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

Committed to principle of 'sarv panth sambhav (all religions) says Modi



NEW DELHI: Narendra Modi on Friday emphasised the role of consensus in governance as he said the next "10 years of NDA" will be dedicated to good governance, committed to the principle of "sarv panth sambhav" (all religions are equal) to fulfil growing regional and national aspirations as he acknowledged that an era of competitive cooperative federalism had begun. Speaking after his election as leader of the NDA parliamentary party, Modi emphasised that while NDA, a pre-poll alliance, had

got the majority, a consensual approach was needed to serve the nation. "Sarkar chalane ke liye bahumat chahiye lekin desh chalane ke liye sarvmat bahut zaroori hai," he said and asserted, "I assure people of the country and you all that no stone will be left unturned to serve the nation with consensus." Modi also declared his commitment to "sarv panth sambhav" — the unique Indian concept which enjoins upon the state not to differentiate among citizens on the ground of faith but, unlike in the Western

concept of secularism, does not seek to evict religion from the public arena. Political circles felt the remarks stood in contrast to Modi's strong attack on "Muslim quota" which the opposition and others had dubbed divisive and polarising. His putting forward the consensual feat was also seen as a switch prompted by BJP's drop in numbers and the corresponding accretion in the opposition's strength. Committed to principle of 'sarv panth sambhav (all religions equal)', says Modi.

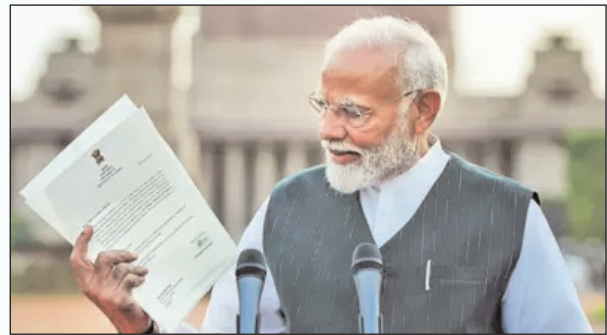
Naidu speech interpreted as demand for financial aid

NEW DELHI: Telugu Desam Party boss and Andhra Pradesh CM-designate N Chandrababu Naidu praised Narendra Modi's leadership for transforming India into a "global powerhouse" and acknowledged the "huge difference" the latter made to TDP's sweep of Andhra Pradesh, while also calling for measures to balance "regional aspirations with national interests". In Andhra, he (Modi) held three meetings and one big rally. It made a huge difference in winning the polls. The home minister addressed a very powerful meeting there. It significantly changed the situation, giving people confidence that the Centre is with the state," Naidu said, while also referring to the campaign speeches of defence minister Rajnath Singh and BJP chief J P Nadda in Andhra Pradesh.

Berth talks on as Modi meets Murmu, invited to form govt

NEW DELHI:

President Droupadi Murmu on Friday appointed Narendra Modi prime minister, clearing the way for him to be sworn in on Sunday as head of a BJP-led NDA coalition. The President handed over the letter of appointment after BJP chief J P Nadda presented letters of support from NDA parties which have a strength of 293 members in Lok Sabha. The President will administer the oath of office and secrecy to Modi and other members of the council of ministers at 7.15pm on Sunday at Rashtrapati Bhavan, a c o m m u n i q u e said. Though a formality, the appointment and formal announcement of the date of swearing-in intensified efforts for ministry formation, with the BJP brass holding meetings with NDA partners to finalise the



Danish PM Mette Frederiksen assaulted in central Copenhagen

NEW DELHI:

Denmark's prime minister Mette Frederiksen was assaulted and struck by an individual in central Copenhagen, according to Ritzau news agency, which cited police and the prime minister's office. The PM managed to leave the scene without any visible injuries, according to eyewitnesses. The assailant was taken into custody by law enforcement authorities in the aftermath of the incident. In a statement, the Prime Minister's office confirming the incident, said, "Prime Minister was beaten on Friday .

tricky twin issues of representation and choice of portfolios. Nadda, home minister Amit Shah and defence minister Rajnath Singh held parleys with leaders of NDA constituents. Significantly, Modi tried to douse spiralling speculation about allies seeking to extract plum portfolios and more berths and even the constitutional office of Speaker by asserting that he was not known for giving in to pressure.

Chhattisgarh vigilantes lynch 2 truckers carrying buffaloes

RAIPUR: Two truckers from Uttar Pradesh were allegedly lynched by cow vigilantes near temple town Arang, in Chhattisgarh, in the early hours of Friday while transporting buffaloes. A third has survived with critical injuries. A 57-second video of the survivor, circulating on social media, gives a chilling account. As someone questions him about the incident, the survivor, who seems barely conscious in his hospital bed, answers in monosyllables—"yes" and "no". He says that 14-15 people attacked them, beat two of them to death and threw their bodies from the bridge onto the river bed. The survivor says he jumped off the bridge to save his life.

Saurabh Netravalkar: I have got very supportive bosses

NEW DELHI: When asked if the IPL auction crosses his mind, Saurabh Netravalkar simply laughs on the other end of the phone before emphatically stating, "No," in a resonant baritone. Netravalkar played a pivotal role in newcomers' USA's remarkable victory over former champions Pakistan in the T20 World Cup on Thursday. "It is just one match and we have done well. The focus should be on the next game and frankly speaking, all of us in the United States of America cricket team, are trying to come to terms with our achievements. "It is yet to sink in and things you are talking about, if it happens organically, it will happen. We are still trying to digest what happened," the former India U-19 left-arm pacer, who made the difference with a brilliant Super Over against Pakistan, told PTI in an exclusive interview on Friday. An alumnus of prestigious Cornell University and a senior software engineer at Oracle, Netravalkar adeptly balanced academics and cricket. "I have never felt the pressure. When you love something, it is never a job for you. So when I am out there on the field, I love bowling and trying to out-think a batter. When I am coding, I love doing that and hence it never feels like work," the left-arm seamer, who has suddenly become the talk of the town, couldn't have put it more lucidly. "Actually, we just flew down from Dallas to New York. I will be honest that it has been quite overwhelming. I wish I could personally thank each and everyone for their lovely messages. I feel blessed," one could sense the gratitude in his voice. What was the strategy for the Super Over, and when did he find out he would be bowling? "It wasn't pre-decided and only after the regulation 20 overs did skipper (Monank Patel) and coach (Stuart Law) informed me about it. I am thankful to them for showing faith in me." He then gave an insight into the US strategy.

In 15 seats in Bihar, same caste candidates won in the last 4 Lok Sabha polls

NEW DELHI:

Candidates of same castes have consistently been winning Lok Sabha elections from at least 15 of 40 parliamentary constituencies in Bihar in the past four polls since 2009, signalling why political parties in the state mostly prefer to stick to same winning castes in those seats. Seven of them are upper



castes whereas six are OBCs and one each from EBC and Dalit. Though two of these 15 seats went in favour of the same candidates (BJP's Sanjay Jaiswal in Champaran and Radha Mohan Singh in Purvi Champaran), other 13 constituencies witnessed different winners of same castes over the past four

elections with couple of them winning even twice or thrice. Jaiswal is Bania (OBC) whereas Singh is upper caste Rajput. Asked about the trend, Sanjay Kumar, professor at Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) and an election analyst, said, "This is noticeable in the past over two decades.

20 of 33 BJP MPs repeated for 3rd time or more lost in UP, Irani & Teni included

NEW DELHI: Anti-incumbency impacted BJP's prospects in 2024 Lok Sabha elections in UP, resulting in defeat of 27 of its 49 sitting MPs. In total, BJP had repeated 54 candidates who contested in 2019, but 31 of them failed to secure a win this time around. Among the repeated candidates, 49 were sitting MPs, including Ambedkarnagar nominee Ritesh Pandey, who had switched

from BSP to BJP. Of these, 33 MPs were being repeated for the third time or more, but 20 of them lost their seats. The list included notable parliamentarians and Union ministers such as Smriti Irani (Amethi), Ajay Mishra Teni (Kheri), Kaushal Kishore (Mohana Laganj), Mahendra Nath Pandey (Chandauli), Sadhvi Niranjani Jyoti (Fatehpur), Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma

(Jalaun), and Sanjeev Balyan (Muzaffarnagar). High-profile parliamentarians like eight-term MP Maneka Gandhi (Sultanpur) and Rajveer Singh (Etah), son of ex-CM Kalyan Singh, also faced defeat. Other significant losses included Lallu Singh (Faizabad) and Subrat Pathak (Kannauj). "This clearly shows that people were unhappy with their work.

In JDU supremo Nitish speech, whiff of call for special category state

NEW DELHI: JD(U)

supremo and Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar on Friday assured unconditional support to the Narendra Modi-led NDA govt but also asked for redressal of Bihar's concerns. "Hum log pure taur par aapke saath rahenge (we will always be fully with you)," Kumar said, an assertion that was seen with interest and restrained mirth because of his history of U-turns. "We will be with you and do whatever work you want to get done," said Kumar, who after concluding his address proceeded to touch Modi's feet but was stopped by the latter. However, the display of solidarity and



affection did not come in the way of Kumar reminding Modi of issues related to Bihar. Although made in an apparently casual manner, the mention of "Bihar ka kaam" was seen as a reference to the his old demand for special category status to the state. Kumar, who along with BJP performed well in the Lok Sabha elections, said Modi should ensure that the gains made by

the opposition were wiped out next time. "Agli baar jab aap aaiye toh kuch log jo idhar udhar jeet gaya hai, agli baar sab haarega. Humko poor baarosa hai (they will lose all the seats whatever they won this time as you now come again. I am fully confident)," Kumar said, emphasising that the opposition's limited success was due to false allegations levelled by them. Without taking names, he

said, "In logo ne kuch kaam kiya hai? Desh ki koi sewa nahi ki, jiss baar phir se jo mauka mila iske baad koi gunjaish nehi rahega (have they done any work? They have not done any service to the nation. Now with this opportunity to you, there will not be any scope for them to return)." "You (Modi) are going to take oath Sunday, but I would have preferred it to be today itself.

'ISI spy' Nishant Agrawal moves high court challenging life term

NAGPUR: Nishant Agrawal, convicted for leaking official secrets to Pakistani intelligence operatives, has challenged his life imprisonment in the Nagpur bench of Bombay high court. The court has issued notices to Maharashtra government and other respondents, asking them to respond within two weeks. Agrawal, an award-winning missile engineer at BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited (BAPL) in Nagpur, was convicted by the sessions court under Section 235 of Criminal Procedure Code. He was found guilty of offences punishable under Section 66(f) of the IT Act and sections of the Official Secrets Act (OSA).

Startups seek regulatory clarity from new govt

MUMBAI: With a new coalition govt at the centre set to swear in, the startup industry is seeking enhanced regulatory clarity, help to expedite the process of shifting domicile to India and an easier law and enforcement regime from authorities for the sector. "The approach of the tax departments towards startups is one area that is concerning the industry a lot...whether it is the misinterpreted angel tax issue or the GST notices that a lot of startups are getting and other law & enforcement challenges. This is one aspect we expect the new govt to address. They should ensure that startups building in this country. are not unnecessarily harassed at the hands of various authorities. Generally, startup business models are

unique and many times, tax department misinterprets issues," the CEO of a top unicorn firm on condition of anonymity. Streamlining regulations through simplified registration and set rules can make it easier for startups to get started and operate, said Sabyasachi Goswami, CEO at newly minted unicorn Perfios. The ecosystem, Goswami said, would benefit from tax breaks wherever possible and better access to debt financing for businesses. "In the upcoming term, we look forward to policies encouraging ease of doing business and reforms that support businesses," he said. Startups seek regulatory clarity from new govt. Additionally, startups that are working to shift their base to India from foreign countries.

