quota. The vigilance examination found that the charge hike was allowed in contravention of guidelines, with capital expenditure fees collected despite inadequate savings. Thirteen of the 18 fee raise orders were retrospective, straining parents financially.

The rules don't allow retrospective hikes. The vigilance agency noted that such hikes are intended to benefit school management at the expense of parents. The study also found that schools violated the Delhi School Education Act and Rules, 1973 by using collected monies. DOE announced charge structure recommendations for 2010-2011. "If the school must raise tuition, it must first consult with parents, the main stakeholders. Since parents pay for fee hikes, the school must present its case for a fee hike with a detailed financial statement to the committee of the duly selected parents-teachers association and get their approval before the managing committee approves it "DOE's circular read. The education department has been asked to provide a tabular analysis of price hike instances for 2019-2024 sessions and explain why the hikes were permitted despite persistent regulation infractions. Admissions to EWS were also examined.

IIT grads are earning under Rs 10 lakh this year

Delhi: High-paying jobs at top Indian Institutes of Technology have been difficult to get this recruitment season. With corporations cutting employment and paying lesser salaries, tail-end students are getting annual packages below Rs 10 lakh. Colleges must contact additional companies since companies that would normally pick students only chose two. Many pay Rs 10-15 lakh annually. Students who have taken college employment at lesser pay rates are still searching job sites and traveling to career fairs and interviews for better opportunities. "The global economic slowdown has hurt IIT Indore 2024 campus placements. The placement season has been difficult due to fewer recruiters than last year. IIT Indore has sought alumni

support and expanded its employer base, including PSUs, to mitigate the impact "Professor Suhas Joshi, director, IIT Indore. IIT Bombay student: "Last year, companies hired 5-8 students; this year, 1-2. Not all are hired. Some were selected for phase 2 remuneration packages of Rs 60,000 to Rs 80,000 from coaching programs and start-ups." Spectrum Technologies offered trainee engineers Rs 3.6 lakh and trainee design engineers Rs 6 lakh," stated another IIT-Kharagpur student. Gem Machinery and Startoon Labs gave Rs 5.5 lakh yearly. Skyroot bid Rs 5 lakh. Sri Chaitanya and Next Education pay Rs 4.8-6 lakh annually." "The scenario now is that many students are taking up jobs offering the bare minimum threshold salary

of Rs 6 lakh a year but are looking for other jobs," said a source. Students and placement office workers are marketing to employers, negotiating with NGOs, contacting employment portals, and advising seniors. Praveen Tyagi, owner of IITians' Pace, an entrance exam tutorial, stated, "AI has lowered jobs and multinational FANG businesses didn't come to campus, but we saw this as an opportunity to recruit talent. Our IITian hiring test had hundreds of candidates. Good communicators were chosen for simulated online lectures. We've offered 25 kids Rs 12 lakh annually." Many IIT Delhi students still use the Office of Career Services to find work. As of April 5, 1,083 of 1,814 OCS students had jobs, leaving 40% unem-

Canada is reducing the number of start-up visas it will accept, this year

Delhi: Although Canada attempted to improve the attractiveness of its start-up visa program in July of last year, an announcement tonight will terminate the aspirations of prospective immigrant entrepreneurs. In reality, a number of them who received early investment or assistance from business incubators can wind up in a limbo. Beginning on April 30, Canada will only accept petitions for permanent residency linked to ten or fewer startups per approved organization for processing each year. The Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) released a statement stating that this action was taken to expedite application processing and minimize backlogs. To put it simply, there are currently



about 82 of these approved organizations, which include company incubators, angel investors, and venture capital funds (VCFs). It follows that, if the number of these organizations stays the same, no more than 820 applications will be approved. Furthermore, as per the release, entrepreneurs whose start-up is backed by Canadian funding or a business incubator that is affiliated with Canada's Tech Network will be eligible for priority processing. In order to be eligible for permanent residence, entre-

