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

## 'BJP's web of fear broken': Rahul Gandhi after INDIA bloc's sweep in assembly bypolls

**NEW DELHI:** Hours after opposition INDIA bloc's landslide victory in bypolls held in seven states, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi hit out at the BJP, saying the results reflected the standing of the people. In a landslide victory in the assembly bypolls, the opposition INDIA bloc on Saturday bagged 10 out of 13 seats that went to polling across seven states. Reacting to the results, the Gandhian said mandate "made it clear that web of 'fear and confusion' woven by the BJP has been broken". "Every class including farmers, youth, labourers, businessmen and employed people want to completely destroy dictatorship and establish the rule of justice. The public is now completely standing with INDIA for the



'Thank you PM Modi ...': Congress's KC takes dig at Centre

**NEW DELHI:** Congress MP KC Venugopal on Saturday accused the Centre of using "malicious spyware" to try and hack his phone, and said he was made aware of the attempt after receiving an intimation from Apple. Apple had sent a similar alert to Venugopal on October 30, 2023. A screenshot of the Apple alert that the Congress leader shared on the social media platform read: "This is not a repeat notice -- this is to inform you that we detected another attack against your device." Strongly condemning the PM Modi-led government's alleged attempts to hack his phone using state-sponsored spyware, Venugopal said, "Thank you PM Modi ji for sending your favorite malicious spyware on my phone. betterment of their lives and protection of the Constitution," Rahul Gandhi wrote

in a post on X. INDIA bloc parties won 10 assembly seats, as votes were counted on Saturday for the by-elections held earlier this week on 13 seats in seven states. BJP, which after the 2024 Lok Sabha election managed to retain power at the Centre with the help of its NDA allies, faced a major setback in the polls as it could pull off only two seats. The bypolls were held in West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Tamil Nadu. The Congress, TMC, AAP and DMK are among the INDIA bloc parties that fielded candidates in the bypolls. Kharge said the bypoll victory shows that the "people have now completely rejected the arrogance.

## The \$7.5 billion deal that Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella 'sealed' in 20 minutes

**VIJAYAWADA:** Earlier this year, Satya Nadella completed 10 years as Microsoft CEO. Nadella took over as Microsoft CEO in February 2014. Soon after taking over the helm, Nadella is said to have rapidly overhauled the almost 40-year-old company. Nadella is reported to have "pushed Microsoft to embrace cloud computing and open-source software that customers could freely adapt to." Nadella introduced a wave of open-source technologies, supercharging Microsoft's cloud business. Over the years, under Nadella's leadership Microsoft has doubled its market share in cloud computing, cementing its role as the No. 2 behind Amazon, a position it continues to hold -- followed by search giant Google. A recent report in New York Times, talks about various deals that the company has made under CEO Nadella including the



Kamala Harris didn't speak to Rahul Gandhi: US vice president's office

**NEW DELHI:** A day after a news agency reported that US vice-president Kamala Harris had spoken to Rahul Gandhi, the US politician's office reportedly denied any such communication. The news about the telephonic conversation was filed by PTI on Friday, which set the political

social media abuzz. The report was also published by all major news outlets. But on Saturday, the agency correspondent in the US tweeted that the office of Harris had dubbed the news as incorrect and asserted that the vice-president did not speak to Rahul Gandhi. developers shared and collaborated on software code," said the report. After executives spent years debating whether to buy GitHub, Nat Friedman, a former Microsoft executive who worked for Nadella for five years.

**Social media post on Speaker Om Birla's daughter: YouTuber Dhruv Rathee denies any role**

**MUMBAI:** The cyber police on Saturday said they are continuing their investigations to identify those responsible for a social media post alleging that Lok Sabha speaker MP Om Birla's daughter Anjali had cleared the UPSC exams without appearing for it even as YouTuber Dhruv Rathee denied any role. Rathee in a post said, "The alleged post was done by some random parody Twitter (X) account. I have nothing to do with this." Maharashtra nodal cyber police, on Wednesday, registered an FIR against X-handler Dhruv Rathee (parody) @dhruvrathee under the BNS sections of defamation and Information Technology (IT) Act. Police said they registered the offence on the complaint from a relative of Om Birla.

## IAS probationer Puja Khedkar used non-creamy layer certificate for medical seat too



**PUNE:** Probationary IAS officer Puja Khedkar, embroiled in a controversy over the legitimacy of her certificates, secured MBBS admission to Pune's Shrimati Kashibai Navale Medical College and General Hospital in 2007 under the reserved nomadic tribe-3 category furnishing a non-creamy layer OBC certificate, college director Arvind Bhole said Saturday. Khedkar gained admission through the Association of Management and Dental Colleges of Maharashtra (AMUPMDC) entrance test, scoring 146 out of 200, said Bhole. AMUPMDC no longer exists after NEET's introduction. Khedkar is under multiple investigations for submitting a non-creamy layer certificate to UPSC, despite owning properties worth at least Rs 17 crore, including family gifts. Her selection under the benchmark disabilities category is also under review. According to Bhole, it was the medical college's first batch when Khedkar joined. "Khedkar had also attempted the Maharashtra common entrance test for medical admissions. But her AMUPMDC score was higher than the NT-3 category of the Vanjari community at the time of admission. We checked all the documents at the time of submission and found them to be authentic govt records," Bhole said. Khedkar's non-creamy layer certificate was issued by Pathardi sub-divisional office in Ahmednagar in 2007. Her caste and validity certificates were also issued by the same office.

## Officially 'destroyed' booze bottles surface in Gujarat jail

**AHMEDABAD:** Irritated by the reappearance in a Surat jail of officially destroyed liquor bottles, Gujarat high court has questioned the purpose of liquor prohibition in the state when police are involved in illegal activities. "It appears that the destruction of seized goods was nothing but an eye-wash. Let a departmental inquiry be conducted into the



destruction," HC said and ordered a report within three weeks. The court stayed until the next hearing on August 8 any action against three constables - Pinesh Vithani, Lok Rakshak Gulab Karsanbhai, and Gram Rakshak Dal jawan Kiritbhai - booked on the charge of hiding the bottles in the sub-jail. During a raid in Oct 2021, police recovered 3,221 IMFL bot-

tles in the sub-jail. They found that 1,678 bottles belonged to a stock of 124,300 that had supposedly been destroyed in Aug 2021 following a court order. A police complaint said that because the seized property room at Kamrej police station was too small for the large number of seized goods, they were being kept in a room at the police quarters.

## Union minister shah pitches for co-op boost, green energy use in border villages



**NEW DELHI:** Union home minister Amit Shah, who on Saturday reviewed the implementation of the 'Vibrant Villages Programme' (VVP) aimed at accelerated and integrated development of villages bordering China, stressed the need to create job opportunities for their residents, have local agricultural and handicraft products sourced by cooperatives, and maximise use of green energy in them.

Chairing the meeting on VVP, attended by Union home secretary and ITBP DG, Shah said the Narendra Modi govt is committed to the all-round development of the border villages by increasing their connectivity with the rest of

India, thus preventing out-migration by their residents. Shah, who is also the minister of cooperation, said that Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and Army deployed around the border villages should encourage purchase of local agricultural and handicraft products through cooperatives. He underlined that the healthcare facilities of Army and CAPFs should be regularly made available.

## Rural development panel gives report to Uttarakhand CM, suggests repopulation measures

**DEHRADUN:** Uttarakhand's rural development and migration prevention commission submitted a report to the chief minister on Friday in which it stated that 11 villages near the Indo-China border in the districts of Uttarkashi, Chamoli and Pithoragarh were "completely empty with no residents there". The report was submitted following a ground survey of 137 border villages last year during which the 11 identified ones were found to have no residents. Speaking on the report, vice-chairman of the commission, SS Negi told that four teams of the commission had carried out the



ground survey of the villages. "Of the 11 villages, six are in Pithoragarh district - Gumkana, Lum, Khimling, Sagri D h a k d h a u n a, Sumatu and Poting; three in Chamoli district - Rewal Chak Kurkuti, Fagti and Lamtol; and two in Uttarkashi district - Nelang and Jadung. I'd personally visited the two Uttarkashi villages which have been empty since the 1962 Indo-China war. They were emptied by the Army then as a precautionary measure. Today, they host the Army and ITBP posts, but no residents," said Negi. He said that the report submitted by the commission comprises several suggestions for the govt to repopulate them. Negi added: "Some of them include promoting border tourism in those areas by relaxing accessibility norms and providing 200 days' employment instead of 100 days under the MGNREGA programme. in the border villages. We've also suggested the govt to develop the places situated near the 51 border villages identified as 'Vibrant Villages' by the Centre by considering them as a cluster."

## 2 dead, 26 hurt as minibus rolls down gorge in J&K's Doda

**Two** persons died while 26 others were injured after the minibus they were travelling in skidded off the road and plunged into a deep gorge near Bhatiyas in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district Saturday. Officials said the mishap took place around 10.30am. when the minibus was heading to Thathri from Bhalessa. Rescue personnel found one woman dead at the accident spot while another succumbed during treatment at a hospital. "There were 28 passengers in the minibus, including two small children seated on their parents' laps. Two persons died," said Doda deputy commissioner Harvinder Singh, who was present at the spot.

## Assam flood-hit sheltering in forest attacked by leopard

**GUWAHATI:** Three residents of Dadhia Mahmora and Dadhia Kuligaon villages were injured in a leopard attack while seeking refuge in Dibru Saikhowa National Park in Assam amidst devastating floods. The trio, among 48 villagers forced to relocate to the highlands of the park spanning Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts, was searching for their buffaloes Friday afternoon. The injured men were taken to Assam Medical College and Hospital in Dibrugarh, where they received treatment and were discharged, health officials said on Saturday. had earlier reported of potential human-wildlife conflicts. as flood-affected villagers took shelter in the park's highlands. This has led to clashes between displaced humans and wild ani-

mals, like buffaloes and elephants, competing for the same elevated land. Abash Dang, 26, who was injured, said: "Alongside the leopard, there were a few cubs as well. We started our search for buffaloes on a boat and disembarked on a highland. The leopard and the cubs were also seeking shelter there. The leopard most likely perceived us as a threat and attacked us." Dodhia villagers confine their buffaloes to highlands during the monsoon when fields and forests are submerged, but they had let their livestock roam freely this time due to the lack of dry land and fodder. Santana Medhi, forest range officer of Guijan, said leopard attacks are rare as Dodhia residents have coexisted with the wildlife.

## MPVM Ganga Gurukulam interact installation ceremony

Prayagraj: 'Action springs not from thought, but from a readiness for responsibility.' Rotary is a service club that has been involved with helping people around the world. Interact is Rotary International's service club which aims to bring together young people between the ages 12-18 to develop leadership skills while discovering the power of 'Service Above Self'.

On 13th July 2024, under the aegis of Rotary, Prayagraj, the installation ceremony of interact club members of MPVM Ganga Gurukulam was held in the Vivekananda auditorium. The programme was graced by prominent members of the MPVM Samiti, Mr. Yashovardhan Gupta and Ms. Rekha Baid Gupta. President Rotary Prayagraj mid town Rtn Radha Saxena also acknowledged the ceremony with her benign presence. Other distinguished members present were Rtn Neeraj Chugh, Rtn Neeraj Agarwal and Rtn Vimmi Arora.