National Executive Council meeting of ABVP kicks off on positive note

Necessary reforms should be done in the curriculum to make education interesting and lively: Rajsharan Shahi

Prayagraj: National Executive Council meeting of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) started in Surat. On this occasion, National President of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad Dr. Rajsharan Shahi, National General Secretary Shri Yagyavalkya Shukla and National Organization Minister Shri Ashish Chauhan inaugurated the event by lighting the lamp. At the beginning of the program, the delegates from all over the country were welcomed through Gujarat's folk dance Garba and popular local musical instruments. In the meeting of the National Executive Council of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad on Friday, 5 proposals were read for discussion in front of the representatives present, these



proposals included full implementation of the National Education Policy, problem of paper leak, problems related to NAAC, infrastructure of educational institutions. Issues like de-

velopment, participation of youth in developed India, public expectations from the newly elected government have been raised prominently. These proposals will be brainstormed in de-

tail for the next 2 days and will be passed on June 09. Dr. Rajsharan Shahi, National President of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad, said on the occasion of the inauguration of

the National Executive Council that the Indian knowledge tradition will be included in the university courses. Should be included, if higher educational institutions are to be made vibrant then changes will have to be made in the courses as per the current needs. Today there is a need to promote multidisciplinary education and make the courses vibrant and employment oriented. At present questions are being raised on the purity of examinations, this is extremely worrying and should be controlled. The school has to be made creative and attractive, so that the students can move forward in the direction of their all-round development. This National Executive Council meeting of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad will show

the direction of positive change by discussing issues related to the education sector.

National General Secretary of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad, Shri Yajnvalkya Shukla said that the functioning of Vidyarthi Parishad is continuously moving forward in the journey of bringing positive changes in the social life by incorporating new sources. ABVP, along with the students, has vociferously opposed the leftist and negative forces in various educational institutions across the country. Students should be an important stakeholder in the education sector by raising their issues prominently and together efforts should be made to bring youth-friendly changes in the current scenario.

Pradeep Kumar Mishra Anshuman felicitated, credited for victory

Prayagraj: After 40 years, Congress was reborn in Allahabad under the chairmanship of Metropolitan President Pradeep Kumar Mishra Anshuman ji. Today, on Friday, 7th June, the officials of the Metropolitan Congress Commit-



tee reached the residence of Metropolitan President Shri Pradeep Kumar Mishra Anshuman ji at Colonelganj and congratulated him, garlanded him and gave sweets. Fed. Metropolitan President Shri Pradeep Kumar Mishra Anshuman ji said that this victory is the victory of the general public, this victory is the victory of every true Congress worker. Mainly those who congratulated were Vinay Pandey, Shyamji Shukla, Satyendra Bahadur Singh, Ramsundar Yadav, People like Nafees Qureshi, Saurabh Chaudhary, Anup Tripathi, Sunny, Shubham Shukla, Vishal Sonkar, Dheeraj Aggarwal etc. were there.

Guidelines given for admission in new session of AU

Prayagraj: A press conference was organized in Allahabad University on Friday for admission in the session 2024-25. In this, Vice Chancellor Prof. Sangeeta Srivastava informed that as per the instructions of the Government of India, admission to Undergraduate (UG) courses/programmes will be done through the Common University Entrance Test (CUET-UG-2024). Students who have not been able to select Allahabad University as an option due to technical glitch in the CUET website will also get a chance to take admission in the university. All the students who appeared in the CUET examination will be given another chance to select Allahabad University on the portal before the release of the result. Any stu-

dent who wishes to take admission in the university will be able to participate in the admission process by pay-



ing the counseling fee. Information in this regard will also be released on the university website. Allahabad University will start the admission process for Undergraduate (UG) courses/programmes through online

registration from the last week of June 2024 on the Samarth portal. Vice Chancellor Prof. Srivastava said

that the National Education Policy (NEP)-2020 aims to promote an employment-oriented and flexible curriculum structure, which provides life skills, technical and professional skills as part of holistic education. It includes these courses 1. 5-Year Integrated Program in Family and Community Science (B.Sc. and M.Sc. Home Science): Allahabad University 5-Year Integrated Program in Family and Community Science (B.Sc. and M.Sc. Home Science) Is going to start. There are 40 seats in this course. 2. 5 Year Integrated BCA and MCA in Data Science at Institute of Professional Studies (IPS). There are 40 seats in 5 year BCA and MCA in Data Science. 3. 5 Year Integrated Course in Business Administration (BBA & MBA): This course has 40 seats. 4. A 5-year integrated course in Disaster Management and Environmental Studies has been started in the Department of Geography in collaboration with the Center for Environmental Sciences.

Sultry summer hits business community hard

PRAYAGRAJ: The ongoing heatwave in the city, besides testing the patience of residents, has hit the business activities hard. Frequent power cuts have exacerbated the woes of people. Traders are complaining that the local busi-

ness was definitely affected adversely weather has reduced the festivity of shopping; people are mostly shopping only for essential commodities.

Manager of an accessories' shop located in Civil Lines, said footfalls in his showroom have fallen



sharply. People belonging to high-income group were reluctant in coming out of their homes for shopping. Frequent power cuts have made the situation even worse. On being asked about the impact of rising

mercury on his business, owner of a computer peripherals' shop, sarcastically said, "Ache din aa gaye hain (the good days have come)". He opens his shop around 10am, but practically has no business before 6pm. Most of the customers coming during daytime have some urgent need, he said. Small vendors and bizmen have to slog it out the whole day long, with parched throats and drenched with sweat, sans the benefit of even a little shade. A mehndi artist having a canopy near El Chico restaurant in Civil Lines said that wedding season notwithstanding, no customer has turned up during daytime for the last 15 days. He said he used to earn over Rs 500 daily earlier, which has now come down to a mere Rs 200.

Grand inauguration of the 10-day 24th Ganga Mahotsav takes place

Prayagraj: Aviral Ganga, Harihar Aarti Samiti has always been and will always be striving for clean Ganga and Nirmal Ganga. Under the auspices of Awadhesh Chandra Gupta Harihar Ganga Aarti Committee, Ganga Mahotsav started with full grandeur at Ramghat, below Triveni Dam, Prayagraj. The idol was installed by Dinesh Chandra Gupta, the idol of Mother Ganga was installed with the recitation of Vedic mantras by Pandit Ajay Shastri and Tirtha Purohit Renu Mishra. After the Aarti and worship of Mother Ganga, on the occasion of the first day of Ganga Mahotsav,

Awadhesh Chandra Gupta, as the chief guest, made all the devotees take a pledge for a pure and uninterrupted clean Ganga. He inspired the devotees not to cause any kind of pollution in the



Ganga. Awadhesh Chandra Gupta ji said that Harihar Aarti Committee has always been and will always be striving for pure and clean Ganga. On the first day of

the 10-day festival, the installation of the idol and the cultural program was conducted by renowned announcer Abha Srivastava, Madhur. Under the 10-day event, yesterday Bhajans of Mother Ganga will be presented by Nitish Gautam and Party on 8th June 2024. During Ganga Mahotsav, Suresh Chandra Bade Babu, Media Incharge Narendra Maurya Chunnu Baba, Pramod Pandey, Lalji Yadav, Mithai Lal Aju, Prabhat Mukherjee, Aarti Karta, Guddu Pathak, Indresh Goyal, Divyansh Srivastava, Sanju Malhotra, Sanjay Kumar, Radheshyam Dada, Prominent people like Jitendra Jaiswal, Shalin Dubey, etc. were present.

Popularity of hobby courses on the rise

PRAYAGRAJ: To give the kids some time which they can dedicate to themselves to get an edge over their classmates, parent in the city are now getting their wards enrolled in one or the other hobby classes. The city being an educational hub, offers the children a wide array of hobbies to choose from, including dancing, music, painting, sketching, salsa, hip-hop, jazz, foreign languages and cooking.

"Hobby classes help them in developing a creative knack. The more you keep your child's mind engaged in activities, the more interested they will get in them," says a mother of a 12-year-old son.

Director of a Club, which gives dance, music and painting training to over 50 children says, "I believe painting can enrich a child's imagination and creativity, like no other thing. Among the students of up to class X, painting is a very popular hobby."

But the most popular hobby among kids remains dancing and singing due to craze for Bollywood music and reality shows that nurture dancers and singers. He added, "Hip-hop, contemporary and western are most popular dance forms in the city. In this age of cut-throat competition, parents want their children to excel in co-curricular activities too, as performing well in other activities increases their confidence."

"Most of the children joining our classes want to learn Bollywood-style dance - a fusion of various dance forms," said owner of Kidzee Wings.

Among the city kids learning to play various music instruments, guitar remains the most preferred instrument. "Guitar looks stylish and if I learn that, I can be a part of the college band once I go to some college," said Puneet, a class 10 student.

Learning foreign languages is rapidly turning a hobby among kids, and they have many options here. There are several institutes in the city, where Spanish, French, Russian, German and English are taught to hundreds of students every year. "Learning a foreign language is sometimes work-driven, but we also see a lot of people coming in to learn different language simply for the love of the language," says Neha Nigam.

Aquarium trade flourishing

PRAYAGRAJ: The number of fish aquarium lovers is increasing in the city, which is booming the trade of aquarium. Buyers have different reasons to own the aquarium, but Vastu Shastra and Feng-Shui are also supporting the market to grow. This had led to a trend to decorate the drawing rooms and the visiting areas of the corporate offices as well as commercial establishments with aquarium. "The fishes have become the part of my family. The aquarium has brought fortune for us," says a native of Kalindipuram.

To cater the demand of fish and aquarium, there are around 20-25 shops across the city, which deal in decorative fishes and accessories. Before reaching the aquariums, the journey of fishes start from the hatcheries of Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai.

A wholesaler in Khuldabaad said that arowana, goldfish, molly, cod, lily, red tail and silver sharks arowana and crocodile are the most common fish, while ham parrot and giant gourami are rare. Finding Thai tortoises is surely difficult but they are also in high demand, disclosed the traders, mentioning reason that it is auspicious to keep according to Feng-Shui.

Whether it is a restaurant or hotel lobby, a hospital or a school, the first thing that attracts after entering the place is aquarium full of different kinds of beautiful fish. The range of the fishes starts from Rs 5 a pair and goes upto Rs 20,000, said the dealers revealing how the demand for the aquariums have increased massively in a decade. The popularity of fish aquariums is also on increase in comparatively smaller towns and even rural belts of neighbouring districts like Kaushambi, Fatehpur and Pratapgarh. "It is due to the rising belief in Vastu-Shastra and Feng-Shui," said a dealer. The dealers are engaged in trading of fish, aquarium, fodder, medicine and other accessories. Their services are also sought for maintenance of aquariums of the major clients like corporate houses and commercial establishments. Accessories like stones, marbles, water pumps, heaters, medicine and fodder is also huge. These accessories play a vital role in the routine turnover of this market.

Advantage Inn and Kayastha Pathshala got full marks

Prayagraj: Hotel Advantage Inn and Kayastha Pathshala won their respective matches and got full marks in the Nayaaz Hasan T-20 Cashmoney Cricket Competition. Right-arm medium pacer Divyendu Prasad bowled brilliantly (4-1-17-4) for Hotel Advantage. After losing the toss in the match played on Friday at Khelgaon Public School ground, Hotel Advantage Inn scored 173 runs for 6 wickets in 20 overs (Akhil Tiwari 50, Rishabh Singh 27, Abhinav Mishra 23 not out, Manas Prawl 22, Akhilesh Yadav 2/23, Gulshan Verma 2/36). In reply, Daulat Hussain Inter College team was all out for 112 runs (Himanshu Dwivedi 28, Imroz Ali 20, Divyanshu Prasad 4/17, Suraj Singh Rathore 2/18, Ajay Yadav 2/26) in 17.1 overs. Shishir Mehrotra, Rahul Singh were the umpire and Khurshid Ahmed was the scorer in the match. At KP College ground, Kayastha Pathshala scored 154 runs for 7 wickets in 20 overs (Mayank Dubey 37, Aman Patel 27, Vishwas Saxena 21, Kunal Mishra 3/26, Deepesh Krishna 2/34) and defeated Ford School Club by 8 wickets in 20 overs. But was limited to 120 runs (Sumit Agarwal 49, Rahul Nishad 21, Ashutosh, Abhinav Tiwari and Aman Patel two wickets each). Tahir Abbas and Hitesh Srivastava were the umpires and Pritesh Sonkar was the scorer in the match.