Centre considering NIFT overseas campus



Delhi: Two officials said the central government is considering opening a foreign campus of the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) soon, citing alliances with UK, Australia, Mauritius, Bangladesh, Finland, Sweden, and Nepal universities. Officials said NIFT may open an abroad campus in a place where the institute already has a relationship. The authorities added New Delhi is also in negotiations to collaborate with a Tashkent institute. Officials said NIFT's abroad initiatives are being coordinated by the textiles and commerce ministries under Piyush Goyal. "Textile ministry and other government ministries, especially commerce, are aiming to make NIFT an internationally recognized educational institute. It's ongoing "said one. The second official said NIFT has inked MoUs with universities in Mauritius, the UK, Bangladesh, and Nepal for semester and short-term student exchange programs. Bharat TEX 2024 in February saw NIFT sign 12 MoUs with international universities, which might lead to dual-degree arrangements. They declined to name NIFT's 19th campus in Varanasi, which will open this year. "NIFT has 13,698 students and 680 professors on 18 sites. The second official stated Varanasi campus will open this year.

China accuses Evergrande of \$78 billion fraud, among worst ever

China Evergrande Group's alleged \$78 billion revenue overstatement escalates the legal peril of founder Hui Ka Yan, who now stands at the center of one of the biggest financial fraud cases in history. The nation's top securities regulator said the developer's onshore unit inflated revenue by recognizing sales in advance in the two years through 2020 that led up to its default. It imposed a 4.18 billion yuan (\$581 million) fine against the unit. Evergrande's alleged fraud dwarfs that of Luckin Coffee Inc. and Enron Corp., dealing a blow to the reputation of its former auditor and the country's financial oversight. It fuels concern about how widespread such accounting issues are, just as the new China Securities Regulatory Commission chairman is trying to tighten oversight. "The CSRC fines may serve as a warning to owners of other defaulted developers that failing to collaborate with authorities

over debt restructuring could mark the latest blow for Hui, once among Asia's richest tycoons, who oversaw a sprawling empire that spanned real estate to electric vehicles. Evergrande was one of China's biggest developers, taking on massive debt to expand across the country as condo sales boomed. The group received a liquidation order from a Hong Kong court in January, marking the largest collapse in China's three-year real estate crisis. The CSRC's action may pave the way for more serious charges against Hui, who was detained by police last year due to "suspicion of illegal crimes." No criminal charges against Hui have been made public and his whereabouts aren't known. The levies are administrative penalties. The CSRC laid much of the blame on Hui, who it alleges instructed other personnel to "falsely inflate" annual results. The onshore unit Hengda Real Estate

Group boosted its 2019 revenue by about 214 billion yuan, and another 350 billion yuan in 2020, the regulator said. "The alleged fraud is shocking in its scale," said Brock Silvers, managing director at private equity firm Kaiyuan Capital. "Hui became an expected civil and criminal target as soon as Evergrande was ordered into liquidation." As the supervisor in charge, Hui used particularly "egregious" means, the regulator said. Hengda was also accused of fraudulently issuing a combined 20.8 billion yuan in bonds using these figures in marketing. Hengda's auditor in 2019 and 2020 was PricewaterhouseCoopers Zhong Tian LLP, a mainland entity affiliated with PwC's network. PwC resigned as Evergrande's auditor in January 2023 due to audit disagreements. The CSRC's fine against Hengda, while among the largest ever in China, trails that of the 7.1 billion yuan slapped on fintech.

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 Devarajgowda, 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. Devarajgowda, 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. Devarajgowda'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 Devarajgowda 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, Devarajgowda 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

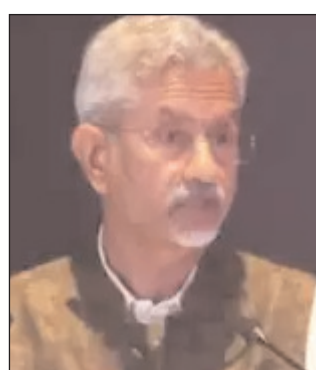
SHILLONG: Matrilineal Meghalaya got its first woman police chief with governor Phagu Chauhan on Saturday appointing Idashisha Nongrang as the new director general of police (DGP). She is set to take charge from May 20 after retirement of the incumbent LR Bishnoi on May 19. "Breaking barriers and making 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 Smt 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) and Deepak Kumar (1994) for appointment after two other IPS officers — GP Singh (1991 batch) and Harmeet Singh (1992) had expressed their unwillingness to take up the job.

'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.

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 "Pariwartan 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.