The programme commenced with the traditional lamp lighting ceremony accompanied by a soulful Saraswati Vandana. In her welcome address the Principal Smt. Madhuri Srivastava encouraged the Interactors to make other's lives better by spreading motivation for success and attainment that is all-inclusive and deeply satisfying through small efforts.

An orientation programme for the young interactors of Gurukulam was taken up by the resource person Rtn Radha Saxena in which she not only boosted the morale of the students but also urged them to take up the spirit of the Interact Club in a progressive manner. She applauded the school's ongoing efforts in community service and encouraged the club members to continue initiating impactful community projects. After the pinning of badges, the young interactors pledged themselves to uphold the motto of 'Service Above Self'.

The programme was a harmonious blend of solemnity and vibrancy. The club members with their melodious motivational song and a mesmerizing classical dance not only set the stage on fire but were also successful in capturing the essence of Indian culture and grace. The programme concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks by the young interactor Kartikey Shukla. The ceremony encapsulated the essence of Interact Club, igniting the flame of service and inspiring the young leaders to embrace their roles with enthusiasm.

## Historic flag of Anjuman Islamia Imam Badha raised

Prayagraj: The historic flag of Anjuman Islamia Imam Badha was raised with great pomp and show. Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani also participated. Prayagraj Today, on the 6th of Muharram, as the flag of Anjuman Islamia and the procession was raised, Imam Badha was raised with utmost respect. Starting from Imambara Mohammad Yasin alias Babbu Bhai's Imambara of Bahadurganj



Mansarovar KP Kakkar Road, he started his sacred journey. After going to Mansarovar Leader Road, Niranjana, Badha Tajjiya was placed back at Bahadurganj, Imambara via Jansenganj, Kotwali, Chowk. A large number of people participated in it which included Tajjiyadar Mo Shakeel alias Guddu Bhai, Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani also participated. Niazi, Sabasad Kusum Lata, Ali Ahmed, Mohd. Adil, Wazir Kha, Israr Niazi, Irshad Ullah, Asad Qureshi, Parvez Ahmed, Mohd. Yakub, the entire team of police administration and civil defense were present and completed the procession.

## Power supply restored with Superintendent Engineer intervention

Prayagraj: Today the power went off at 120 feet substation from 10:00 am, it came back at 3:00 pm, after it came there is a power cut every 45 minutes, it is still going on due to this cut, Hemant, Sharad, Mausam Vihar Jagriti Bihar People of Sainik Colony, Gokul Colony, Nandgaon Colony were greatly affected due to which water problem also occurred. After the intervention of Superintendent Engineer Bamrauli Division, the electricity system was repaired.

# Railways committed to maintaining highest standards of cleanliness and operational discipline in all trains

Garbage collection is done at Veerangana Laxmibai Jhansi station, Kanpur Central, Prayagraj and Tundla of NCR

Prayagraj: Railway Administration is committed to provide clean traveling environment in order to provide best service to its respected customers. In this sequence, many efforts are being made to maintain cleanliness in trains. For this purpose, arrangements like clean train station and on-board housekeeping have also been made. Apart from this, garbage collection points have also been created at various places to collect the garbage generated from the pantry car during the journey in long distance trains, so that not only the trains and railway premises remain clean but also the garbage along the railway tracks. The cleanli-

**\*Railway administration is taking strict action against throwing garbage on the route**  
**\*Action taken within an hour on complaint of wrong disposal of garbage in Awadh, Assam – fine imposed and concerned personnel arrested**

ness system should also be maintained and our journey can become excellent from environmental and hygiene point of view.

In the same sequence, long distance trains are cleaned by the North Central Railway Administration under the Clean Train Station Scheme at Veerangana Laxmibai Jhansi Station and Kanpur Central Stations. Under this, 97 trains are cleaned at Jhansi and while cleaning the trains, all the garbage is collected and disposed as per rules. Apart from this, garbage is also

collected from 32 trains at Kanpur Central.

Along with this, apart from clean train station, arrangements were also made to unload garbage at other stations, like at Prayagraj Junction, garbage from a total of 13 trains is collected and at Tundla also garbage is unloaded by 12311/12 Netaji Express and 15483/84 Mahananda Express. In this regard, if any incident of throwing garbage at any unauthorized place by any contractor or pantry car comes to light, then strict action is taken immediately.

When a similar incident came to light in Northeast Frontier Railway, prompt action was taken and a fine was imposed on the concerned pantry car. It may be noted that, following a video complaint posted on social media by an aware citizen highlighting the irresponsible disposal of waste from the pantry car of Avadh Assam Express on July 11, the Tinsukia Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) within an hour took the same action. On receipt of the complaint, the DRM of Tinsukia Division, re-

sponsible for the maintenance and operational integrity of Avadh Assam Express, immediately coordinated with the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and imposed a fine of Rs 15,000 against the concerned licensee.

Additionally, a strict warning was issued to ensure strict adherence to hygiene protocols in all trains. Further, East Central Railway, in collaboration with the Railway Protection Force (RPF) where the incident took place, took

prompt action to identify and arrest the contractual employees responsible for this misconduct. The concerned Pantry Car employee has been arrested, and a case has been registered under the Railways Act to ensure accountability and prevent such behavior in future.

Indian Railways is committed to maintaining the highest standards of cleanliness and operational discipline in all trains. Passengers and stakeholders are encouraged to continue reporting any such incidents for immediate redressal, reaffirming Indian Railways' commitment to ensuring a clean and safe travel environment for all.

## Crowd of devotees gathered to visit swing of Hazrat Ali Asghar

Prayagraj: The historic procession of 6th Moharram was taken out from Imambara Late Mustafa Hussain located in Roshan Bagh with Aqidat and Ahteraam. Late night, under the patronage of former Deputy Warden of Civil Defense Nasir Zaidi, Warden and procession organizer Khushnood Rizvi, a procession of Hazrat Ali Asghar's swing, two huge alams and Hazrat Ali Akbar's coffin was taken out. In the Azakhana, Kazim Abbas, Ahmed Javed 'Kajjan', Zargam Haider, Aijaz Hussain etc. read the sad mercy, while Zakir Ahlebait Raza Abbas Zaidi made a sad note of martyrdom. After the Majlis Shabihe, the coffin of Hazrat Ali Akbar, the swing of Hazrat Ali Asghar and two huge The procession was taken out after decorating the alum with roses and jasmine flowers. Naukhawano Ghulam Abbas Naqvi and other comrades of Anjuman Mohafize Aza Qadeem Daryabad took out a pro-

cession reciting Purdard Nauha which took a turn from Roshanbagh, Bakshi Bazaar, Masjid Qazi Saheb and ended at Imambara

Farman Rizvi etc. were included.

**In Bisauna Saadat, after taking out Zuljanah, walking barefoot on the**



Futa Daira located in Qazi Ganj. Nasir Zaidi, Khushnood Rizvi, Syed Mohammad Askari, Councilor Rameez Ahsan, Zahid Bhai, Shane Bhai, Shadab Zaman, Asif Rizvi, Sadiq Rizvi, Aamir Rizvi, Ali Raza Rizvi, Wasim Asghar Aun Zaidi, Zamin Hasan, Shamir Zaman, Shayan were present in the procession. Zaman, Aman Jayasi, Muhtaba Haider 'Qader', Tariq, Zaheen Abbas,

**fire, there was mourning for Qama and chains.**

Remembering the martyrdom of Imam Hussain, Maulana Irshad Hussain Lucknow recited a sad message at Imambara Kadeem in Bisauna Sadat under Karaili police station. The members of Anjuman Zulfekaria mourned by walking barefoot on burning embers, while the Pustazni mourned Qama on their heads with chains armed

with sharp knives. Rajendra Raghuvanshi, Abish Sultanpuri and Sadaf Hussain read Nauha. Shabihe Zuljanah of Hazrat Qasim's Mehndi and Ghazi Abbas's Alam Ziyarat were taken out. Cold water and sherbet were served by Shahid Pradhan.

**On the seventh of Moharram, a 24-hour patrolling procession will take place from Imambara Safdar Ali Beg Pan Dariba.**

On the seventh Moharram, a procession of Qadimi Patrol Duldul will be taken out in the morning from Imambara Safdar Ali Baig located at Pan Dariba which will pass through Shahganj Shahnoor, Aliganj, Barntala, Sabzi Mandi, Nakhas Kohna, Ahmedganj, Bakshi Bazaar, Akbarpur, Roshan Bagh, Purani Gudiya Talab, Siahmurgh, Daira Shah. Via Ajmal, Baidan Tola, Hasan Manzil, Samadabad, Rani Mandi, Kotwali, Loknath, Bahadurganj, Ghantagar, Sabzi Mandi and will again reach Imambara Safdar Ali Beg at Pan Dariba in the morning.

## Five-day farmer training organized under Sub Mission on Agriculture Extension Scheme

Naini, Prayagraj: Five-day farmer training program under the "Sub Mission on Agriculture Extension (ATMA) scheme" sponsored by Deputy Agriculture Director Extension, Sonbhadra at Directorate of Extension, Shuats, Prayagraj, was conducted for the farmers of Babhni, Mayorpur and Duddhi development blocks of Sonbhadra district in the auditorium, Directorate of Extension. On this occasion, the chief guest Prof. (Dr.) Vishwaroop Mehra, Pro Vice Chancellor, Director of Administration, was welcomed by Prasara. Chief guest of the training program closing ceremony, Prof. (Dr.) Vishwaroop Mehra, Pro Vice Chancellor Administration, SHUATS, Prayagraj told the farmers that through this training you would have received various types of information related to agriculture. Now there is a need to make good use of the technical knowledge gained through training in our local agriculture so that agricultural activities become easier and more production can be achieved. He also said that the produce obtained at the local level can be used for self-help groups/ farmer producer organizations. If you sell processed products and market them through marketing, you can get good prices for your produce. While presiding over the closing ceremony of the training program, Director of Extension, SHUATS, Dr. Praveen Charan, while addressing the farmers, said that through this five-day program, the agricultural scientists gave you information about various fields related to agriculture and the research fields of SHUATS University. A tour has also been conducted. Participating farmers were provided certificates and training literature. The program was concluded by training coordinator Dr. T.D. Mishra by thanking the chief guest and the farmers. On the concluding occasion of the training, Dr. Mukesh P. Masih, Head of Department and Senior Scientist of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Prayagraj and scientists of Extension Directorate, Dr. Sarvendra Kumar, Dr. Shishir Kumar, Dr. Shailendra Kumar Singh were present.

## Offline entrance examination conducted in SHUATS

Prayagraj: Offline entrance examination for admission in various undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Science (SHUATS) was conducted on Saturday.

Chairman Entrance Test and Admission Dr. C John Wesley said that SHUATS online entrance examination was successfully conducted on July 3, the result of which with first merit list has been released on July 8. He informed that for giving a chance to those candidates who missed in applying or appearing in online test, an offline



entrance examination was conducted in the university campus on Saturday in which a large number of students participated. Its result and second merit list will be released on July 17. Counselling will start from July 22 on the basis of the first merit list. While the counseling of the students of the second merit list will be done after the first merit list counseling. Chairman Dr. Wesley said that the process of online admission for admission in various subjects is also going on.