Minor student creates AI-powered glasses to Assist Visually Impaired

And presents them in Scaler School of Technology's Indian Silicon Valley Challenge

Varanasi: Adnan Sayed, a 17-year-old student from Uttar Pradesh's Sant Atulnand Convent School, unveiled his pioneering invention, AI-powered glasses designed for visually impaired persons, at the Indian Silicon Valley Challenge hosted by Scaler School of Technology. Adnan created this device to enable the visually impaired to navigate their surroundings with greater ease and autonomy, earning a spot in the challenge's finale. Reflecting on his

project, Adnan shares, "I believe there is a natural instinct in humans to help each other. Seeing firsthand the struggles visually impaired persons experience on a daily basis gave me the drive to develop something that could enhance their mobility and independence. I wanted to create something that could truly make a difference in their lives, and I am grateful for the opportunity the Indian Silicon Valley Challenge provided to help me showcase this project. I hope to one day make these

devices available for commercial use." havik Rathod, Senior Vice President and Head of Scaler School of Technology applauds Adnan's ingenuity, stating, "Adnan has done a commendable job in addressing the challenges faced by the visually impaired community through the use of Artificial Intelligence. His project is a perfect example of the spirit of creativity and problem-solving that we champion at Scaler. His dedication to leveraging technology for social good is truly praise-wor-

thy, and we are honoured to have discovered his genius through the Indian Silicon Valley Challenge. Adnan's commitment to improving the lives of others through innovation serves as an inspiration to aspiring young inventors everywhere." Subhash Choudhary, Co-founder and Chief Technology Officer of Dukaan and a judge of the Indian Silicon Valley Challenge, remarked, "Adnan's AI-integrated glasses represent a significant leap forward in assistive technology.

Poha should find a place in the modern healthy diet: Sonia Shah

Varanasi: Sonia Shah - Health Coach and Nutrition Consultant, Fortune Poha, Adani Wilmar told, "Poha holds a special place in almost every Indian kitchen and hearts in general. On the occasion of World Poha Day, let's enjoy the nutrient-rich Poha and reap its nutritional benefits. Also, explore the reasons that make it a must-have in the modern healthy diet of health-conscious people. Nutrient-Rich Dish: Made from rice, Poha is a powerhouse of essential nutrients including protein, fibre, vitamins, minerals

and carbohydrates. Adding vegetables like peas and carrots further enhances its nutritional value. Poha prepared this way provides a great mix of vitamins and antioxidants that contribute to overall health. Light on the stomach: Poha is a boon for those who want a light and satisfying meal. Its low calorie content makes it ideal for those who want to control their weight without compromising on taste or nutritional value. Despite being low in calories, this dish with turmeric gives you enough energy to last the whole day.

Open Univ will create its own branding: Prof Satyakam

Prayagraj: Prof Satyakam took charge as the Vice Chancellor of Uttar Pradesh Rajarshi Tandon Open University. Vice Chancellor of Indra Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi Professor Satyakam on Friday took charge of the acting Vice Chancellor Professor Akhilesh Took over the charge of Vice Chancellor of Uttar Pradesh Rajarshi Tandon Open University, Prayagraj from Kumar Singh. On this occasion, newly appointed Vice Chancellor Professor Satyakam said that the Open University will work rapidly towards taking the gross enrollment ratio in higher edu-

cation in Uttar Pradesh to 100 percent by the year 2047. He said that teachers are the backbone of the university. It is only through their efforts that this resolution will be implemented. We should have the spirit within us that we too can do something. He said that if this goal is achieved then we will emerge as a strong nation. There will be no obstacles before us in achieving this goal. With everyone's cooperation we will overcome this obstacle. He said that the Open University will focus on creating its branding. The students enrolled here will get the benefit of information technology available in



the university.

On this occasion, outgoing Vice Chancellor Professor Akhilesh Kumar Singh welcomed the newly appointed Vice Chancellor Professor Satyakam and said that this open university will benefit from the experience of working for so many years in the field of distance education. The team of Open University will fully support them in taking the university forward. Professor Singh praised the tenure of former Vice Chancellor Professor Seema Singh and said that she took the university forward a lot. Earlier, the newly appointed Vice Chancellor of Uttar Pradesh Rajarshi

Tandon Open University, Professor Satyakam and the current Vice Chancellor Professor Akhilesh Kumar Singh were welcomed by Registrar Colonel Vinay Kumar. On this occasion, the directors, officers, teachers and employees of the university extended hearty congratulations and best wishes to the newly appointed Vice Chancellor Professor Satyakam. After this, Vice Chancellor Professor Satyakam reviewed the programs organized in the university on International Yoga Day on the instructions of Raj Bhavan and inspected the Center for Online Education.

BJP, SP begin strategising for Phulpur assembly seat bypolls

Prayagraj: Following BJP candidate Praveen Patel's narrow win as a Member of Parliament from Phulpur parliamentary constituency, the stage is now set for a hotly contested by-election for the Phulpur Assembly constituency from where he is the sitting MLA having won the seat in 2022. The discussions have started among leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Samajwadi Party (SP), strategising for this electoral battle that would be taking place within the Phulpur Lok Sabha domain. Praveen Patel, now the newly-elected MP from the Phulpur Lok Sabha constituency, is a three-time MLA winning twice from the seat-in 2017 (then named Jhansi) and in 2022. The Phulpur seat, previously known as Jhansi, underwent a name change post-delineation.

Praveen Patel's political journey commenced in 2007 when he clinched the post of MLA winning from the Jhansi Assembly segment, contesting on a Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) ticket. However, the 2012 Assembly elections saw him suffering a setback as he lost from here under the banner of BSP after the constituency was rechristened as Phulpur. In this contest, he was defeated by Samajwadi Party's Syeed Ahmad.

Now, with Praveen Patel ascending to the seat of MP, the focus has shifted to the Phulpur Assembly seat that he would be leaving vacant. BJP leadership has signalled an all-out effort in fielding a strong contender for this electoral showdown. Numerous BJP stalwarts have expressed keen interest in vying for this prestigious seat, shared a senior BJP leader. Meanwhile, SP too is gearing up to present a robust candidate. In all probability, the candidate would be declared in partnership with Congress in a bid to replicate the voter support witnessed by the alliance in the recent Lok Sabha elections in the bypolls as well, shared a SP leader.

Uttar Pradesh has witnessed nine of its legislators becoming Parliamentarians in the 2024 election. Altogether, 13 MLAs and four MLCs had contested the Lok Sabha elections. Eight legislators including five MLAs and three MLCs lost the elections, while 9 MLAs and 1 MLC won their contests. Besides, BJP MLA from the Phulpur assembly seat Praveen Patel won from Phulpur Lok Sabha seat in Prayagraj district, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, sitting MLA from Karhal assembly constituency in Mainpuri district, secured victory from Kannauj Lok Sabha seat. UP's PWD minister and MLC Jitin Prasad secured victory from Pilibhit Lok Sabha seat. SP MLA Ziaur Rehman from Kundarki, in Moradabad district, secured victory from Sambhal Lok Sabha seat. Senior SP leader and former minister Lalji Verma, MLA from Katehari in Ambedkarnagar district, won the Ambedkar Nagar Lok Sabha seat. NISHAD party MLA Vinod Kumar Bind from Majhawan assembly constituency won from the Bhadohi Lok Sabha seat on a BJP ticket while RLD MLA from Meerapur assembly constituency in Muzaffarnagar district, Chandan Chauhan, won the Bijnor Lok Sabha seat.

Help your pet to stay cool

PRAYAGRAJ: As the scorching heat crosses the 45 degree Celsius mark, summer days become stressful for pets too. To protect and soothe their pets, owners are looking for apt means to beat the blazing sun taking frequent veterinary consultations and precautions from diarrhoea, a common ailment due to dehydration.

"Dogs feel 20% more heat than humans," said Dr Nisha Verma. Unlike humans, dogs are far more sensitive to heat. "Fresh food and cool water does wonders," said another veterinary doctor. "Provide them with proper balanced food and a bowl of clean and cold water with glucose or honey at all times," he advises. The metabolic activity increases due to which owners need to take precaution", he added.

The months of April, May and June are marked by dry heat, so coolers are enough to maintain body temperature of pets. But July, August and September are killer months for dogs.

Not all dogs have coats that are water-resistant or friendly. A German Shepherd cannot sit in water because that will harm its coat. Labradors, though are water babies. One must check with an expert before exposing dogs to water for a prolonged period. Logically, dogs maintain body temperature by panting. When they pant, evaporation takes place leading to cooling of their body. Just as humans eat less during summers, the appetite of dogs reduces too. Their feet are most susceptible to heat and burns and one should get shoes for them to wear while walking outside. Normal temperature for a dog is 101.5 degree Fahrenheit. Avoid giving meat because during this season meat is sometimes infected. Just following some simple summer tips can help your animal friends stay healthy and energised so that you can still have fun with them in the sun.

Meet woman, an engineer who cracked UPSC without coaching to become IPS officer

Also a social media star got AIR...

Prayagraj: Some people are relentless in their pursuit of their dreams and end up achieving them. One such inspiring story is of IPS Anshika Verma, a former engineer who cracked UPSC without coaching. Belonging to Prayagraj, Anshika completed her primary education in Noida. Thereafter, she attended Galgotia College, Noida, where she secured a B.Tech degree in Electronics and Communication Engineering in 2018. Then she started her preparations for the UPSC civil services examination in Prayagraj in 2019, where she devoted all her time to her studies. With unflinching hard work and dedication, Anshika successfully secured All India Rank 136 on her second attempt in the UPSC CSE exam in 2020, without any coaching. She gives credit to her success to her supportive family, which includes her father who is a retired employee from Uttar Pradesh Electricity Corporation Limited (UPEL) and her mother, a housewife. Currently, she is a Uttar Pradesh cadre officer of the 2021 batch and is posted as an ACP (assistant commissioner of police) of Gorakhpur. Apart from her profession, she is famous for her massive social media presence as she has around 257K Instagram followers.

Service to Maa Bharati is vision of PM Modi: BJP

Prayagraj: BJP leaders gave praise to Prime Minister Narendra Modi after he was elected leader of NDA and BJP parliamentary party. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on being elected leader of NDA and Bharatiya Janata Party Parliamentary Party BJP workers in the auditorium of Vaishali Hotel Bahadurganj, NDA alliance and Bharatiya Janata Party. The top leadership of the party expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for electing him as the leader of the parliamentary party of NDA and Bharatiya Janata Party for the third time and congratulated Prime Minister Narendra



Modi on this occasion. District spokesperson Rajesh Kesarwani and program coordinator BJP leader Vijay Vaishya said that service to Mother India is the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's life and the central government to be formed for the third time under his leadership will take India towards the goal of becoming a developed nation and said that on May 9, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi will take office for the third time, When he takes oath as the Prime Minister, there will be a big celebration. Kishan Jaiswal, Ajay Agrahari, Shatrughan Jaiswal, Rajesh Sharma, Mukesh Jaiswal, Padmakar Srivastava, Madhur Mathur, Suresh Chaurasia, and other workers were present among those who congratulated him.

To maintain awareness among running personnel for safe operation & stress-free life "Healthy Mind - Safe Operation" event held

Prayagraj: Safety seminar was organized in Prayagraj lobby from 10 to 14 pm. The chief guest of the seminar was Chief Safety Officer NCR, Prayagraj, Chief Electric Loco Engineer NCR Prayagraj, Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer NCR, Prayagraj and other officers were present, 17 Chief Loco Inspectors and 75 running personnel participated in the seminar. The chief guest of the seminar was Chief Safety Officer NCR Prayagraj JCS While interacting with the running staff, Bora had a detailed discussion with the running staff about the problems being faced on the line for safe operation and assured immediate action on all the problems and also gave the mantra to do their duty happily and not for the sake of pleasure. Also, taking lessons from the recent over shooting, Signal was given an honest and effective call

Principal Chief Safety Officer praised the work of the running personnel and asked them to take pride in



their duty. He also termed mobile phones as a disease and advised to stay away from mobile phones while on duty. Chief Electric Loco Engineer NCR Prayagraj instructed both the loco pilot

and the assistant loco pilot to be alert to each other, not to anticipate signals and to operate the train at the pre-

operations by learning from such mistakes in future.

