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

Surya Tilak illuminates Ram Lalla's forehead in Ayodhya's temple on Ram Navami

"The aperture is an opening on the first floor through which sunlight enters the 'garbhagriha' or the sanctum sanctorum"



Ayodhya

Ram Navami 2024 witnessed a historic event at Ayodhya's Ram Temple. For the first time since the Ram Lalla idol's installation in January, the Surya Tilak ritual has been performed. This ceremony has used advanced technology to focus sunlight onto the idol's forehead at precisely noon. The ritual, symbolising the Sun God's blessings, lasted approximately five minutes. Here's an explainer on how the sun rays converged to Ram Lalla's idol's forehead. An optomechanical system at the core. The whole system is based on an optomechanical system which is specially designed to

converge and focus sun rays on the idol's forehead. The scientists from the Central Building Research Institute (CBRI) in Roorkee involved in the project were aware about the intense heat that is generated when sun rays are concentrated through a system of lenses and mirrors onto a single point.

An infrared filter placed at aperture to absorb heat

To address this, the system incorporates an infrared filter which is constructed from a heat-absorbing materi-

al. It blocks or deflects high-energy photons that would otherwise transfer heat to the idol. This filter is placed at the aperture itself.

The aperture is an opening on the first floor through which sunlight enters the 'garbhagriha' or the sanctum sanctorum. When the Sun is 'at the right place', the rays enter from the top of 'garbhagriha' through the infrared filter in the aperture. A combination of four lenses and an equal number of mirrors placed at a specific angle inside the brass pipes converge

the rays into a single beam that falls on Ram Lalla's forehead. In order to avoid scattering of light, black powder has been coated on the inner surface of the pipes, elbows and joints. What's notable is that there is no use of batteries or electronic devices in the entire system. Since the system can be operated manually, it can be used for years to come by just making slight adjustments. The Surya Tilak ritual is not limited to Ayodhya as various temples across India perform this ceremony.

Groups clash in West Bengal district on Ram Navami; 18 injured

BEHRAMPORE:

Eighteen people, including two minors and several police personnel, were injured and a number of shops damaged as violence erupted Wednesday evening after a Ram Navami procession went past a mosque in West Bengal's Murshidabad district.

A police team led by Murshidabad DIG Syed Waqar Raza rushed to the spot. At the time of filing report, central forces were patrolling the area. Bengal Police was yet to issue a statement on what led to the incident. Sources said police had to resort to lathicharge and fire tear gas shells to keep two warring groups from clashing. Locals claimed 20 people had been detained for questioning.

The in-charge of the local Shaktipur police station was among the injured, while several others sustained sharp cuts on arms and legs. Police said some



injuries could be due to crude bomb splinters. Some of the injured were taken to Murshidabad Medical College and Hospital for treatment. According to local sources, a few participants in the Ram Navami procession brandished swords and hurled mud pellets at the mosque, which led to the clashes. Others, however, claimed the procession was attacked unprovoked. Cops present at the spot were outnumbered and attacked, before additional forces arrived, they added. Violence had broken

out in the same zone three days back, prompting the poll panel on Monday to transfer Murshidabad DIG Shri Mukesh, and replace him with Raza. Till Tuesday, Section 144 was clamped in the area.

After the DIG's transfer, CM Mamata Banerjee had said EC would be responsible if fresh violence broke out. Reacting to Wednesday's clashes, Bengal LoP Suwendu Adhikari claimed that police had "joined" miscreants and asked Election Commission to intervene immediately.

Adanis infuse Rs 8000 crore in Ambuja, stake hits 70%

MUMBAI: Billionaire Gautam Adani and his family has infused Rs 8,339 crore into Ambuja Cements, raising their stake in the company to 70.3% from 66.7%. This marks the last tranche of the Rs 20,000-crore investment the family had planned to infuse in Ambuja Cements after buying the company from Switzerland's Holcim in 2022. Adanis had acquired about 63.2% of Ambuja Cements in 2022.