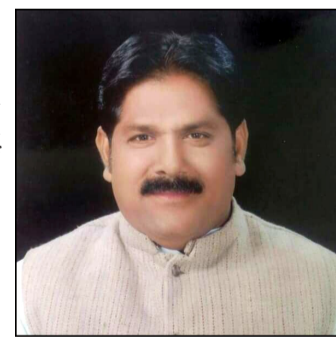
## Notification of Constitution Killing Day is a vicious move by the government: Kishore Varshney

Prayagraj: The announcement of the notification of Gujarat by Home Minister Amit Shah of the NDA government at the Center which is on crutches to celebrate Constitution assassination day on 25th June is the wrong start of an unfair tradition of vicious decisions. In fact, this announcement after 49 years is a deep blow to the fearlessness of opposition leader Rahul Gandhi in presenting the fundamental issues of the people of the country in the Parliament. It would be appropriate if tomorrow Gujarat and other governments in the country announce celebration of Community Hate Day etc. in connection with the Naroda Patiya massacre or Advani ji's Rath Yatra. It is not only unfair but wrong to impose such traditions. In the last ten years, when Indian de-

mocracy was strangled, many leaders, journalists, teachers and various people were put in jail without any reason, hundreds of people died standing in the queues of banks due to demonetization, the poor and laborers of the country were affected due to sudden lockdown. Is the death of more than 750 farmers crossing all limits of inhumanity over the three black laws a golden chapter of the Indian soul? This is worse than undeclared emergency. If the incoming government starts Constitution Revival Day tomorrow on 4th June, then it would be appropriate to inculcate such traditions.

The government should focus on the future of the youth, employment issues, inflation issues, poverty and economy is-

sues along with the record decline of the rupee, threats from China and Pakistan on the borders and not always on the feeling of revenge against the opposition like



before. Work to be done from. The present government should, without any delay, remove this illusion that neither the opposition is as weak as it was in the last ten years nor the government is strong. Is it not inhumanity when in one stroke more than 150 MPs were expelled from the Par-

liament and many laws were made in a dictatorial manner, more than 20 cases were filed against Rahul Gandhi in different parts of the country, even his membership in Parliament was canceled. Finished and vacated the bungalow within 12 hours. In 1975, troubled by the JP movement against the then Congress government, the public bombing of Railway Minister Lalit Narayan Mishra, daily attacks on government institutions and even calls for rebellion from the army, the then PM Indira Gandhi tried to implement the democratic reform process given by the constitutional rights. Emergency was imposed, which went wrong. No one supported the emergency. Apart from two former Prime Ministers Rajiv Gandhi and Dr. Manmohan Singh, the current LOP Rahul Gandhi also apologized.

# Digital attendance for govt staff on duty for Mahakumbh-2025

Prayagraj: With only six months left for the start of mega religious fair Mahakumbh-2025 set to begin from January 14 next, the state government has decided to put in place a smart digital attendance system for workers and officials who would be deputed for the smooth conduct of the once-in-12-year event, a state government spokesman said. The state government is going to resort to artificial intelligence (AI) to ensure their daily attendance and do real time assessment. The move will end the possibility of either proxy attendance or manipulation at the level of

supervisory officers.

In accordance with the vision of CM Yogi Adityanath, the digital attendance system will be developed that will work through facial recognition based mobile app, the officials said.

"During Kumbh-2019, we relied on supervisors of each team for daily and shift attendance and the system was manual. This time we will have AI-based smart app system embellished with face recognition capability in place for the purpose which would save time and be accurate," said

Mahakumbh Mela Adhikari Vijay Kiran Anand, who also served as the Mela Adhikari during Kumbh-2019.

For organising the mega fair, a sprawling tent city is set up on the Sangam banks each time. This temporary city functions as a district with its own police chief or SSP and administrative head or Mela Adhikari. Almost every department sets up their own offices and set-up in the mela area ranging from police, medical and health, electricity and tourism among others.

For Mahakumbh-2025, this tent city would be spread

across 4,000 hectares interconnected with the help of 30 massive pontoon bridges and will have 1.45 lakh toilets. Also, there will be parking facility in 1900 hectares capable of accommodating 5 lakh vehicles at a time with 12 km long bathing ghats in separate stretches overseen by 150 watch towers. For the expected crowd of 40 crore during the 45-day mega fair, over 20,000 staff, officials and 30,000 security personnel would be deputed. The app will be developed to work on Android and iOS format. The initiative will be operated for a project period of 8 months.



MPs and MLAs of Kanpur division paid a courtesy visit to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at his official residence on Saturday.

## Rotary Alld Midtown holds Program on Fitness and Body Positivity

Prayagraj: Rotary Allahabad Midtown organized a seminar on fitness and body positivity at Hotel Kasba on Friday, July 12. Fitness trainer Prerana Sharan emphasized that a healthy body and mind are essential for fitness. She warned that crash dieting can be harmful to mental health, physical health, and skin health. Research suggests that fitness is always linked to body positivity. If your thoughts about your body are positive, it means you are fit.

Prerana Saran and her team, including Shefali Agarwal, Divya Kapoor, Nina, Shruti, and Ritu, shared their experience of trekking 11,600 feet high Dayara Bugyal. The program was attended by Club President Radha Saxena, Secretary Neeraj Chug, Deepti Agarwal, Ankita, Pallavi Agarwal, Madhu Agrawal, Divya Bartaria, Mahesh Singhania, and others.



## Thousands of devotees will receive Mahaprabhu Ji's Mahaprasad

Today there will be Mahaprasad Bhandara of Lord Jagannath ji, 56 types of dishes will be offered to Mahaprabhu ji

Prayagraj: After the Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath Ji, Shri Jagannath Ji Mahotsav Committee Trust Prayagraj will offer 56 types of dishes to Mahaprabhu Ji in the

sands of devotees will receive Mahaprasad of Mahaprabhu Ji and on this occasion Mahaprabhu Ji will be offered Mahabhog of 56 types of dishes and these 56 types of food will

moth, Petha, Sutfeni, Gujhinya, Kalakand Barfi, Chandrakala, Damalu, Crispy, Mathri, Roti, Rice, Kadhi, Papad, Pickle, Raita, Ripe Jackfruit Kova, Ripe Badhar Kova, Cashew, Al-

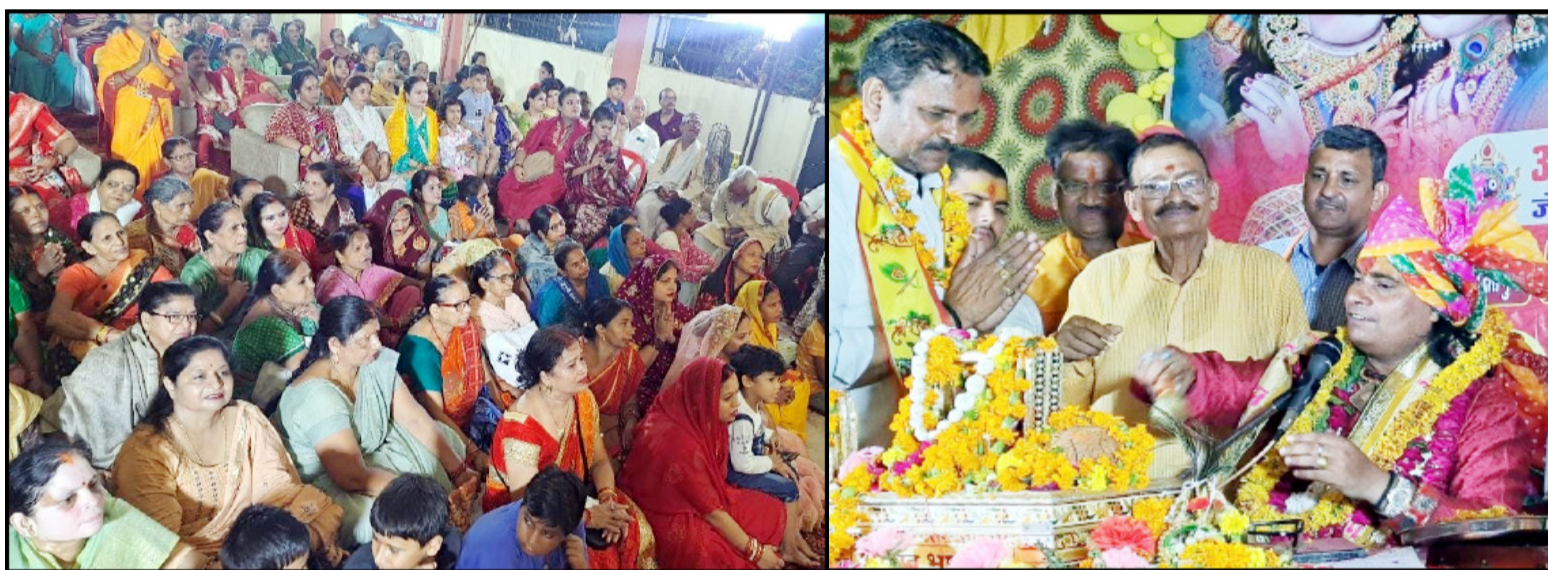


Dham of Lord Jagannath Ji at Prayagshwar Nath Temple on 14th July from 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm. Trust's Rath Yatra co-coordinator Rajesh Kesarwani said that preparations are being made for Mahaprasad Bhandara, in which thou-

be offered to Mahaprabhu Ji. Major dishes include butter, sugar candy, rabri, cream, buttermilk, curd, malpua, chhena, rasgulla, gulab jamun, murabba, jalebi, imrati, moong halwa, thokwa, nankhatai, khurma, ghevar, laddu, mahabhog,

monds, Raisins, Pistachios, Panchamrit, Kheer. Dishes like pakoda, betel nut, lassi, sherbet, puri, chutney (jackfruit, kohda and brinjal vegetable), porridge, mango, tamarind, banana, blackberries, apple, etc. will be available.

## Bhagwat is the public fountain of knowledge, renunciation and devotion: Madhukar Maharaj Shrimad Bhagwat Katha Gyan concluded with Purnahuti



Prayagraj: On the rest day of Shrimad Bhagwat Katha organized by Shri Jagannath Ji Mahotsav Committee Trust Prayagraj and Kshatriya Sonar Yuvak Samiti and Mahila Samaj in Kashiraj Nagar Balua Ghat, while giving the story to the devotees, respected Shri Vinay Priya Tripathi Madhukar Maharaj said that Lord Shri Krishna And

Sudama's friendship, the love-like feeling of friendship between the devotee and God, makes the society realize true friendship which eliminates the discrimination of high and low and Maharaj ji, while explaining the essence of Shrimad Bhagwat Katha, said that the public knowledge of dispassion and devotion is Bhagwat is the

sacred water by drinking whose water the human world can purify its dirty heart and it is said that Bhagwat is the story of correcting life and death, giving happiness to the ancestors, attaining salvation, fulfilling all the wishes and alleviating the defects. It is Bhagwat and Sachchidanand himself is the visible form of Lord Shri

Krishna. On this occasion, MP Ujjwal Raman Singh, Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani, Rohit Verma, Durga Prasad Gupta, Rajesh Kesarwani, Amar Rastogi, Basant Lal Azad, Jairam Gupta, Gagan Das Gupta, Dau Dayal Gupta Triloki Kesarwani, followed by Aarti performed Shrimad Bhagwat Purana Katha. Purnahuti Mahayagya was performed on this occasion.