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (Operation) expressed his gratitude to all the headquarters officers and on behalf of all the loco pilots and assistant loco pilots, assured to follow the advice given by the officers in letter and spirit. In the seminar, Chief Loco Inspector (Headquarters) Awadesh Kumar Discussed the recent spade incident and explained about the importance of concentration while operating the train. Chief Crew Controller (General) Vasudev Pandey, who conducted the seminar, gave various videos to the running employees to stay stress-free and succeed in life. He also made the running personnel aware by showing the video of the spade incidents and asked all the loco pilots of the headquarters to operate the train in a disciplined manner.

Protection of environment became vision of Municipal Corporation: Mayor

Prayagraj: Municipal Corporation works together with Municipal Corporation society regarding environment and water conservation and cleanliness. If we do, India will be an example for the whole world (Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani. All India Mayors and RWAS Submit Conference was represented by Mayor Umesh Chandra Ganesh Kesarwani in the All India Mayors and RWAS Submit Conference held in Greater Noida and said that the environment Regarding conservation, Prayagraj Municipal Corporation planted and conserved 119,000 trees last year and this year too, Prayagraj Municipal Corporation is working on a large scale for the mission of cleanliness through solid waste management and garbage disposal through

Mission, trees will be planted in the entire country. Prayagraj was honored by the President for cleanli-

modern machines and also. He is continuously making people aware about environment, water conserva-

He said that all the municipalities of the country. If corporations work together with the society, India will



ness in the Ganga Tunnel area and this year too, Prayagraj Municipal Corporation is working on a large scale for the mission of cleanliness through solid waste management and garbage disposal through

tion and cleanliness by running social awareness campaigns within the society regarding environmental protection, water conservation and cleanliness, due to which he is getting the support of the society.

become an example for the whole world for environment, water conservation and cleanliness. On this occasion, the organizers of the conference honored Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani with a memento.

Moot court competition organized

By students under summer internship prog

Prayagraj: Under the direction of the Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, a moot court competition was organized by the students under the summer internship program. The Secretary, while giving citations to the winning team and all the participants, extended best wishes for their bright future. According to the orders of District Judge/Chairman District Legal Services Authority Prayagraj Santosh Rai, on Friday, under the direction of Dinesh Kumar Gautam, Secretary District Legal Services Authority, a moot court competition was organized by various students

of Prayagraj district under the summer internship program. In which students of Allahabad Law School of Prayagraj district, Shubham Dwivedi, Sumit Kumar, Shivam Mishra, Shivam Singh, Harsh Tripathi, Harshita Tripathi, Vaibhav Srivastava, Shreya Mishra Sangvi Singh, Shantanu Singh participated respectively. The winning team and all the participants were given a citation by Secretary District Legal Services Authority Prayagraj Dinesh Kumar Gautam and best wishes for their bright future. This information was provided by Dinesh Kumar Gautam, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority Prayagraj.



Seminar on shayari organized by Universal Human Welfare Society and Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed Memorial Committee

Prayagraj: Famous Sozkhwan Liaqat Ali Khan of Banaras and Faiz Jafri of Prayagraj recited Marsiya with the magic of excellent voice, Hasnain Mustafabadi, Zameer Bhopatpuri and Dr. Nayab Baliyavi won the praise of the people present with their Peshkhani. Javed Rizvi Kararvi and Urui. Ghazipuri remembered Mir Anees and Mir Dabir from Marsiyakhani. Bazme Sozo Marsiya, organized by organizer Shafqat Abbas Pasha, started with reading of verses from Quran recited by Raza Abbas Zaidi. Maulana Syed Jawadul Haider Rizvi presided over the program organized by Maulana Syed Aamir Rizvi. Chief guest of the program was Athar Saghir Touraj Zaidi and as special guest, Maulana Syed Mohammad Ali Gauhar praised the fun of the poets Marsiyakhawano and Sozakhwano. Late poet Kavish Allahabadi was posthumously honored by his son Muntazir Rizvi and elderly Marsiyakhwan Khatiba Ahlebait late



Zair Hussain, his son Kazim Abbas and various scholars were posthumously honored by covering them with shawls and giving mementos. After the program, organizer Shafqat Abbas Pasha expressed his gratitude to everyone. On this occasion, Maulana Irfan Haider Zaidi, Maulana Alamdar Hasnain, Maulana Moziq Abbas, Maulana Wasi Haider, Maulana Salman Haider, Maulana Jabir Abbas, Maulana Safdar Abbas Raza, Shayar Nayyar, Jalalpur Hasan Naqvi, Raunaq Safipur, Rustam Sabri, Najeeb Allahabadi, Rashid Haideri, Zafar Raza, Abbas Guddu, Ahsan Raza, Captain Mohammad Mehndi, Zafar Abbas ZMR, Shakeel Abbas, Nayyar Abdi, Arshad Naqvi, Syed Mohammad Askari, Mirza Azadar Hussain, Mashhad Ali Khan, Asghar Ali, Mohammad Raza, Azmat Abbas, Zainul Abbas, Meesam Rizvi Karravi, Zargam Haider, Amber Allahabadi, Zulfeqar Abdi Wasif Rizvi etc. were included.

Editorial

Russia-Ukraine war enters third year: Bloody stalemate, no signs of breakthrough

In the book 'The Fathomless Caves', Kate Forsyth, the author, describes war as, "An unpredictable beast. Once unleashed, it runs like a rabid dog, ravaging friends and foes alike. It can drag on for years, a slow attrition of nerve and fortitude, or be over in one brilliant flash, an extravagant configuration of flame and blood and sweat." The Russian-Ukraine War fits well into the above description.

When President Putin launched 'special military operations' to 'demilitarise and denazify' Ukraine on February 24, 2022, it was universally given that the war would be over in a few days, with Russia inflicting a crushing defeat on Ukraine. Ironically, two years later, the conflict rages on, degenerating into a state of stalemate with little change in the ground situation. Although a classic limited war, its politico-economic impact has been felt far and wide, with serious geo-strategic ramifications. Militarily, it has gone on to redefine the very nature of warfare. The Russian offensive commenced as a typical military campaign, preceded by missiles and airstrikes, followed by a large-scale ground invasion along multiple fronts. The northern thrust was launched from Belarus towards Kyiv, the southern one was from Crimea, and the south-eastern push was from Luhansk-Donetsk towards Kharkiv.

In the wake of heavy losses and stiff Ukrainian resistance on the outskirts of Kyiv, the Russian Northern thrust stalled within a month, towards the end of March. By April, the Russian Army had retreated to consolidate gains around the Luhansk and Donetsk areas. However, the Russians did succeed in capturing Mariupol in May after a prolonged siege. Having stabilised the situation, in August, the Ukrainian forces launched a limited counterattack in the south and a month later in the north-east, succeeding in recapturing Kharkiv and Kherson by November, thus forcing the Russians to withdraw east of the Dnieper River. With winters setting in, the pace of operations had slowed down. The Ukrainians resorted to launching a number of drone strikes against the Russian bases. A period of lull was used by the belligerents to consolidate their positions and gear up for the next phase. By the end of 2022, around 8 million refugees had fled Ukraine. Both sides had suffered heavy casualties; more than half a million Russian and Ukrainian soldiers were killed or wounded, besides over 10,000 civilian fatalities. Towards early 2023, Ukraine launched a major counter-offensive on a wide front. However, it soon went awry. The frontal assaults by the Ukrainian mechanised forces against the Russian multi-layered field fortifications complemented with minefields made no headway, and the offensive soon petered out. On the other hand, the Russian Army achieved a major success in May 2023 with the capture of the strategically important city of Bakhmut after months of fighting, with Prigozhin's Wagner militia making a major contribution. In 2024, Russia is prepared for a grand offensive to gain an upper hand, sensing exhaustion amongst the Ukrainian ranks and Kyiv's depleting manpower, equipment, and resources. Russia has revived its defence industry and also revamped its warfighting potential with military supplies, particularly ammunition, missiles, and drones from North Korea and Iran. The recent seizure of Avdiivka, an important town 20 kilometres east of Donetsk, will definitely offer a significant operational advantage to the Russians in the region.

Stubble pollution will not become a source of income for farmers in UP

Pollution becomes a major problem in the National Capital Region of New Delhi and its surrounding areas as winter sets in. This has become a big problem for the last several years not only in Delhi but for the residents of the surrounding areas. In view of this problem, the Yogi government of Uttar Pradesh has tried to provide relief to the citizens and to provide a source of income to the farmers instead of loss from the stubble generated from the paddy crop other than rice. It is noteworthy that in some areas of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan, administrative action is being taken continuously against farmers due to stubble burning. In which, apart from imposing fine on paddy farmers by the local administration, action is being taken to send them to jail. Due to which farmers are troubled. Seeing this problem of farmers, the Yogi government of Uttar Pradesh is trying to get rid of the pollution caused by stubble burning. For which the government is working on the technology of producing compressed gas (CNG) from stubble in the state, which will provide income as well as employment to a large number of people of the state. Along with this, pure organic fertilizer (green energy) will also be produced, the con-



sumption of the produce will ensure better health. In fact, in view of this problem in the state, CM Yogi had already released the Bio Energy Policy 2022 to encourage bio energy. Under this policy a target of large scale investment was set. In which many big investors of the country had signed an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the state government in the Global Investors Summit, which is now going to come to fruition. The Yogi government had set a target of biogas plant in every tehsil, some of which are ready to start soon. Among the plants which are ready to start is Buland Biogas of Bulandshahr district, which is being established in village Lauhgala tehsil. Buland Biogas had signed an MoU worth Rs 18 crore 75 lakh with the state government, the price of which has now increased to around Rs 21 crore. According

to government representatives, this plant will start its production in December. This plant will produce 3 tonnes of CNG per day, which will reduce the dependence on petrol and diesel in the state. 80 to 100 people will also get employment. In these, both skilled and unskilled people will get employment. While talking to Dainik Bhaskar, owner of Buland Bio Gas, Athar Ahmed said that the plant produces not only stubble but also compressed biogas from degradable waste like straw, cow dung, chaff, sugarcane dung, municipal waste or a mixture of all the gases.

Is made. With the help of this technology, CNG is purified. License for this plant has been obtained from PSU Indian Oil of the Ministry of Petroleum, Government of India. However, the government and the people running the institute believe that the

best thing about this project is that it will produce organic fertilizer in large quantities. The waste generated in the production of compressed gas will be 100 percent organic. This waste will be solid as well as liquid. The liquid organic fertilizer produced by the plant will be given to the farmers free of cost for 3 years. These farmers will be identified by the DM or CDO of the districts. This will benefit those farmers who are not able to buy fertilizer, DAP, urea. The advantage of organic fertilizers and liquid fertilizers is that a thick layer of fertilizers has been spread in the fertile lands. It takes time to reach the roots of trees and plants. At the same time, if organic fertilizer is added to it, it will reach the roots in 2 to 3 hours.

This will not only benefit the farmers but also the common people will be able to get pure organic food. People's health will be benefited by pure eating habits. It is believed that considering the need of the hour, the Yogi government of the state has taken this project forward very rapidly and brought Bio Energy Policy-2022 for it.

The government provided all the facilities in this. The first facility is that those who have received a LOI license can apply for it. Apart from this, along with the Central Government, the State

Government is also providing a maximum subsidy ranging from Rs 75 lakh to Rs 20 crore. Not only this, the surcharge on electricity has been exempted for 10 years. Stamp duty has also been exempted for 10 years and land development charges have also been made free for 10 years. Apart from this, a discount of 50 plus 30 i.e. total 80 percent is being given on machinery. Not only this, arrangements are also being made for raw material i.e. degradable waste. For this, long term agreements have been made with sugar mills for sugarcane flour. The Animal Husbandry Department has been asked to make agreements with all the government cowsheds for cow dung. Not only this, if the project is worth Rs 50 crore or more then the government is providing a 5 km road. The Yogi government has deployed entrepreneur friends to help investors. Looking at the spell and desire of the government, it seems that soon the paddy producing farmers in Uttar Pradesh will get relief and till now those who were being harassed by the administration in the name of stubble burning will get relief and this type of plants will be set up in Uttar Pradesh. By starting in the state, his income will increase and he will be happy.