Women President Poonam Gupta, Preeti Gupta Ratna Verma, Asha Soni, Rachna Verma, Kranti Johri, Malti Kesarwani, Triloki Kesarwani, Happy Kaser, Shubham Aggarwal, Abhilash Kesarwani, Ajay Agrahari, and hundreds of devotees were present in the program. The Rath Yatra was conducted by coordinator Basant Lal Azad.

## Constitution Murder Day will tell country dark history of Congress: BJP

BJP members welcomed the declaration of June 25 as Constitution Murder Day

Prayagraj: The Bharatiya Janata Party Muthiganj Mandal meeting welcomed the decision of the Central Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to celebrate June 25 as Constitution Killing Day. On this occasion, the chief guest of the meeting, BJP leader Kumar Narayan said that June 25 This is an honor to the Satyagrahis who fought unwaveringly for democracy and the Constitution during the Emergency imposed by Indira Gandhi's government in 1975. This day will make every Indian aware of the dic-



tatorship of Congress. Apart from this, former BJP councillor party whip Vijay Vaishya and district spokesperson Rajesh Kesarwani

said that Constitution assassination day is the task of protecting democracy and keeping alive the immortal flame of individual freedom

within every Indian. Will do so that no dictatorial mentality like Congress can be repeated in the future. The meeting was conducted by

Backward Cell Muthiganj Mandal President Shatrughan Jaiswal and thanks were given by Ajay Agrahari. Among those who welcomed the decision of Constitution Killing Day, former Manoj Mishra, Rajesh Kesarwani were among those who welcomed the decision of Constitution Killing Day. Rajesh Sharma Padmakar Srivastava, Prateek Malviya, Sachin Gupta, Madhur Mathur, Rakesh Jaiswal, Kamlesh Kesharwani, Neeraj Kesarwani, Kishanchandra Jaiswal, etc. all the officials of Muthiganj Mandal were workers.

## BJP's Operation Lotus stutters in Himachal after defeat in bypolls: Shekhar Bahuguna

Prayagraj: "The losing streak of the Bharatiya Janata Party and its agency-raj continues. Great victory in by election's congratulations to Rahul Gandji and India party leader's. In a major political setback in the Himachal Pradesh, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) lost two out of three assembly segments that went to the by-polls here on July 13. With this, the 68-member state assembly house now has 40 MLAs of the ruling Congress and 28 of the BJP. This places chief minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu in a comfortable position to hold on to power for the remaining years of his three-year tenure. The people of the country have given their support to the INDIA alliance in the by-elections held on 13 seats in seven states. The people of Devbhumi Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand have expressed their trust in Congress. Many congratulations to all the winning candidates of Congress and India. The people of the country have understood

that politics that misleads people 100 years back and 100 years ahead will not do any good to the country. The people want positive politics that improves the present and prepares a clear blueprint for a bright future. We are committed to the needs and aspirations of young India," said senior Congress leader Shekhar Bahuguna while replying to the queries of mediapersons on Saturday.

The INDIA bloc swept the bypolls winning 10 of 13 seats, while the NDA only managed to bag two seats. In Bihar, an Independent candidate won Rupauli. In Himachal Pradesh, the INC won Dehra and Nalagarh, while the BJP won Hamirpur. In Madhya Pradesh, the BJP won Amarwara. In Punjab, the AAP won Jalandhar West. In Tamil Nadu, the DMK won Vikravandi. In Uttarakhand, the INC won Badrinath and Manglaur. In West Bengal, the TMC won Raiganj, Ranaghat Dakshin, Bagda, and Maniktala.

## Journalist safety and interest discussed in NUJ meeting

Prayagraj: On Saturday, the monthly meeting of the National Union Journalist I Prayagraj unit was held at the city Samata newspaper office, Canalganj. District convenor of the specially invited organization Kamal Kumar Srivastava, District Patron Pawan Divedi and District Patron Parvez Alam were present in the meeting. The meeting was presided over by District President Kundan Srivastava and conducted by District General Secretary Rajiv Singh. In the meeting, there was a detailed discussion on the interest of journalists and journalist safety, in which the organization will strongly oppose any wrongful action against any journalist and the organization will play an important role in solving every problem of journalists and will protect the interests of all journalists. During this time, the membership campaign being run by the organization was also reviewed. A committee was formed to moni-

tor the membership campaign in which patron Parvez Alam, organization minister Akhilesh Shukla, ministers Irfan Khan and Pankaj Sahu were appointed. A coordination committee was formed between the administration and the media in which patrons Pawan Dwivedi, Sudhakar Pandey and Aamir Ansari were appointed. Kundan Srivastava said that there will be no compromise with the interest and safety of journalists. General Secretary Rajiv Singh expressed his thanks and gratitude to all the officials and members in the meeting. In the meeting Kamal Kumar Srivastava, Pawan Dwivedi, Parvez Alam, Umesh Srivastava, Zia Siddiqui, Abhay Shankar Pandey, Sudhakar Pandey, Santosh Singh, Dharendra Srivastava, Rajiv Singh Akhilesh Shukla, Irfan Khan, Saurabh Kumar Adarsh, Ranjeet Nishad, Aamir Ansari, Madhur Darbari, Mithilesh Tripathi, Asad Qureshi etc. were present.

## Fight for rights of Pradhans will be fought from Parl to streets: Ujjwal ALL INDIA GRAM PRADHAN SANGH MEETING

Prayagraj: On the call of Ramsevak Yadav, National President of All India Gram Pradhan Organization, a welcome ceremony of newly elected MP Ujjwal Raman Singh was held at Naini Green Garden Guest House Prayagraj in which the officials and heads of the Pradhan Sangh welcomed him. The officers and heads present at the function put forth their demand through a memorandum to the MP that today the head has been limited to only an honorarium payer and he has also expressed the indecency and abuse done by Chaka Block Chief Anil Patel to

Chaka Block Pradhan Neelam Pathik. It is very unfortunate that neither FIR has been registered nor any action has been taken till date after the abuse. All the village heads told MP Ujjwal Raman Singh to talk to the district officials in this matter and get justice for the woman village head, otherwise the situation will worsen. The Pradhan will be forced to protest and also raise his voice in the Parliament to restore the rights of the Pradhans under the Panchayat Raj Act. On which MP Ujjwal Raman Singh assured the Pradhans that I am with you in this



matter. After talking to the higher officials in this regard, I will get justice for Pradhan Balapur Neelam Pathik and will raise the voice of your

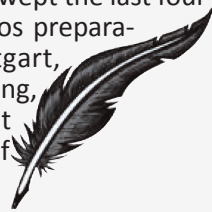
rights in the Parliament and your fight will be fought from the Parliament to the streets. The program was mainly organized by National Presi-

dent Ramsevak Yadav, Senior Vice President of the State, Satendra Tripathi, State President, Women's Cell, Neelam Pathik, State President, Qazi Muazzam, Incharge, District President, Anil Shukla, Kanchan Mishra, Gangapar President, Rekha Pal, Rajesh Dubey, Mandal President, Ramanuj Yadav, President Korao Rambabu Singh, President Saidabad, Jitendra Bharatiya President, Srigerpur. Saranjit Bhurtia was the president, Meja Krishna Nand Ojha was the president, Kaudhiyara Pradhan Jasra Bihari Lal Rajmani Dubey was the president, Manda etc.

## Editorial

### The occasional uprisings

For nearly two decades, a champion other than Rafael Nadal at Roland-Garros has been as elusive as a shadow at high noon on solar equinox. Ever since he made his debut in 2005, the legendary Spaniard has won the event a record 14 times, losing just three of his 115 matches. The occasional uprisings against his ironclad rule, mainly from Novak Djokovic, were crushed with characteristic menace; Nadal leads the Serb 8-2 on Parisian clay. French Open 2023, however, is set to herald a shift, for Nadal will miss the event for the first time since 2004 because of the hip injury that has kept him out since January. There are signs that a change of guard is in the offing in men's tennis in general. With Roger Federer retired and Djokovic out of form, the once vice-like hold of the 'Big Three' is at its weakest. Djokovic is a two-time champion and will be motivated to break the tie with Nadal on 22 Majors. But Carlos Alcaraz, the reigning World No.1 and winner of the French Open tune-up events in Barcelona and Madrid, seems primed to occupy centre stage. The 20-year-old has already established his Slam-winning credentials (2022 US Open), and a follow-up act will only embellish his status as the game's chosen one. Challenging him will be the Scandinavian duo of No.4 Casper Ruud, who lost the 2022 summit clash to Nadal, and No.6 Holger Rune, finalist at both Monte Carlo and Rome recently. Daniil Medvedev has developed a newfound love for the red dirt following his success in Rome last week, but the Russian No.2 is at best a wild card, alongside Stefanos Tsitsipas, Andrey Rublev, Jannik Sinner, and Alexander Zverev. In contrast — and in a departure from the past — it is the women's field that wears a settled look, with Iga Swiatek, Aryna Sabalenka, and Elena Rybakina forming a dominant troika. They have swept the last four Majors and the Roland-Garros preparatory tournaments in Stuttgart, Madrid and Rome. If anything, Swiatek is just the first among equals, by virtue of being the World No.1.



### Studios claim ownership of rights

It was since foreign companies entered the Indian film market that filmmakers in the country, especially in the Hindi film industry, took huge strides. Films with budgets in lakhs suddenly started costing crores. With projects being underwritten by big-time backers, the films with stars started costing over Rs 100 crore. Actors wanted to be paid in crores and so did the director. Soon, the stars started asking for Rs 100 crore or more and the ones with just a single success wanted Rs 10-15 crore. Female artistes started demanding in crores, even though their films, at best, collected Rs 5 crore or less in lifetime business. Somewhere along the line, the filmmaking happened with no sense of the economics. The prices the stars demanded were artificial, much against their draw or potential to recoup. This continued for a long time because the companies which backed these films opened their purse strings generously. The producer had nothing to lose and stood only to gain. Nobody cared for what a star charged or a director did. Ridiculous budgets were presented and sanctioned by the new corporate entrants who were under the impression that they were producing films when, in fact, they were actually outsourcing the film production activities. They had neither the knowledge of filmmaking the way it happened in India, nor any control. Besides the budgets of the films, the manipulations extended to the media and on social media. A star is someone who assures an initial draw to his every new release. But when the star's prices became unviable, filmmakers resorted to giving out inflated collection figures. There was no way a film costing Rs 100 crore could recover the investment.