The Third Eye: Intelligence is a prime security weapon

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's regime, aided by a brilliant National Security Advisor, has boosted the confidence of national Intelligence agencies about doing their job of protecting the security and integrity of India on a proactive, apolitical and professional note. Intelligence Bureau (IB), the 'mother' organisation that fostered the family of Intelligence entities including SSB, ARC and R&AW, traced its origins in the Central CID established by the British some 135 years ago and the fact that it saw an essential continuity of its functioning after Independence, is an affirmation of its belief that by and large its goal had been to safeguard the country against the doings of its perceived 'adversaries'

at any point of time. IB's charter multiplied a great deal with the emergence of India as a sovereign nation and as the largest democracy that happened also to inherit the destabilising legacy of a religion-based Partition accompanying its freedom. The Bureau derives strength from three basic principles of its working. First is the freedom it exercises in the matter of covering an activity or an entity that - in its 'own judgement' - amounted to a threat to national security. Secondly, the government at the Centre can task the IB which is only appropriate but it never influences its findings - IB may be the only reliable agency to tell the government what is adverse in the public environment disapproving the notions that

Intelligence only reported what the political masters 'liked to hear'. Thirdly, the IB's communications with the government are not only confidential but are marked as 'unofficial' notes meant only for the benefit of the recipients and not available for scrutiny by an outsider. Working of India's Intelligence agencies is in line with the principle that they are not police organisations. The IB is led by IPS officers who join the organisation giving up on the 'glamour' of uniform and accepting 'anonymity' by choice in lieu of the rare satisfaction they had of directly working for the national cause - with full confidence that good work was always given credit for and with a belief that the nation acknowledged.

The meaning of the Sangh chief's message of Hindu-Muslim unity?

In India, people of more castes and religions live together than in any other country in the world. If we look at history, we will find that people from all over the world came to India and most of them stayed here. But today, Manipur has been burning for many months due to the hatred and bitterness that is prevalent among people of different religions in India. The leaders of the ruling party, especially the Prime Minister, are silent about this violence. Meanwhile, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (Sangh) chief Mohan Bhagwat, expressing concern over the Manipur violence, has taught the country to live with unity and love. But the Sangh chief's statement about living in unity in the country is being interpreted in different ways. The reason for this is that apart from the Manipur violence, Mohan Bhagwat has said many other things which need to be considered at this time. In fact, the Sangh chief gave a big message of unity in the Nagpur parade on the day of Vijaydashami regarding the increasing tension between Hindus and Muslims. The way the Sangh chief said in a questioning tone, how did people living in the same country become so alien? Political people, intellectuals, journal-

ists and political analysts are trying to find out the meaning of everything. Mohan Bhagwat says from this question. No one is able to understand its true meaning? The simple meaning of this question of Bhagwat is that hatred towards the people of one's own country is not a good thing. But the question is arising for whom did Mohan Bhagwat say this? But before this it is important to understand that the Sangh chief also said that there should not be indiscretion and imbalance. There is a need to take our mind seriously and bind the country in the threads of unity. Because I believe that by expressing concern over the violence in Manipur, the Sangh chief has also hinted at Prime Minister Narendra Modi not speaking on Manipur. However, Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat also said that we have to be cautious in elections and we have to accept everyone as our own and keep everyone's influence cool. This is the call of belonging, whoever listens to it will be benefited. It will not be known what will happen to those who still do not listen. Many analysts have their own views on this statement of the Sangh chief, some are saying that he is threatening the government, some

are saying that he is warning the opposition, some are saying that he is giving advice to Muslims. So some are saying that they are giving advice to Hindus. At the same time, some are saying that Mohan Bhagwat is calling extremist people, no matter which religion they belong to. At the same time, some people are also saying that this statement of Mohan Bhagwat is just politics, which is for vote bank politics under the guise of religion. Its Indian meaning is also that Mohan Bhagwat has been accused of supporting the Janata Party. Is. However, I believe that Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat has been talking about unity in the country for the last several years. He is the first Sangh chief who went to mosques as well as madrassas and gave a big message of unity and brotherhood to the country. Before this, no Sangh chief had shown the courage to take such an initiative. In such a situation, instead of doing politics on the statement of the Sangh chief, do not come and vote for his statement. We have to vote for who is better. Along with this, Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat also praised some of the works of the government. It is clear from this that he has not spoken against the government.

Maryam Nawaz's journey to 'Takht-e-Lahore' is no small feat

After Maharani Jind Kaur, Maryam Nawaz Sharif will rule the Takht-e-Lahore. Jind Kaur, popular as Rani Jindan, took over as queen regent in 1843, ruling on behalf of her five-year-old son Duleep Singh, who ascended the throne after the death of his father Maharaja Ranjit Singh. She remained queen until the end of the First Anglo-Sikh War in 1846. Nearly 180 years later, Pakistan Punjab is finally getting its first female chief minister. No mean achievement in a male-dominated political setup where women are often

relegated to the sidelines. And certainly not a small feat in a family where every third person has been or wants to be the chief minister of Punjab province. Maryam's first prominent appearance was in a BBC interview, where she detailed her father's incarceration by General Pervez Musharraf in the October 1999 coup. While Nawaz and other male members of the family were imprisoned, his fearless wife Kulsoom and daughter Maryam rallied for public support. "I can smell the danger, but who is on the wrong side?"

Ultimately Gen Musharraf is going to be in trouble," Maryam had said. First lesson learnt - dictators die politically, but civilian leaders live through generations. Facing political persecution with resilience and defiance made Maryam Nawaz a political force long before she began her parliamentary career. The 'How to Become a Successful Politician in Pakistan' guide will have one chapter, really - let thyself be persecuted at the hands of the real rulers of this land. In the case of Maryam, this persecution began years before she

fought her first provincial and national election in 2024. If Nawaz was targeted by the Pakistan Army, Maryam was hounded with trumped-up political court cases that only served to enhance her popularity. Let's rewind to July 2018, when hundreds of paramilitary soldiers apprehended the father and daughter at Lahore airport, taking them into custody just days before the general election that year. The imagery of a defiant daughter, standing next to her father and willingly accepting arrest, is what catapulted Maryam.

As hundreds of Chinese items lose tax exclusions, the US-China trade battle escalates



Delhi: Recently, the US has banned, restricted, or imposed high taxes on hundreds of Chinese imports to stimulate domestic production and reduce dependence on Chinese commodities. The USTR has already added tariffs to half of 429 items. The USTR excluded further duties from the "Section 301" probe of China's technology transfer, intellectual property, and innovation measures in previous announcements. The current 429 product-specific exclusions (352 reinstated and 77 COVID-related) expire

on May 31, 2024. The US trade agency declared a 14-day transition period for all current exclusions until June 14, 2024, and to "extend certain exclusions through May 31, 2025" in a new notice. "To allow for a transition period, the US Trade Representative is extending all currently expiring exclusions through June 14, 2024," it stated. Chinese motors and medical equipment are excluded until May 2025. The USTR ruled that "extending these exclusions will support efforts to shift sourc-

ing out of China, or provide additional time where, despite efforts to source products from alternative sources, availability of the product outside of China remains limited". Last March, the USTR reinstated some "Section 301" tariff exceptions for Chinese goods. Former President Donald Trump began a trade war with China and imposed tariffs on nearly \$300 billion in Chinese goods, invoking Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974. Trump granted product tariff exclusions for select businesses

AESL Bhiwani students create history in NEET 2024, Disha Agarwal scores 710 out of 720 and AIR 368



Bhiwani : Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), the national leader in test preparation services, is proud to announce the remarkable achievement of its 11 students in Bhiwani who have scored 650 and above marks in the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) 2024. Along with this, they have achieved impressive All India Rank. Among the students who scored impressive marks, Disha Agarwal scored 710 marks and AIR 368, Arjun scored 690 marks, Amrendra Singh scored 681 marks, Shubhi scored 680 marks and Kartik Kapoor scored 677 marks. At the same

time, a total of 11 students from Bhiwani scored 650 and above. The National Testing Agency (NTA) has recently declared the results of National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) 2024. The students' achievement is a big contribution of their families, teachers, and Aakash Educational Services Limited. The united support of their family, and supporters has brought them to this important milestone. The students have made their parents and the entire staff of Aakash Institute proud by achieving impressive scores. Aakash Educational Services

Limited (AESL) Regional Director Parmeshwar Jha said, "Congratulations to all the students on their outstanding achievement. We are proud of the achievement of our students. Their impressive scores are shining examples of the potential of our students and the effectiveness of our teaching methods. At Aakash, we are committed to providing our students with the best resources and training to help them achieve their dreams. The success of these students will undoubtedly inspire many more students to strive for excellence."

Comments by Mr. Abheek Barua, Chief Economist – HDFC Bank on RBI Monetary Policy Committee

Ambala/Hisar: As expected, the RBI kept its policy rate and stance unchanged. Although, the MPC decision saw two dissents instead of the one seen in the previous policy. The one positive out of the policy was the upward revision in the GDP growth forecast to 7.2% from 7% earlier for FY25. On the other hand, inflation forecasts were kept unchanged. The RBI remains in a wait and watch mode to assess domestic developments like the monsoon performance, food inflation, and the new fiscal strategy before moving on rates. We continue to see the possibility of a rate cut in Q4 2024. Despite the governors' emphasis that monetary policy decisions are driven primarily by domestic considerations, we think that any rate cut action could end up being aligned with the timing of the Fed's rate cut cycle to limit financial market volatility. On the regulatory front, the increase in bulk deposit limit to INR 3 crore from INR 2 crore, signals the RBI's intention to encourage banks to garner greater retail deposits to fund credit growth.

AESL Ambala students create history in NEET 2024, 18 students score 650 and above

Ambala: Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), the national leader in test preparation services, is proud to announce the remarkable achievement of 18 of its students in Ambala who have scored 650 and above out of 720 marks in the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) 2024. The students who scored impressive marks include Ritvik Sharma with 710 marks and AIR 464, Muskan Malhotra with 710 marks and AIR 618, Himansh Chawla with 710 AIR 658, Alina Garg with 694 marks, Harshpreet Kaur



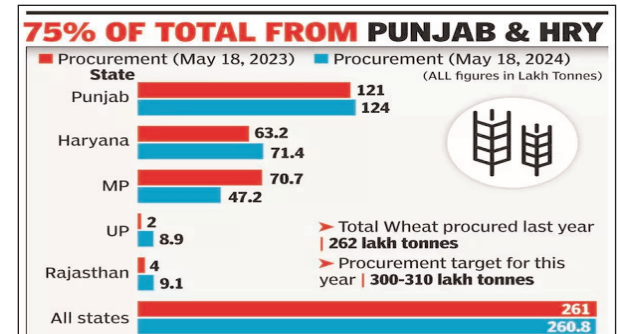
with 690 marks, Kusha Lamba with 687 marks, Aksha and Kanika with 685 marks. A total of 18 students from Ambala scored 650 and above. The National Testing Agency (NTA) has recently declared the results of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) 2024. The achievement of the stu-

dents is a big contribution of their families, teachers, and Aakash Educational Services Limited. The united support of their peers, family and supporters has brought them to this important milestone. The students have made their parents and the entire staff of Aakash Institute proud by achieving impressive scores.

Parmeshwar Jha, Regional Director, Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL) said, "Congratulations to all the students on their outstanding achievement. "We are proud of the achievement of our students. Their impressive scores are shining examples of the potential of our students and the effectiveness of our teaching methods. At Aakash, we are committed to providing the best resources and training to help our students achieve their dreams. The success of these students will undoubtedly inspire many more students to strive for excellence."

Fully procured wheat by centre exceeds last year's mark

Delhi: This Rabi selling season, the Food Ministry announced that the Central government had purchased 262.48 lakh metric tonnes of wheat in various states, beating previous year's 262.02 lakh. The Rabi marketing season 2024-25 MSP outflow was Rs. 59,715 crores, benefiting 22.31 lakh farmers. Five states dominated procurement. Punjab procured 124.26 lakh metric tons (LMT), followed by Haryana with 71.49 LMT and Madhya Pradesh with 47.78 LMT. Rajasthan and



Uttar Pradesh followed with 9.66 and 9.07 LMT. According to the Ministry, 728.42 LMT paddy equivalent to 489.15 LMT of rice has been acquired directly from 98.26 lakh farmers during the Kharif marketing scheme 2023-24, with a total

MSP outflow of Rs. 1,60,472 crores. The Food Ministry said the Central Pool's wheat and rice stock had topped 600 LMT, allowing the country to meet its food grain needs under PMGKAY, other welfare initiatives, and market interventions.

Intoxicated with power, the BJP government is playing with the future of the youth: Ramchandra

Kaithal: Haryana Pradesh Congress Committee Executive Member Ramchandra Gurjar Dhand said that the Haryana government is playing with the future of the youth. The recent High Court decision regarding various recruitments shows that thousands of youth of Haryana will be affected by unemployment. The Haryana government is talking about appealing to the Supreme Court only for its political gains. Talking at his establishment in the town, Ramchandra Gurjar Dhand said that the BJP-led government disappointed the youth in its 10-year tenure and stalled the recruitment of youth due to its



wrong policies. In the second term of the BJP government, the JJP in the alliance was also involved in playing with the future of the youth. Various vacant posts could not be filled and to garner applause, the tune of 75 percent reservation to the youth of Haryana in the private sector was also sung and that too was cancelled. Congress leader Ramchandra Gurjar Dhand said that similarly not a single recruitment process was completed dur-

ing the BJP rule and students spent thousands of rupees in filling forms, taking coaching and giving its papers. When the youth were recruited after many efforts, then the High Court of Punjab and Haryana gave a shock by declaring the rules and policies of the Haryana government as wrong. Congress State Executive Member Ramchandra Gurjar Dhand said that not a single recruitment process was completed in the 10 years of BJP rule and the youth is disappointed with the wrong policies of the government. There can be no greater sorrow for the youth than getting a job once and then losing it.

Hardwyn India Ltd. Reports Robust Earnings for Q4FY24, Revenue Jumps 23% YoY

CHANDIGARH: Hardwyn India Ltd. (BSE: 541276, NSE: HARDWYN), a leader in architectural hardware and glass fittings, has announced robust earnings for the quarter and year ended 31 March 2024. For the quarter ended 31 March 2024, the company reported Revenue from operations at Rs. 36.94 Cr, a growth of 23.63% YoY. The EBITDA jumped 5.48% YoY, from Rs. 5.66 Cr (Q4FY23) to Rs. 5.97 Cr (Q4FY24). PAT fell 11.80% YoY, from Rs. 3.73 Cr (Q4FY23), to Rs. 3.29 Cr (Q4FY24). For the year ended 31 March 2024, the company saw a robust 8.34% growth in its revenue from operations, growing from Rs. 125.07 Cr (FY23) to Rs. 135.5 Cr (FY24). EBITDA grew 15.31% YoY, from Rs. 13.91 Cr (FY23), to

Rs. 16.04 Cr (FY24). PAT grew 7.97% YoY, from Rs. 9.03 Cr (FY23), to Rs. 9.75 Cr (FY24). Earlier, the company had announced that it's newly formed Subsidiary 'Slim-X' has unveiled a range of innovative products. The new brand, with cutting-edge technology, now plans to generate revenue of Rs 100 crore in the next two years, leveraging the growth potential of innovative products—ultra-slim, high-performance aluminum profiles—for industries. Hardwyn India Ltd. is a leading brand among the architectural hardware manufacturers in India. For over half a century, Hardwyn India Ltd. has been redefining perfection in the realm of architectural hardware. The company offers comprehensive solutions for resi-

dential and commercial structures as an unwavering manufacturer of architectural hardware and glass fittings. Through rigorous testing and relentless research and development practices, Hardwyn has earned a stellar reputation for benchmark quality through a customer-centric philosophy and relentless pursuit of world-class quality. To create a robust global supply chain and establish a trusted distribution network, Hardwyn has continually strived to expand its global footprint. The company has built a large network of dealers and distributors to provide unwavering customer support. Beyond business success, Hardwyn holds a deep commitment to environmental sustainability.

DD Kisan launches 50-language AI anchors Krish and Bhoomi



Delhi: Doordarshan Kisan will be the first government TV channel to introduce AI anchors, ushering in the 'Artificial Intelligence' age in agriculture. Krish and Bhoomi, the AI anchors, are advanced computer algorithms that behave and perform like humans. Once unthinkable, they can deliver news 24/7, 365 days a year without tiring or taking breaks. Farmers in all states will see AI anchors, from Kashmir to Tamil Nadu and Gujarat to Arunachal. These anchors will provide national and global agriculture research, farm market trends,

weather updates, and government scheme updates. The anchors' fluency in 50 domestic and international languages is remarkable. Only DD Kisan broadcasts nationwide. It serves farmers exclusively and was founded by the Indian government. DD Kisan Channel has met these standards for nine years. The DD Kisan channel promotes innovative farmers. To support the country's agricultural and rural populations, it promotes comprehensive education. The DD Kisan channel focuses on sustainable farming, animal husbandry, and plantation.

Air India Mumbai to San Francisco flight delayed, passengers sit inside cabin for six hours

UMBAI: Passengers of an Air India flight from Mumbai to San Francisco had to sit inside the passenger cabin for about six hours with poor conditioning as the Friday afternoon flight was inordinately delayed. Flight AI-179 was supposed to depart at 2.25 pm and passengers, which included many senior citizens, had boarded by 3.30 pm, said sources. Passengers took to social media to complain about poor air conditioning and no update on the flight status.

An X (formerly Twitter) user Devang Desai posted: "Passengers are stuck inside flight after reported engine problems. Few passengers decided not to fly."

(Air India) Not departing, not giving correct information. "A couple of senior citizens fainted in the heat. Some were



allowed to deplane," said sources. The other passengers were finally disembarked at 9 pm.

Air India in a statement said: "AI-179 from Mumbai to San Francisco, scheduled to depart at 1600 hrs today, was delayed due to a technical issue arising just before departure. Giving top priority to safety issues, the aircraft was held back for engineering checks. Meanwhile, a few guests decided to discontinue the journey and the flight got further delayed as their baggage had to be offloaded from the

aircraft. The flight pushed back at 1917 but had to ramp return due to one guest feeling unwell. While the ailing guest was being deboarded with his baggage, the night landing restrictions at SFO had set in along with the crew flight duty limitations. Guests have been offered hotel accommodation, complimentary rescheduling and full refunds and served refreshments at the airport. The flight has now been rescheduled at 1030 hrs tomorrow. Inconvenience caused to guests is sincerely regretted."

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

FARIDABAD/GURGAON: 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 products 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 ratio of 99.2% for FY2024 with an average turnaround time of just 1.3 days."

ICICI Pru Platinum provides a choice between two life cover variants. The Growth Plus variant entitles the nominee to receive either the sum assured or the fund value, whichever is higher. Whereas the Protect Plus variant offers the nominee both the sum assured and the fund value. About ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company (www.icicprulife.com) ICICI Prudential Life is promoted by ICICI Bank Limited and Prudential Corporation Holdings Limited. The Company began operations in fiscal 2001 and has consistently been amongst the top private sector life insurance companies in India on a Retail Weighted Premium (RWRP) basis.

Non-recovery of cash not prima facie proof no graft took place: HC on Sisodia

NEW DELHI: Non-recovery of ill-gotten money can't be prima facie proof that no corruption has taken place because a person now uses new technologies to commit offences without leaving behind any trace, Delhi high court has observed, while denying bail to AAP's Manish Sisodia in the city excise policy case.

In its order pronounced Tuesday and uploaded Wednesday, HC said "recovery of cash from a person may not necessarily be a mandatory requirement in a money laundering case where allegations are part of a conspiracy comprising multiple accused." It added the liquor policy case involves commission of "serious offence" of corruption in public office and laundering, which "strikes at the heart of economic and social systems, undermining the rule of law and eroding public trust in institutions." HC rejects plea of no money being recovered from Sisodia. Delhi High Court rejected the argument that no money was recovered from the former deputy chief minister while pointing out to statements of some hawala dealers and other witnesses recorded in course of the probe. "This court is of the view that the prosecution has made out a prima facie case of commission of money laundering under Section 3 of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) against Manish Sisodia at this stage," high court observed. HC said the form "of corruption which has the tendency of stealing legitimate resources of the poor ordinary people and giving it to the rich can be one of the worst."

"It noted that the new excise policy has "eradicated" the common and small-time businesses. and gave the entire playing field in the liquor business to those who had "money, power and had created a cartel" on the basis of financial gains to those formulating a policy, which adds to the seriousness of the offence." The courts of law may be considered as constant thorns in the way of free-flowing corruption and, even if that be so.

NSE Listed Companies' Market Capitalization Surpass USD 5 Trillion

Vatika Times SHIMLA: The market capitalization of Indian listed companies on NSE surpassed USD 5 Trillion (Rs 416.57 trillion) on May 23, 2024. On the same day, the Nifty 50 Index touched an all-time high of 22,993.60. The Nifty 500 index also touched an all-time high of 21,505.25 today indicating that growth in equity market is not restricted to only the large, capitalized stocks. The journey of market capitalization of Indian listed companies

from USD 2 trillion (July 2017) to USD 3 trillion (May 2021) took about 46 months, USD 3 trillion to USD 4 trillion (December 2023) took about 30 months and the latest USD 1 trillion addition took only about 6 months. The top 5 companies by market capitalization are Reliance Industries Limited, TATA Consultancy Services Limited, HDFC Bank Limited, ICICI Bank Limited and Bharti Airtel Limited. In the last 10 years, Nifty 50 index has delivered 13.4%

returns (Total price index CAGR). During the same period, domestic mutual fund assets under management (Equity and Debt) increased by 506% from Rs 9.45 trillion end of April 2014 to Rs 57.26 trillion end of April 2024. The Foreign Portfolio investors (FPIs) assets under management (Equity and Debt) increased by 345% from Rs 16.1 trillion end of April 2014 to Rs 71.6 trillion at the end of April 2024. Growth in market capitalization is not restrict-

ed to the top companies but is observed across stocks.

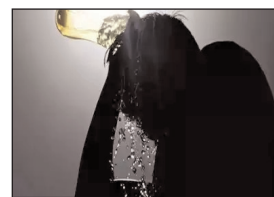
The constituents of Nifty 100 index now account for 61% of market capital as compared to 74.9% of total market capital as of April 2014. The resource mobilization by corporates including the Small and Medium Enterprise in the primary market has been encouraging and has provided an effective alternative mechanism in addition to the traditional methods of fund raising.

Liquidity in secondary market has also improved significantly in Capital Market Segment. The equity segment's daily average turnover has increased by over 4.5 times from Rs 17,818 crores in FY15 to Rs 81,721 crores in FY24. The achievement of this milestone is a testament of the vision outlined for the Amrit Kaal which includes a technology-driven and knowledge-based economy with strong public finances, and a robust financial sector.

Urbanization led to overall 60% enhancement in warming in Indian cities: IIT study

BHUBANESWAR:

Urbanization alone has led to an overall 60 percent enhancement in warming in Indian cities, with eastern tier-II cities leading the way. It was revealed through a study conducted by the researchers from IIT Bhubaneswar. This research provides a science based quantitative ranking of urbanization for Indian cities. The study titled 'Urbanization and regional climate change-linked warming of Indian Cities' published in the journal



'Nature Cities' provides insight by carefully separating regional climate change and urbanization in multiple cities. The researchers investigated the contributions of local-scale urbanization and regional climate change to the warming in 141 major Indian cities over the

past two decades. They took 18 years of high-resolution land surface temperature data from NASA's Aqua satellite for the period between 2003 and 2020. They also compared urban and rural warming trends. The study found that Tier II cities in eastern India showed stronger urbanization-driven warming compared to larger metro cities like New Delhi and Mumbai. "This disparity underscores the importance of targeted urban planning.