## Prioritising the road ahead for the Indian industry

Seventy-five years after independence, becoming the fifth largest economy in the world and poised to be the third largest economy by 2030, India has indeed surpassed many significant milestones. But the moot question here is what has fuelled India's growth, the services or the manufacturing sector, and what should be its future plan of action. The last nine years have proved to be a period of immense economic and commercial gains for India businesses, partly helped by the government's new policy initiatives and also the charged-up Indian businessmen ready

to take-up new challenges and claim their due place under the sun. Seventy-five years after independence, becoming the fifth largest economy in the world and poised to be the third largest economy by 2030, India has indeed surpassed many significant milestones. But the moot question here is what has fuelled India's growth, the services or the manufacturing sector, and what should be its future plan of action. The economic reforms ushered-in by the Narasimha Rao government in 1990s, and the subsequent unshackling of chains bounding the private sector ill then,

proved to be a boon for the Indian businessmen. But more or less these economic reforms ushered in the groundwork for future transformation of the Indian businesses, which were able to lead the growth curve with the services sector. Currently G-20 Sherpa and former head of the Niti Aayog, Amitabh Kant in his book, 'Made in India: 75 Years of Business and Enterprise', offers an insiders peep in to the second-generation reforms which began in 2014 and delves deep into the policies and people behind the new age start-ups and their novel businesses versions that

are unleashing the entrepreneurial zeal among the Indian youth. Kant's ringside view as a top policy maker have added immensely to the book, besides highlighting his out of the box campaigns such as Make In India, Start-up India, God's Own Country, and policy changes like Performance-Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI), Aspirational Districts, e-Mobility, Green Hydrogen, and Ease of Doing Business reforms. However, the book has also given an opportunity to the top business leaders and policy makers to air their views about the future course to be taken.

## BJP voters are thrilled their party is back in power

Everyone benefits from the 2024 Lok Sabha election.



Though unhappy by its drop from 303 seats in 2019 to 240 this time, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is relieved to have won three consecutive terms for the first time in over 60 years. The Congress-led Opposition's 2024 numbers may be lower than the BJP's, but it seems to have found a weakness in Prime Minister Narendra Modi. After three general elections in a succession of two-digit votes, the Congress under Rahul Gandhi had its third-worst Lok Sabha performance, but its supporters are celebrating keeping the BJP below 272. Same with their supporters: Hindu BJP voters are thrilled that their party is back in power, but Muslim voters believe they have returned their

'veto power' in Indian politics. The Congress-led Opposition may be celebrating, but the BJP should be relieved. After all, it realized the party is in trouble without losing power in Raisina Hill. The party has five years to clean up. A vote where everyone has something to be thrilled about makes it easier to misread the outcome, which is the BJP's problem. First, the BJP should view the Lok Sabha results with cautious optimism, as three consecutive terms are exceptional. The Modi government has defeated anti-incumbency and the post-pandemic tendency of Covid-19 being a graveyard for ruling dispensations globally. Most incumbents have failed to recover from the enormous coronavirus outbreak. Taking the wrong medication is more dangerous for the BJP than not taking any cor-

rective actions. Unfortunately, politicians' egoistic tendency to blame voters rather than party leadership for recent political defeats makes the latter more likely. One can understand how Uttar Pradesh voters, especially Ayodhya, were villainized after the poll. Dubious political commentators have already given their verdict, exposing Hindutva's declining returns in Indian politics! Such feel-good, part-dubious analysis should not be accepted by the BJP. The party may also view the results as localized and one-time. Localized because while losing approximately 50% of seats in Uttar Pradesh, the party swept Madhya Pradesh. Uttar Pradesh, unlike Madhya Pradesh, has a viable opposition with a strong M-Y vote-bank for anyone who can defeat the BJP. The

Opposition troubled the BJP wherever it had a party infrastructure, albeit a basic one, and vote-banks, whether in Uttar Pradesh or Maharashtra. Naturally, the Opposition distributed tickets smartly, notably in Uttar Pradesh, where Akhilesh Yadav generously offered SP tickets to Dalits and OBCs and less than 10 seats to M-Y candidates! In contrast, the BJP had ticket distribution troubles. Misfits, incompetent, and corrupt candidates were common, as were imports from other parties. This sparked party discontent and heartburn. The Ayodhya BJP candidate was unpopular before the election, and he was on sticky ground. Of course, his loose statements on reserves and the Constitution made matters worse for himself and the party. Ideological fluidity in the BJP compounded its

problems. A party that earns 18-20% of votes for being a Hindutva vehicle is bound to boomerang when its national president publicly distances itself from "bhagwa" during the election campaign. In an interview with a Delhi daily, JP Nadda said the "BJP and bhagwa (saffron) are not synonymous" and that the BJP might win the 2024 elections without the RSS! He overlooked that when a Hindu doesn't see himself as a Hindu, he's tempted to adopt caste identities. The BJP must realize that any ideological compromise has led to political hara-kiri. In 1984, the BJP, fresh from the Jana Sangh, burned its fingers by openly supporting Gandhian socialism and won only two Lok Sabha seats. When the Jinnah-fied BJP downplayed its Hindutva identity in 2004 and 2009, the party suffered similarly.

## On the Alwar lynching case verdict

The thin line between culpable homicide and murder under Indian penal law is a subject of endless analysis, but it is not easy to accept this nuanced distinction in a case of mob lynching. A Sessions Court in Alwar district of Rajasthan has sentenced four men to a prison term of seven years for the lynching of a Muslim dairy farmer in July 2018. However, it acquitted Naval Kishore, a Vishwa Hindu Parishad functionary, for want of sufficient evidence. If one recalls the acquittal of all those tried for the 2017 murder of Pehlu Khan,

who was also a victim of cow vigilantism, there is a semblance of justice for Rakbar Khan, 31, who was attacked by a mob while transporting two cows along with a friend near Lalawandi village in Alwar. The police had found Rakbar Khan with serious injuries, to which he succumbed later, presumably due to the delay in taking him for medical treatment. If one takes into account the number of attacks, some of them fatal, involving so-called cow protection gangs in various States in recent years, the record of the criminal justice system in

successfully prosecuting those involved in such incidents is quite dismal. In this backdrop, the fact that the police in Alwar managed to obtain a conviction is noteworthy. However, that the assailants were found guilty only of culpable homicide not amounting to murder and wrongful restraint does raise some concern. A conviction for murder would have entailed at least life imprisonment.

Rakbar Khan's family is justly aggrieved both over the acquittal of one suspect, who they believe was the main

accused, and the seven-year prison term. The police relied on some telephone conversations between the acquitted VHP leader and the assailants to rope him in as a key suspect.

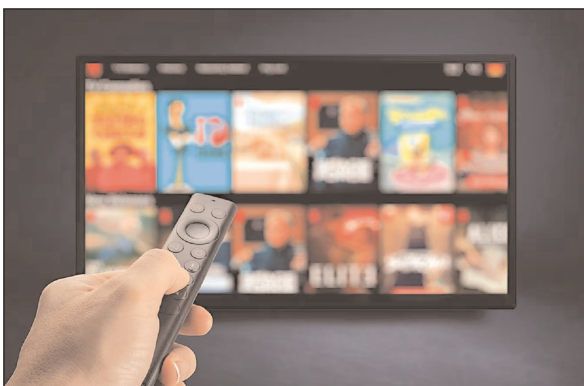
However, the court did not consider this adequate proof. While deciding that the fatal attack did not amount to murder, the trial court has concluded that the assailants neither intended to cause death nor knew that their assault may cause death. The prosecution is likely to take up both the "inadequate" sentence awarded

to the four and the acquittal of one on appeal. Organised cow vigilantism poses a major threat to the safety and security of minorities, as well as to the maintenance of the rule of law.

Despite the Supreme Court deprecating the bigotry and hate propaganda that underlie such activities, incidents of sectarian violence and vigilantism seem to go on. Both preventive and punitive measures are needed to arrest the trend, and one cannot emphasise enough the need for efficient investigation and prosecution.

## The OTT wars

Similarly, Shemaroo was in the video renting business initially, and later, acquired the video rights distribution business and always made sure it collected the best of the repertoire from top production houses. Zee and Shemaroo, when they entered the OTT business, possessed ample content. There were some big business and media houses that entered the field because it was the thing to do in the name of expansion or, in some cases, not to be left out of the changing world. There are so many OTT platforms today, that one has lost count. But, talking of the Jio Cinema, it has adopted the same disruptive practice it did while launching the JioPhone: free talk time! To start with, Jio Cinema aired the Indian Premier League (IPL 2023) cricket matches free sans subscription charges while Star Sports held the telecast rights. This could very



well have affected the revenues of Star Sports, but what after IPL? An OTT platform is not something a viewer gets addicted to. It is the content that attracts a viewer, even if it is the paid kind. So what is the company promoting, Jio Cinema, or the JioPhone. Looks like, primarily, it is the phone. The Jio mobiles are priced at between Rs 1,500 and Rs 3,000, and, now, a smart phone comes for around Rs 4,000. But, then, there are dozens of phones that are available in the similar price range.

## A year of crucial importance

India's Presidency of G20, the challenge posed by the rise of minority politics at home and the concerted campaign of opposition parties including the regional entities against the ruling dispensation, all cumulatively add to the need for effective and firm governance in the country in the pre-election year. India presently is in the midst of efforts by the Narendra Modi government to reach a new high in building international relations, maintain domestic peace in the face of a planned attempt of hostile forces within and abroad to push the country towards a serious communal divide and establish once again - in the run-up to the next General Election - the image and strength of India as the world's largest democracy. India's Presidency of G20, the challenge posed by the rise of minority politics at home and the concerted campaign of opposition parties including the regional entities against the ruling dispensation, all cumulatively add to the need for effective and firm governance in the country in the pre-election year. Prime Minister Modi's foreign policy initiatives have enhanced India's image abroad and have also delivered on trade and economic relations, but the regime seems to be facing an increasing challenge in the area of internal security and stability because of divisive and disruptive politics at home and the organised attempts of anti-India forces within and outside of the country to build a narrative that India was moving towards an authoritarian, majoritarian and non-secular rule.

Since the Modi government's development agenda is in full swing and its schemes for the less privileged have also

made an impact, the opposition was taking to finding fault with the democratic content of the present dispensation at the Centre and alleging misuse of coercive instruments of the state by the regime to selectively run down the leaders of other parties.

India however, is used to the 'wisdom of the crowd' asserting itself in all critical situations and there is little doubt that in a national poll, people would make a sound judgement on the integrity of the Modi government, its political will in safeguarding national security and the sincerity of its efforts to develop the country economically. India has made its G20 Presidency an event with a difference - its motto 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' or 'World is one family' setting the note for a global mission that India wished to pursue on this forum. On the initiative of Prime Minister Modi various international conferences in the run-up to the G20 Summit in September are being held at different locations across India to give the visitors a feel of the vastness, cultural richness and development, of this country

and to spread the awareness among the people here, of the big strides India was taking to make its presence felt international.

The rise of India as a major power in the world with considerable influence on issues of global peace and development, the continuity of the policy of bilateral relations extended to a multilateral format that guaranteed mutually beneficial outcomes for both security and economic advancement and the designing of G20 events in a manner that would promote domestic growth.