Congress says EC withholding voter data; poll panel says application 'misleading'

NEW DELHI: The Congress criticised the Election Commission (EC) on Thursday for withholding voter data from the public and accused the poll panel of failing to fulfill its constitutional obligations as well as exhibiting a biased inclination. Congress spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi accused the EC of attempting to act as the "election department" of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) by not addressing complaints of model code violations by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and home minister Amit Shah. Instead, the EC has been issuing generalized directions to political parties, which Singhvi referred to as "false equivalences." Singhvi's remarks followed the poll panel's submission of an affi-

davit to the Supreme Court, in which the commission stated that the "indiscriminate disclosure" of polling station-wise voter-turnout data and its publication on the EC website would lead to chaos in the ongoing Lok Sabha election machinery. Singhvi argued that the EC's actions regarding complaints against top BJP leaders and its refusal to disclose voter data are not befitting of a high-level constitutional institution. "This is against the constitutional responsibilities of the institution. This is the Election Commission, not the election agent of any party. When a constitutional institution does not follow the Constitution and shows inclination towards power, then it should be understood

that this is the end of democracy," Singhvi said. "We are not asking the EC about EVMs (electronic voting machines) but about disclosure of data. Through this stand in its ridiculous affidavit, the EC is falling into the BJP's trap to orchestrate decimation and destruction of electoral democracy," he added. Singhvi alleged that the reply filed by the EC in the apex court is just an "escape mechanism." This reply of the Election Commission is just an escape mechanism. Whereas anyone can get this data by paying money to the Election Commission," Singhvi alleged. "Will cause chaos; application is misleading, false and based on mere suspicion." Earlier, EC had filed a counter affidavit

Samsung 'Solve for Tomorrow' Conducts First Ever Design Thinking Workshop to Develop Problem-Solving Skills in School Students

KARNAL: Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, has introduced the first ever design thinking & training workshop in select schools across the country. This unique initiative, part of Samsung's 'Solve for Tomorrow' programme, focuses on enhancing essential skills such as problem-solving, critical thinking, probing, and creativity among students through the Human-Centered Design Thinking framework. The national education and innovation competition aims to foster a culture of innovation amongst the next generation. Tailored specifically for India, the one-day workshop has been conceptualised to encourage students to

appreciate the idea of design thinking and nudge them to identify and solve real-world problems. As part of the academic curriculum, Human-Centered Design Thinking is a powerful practice for solving-problems. Using processes and tools from the design world, the-Human Centred Design framework impresses upon empathy, definition, ideation, prototyping and testing of a solution to improve the lives of users. "Samsung Solve for Tomorrow is part of our vision to empower the next generation and create an ecosystem of innovation in the country. We believe that they are the flag-bearers of innovation and require nurturing from a young age. The design thinking workshops

have been introduced as a pilot in 10 schools this year to motivate young students to execute projects, which involve problem-solving, collaboration, and creative thinking. Through these offline sessions, school students will get a unique opportunity to question basics, identify real-world issues and propose tech-based solutions," said SP Chun, Corporate Vice President, Samsung Southwest Asia. This is how a one-day Design Thinking Workshop looks like:

-Introduction to Basic Concepts of Design Thinking
-Five Steps of Design Thinking Process
1. Empathy: Students engage in role-play and interviews, empathizing with various user types

Cyclone 'Remal' to impact West Bengal, adjoining Bangladesh, IMD

NEW DELHI: A low-pressure area over the southwest & adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal moved northeastwards and is likely to concentrate into a depression over central parts of the Bay of Bengal by the morning of May 24 and is expected to intensify further into a cyclonic storm over the east-central Bay of Bengal by May 25, according to India Meteorological Department.

And subsequently, it would move nearly northwards and reach near Bangladesh and adjoining West Bengal coasts by 26th May evening as a severe cyclonic storm.

In a statement, the IMD said, "Low Pressure Area over southwest & adjoining westcentral Bay of Bengal moved north-eastwards and lay as a well-marked low pressure area over west central & adjoining south

Bay of Bengal at 0830 hrs IST of today, the 23rd May, 2024. It is very likely to continue to move northeastwards and concentrate into a Depression over central parts of Bay of Bengal by morning of 24th May, 2024." "Thereafter, it is very likely to continue to move northeastwards, intensify further into a cyclonic storm over east-central Bay of Bengal by 25th May morning. Subsequently, it would move nearly northwards and reach near Bangladesh and adjoining West Bengal coasts by 26th May evening as a severe cyclonic storm," it added. If the cyclone is formed, it will be named 'Remal', and it will be the first cyclone in the Bay of Bengal this pre-monsoon season. According to the IMD, a light to moderate rainfall at most places with heavy to very heavy rainfall.

"We The Change – Season 2: Transformative Journeys in Sports and Spirituality"

NEW DELHI

"We the Change," a groundbreaking talk show that explores the intersection of sports and spirituality, is set to premiere on DD Sports starting May 26th. The show's unique concept revolves around identifying the changes that have already occurred within ourselves, emphasizing the importance of introspection and spiritual growth. Through engaging discussions and insightful anecdotes, "We the Change" aims to inspire viewers to recognize their own spiritual evolution. This innovative program promises to inspire viewers to embark on a journey of self-discovery and personal growth through engaging discussions and transformative insights. Presented by AUM sportainment private limited and under the auspices of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the show is directed by Raadhika Khetarpal, with spiritual mentorship pro-

vided by Aushim Khetarpal. The show's concept revolves around recognizing the changes within ourselves, emphasizing introspection and spiritual evolution. Drawing inspiration from the teachings of Shirdi Sai Baba, renowned Spiritual Mentor Aushim Khetarpal leads the conversation, setting the tone for meaningful dialogues and profound revelations. "We the Change" offers a platform for athletes to share their personal journeys and seek mentorship. Rooted in the guiding principle, "If I change, you can change; if you can change, the world can change," the show invites viewers to explore the transformative power of practices like meditation in expanding perspectives and understanding the world. Season 1, comprising seven episodes, kicked off with introspective discussions airing every Sunday and Monday in the month of April 2024. In Season 2, commencing May 26th

and running until July 22nd, "We the Change" continues its exploration with a diverse lineup of guests. Notably, it marks Raadhika Khetarpal's directorial debut, bringing her extensive experience as a film child actor in President Awarded Film - Shirdi Sai Baba in 2001 and now host for Award Winning Docu Drama Series featuring the grassroots struggles of India's differently-abled athletes, Olympians, Asian Games winners, and world champions. Additionally, she is the producer and has a few film projects in her portfolio. Season 2 guests include luminaries from various sports disciplines such as Hockey Legend Ashok Dhyanchand, Indian Women Cricketer Latika Sangwan, International Para Shooter Nihal Singh, Table Tennis Legend Kamlesh Mehta, International Para Shooter Mona Agarwal, Indian Blind Cricketers Nilesh Yadav, Irfan

Stopped producing Covishield in Dec 2021: SII after AstraZeneca recall

NEW DELHI: UK-based

major AstraZeneca's decision to withdraw its Covid-19 vaccine globally, days after admitting to side effects, prompted Serum Institute of India to disclose that it had stopped manufacturing Covishield in Dec 2021 due to a fall in demand as well as the emergence of new variants. "With India achieving high vaccination rates in 2021 and 2022, coupled with the emergence of new mutant variant strains, the demand for previous vaccines diminished significantly. Consequently, since Dec 2021, we have stopped the manufac-



ture and supply of additional doses of Covishield," said a SII spokesperson. The global drug giant had recently admitted to Vaxzevria causing Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia (TTS) in very rare cases. Covishield accounted for nearly 80% of Covid-19 vaccine doses administered in India.

AstraZeneca said its decision to withdraw marketing authorisation of Vaxzevria was due to a "surplus of available updated vaccines" since the pandemic. The SII spokesperson said the company fully understood the ongoing concerns. "We have disclosed all rare to very rare side effects, including Thrombosis with TTS, in the packaging insert in 2021," the spokesperson said. TTS refers to the formation of blood clots with low platelet counts. The condition is rare but is usually serious, particularly when the blood clot happens in major vessels, say doctors.

Candidates in Gurgaon ramp up campaigns

Delhi: Sitting BJP MP and Lok Sabha candidate for Gurgaon Rao Inderjit Singh campaigned in Sohna villages, urging voters to vote for the BJP based on Haryana's ten-year development. Singh stated that the ₹ 1,500 crore elevated Sohna Road project has reduced

the travel between Gurugram and Sohna to 20 minutes.

Improved connectivity and the Delhi-Mumbai expressway will make Sohna a residential and business hub, he said. Sohna would be connected to Nuh, Palwal, and Sonapat by the Orbital

Railway Corridor, creating job and economic prospects, the Gurugram MP added. The BJP is seeking votes based on its 10-year work. He addressed public meetings in Bhondsi ward-8, Ghamdoj, Alipur, Saanp Ki Nangli, Baluda, and Sohna to gain party.

Bengal counters Centre in SC, says CBI can't conduct probe sans state consent

NEW DELHI:

Countering Centre's stand that it wields no power over CBI which is an independent agency, West Bengal govt on Wednesday told Supreme Court that Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, under which the agency was formed specifically says that its superintendence shall vest in the central govt in all cases except those related to corruption and contended CBI probe can't be ordered in the state without its



consent. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal told a bench of Justices B R Gavai and Sandeep Mehta that Sections 4 and 5 of the Act confer the power pertaining to superintendence and jurisdiction of the agency to the Centre.

Putting forward the stand of the state govt that the central agency could not conduct a probe within its jurisdiction without its consent, Sibal said that it would destroy the federal structure if Centre forced its way into the state and conducted a probe. "Centre has no jurisdiction to allow its investigating agency to come in my state against my consent. Such an act is unconstitutional. It would be an encroachment on the rights and jurisdic-

tion of the state and its police. It would be constitutional overreach and exceeding of jurisdiction and would destroy the federal structure of the country," Sibal said. The lawyer referred to various sections of Delhi Special Police Establishment Act to make a point that Centre controls CBI but clarified that role of Centre is only upto the registration of case but not investigation and probe was not influenced by it. Reading Section 4.

To fulfil 70-year-old's last wish, Kerala driver makes 2,500km dash

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM:

Arun Kumar is no stranger to navigating the bustling streets of Kerala's Kollam or racing down the highway o Thiruvananthapuram with sirens blaring. Yet, when faced with the daunting prospect of a 2,400km journey from Kollam to Raiganj in Bengal, doubts crept in. With the doctors advising minimal stops for food and fuel, the challenge seemed insurmountable. For 15 years, ever since she moved to Kollam with her son Sowthish, 44, in



search of greener pastures, Bodhini Bhahan had never had the urge to return to the hard-scrabble life she had left behind.

Sowthish worked at a brick factory in Mynagappally and the family was getting by blissfully. However, earlier this year, Bodhini suffered a stroke and

became bedridden. She wished to return to her hometown and reunite with her close relatives. Sowthish understood her wishes but faced challenges in fulfilling them. He was at a loss - he couldn't afford the exorbitant airfare, and his mother wouldn't survive a midsummer train journey from

Kollam to Raiganj. "The only option was an ambulance, but no ambulance driver was willing to take us to Bengal due to the distance," Sowthish said. In his search for a solution, Sowthish came across Emirates Ambulance Service. Contacting its owner Kiran G Dileep, he found a glimmer of hope. Despite financial constraints, Emirates Ambulance Service agreed to transport Bodhini to Bengal for a reduced fare, driven by compassion rather than profit.

WB governor to show CCTV clip to 100 people, not Didi or cops

KOLKATA: West Bengal governor CV Ananda Bose, facing molestation charges from a former employee of Raj Bhavan, announced Wednesday that he would present Raj Bhavan's CCTV footage to 100 private citizens of Bengal, excluding "Mamata Banerjee and her police". "Under the Sach Ke Samne programme, anyone who wants to see the CCTV footage can send an email to adrcrajbhavankolkata@gmail.com or call the Raj Bhavan to register their names at 033-22001641. The first hundred would

be allowed to see the footage inside Raj Bhavan at 11.30am on May 9," Raj Bhavan said in a statement. The programme is aimed at addressing what was described as "mischievous and fabricated allegations" by police regarding the handling of CCTV footage related to the case. In response, state finance minister Chandrima Bhattacharya questioned governor Bose's decision, asking why he was withholding the CCTV footage from police if he was innocent. She said: "The CCTV footage

should be on public display if he is such an honest and innocent person. But here he is playing with the dignity of women, so he wants to shield it from police and is even unwilling to show it to the CM. Why can't the CM see it, if there is no foul play?" CM Banerjee and Trinamool have been going after the former Raj Bhavan employee filed a police complaint against Bose last Thursday. "He is now trying to show it (footage) to his own henchmen and get a certificate from them.