## Bungle in Banswara: Why Congress is opposing its own man

**BANSWARA:** Known as Rajasthan's tribal heartland, Banswara likely stands out as the only constituency nationwide where Congress is campaigning against its party nominee, and in favour of a fledgling Bharat Adivasi Party (BAP). Internal conflicts within the grand old party, lack of coordination between its state and central units, and high command's hesitance compelled it to tie up with the five-month old BAP on the latter's terms. Congress' own candidate, Arvind Damor, remains in the fray as well. A similar scenario is unfolding in the bypolls to the Bagidora seat, an assembly constituency under Banswara LS segment. Here, Congress workers are engaged in door-to-door campaigning for BAP candidate Jaikrishn Patel, opposing their own nominee

### Malviya defected to BJP, allegedly bitter over not being made leader of the opposition in the assembly

Kapur Singh. Both seats go to polls on April 26. After defeat in the 2023 assembly elections, Congress initiated talks to form an alliance with BAP, a party that secured three seats in the tribal region. The talks hit a roadblock as BAP insisted on three LS seats — Udaipur, Banswara and Chittorgarh — for its candidates in exchange for backing Congress candidates in the remaining 22 parliamentary seats. Former CM Ashok Gehlot, state president Govind Singh Dotasra, Sachin Pilot and local office-bearers, sources said, were wary of a tie up with BAP, with a section labelling the tribal

party as "ambitious". Congress decided to bet on four-term MLA and former cabinet minister Mahendrajeet Singh Malviya as its LS nominee from Banswara. and in the first week of Feb, the party's core committee in Banswara and Dungarpur endorsed his candidacy. However, on Feb 19, Malviya defected to BJP, allegedly bitter over not being made leader of the opposition in the assembly. "Upon his crossing over to BJP, it became evident that Malviya would be picked as the saffron party's candidate in Banswara. Congress not only bid farewell to a prominent figure

## Supreme Court refuses to hear plea on voter turnout data in midst of polls

**NEW DELHI:** Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain an NGO's plea for a direction to Election Commission to declare authentic voter turnout figures at the end of each phase of polling and said it was not inclined to issue any interim order amid electioneering. Hearing an application filed by NGO 'Association for Democratic Reforms' (ADR) in its PIL pending since 2019 and seeking identical mandamus to EC, a vacation bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Satish Chandra Sharma said, "We are prima facie not inclined to grant interim relief as prayed for in the application as the prayer is similar to that in the 2019 petition. Grant of interim relief would amount to grant of final relief." The Justice Datta-led bench said the voter turnout app was a voluntary step taken by EC to inform the public about approximate voting percentage. "EC is not statutorily required to upload preliminary data. Sometimes a good initiative is like 'aa bail mujhe maar' (counter-productive)," it said,

agreeing with EC's contention that it was not mandated to put out voter turnout figures after polling for each phase and that it decided to provide the figures on its voter turnout app on its own. Appearing for EC, senior advocate Maninder Singh took the lead in the application by claiming that it was based on "suspicions, apprehensions and falsehood" and urged the bench not to entertain such a plea as the "so-called public interest petition" was causing grave harm to the electoral process. "Low voter turnout could possibly be due to the continuous attempts by certain elements to create an atmosphere of suspicion around the electoral process," he said. Singh said the court, in its April 26 judgment, had scrutinised every ADR allegation and dismissed it while questioning its bona fide. "But the PIL factory, within hours of the pronouncement of the judgment, filed this application raising another set of apprehensions based on suspicions. No fact is pleaded to sub-

stantiate the allegations," Singh said, adding that as per Article 329(b) of the Constitution, no court shall call into question a parliamentary election except on filing of an election petition after the conclusion of the poll process. Terming false ADR's assertion that there had been a variation of 5-6% in the final voter turnout data from the preliminary statistics released by EC, Singh said the figure registered on the voter turnout app, which was based on preliminary assessment, varied from the final turnout data only by 1-2%. A vacation bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Satish Chandra Sharma SC repeatedly asked why ADR did not take steps for early hearing of its 2019 petition in the last five years and how it could seek interim relief which was similar to the relief sought in its 2019 petition. Senior advocate Dushyant Dave, for ADR, admitted that the NGO was damned by SC but reminded the court that ADR had over the years played an important role in assist-

## CAPSULES

### ED arrests one more in TDS refund fraud case

**MUMBAI:** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) arrested another accused, Purshottam Chavan, in a money laundering case connected to a Rs 263 crore Income Tax Refund fraud on Monday, following the arrest of his accomplice Rajesh Batreja last week. This case involves the former Income Tax (I-T) inspector, Tanaji Adhikari, who gained the confidence of his seniors while working in the Income Tax department and cleared fraudulent TDS refund claims into the account of his accomplices. The ED said Chavan was involved in possessing part of the Proceeds of Crime (POC) and he was in regular contact with Batreja for the diversion of cheated money through hawala transactions. Chavan and Batreja had shared incriminating messages, which are part of the ED's findings. The ED mentioned that Chavan attempted to hamper the investigation by destroying evidence and during the search of his premises, they found many property documents and foreign currency. Earlier, the ED had arrested former income tax inspector Tanaji Adhikari, and businessmen Bhushan Patil and Rajesh Shetty in the case, who are currently in jail custody. The ED alleged that Batreja assisted Tanaji Adhikari in diverting POC of Rs. 55.50 Crore into three shell companies to convert the same into cash for sending it outside India via the hawala channel. Afterward, he brings part of the money to India as an investment in two companies. Until now, the ED has seized or attached properties worth Rs 168 crore in the case and last year had already filed a chargesheet against Tanaji Adhikari and 10 others in the case. Adhikari, who was the senior I-T tax assistant at the Income Tax office handling the refund of tax deducted at source.

## Healthcare, illegal betting ads most violative, says ASCI

**NEW DELHI:** Healthcare emerged as the most violative sector in India with respect to advertising rules in 2023-24, with the majority of overall violations on account of misleading claims, an annual analysis of Advertising Standards Council of India says. Among the violators, healthcare ads contribute 19% of cases, followed by illegal offshore betting (17%), personal care (13%), conventional education (12%), food and beverage (10%), and realty (7%).

Baby care emerged as a new contender in the top violators category, with influencer promotions contributing to 81% of baby care cases. In 2023-24, the analysis studied 10,093 complaints and 8299 advertising campaigns. Nearly half of the advertisements picked up by ASCI were not contested by the advertisers, it adds. The majority of violations were on account of misleading claims at 81%, followed by ads that promoted harmful situations or products at 34% (the same ad can be processed for multi-

ple objections). Manisha Kapoor, CEO & Secretary General of ASCI, said, "2023-24 has been a truly challenging year, and ASCI stepped up to this by focusing our efforts on digital. About 3200 advertisements were shared with various regulators, such as MIB, Ayush, and MahaRera, for direct violations of the law. We see this as a continuing area of focus. With the highest number of violative ads seen online, advertisers and platforms must work more closely with regulators and self-regula-

tors to keep consumers protected". Further, digital media remained the primary source of violations, accounting for 85% of ads processed, and had a lower compliance rate of 75%, compared to 97% for print and TV. This raises serious questions about the online safety of consumers, a point highlighted last year as well, the report notes. In 2023-24, the number of complaints regarding misleading and violative ads was 12.75% higher over 2022-23. Saugata Gupta, ASCI chairman said, "As

digital emerges as a dominant media in which advertisements thrive, ASCI has geared up to the challenges through constant investment in technology'. Significantly, celebrities continued to appear in ads that were in violation of the ASCI code. ASCI processed complaints against 101 ads featuring celebrities, 91% of which required modification, the analysis said. About 104 celebrities appearing in these 101 ads were found to be in violation of the celebrity guidelines.

## 'What is your compulsion?': Rahul Gandhi accuses PM Modi of 'protecting' Prajwal

**NEW DELHI:** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday slammed Prime Minister Narendra Modi and accused him of protecting Prajwal Revanna facing charges of multiple instances of sexually abusing women. Taking to X, former Congress president wrote, "Why are you protecting a mass rapist, Prime Minister? What is your compulsion?" Gandhi's remarks comes hours after Karnataka chief minister Siddaramaiah



urgently requested the cancellation of the diplomatic passport belonging to JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna, along with concerted efforts to ensure his return to India. Earlier in the day, former Prime Minister and JDS patriarch HD Deve Gowda issued a warning to his grandson Prajwal Revanna to

return to India and instructed him to submit himself to the legal process. The FIR against Prajwal Revanna includes grave charges such as rape, sexual assault, disrobing women, and forcibly video-graphing sexual acts to intimidate the victims. Siddaramaiah emphasizes the urgency of the situation, stressing the need for decisive action by the central government to ensure the accused's cooperation with legal proceedings.

## 'International Khan Market gang': Jaishankar on Western media's portrayal of India

**NEW DELHI:** External affairs minister S Jaishankar slammed the Western media and called the anti-India ecosystem the 'international Khan Market gang'. On the portrayal of India by the Western media, Jaishankar said we must ask "why they are doing it". He said that just like there's a 'Khan Market gang' in India, there also exists a global extension of it, 'international Khan Market gang'. "In the country today, there is a certain thought process, or entitlement process for which the metaphor of 'Khan Market gang' is a very good description. TOP PICKS FOR YOU a r t i c l e s h o w 110125113 Countries which have to go to court to decide result of polls are giving us lectures

about how to conduct elections: EAM Jaishankar 'My lowest turnout is higher than your highest,' EAM Jaishankar slams Western media I want to tell you there is an international Khan Market gang as well," Jaishankar said in an interview to news agency ANI. "These are people who are sort of linked, you know, to the entitled people out here. They are socially comfortable with them. They know them. They feel like they advance similar viewpoints. They are essentially a kind of an elitist left-lib thought process. So there's a symbiotic relationship between the two," he said. Talking about how they openly endorse leaders and parties, he said, "When the sales are down in the domestic Khan Market,

the International Khan Market gang feels like, I need to pep up these guys and give them support and you can actually see which stories they play up, how do they slant things and in previous elections perhaps even in this one they've actually openly endorsed parties and will openly endorse leaders and openly said that this party or this leader is bad for India." Jaishankar also claimed that attempt is being made to influence the choices of voters. "I believe it is election influence certainly... And it's not just them, you know, there's a... See, it's a... press, university, think tank, and in some cases maybe some degree of officialdom at some kind of medium level because the guys up there are very smart.

## ICICI Prudential Life Insurance launches its First ULIP with Fund Value-based distributor payouts – ICICI Pru Platinum

**KARNAL/HISAR, May 24, 2024:** ICICI Prudential Life Insurance launched ICICI Pru Platinum, the Company's first unit-linked product which aligns distributor payouts to their customers' fund value – the distributor commissions are linked to their customers' Assets under Management. This unique product incentivises distributors to encourage their customers to stay invested for the entire policy tenure. Notably, it offers customers a cost and tax-efficient route to build wealth over the long-term. ICICI Pru Platinum provides unlimited free switches between asset classes, without any cost or tax implications. Customers can choose from an array of 21 funds under this

product, comprising 13 equity and four each in the debt and balanced categories, besides offering an option of four portfolio strategies. Announcing the launch, Mr. Amit Palta, Chief Distribution Officer, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, said, "ICICI Pru Platinum, our Company's first unit-linked product designed to make distributor payouts aligned to their customers fund value, promoting the long-term interests of both. We endeavour to continuously innovate and introduce products and processes which are simple. This is in line with our philosophy of ensuring right product to the right customer at the right price and through the right channel. We have introduced pioneering prod-

ucts on the annuity and pension savings platform. These include an annuity product which offers a 100% refund of all premiums paid from the date of purchase. We also offer a traditional product which allows customers to make partial withdrawals to meet liquidity requirements. Notably, we are the only life insurer in the country to payout commissions to distributors on the same day. Besides, achieving the milestone of issuing ~45% of our savings policies on the same day in FY2024." He further added "Life insurance is all about claims and as a customer friendly brand we aim to settle all claims speedily. This is reflected in our industry leading claim settlement.

## Wrong section, delay in blood sample: The lapses in Pune Porsche crash

**NEW DELHI:** As the investigation into the Pune Porsche car crash intensifies, several lapses in the police investigation have come to light. This includes allegations of the teen accused of driving the luxury car under the influence of alcohol getting preferential treatment, being served pizza at the police station, and more. Commissioner of police Amitesh Kumar on Friday said the authorities are determined to ensure a thorough investigation and a 'watertight' case against the accused. **Who is Vishal Agarwal?** All you need to know about father of teen involved in Pune Porsche crash case 'Sent driver with son': Father of Pune crash accused on why he should get bail Meanwhile, two officials from the Yerawada police station have been suspended for neglecting their duties. The case has

also now been transferred to the crime branch. So what were the lapses in the initial investigation of Pune police? 1. Late reporting: Two officials from the Yerawada police station were suspended on Friday for neglecting their duties related as they failed to inform the wireless control room about the accident on May 19. Inspector Rahul Jagdale and assistant police inspector Vishwanath Todkari were suspended for "late reporting" and "dereliction of duty". 2. Delay in collection of blood sample: Commissioner of police Amitesh Kumar on Friday admitted that there was a delay in blood sample collection of the teen accused in this case. He confirmed that though the juvenile was sent to Sassoon General Hospital around 9am on May 19, his blood samples were collected at 11pm.

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



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

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

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

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

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

## ED attaches 53cr assets of Navi Mum developer

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



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

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

## Maoist IED blast kills woman in Bijapur district

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

lecting tendu leaves near Mallur village when she stepped on a camouflaged IED, police said. The explosion was heard in the village.

Locals found Shanti's body and alerted police. The site is not far from the site of Friday's 11-hour gunfight. Locals

found Shanti's body and alerted police.

The site is not far from the site of Friday's 11-hour gunfight. The explosion was heard

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Though AAP and Congress are part of

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

## TISS student moves HC against suspension for attending protest

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Forever Living Products (India) Celebrates Womanhood at the Women's Leadership Conclave



**New Delhi:** Forever Living, a leading conglomerate known for its health, beauty, and wellness products based on Aloe Vera, is also dedicated to empowering women and recognizing outstanding achievements by its women business owners. On July 3rd, Forever Living India will host the second edition of its Women's Leadership Conclave at the luxurious Westin Hotel in Gurugram. The conclave will showcase Forever's wide array of offerings, including their products, business opportunity, and recognition of top achievers. It will also highlight the success stories of women who have achieved their dreams while maintaining a work-life balance. Attendees will include women business owners from all over India. With a variety of successful initiatives promoting women's empowerment, the Government of India is working towards creating a more inclusive and secure environment for women. Aligned with this vision, FLP India is

## Global tech partner sought by ONGC for Mumbai High

**Delhi:** To boost output from Mumbai High, the largest oilfield in India that is still producing almost 50 years after it began operations, state-run exploration company ONGC is looking for long-term technical cooperation abroad. On June 1, the firm declared its intention to go public and invited bids from "internationally-proven" technological service providers that could work with it for ten years, with the possibility of a five-year extension, and had a minimum yearly revenue of \$75 billion. Bids end on July 15th. For the first time, ONGC is looking for a technological partner outside. In



order to unlock the "significant" upside in output, the business brass wants to implement best-in-class reservoir management technologies and globally-best operational and management techniques, even though an internal pool of experts has demonstrated their

ability to maintain production over time.

The chosen service provider would conduct an exhaustive analysis of field performance and pinpoint enhancements in reservoirs and wells, encompassing water injection and facilities administration.

## Zee Board approves 2,000cr share sale hike

**Delhi:** The board approved Zee Entertainment Enterprises' Rs 2,000 crore share sale. Zee's merger with Sony Pictures Networks India failed in January. Zee cut costs and increased earnings once the acquisition failed. It also ended a \$1.4 billion Walt



Disney cricket broadcasting pact. The funding may be done in tranch-

es, it noted. The Punit Goenka-led company would use the capital for "future growth opportunities in the evolving media landscape". Zee has requested a \$90 million agreement termination fee from Sony India after the merger plan collapsed following legal fights.

## For improved asset liability management, RBI raises the bulk deposit barrier to Rs 3 crore from Rs 2 crore

**Delhi:** The Reserve Bank of India raised the bulk fixed deposit threshold to Rs 3 crore from Rs 2 crore to improve bank asset liability management. Bulk fixed deposits earn somewhat more than retail term deposits because banks offer varying rates for liquidity management. Retail fixed deposits now include Scheduled Commercial Banks (excluding Regional Rural Banks) and Small Finance Banks single-rupee term deposits up to Rs 2 crore. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das announced the bi-monthly policy to redefine bulk deposits as 'Single Rupee term deposit of Rs 3 crore and above' for SCBs



(excluding RRBs) and SFBs after reviewing the bulk deposit ceiling. Also, Local Area Banks' bulk deposit ceiling should be 'Single Rupee term deposits of Rs 1 crore and above' like RRBs. The review is routine. It was one

crore a few years ago, then two, and now Rs 3 crore to keep up with the times. It may improve asset liability management for banks, helping them classify bulk and retail, "RBI Deputy Governor Swaminathan J told the media. As for fears that it may raise deposit costs, the deputy governor said it depends on the entity. "There may not be a systemic influence, but certain organizations' liability management may have a positive or negative impact. "We don't expect any systemic impact from this change," Swaminathan said. This will simplify business and increase operational flexibility for authorized dealer banks.

## TCS launches AI platform to accelerate GenAI adoption

**Delhi:** Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. (TCS) announced TCS AI WisdomNext to help its clients swiftly adopt new technologies like generative AI (GenAI) at cheap prices. Tech businesses are becoming GenAI-friendly, and this platform follows. The Mumbai-based software exporter was the first Indian IT company to unite AI and cloud operations into AI.Cloud. Instead of having separate teams for each client, the company would supply AI and cloud solutions



under one banner. WisdomNext would bundle different GenAI products and offer clients customized industry blueprints based on the company's experience in various industries. "TCS AI WisdomNext gives enterprises a choice to select the right large language models at an optimal

cost," Ganesan said 100 customers in banking, financial services, retail, consumer goods, travel, manufacturing, life sciences, and healthcare used WisdomNext. Krishna Mohan Reddy, vice-president and deputy head of TCS's AI.Cloud branch, said the platform worked on sales, marketing, code development, and real-time supply chain improvements. TCS CTO Harrick Vin claimed the WisdomNext platform would increase jobs, not replace them.

## Sebi alerts PolicyBazaar over the purchase in Dubai

**Delhi:** PB Fintech, the business behind the insurance-tech platform PolicyBazaar, is under investigation by market regulator Sebi for failing to disclose a \$2 million investment in a company based in Dubai. Yashish Dahiya, the CEO and chair of PB Fintech, has received a show-cause notice from Sebi, the business informed the exchanges. "The SCN pertains to investment of \$2 million by PB Fintech, Dubai on Nov 17, 2022 for 26.7% stake in YKNP Marketing Management (an unrelated party) which was not considered unpublished price sensitive information (UPSI) due to non-material value of the transaction," the business stated. It is made clear that the SCN has no appreciable effect on the company's operations,



### Stocks will be credited to your demat account without going via a broker

**Delhi:** Regulator Sebi has ordered that, starting on October 14, investors will receive the equities they purchased straight to their demat accounts from clearing businesses in an effort to reduce

market risks. At the moment, clearing companies credit equities to brokers who then credit the stocks to the individual investors. Broker assistance in crediting stocks to buyers'.

counsel in order to act appropriately on the SCN in a timely manner."

## Indira killer's son lost dad at 6, had no school money.

**Delhi:** Sarabjit Singh Khalsa, 46, won the Faridkot parliamentary seat as an independent after a difficult political debut. On the revival of Panthic politics in Punjab, Sarabjit Singh, a 1995 matriculant, and self-styled Sikh preacher Amritpal Singh, who is in prison, were voted to LS. These two independent candidates won in the 40th anniversary week of 1984's Operation Bluestar at the Golden Temple, which led to Indira Gandhi's assassination in October and a Sikh massacre in Delhi in November. Sarabjit remembers occasions when his family couldn't afford his school tuition. "My



father didn't care for the family and laid down his life... Sikh community support pulled my family through troubled times and elected my mother and grandfather to Parliament." Sarabjit Singh, who lost three elections, wasn't a viable competitor until Amritpal entered the race. His effort attracted Sikh preachers, ragis, and dhadis, changing Faridkot's stance. His effort soon became a Sikh movement to

settle his father's "debt" for "avenging" 1984's terrorist-flush-out military raid on Harmandir Sahib, the holiest Sikh shrine. "Now that I have won, my priority will be to raise my voice in Parliament to ensure legally there is provision of death penalty for the heinous crime of sacrilege... we will field Panthic candidates in byelections and upcoming SGPC election," stated.

## Stock rallies boost Naidu family's wealth by Rs 858 crore in 5 days



**Delhi:** The rebirth of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and its leader Chandrababu Naidu, who is kingmaker in the coalition government, has also helped his family's Heritage Foods business. His family's wealth has increased by Rs 858 crore in five days as Heritage Foods' share price has risen 64% from Rs 403 on Friday (May 31, 2024) to Rs 662, a 52-week high. The stock gained 82% in less than a month, raising his family's fortune by approximately Rs 989 crore in less than a month. These estimates are based on Naidu's fami-

ly's 35.7% dairy company shareholding. In addition to his wife Nara Bhuvaneshwari, who runs the company as MD, Naidu's son Nara Lokesh owns about 10.8% of the company. Naidu's daughter-in-law Nara Brahmani (0.5%) and grandson Devaansh Nara (0.1%) also own less than 1% of the company. As Heritage Foods' share prices rose by over Rs 298, and Rs 259 a share, the company's market capitalization rose from Rs 3,371 crore on May 13 to Rs 3,738 crore on May 31, a day before the exit polls, to Rs 6,141 crore.