SC: Can't carry Raj-era bias to tag castes, tribes 'history-sheeters'

NEW DELHI:

Supreme Court had ruled that police cannot carry colonial era biases against persons belonging to certain tribes and scheduled castes to mechanically brand them in their records as 'bad characters' or 'history-sheeters' and said such archaic mindset violated individuals' right to dignity guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution. After nudging the Delhi Police to amend the format for history-sheeters, which was copied from 90-year-old Punjab Police Rules of 1934, to exclude the minor children and wife of a person from getting included with him as a bad character, a bench of Justices Surya Kant and K V



Vishwanathan on Tuesday asked all states to revisit their rules within six months regarding inclusion of a person in police's 'history-sheeter/bad character' record and weed out colonial era biases from relevant provisions. After deciding the case from Delhi, the bench resorted to its suo motu jurisdiction and examined the desirability of ensuring that no mechanical entries in 'history sheet' are made of innocent individuals, simply

because they hail from socially, economically and educationally disadvantaged backgrounds, along with those belonging to backward communities, SCs and STs. Referring to certain studies on this aspect and without going into their authenticity, Justice Kant said, "All state governments are expected to take necessary preventive measures. to safeguard such communities from being subjected to inexcusable targeting or prejudicial treatment. We must bear in mind that these preconceived notions often render them 'invisible victims' due to prevailing stereotypes associated with their communities, which may often impede their right to live a life.

to vimukta jatis (denotified tribes that were listed originally under Criminal Tribes Act of 1871, as criminal tribes because of their alleged addiction to committing crimes) reflecting biases of colonial times. Writing the judgment, Justice Kant said, "All state governments are expected to take necessary preventive measures. to safeguard such communities from being subjected to inexcusable targeting or prejudicial treatment. We must bear in mind that these preconceived notions often render them 'invisible victims' due to prevailing stereotypes associated with their communities, which may often impede their right to live a life.

CSIR: No circular issued on ironed clothes

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

Four Naxalites killed in encounter with security forces in Maharashtra's Gadchiroli

NEW DELHI: Four Naxalites were killed in an encounter with security forces in Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra. The superintendent of police in Gadchiroli, Nilotpal, said that the security teams encountered gunfire from the Naxals during an early morning search operation in the Kolamarka mountains.

"A credible intelligence was received on Monday afternoon that some members of Telangana state committee have crossed Pranhita river from Telangana into Gadchiroli with an aim to carry out subversive activities during the Model code of conduct period of upcoming Lok Sabha elections," Gadchiroli SP said. In response, multiple teams including C60 and CRPF QAT were dispatched from Aheri Sub Police headquarters led by Additional SP Ops Yatish Deshmukh for area searches.



"One of the teams comprising of 4 C60 parties while searching today early morning in Kolamarka mountains 5 km SE of SPS Repanpalli were fired indiscriminately by Naxals, which was retaliated strongly by our C60 teams. After the firing stopped and the area was searched, 4 male naxal dead bodies have been recovered," Gadchiroli SP added. The recovered items included weapons and personal belongings.

Among the deceased were high-ranking Naxal leaders DVCM Vargeesh and DVCM Magtu. The operation also targeted platoon members Kursang Raju and Kudimetta Venkatesh, all of whom carried a combined cash reward of 36 Lakhs as declared by the Maharashtra government, SP said. Following the encounter, search and anti-naxal operations are underway in the region.

Paytm acquires five UPI addresses

Delhi: The parent firm of Paytm, One97 Communications, a prominent fintech business, has partnered with four banks to acquire five UPI handles. State Bank of India (SBI), Yes Bank, Axis Bank, and HDFC Bank are these four banks. An update to the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) website earlier this week indicated that this calculated step guarantees the continuation of UPI transactions for Paytm users. Of these, the well-known and currently in use @paytm is still up and running, so users can carry on with their transactions as usual. In addition, in collaboration with Yes Bank, NPCI has approved the



creation of the closed user group UPI handle @ptyes. The NPCI has also approved two additional handles: @ptsbi (in conjunction with State Bank of India) and @pthdfc (in association with HDFC Bank). These handles won't become active right away, though. Users can utilize the @paytm handle

without any issues, according to a Paytm representative. This event follows the clearance of Paytm's third-party application (TPAP) provider permit by NPCI. SBI, Axis Bank, Yes Bank, and HDFC Bank are collaborating to provide continuous UPI services for Paytm's user base.

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.

CAPSULES

Fire safety steps missing, JLN Stadium told not to host events

NEW DELHI: Delhi fire department has written to the administrator of Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium (JLN) to stop using the premises for sporting events and functions due to a lack of fire safety measures. The fire safety certificate of Samrat Hotel in Chanakyapuri has also been cancelled over non-compliance with fire safety regulations. The hotel management, however, said it hasn't received any notice.

In a letter on March 15, the fire department asked the JLN stadium administrator to discontinue using the entire stadium complex for holding games, events and functions. According to sources, in the letter, the officials mentioned an incident that occurred on March 13 at 7.32am at the stadium.

"There was significant loss of property and life. The fire and life safety arrangements installed in the premises did not function properly," a source said quoting the letter.

An inquiry also revealed that the building's fire safety certificate is yet to be renewed, the source added. The department said the premises should not be used for holding events till fire safety systems are repaired, rectified and renewal of fire safety certificate is obtained, the source said.

According to police, the incident happened in the lower tier basement of the main arena near the P-1 tunnel. A case was registered on the complaint of a head constable, who stated that 12 fire tenders were sent to the spot and it took four hours to control the blaze. During a search of the premises, one person was found unconscious. He was later identified as Amit, a resident of Hapur, who worked in the CCTV control room in the basement.

Kolhapur-Gaganbawda h'way work to hit trees

Kolhapur: Over 1,250 trees on the Kolhapur-Kale stretch will be felled for the first phase of the ongoing road widening works of the Kolhapur-Gaganbawda national highway (166-B). Many important medicinal and rare trees like terminalia, pinnata, bur-flower, shalmali, jamun, fig, banyan, peepal, baheda will be cut for this activity. The Kolhapur to Gaganbawda route was recently transferred from the Public Works Department (PWD) to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for the four-laning of the highway. Large scale passenger traffic from Kolhapur to Konkan-Goa occurs on this route. Shubham Patil, junior engi-



neer of NHAI said, "More than 1,250 trees between Shingnapur phata till Kale section of Kolhapur-Gaganbawda NH will be cut in the first phase of road widening works in the district.

The forest department has also approved of the same.

The assigned contractor for the works has shortlisted reserved forest land at Bazarbhogaon village where he will be planting saplings. The contract will not complete unless the plantation is done. We will look to it that the trees get planted accordingly."

A villager from Kale, Sachin Patil said, "It is said that five trees will be planted in place of one tree getting cut during the highway works. But in reality, the authorities plant saplings which does not grow. This road stretch offers a canopy of trees that should be preserved."

Anil Chougale from Nisarg Mitra, an NGO for the environment said, "The banyan trees on this stretch are nearly a 100 years old. Plantation should be done from the seeds of different tree varieties. The social forestry department should consider this on priority. Mass plantation of various Indian native trees should be carried ahead of the monsoon."

Switched to 'patriot' to save democracy: Uddhav

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar: Amid criticism from opponents, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Monday defended his opening remarks of "patriot" at the Mumbai rally. "Since we have to save democracy and the country, I switched to 'deshbhakt (patriot) and deshpremi (country-loving) brothers and sisters'. As soon as I said this, the BJP got rattled. Modi-bhakt are claiming that my language has changed. I want to ask these bhakts whether they are patriots or not," he said, while addressing a public rally at Basmat in Hingoli district. Thackeray usually starts his addresses with the phrase: "Hindu brothers and sisters". However, on Tuesday, Thackeray had started his speech with "brothers and sisters of my family". Chief minister Eknath Shinde is among those

who have criticized Thackeray over his opening remarks during the Mumbai rally. Terming it a "black day", Shinde questioned why Thackeray omitted the 'Hindu' reference. Targeting BJP over the electoral bond issue, Thackeray said a "big hammer" has dealt a blow to the party, but it is shameful. "The BJP has become a gang that officially uses govt machinery to extort money.

Instead of using the photo of my father (during campaigns), it should use the photos of ED, income-tax and CBI," he said. He also dared BJP to fight elections by removing the "support" of all govt agencies, and then see how people react. "They order inquiries against opponents and claim to be the largest party in

Dissent within Mahayuti over likelihood of ticket for Mandlik

Kolhapur: The likelihood Kolhapur sitting MP Sanjay Mandlik's candidature has caused dissenting voices to emerge within the Mahayuti parties. This time, the local BJP functionaries are opposing Mandlik, who is expected to

contest on a Shiv Sena ticket once again. Sangram Kupekar from Gadhinglaj tehsil, who is a member of BJP state executive council, told his supporters to request local BJP leaders to call deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis, and urge him not to give the ticket to Mandlik again.

Kupekar was with the Shiv Sena (UBT) before joining BJP last year. Speaking to his supporters Kupekar said, "All the local politicians should dial our state leaders. Request them not to let the sitting MP get a ticket once again. Last time, in 2019, we made a big mistake by supporting him against Dhananjay Mahadik. The sitting MP never visited many of the villages even once after

the 2019 polls." Recently, district BJP leaders claimed they have sought one of the two seats — either Kolhapur or Hatkanangle — for BJP in Mahayuti's seat sharing arrangement. They said BJP has never contested from any of these seats before, and if it does contest this time, it would help expand the party's base. The name of district BJP president Samarjitsinha Ghatge was also doing rounds for some time as a possible Mahayuti candidate against Shahu Chhatrapati Maharaj, who is liely to contest on a Congress ticket. Dhananjay Mahadik, BJP Rajya Sabha MP, told the media: "All Mahayuti parties should refrain from making such statements.

55% of consumers associate unhygienic milk with unbranded milk options

HYDERABAD: Creamline Dairy Products Ltd, an arm of agribusiness player Godrej Agrovet Ltd, on Thursday announced its foray into the premium milk category with the rollout of Godrej My Farm Milk in the Hyderabad market. The company said the milk is sourced directly from the 1,400 cows at its own farm at Nashik using a completely automated process from milking to pasteurization and packaging. The milk is processed and

packaged at its unit in Hyderabad. The farm has a 9,000 litres per day capacity and the company is currently selling around 400 litres of the premium milk exclusively in the Hyderabad market through the quick commerce route, Godrej CEO Bhupendra Suri said. The company also launched its milk report that highlighted that 55% of consumers associate unhygienic milk with unbranded milk options and that 90% of consumers

are willing to pay more or a premium for high-quality and safe milk, reiterating the growing demand for pure and safe dairy products among consumers. The company also launched its milk report that highlighted that 55% of consumers associate unhygienic milk with unbranded milk options and that 90% of consumers are willing to pay more for a premium for high-quality and safe milk, reiterating the growing demand for pure and safe .

YSRCP's autocratic rule in the state

TIRUPATI: Former Chief Minister and Telugu Desam chief Nara Chandrababu Naidu launched the "Praja Galam" poll campaign amidst much fanfare at Palamaner in his home district of Chittoor on Wednesday and vowed to end the autocratic rule of the YSRCP in the state in the 2024 polls. Addressing an impressive rally at Palamaner, Naidu denounced the manner in which the YSRCP government neglected the irrigation projects in the water-parched and perennially drought-prone Rayalaseema region of the state. Telugu Desam founder and former Chief Minister NT Rama Rao had a vision to bring Krishna waters to address the drinking and irrigation water needs of the Rayalaseema region.

"It was during the Telugu Desam Party regime in the state that various irrigation projects such as the Telugu Ganga, Handri Neeva, Galeru Nagari, etc., were taken up. While 90% of the works of the irrigation projects were completed by the TDP, the YSRCP government couldn't complete the pending 10% of the works in the last five years," Naidu lamented. "During the TDP regime between 2014-2019, about 62 irrigation projects were initiated, and 24 were completed. While the TDP spent Rs. 68,000 crore on irrigation projects across the state, Rs. 12,000 crore was allocated for the completion of irrigation projects in the Rayalaseema region alone. The Jagan Reddy government allocated only Rs. 2,125 crore for irrigation projects in the Rayalaseema region in the last five years., reflecting the government's lack of resolve for the completion of irrigation projects in the state," the TDP chief observed. Highlighting the six guarantees of the TDP, Naidu promised the people that the state would be brought back on the path of development and wealth creation in the next five years.