## People have completely lost faith in the examination system under BJP rule: Sultan Jadoula

**Kaithal:** Senior Congress leader and former Chief Parliamentary Secretary Sultan Singh Jadoula said that in the assembly elections to be held in Haryana this year, the people of the state will crown former Haryana Chief Minister Choudhary Bhupendra Singh Hooda as the Chief Minister for the third time. Congress is fully prepared to contest the elections under the leadership of Hooda. He said that the current BJP government has lost the trust of the people and in the upcoming assembly elections, the people will oust the BJP from power and form a Congress government. Congress leader Sultan Singh Jadoula met MP Deepender Singh Hooda at his Delhi residence and congratulated him for registering a record-breaking victory in the Lok Sabha elections. After this, while talking to journalists in his office in the town, former MLA Jadoula



said that MP Deepender Singh Hooda has settled in the hearts of the people of the state due to his clean, pure and friendly image. Hooda's victory is the victory of 36 communities of Haryana. Hooda is fighting day and night selflessly for the interests of the people of the state and with the excellent roadmap made by him, Congress is becoming strong and empowered at the grassroots level in every district of the state. Former Parliamentary Secretary Sultan Jadoula alleged that during the BJP rule, whether it is an exam for a job or an entrance exam, people have completely lost faith in

the examination system. Paper leak, fraud, rigging have ruined the future of the youth.

First there were reports of paper leak of the country's biggest medical entrance exam NEET and now lakhs of youth and their families are worried due to allegations of rigging in the NEET exam results. The candidates are seeing dark clouds hovering over their future. Jadoula said that a high-level investigation should be conducted into the entire matter and justice should be given to the students as per their demand. Congress is with the youth and will not let their interests be harmed.

## Pharma exports grew 10% to \$28 billion in FY24, poised to hit \$31 billion in FY25: Pharmexcil

**HYDERABAD:** India's pharmaceutical exports clocked a nearly 10% growth in FY24 to hit \$27.8 billion, propelled by the double digit growth in the US and UK generics market, and is poised to reach \$31 billion in the current fiscal year, a top official of Pharmexcil said on Thursday.

India's pharma industry, which is currently pegged at around \$65 billion, is poised to grow to around \$130 billion by 2030, Pharmexcil director general Ravi Uday Bhaskar said at the inaugural of the 10th edition of Pharma Lytica here. Pointing out that 50% of the Indian pharma sectors exports go to highly regulated markets, Bhaskar said exports to



US grew over 15.6% to over \$ 8.7 billion in FY24 due to shortages in drug manufacturing capacities and the increasing demand for drugs pertaining to lifestyle diseases such as hypertension, depression, diabetes in the US.

He said exports to the UK saw a 21.6% growth partly due to the increased cost of drugs, which were ear-

lier sourced from Europe, post-Brexit. Apart from this, Africa showed a positive turnaround during FY24.

from a degrowth of 5% to a growth of 8% as NGOs, who had diverted their funds meant for Africa towards Covid-19 vaccines and medicines, restarting procurement of drugs, he said.



## ICICI Prudential Life Insurance launches its First ULIP with Fund Value-based distributor payouts – ICICI Pru Platinum

**SONIPAT/PANIPAT, May 24, 2024:** ICICI Prudential Life Insurance launched ICICI Pru Platinum, the Company's first unit-linked product which aligns distributor payouts to their customers' fund value – the distributor commissions are linked to their customers' Assets under Management. This unique product incentivises distributors to encourage their customers to stay invested for the entire policy tenure. Notably, it offers customers a cost and tax-efficient route to build wealth over the long-term. ICICI Pru Platinum provides unlimited free switches between asset classes, without any cost or tax implications. Customers can choose from an array of 21 funds under this product, comprising 13 equity and four each in the debt and balanced categories, besides offering an option of four portfolio strategies. Announcing the launch, Mr. Amit Palta, Chief Distribution Officer, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, said, "ICICI Pru Platinum, our Company's first unit-linked product designed to make distributor payouts aligned to their customers fund value, promoting the long-term interests of both. We endeavour to continuously innovate and introduce products and processes which are simple. This is in line with our philosophy of ensuring right product to the right customer at the right price and through the right channel."

## Bajaj Housing Finance Limited files DRHP with SEBI for an IPO

**GURUGRAM :** Bajaj Housing Finance Limited (BHFL), part of the Bajaj Group (with Bajaj Finance Limited and Bajaj Finserv Limited as promoters), has filed Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) with SEBI for an Initial Public Offering (IPO). BHFL is a non-deposit taking Housing Finance Company ("HFC"), registered with the National Housing Bank ("NHB") since

September 24, 2015, and engaged in mortgage lending since Fiscal 2018. The Public Offer aggregating up to ₹7,000 crore comprises a fresh issue of equity shares of up to ₹4,000 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of up to ₹3,000 crore by the "Selling Shareholder" (The "Offer for Sale") with face value of ₹10 each equity share by Bajaj Finance Limited (The

"Promoter Selling Shareholder"). The Public Offer Includes a reservation of Equity Shares for subscription by Eligible Employees ("Employee Reservation Portion") and a reservation Equity Shares of Face Value of ₹10 each for subscription by Eligible Shareholders of promoters ("Shareholders Reservation Portion") including

individuals and HUFs who are public equity shareholders of the Promoters. BHFL proposes to use the net proceeds for augmenting the company's capital base to meet future business requirements of the company towards onward lending.

Includes a reservation of Equity Shares for subscription by Eligible Employees ("Employee

Reservation Portion") and a reservation Equity Shares of Face Value of ₹10 each for subscription by Eligible Shareholders of promoters ("Shareholders Reservation Portion") including individuals and HUFs who are public equity shareholders of the Promoters. BHFL proposes to use the net proceeds for augmenting the company's.

## Remedium Lifecare Ltd. Board Sets 06 July As Record Date for 3:1 Bonus Issue

**Chandigarh:** Remedium Lifecare Ltd. (BSE: 539561), a company engaged in trading API intermediates (KSMs and CRMs) and various other raw materials essential to API trading, sets the record date for the bonus issue of shares as 06 July 2024 (if approved by shareholders in AGM). Recently, the board approved and recommended a Bonus Issue of 3 Equity Shares for every 1 Equity Share held as on the Record date decided for this purpose, subject to approval from members

and appropriate authorities. For the year ended 31 March 2024, the company recorded revenues of Rs. 4042 Crores, a growth of 692% YoY. The EBITDA jumped 312% YoY, from Rs. 8 Crores to Rs. 33 Crores (FY24). The PBT grew 614%, from Rs. 7 Crores (FY23) to Rs. 50 Crores (FY24). PAT jumped 560% YoY, from Rs. 5 Cr (FY23), to Rs. 33 Crores (FY24). The EPS was reported at Rs. 90.92 per share. Remedium Lifecare Ltd., a company engaged in trading API intermedi-

ates (KSMs and CRMs) and various other raw materials essential to API trading, has bolstered its performance and presence within the pharmaceutical and healthcare domains by trading amino isophthalic acid, tellurium oxide, grignard reagent, iodine, selenium metal powder, trimethyl sulfoxonium iodide (TMSI). As a leading contract trader and brand owner of advanced intermediates and APIs, Remedium has shifted its paradigm into the trading of intermediates and APIs.

## 'International Khan Market gang': Jaishankar on Western media's portrayal of India

**NEW DELHI:** External affairs minister S Jaishankar slammed the Western media and called the anti-India ecosystem the 'international Khan Market gang'. On the portrayal of India by the Western media, Jaishankar said we must ask "why they are

doing it". He said that just like there's a 'Khan Market gang' in India, there also exists a global extension of it, 'international Khan Market gang'. "In the country today, there is a certain thought process, or entitlement process for which the metaphor of 'Khan Market gang' is a very good description. TOP PICKS FOR YOU article show 110125113 Countries which have to go to court to decide result of polls are giving us lectures about how to conduct elections: EAM Jaishankar 'My lowest turnout is higher than your highest,' EAM Jaishankar slams Western media I want to tell you there is an international Khan Market gang as well," Jaishankar said in an interview to news

agency ANI. "These are people who are sort of linked, you know, to the entitled people out here. They are socially comfortable with them. They know them. They feel like they advance similar viewpoints. They are essentially a kind of an elitist left-lib thought process. So there's a symbiotic relationship between the two," he said. Talking about how they openly endorse leaders and parties, he said, "When the sales are down in the domestic Khan Market, the International Khan Market gang feels like, I need to pep up these guys and give them support and you can actually see which stories they play up, how do they slant things and in previous elections perhaps even in this one they've actually openly.

## Maharashtra specifies role of govt nominees in autonomous colleges' board

**MUMBAI:** In a govt resolution issued on , for the first time, the state has enlisted the role of government nominees in autonomous colleges in the state. While govt nominees were always there on the board of autonomous colleges, their roles were never explicitly defined. From attending every meeting of the governing body to ensuring their budget comprehensively reflects all aspects, the nominee is now expected to be the eyes and ears of the government in the truest sense.

There are over 70 autonomous colleges affiliated to Mumbai University alone. A govt nominee is usually an educationist, not below the rank of a professor or a govt officer in the directorate of higher education or the state council of higher education. They are expected to be the link between the institutions and the govt.

The GR mentioned that specifying their duties and responsibilities was being considered for a long time by the govt and therefore the guidelines have been issued.

An official from the department said that the idea is to bring in more efficiency in the process and to get proper feedback from the nominees about what is happening on ground. The official added that the govt is defining the role of their nominees even in private universities and not autonomous colleges alone.

The nominees are expected to attend all the board meetings and also to inform the govt in advance if they are unable to. It also seeks their participation in the strategic decision-making processes with regards to enhancing colleges' academic quality. They should convey the govt's vision and priority areas to the board

and also ensure the compliance of government policies. They are also expected to resolve controversial issues between the college, the university and the government.

Implementing the National Education Policy of 2020 is also enlisted as one of the guidelines. A principal said that the nominees are expected to submit reports to the govt about the meetings of the governing board and also to a report on whether the policies are in violation of the govt policies.

"We do not know what report these nominees are expected to submit, we are not sure if they would interfere in our routine decision-making process. It is surprising that the govt felt the need to issue these guidelines now, when autonomous colleges have been around for more than a decade," said the principal.

## Wrong section, delay in blood sample: The lapses in Pune Porsche crash

**NEW DELHI:** As the investigation into the Pune Porsche crash intensifies, several lapses in the police investigation have come to light. This includes allegations of the teen accused of driving the luxury car under the influence of alcohol getting preferential treatment, being served pizza at the police station, and more.

Commissioner of police Amitesh Kumar on Friday said the authorities are determined to ensure a thorough investigation and a 'watertight' case against the accused. **Who is Vishal Agarwal?** All you need to know about father of teen involved in Pune Porsche crash case 'Sent driver with son': Father of Pune crash accused on why he should get bail Meanwhile, two officials from the Yerawada police station have been suspended for neglecting their duties. The case has

also now been transferred to the crime branch. So what were the lapses in the initial investigation of Pune police?

1. Late reporting: Two officials from the Yerawada police station were suspended on Friday for neglecting their duties related as they failed to inform the wireless control room about the accident on May 19. Inspector Rahul Jagdale and assistant police inspector Vishwanath Todkari were suspended for "late reporting" and "dereliction of duty". 2. Delay in collection of blood sample: Commissioner of police Amitesh Kumar on Friday admitted that there was a delay in blood sample collection of the teen accused in this case. He confirmed that though the juvenile was sent to Sassoon General Hospital around 9am on May 19, his blood samples were collected at 11pm.