Ragpicker's daughter beats all odds, makes it to Navy

PUNE: A Maharashtra safai worker's 20-year-old daughter has beaten 400-odd Agniveer aspirants to a berth in the Indian Navy as a cadet, using adversity and her mother's "never-say-die attitude" as the wind in her sails to fulfil a long-cherished dream. Shweta Pandit, whose mother Jyoti is part of a cooperative of self-employed safai workers called SWaCH in Pune's Wanowrie, has been deputed to INS Chilka in Odisha for training before she officially wears the Navy whites as a commissioned cadet.

Given her background, Shweta's journey to success has been all about weathering the storm. At one point, this student of Sadhana Girls School in Hadapsar couldn't afford private tuition to prepare for the entrance exam. Undeterred, she turned to online tutorials. With the challenging fitness test looming, Shweta, an NCC cadet, sought her brother's help. "Both would be up at 4.30am and go for a run and other exercises," Jyoti recalled.

Shweta aced the written assessment and fitness test, only to run into a financial hurdle. She didn't have the money to buy even stationery before joining her training unit in Odisha. Worse, her waitlisted train ticket got cancelled.

"SWaCH stepped in to help with the required items while her uncle bought her an air ticket. Shweta reached her training base two days ago," her mother said.

Jyoti has been with SWaCH since 2013, going to Wanowrie for door-to-door waste collection every day. The cooperative's members are just as proud of Shweta as her mother is. "My daughter always wanted to serve her country. She would study for up to 10 hours a day alongside training for the Navy grind. She fills me with pride," Jyoti said. Shweta credits her mother with giving her the courage "to dream big". Despite her initial difficulties transitioning from Marathi to an English-medium education.

Common drugs at general stores?

NEW DELHI: Should commonly used drugs such as cough and cold medicines, antacids, and antipyretics (fever-reducing drugs) be made available at general stores in India, like in many countries abroad? A govt appointed committee tasked with creating India's OTC or over-the-counter drug policy is learnt to be considering this suggestion seriously and discussed it in a meeting held here on Monday. "Many coun-



tries, like the US, allow sale of commonly used medicines in grocery stores also. A suggestion was made by some of the experts looking into India's OTC drug policy to allow the same here also for improved

accessibility, especially in the rural areas. However, no decision has been taken yet," said a source. Over-the-counter medicines refers to drugs that are allowed to be sold without a doctor's prescription.

Countries like the USA, UK and Australia have clear cut guidelines regarding their classification, uses and regulation. In Feb, Director General of Health Services, Atul Goel, formed an expert committee to formulate India's OTC drug policy. The committee has submitted the first list of drugs that could be sold over the counter recently after which a meeting was called on Monday to discuss any potential addition or subtraction.

TMC manifesto vows to nix CAA and NRC, stall UCC

KOLKATA: Pitting "#DidirShopoth" against "Modi ki Guarantee", Trinamool Congress unveiled an election manifesto Wednesday that promises to repeal CAA, discontinue NRC and stall the implementation of UCC, if voted to office. The party's list of welfare commitments includes 10 free LPG cylinders a year to BPL families and doorstep delivery of 5kg of rice a month to every ration-card



holder. The manifesto, which comes two days before Bengal goes to polls in the first phase, speaks of allegedly significant undermining of the tenets of federalism and pluralism over the past 10 years. It says TMC, as part of

the INDIA bloc, would amend Article 155 to ensure governors are appointed in consultation with state legislatures. A mandatory three-year "cooling-off period" before retired judges can accept govt appointments or political positions is also on the to-do list. Mamata Banerjee's party has enshrined in the manifesto its opposition to BJP's 'One Nation, One Election' proposal as well.

'No ordinary election': 2 days ahead of 1st phase, BJP candidates get PM

NEW DELHI: As the campaign for the first phase ended on Wednesday, PM Narendra Modi put his weight behind BJP's candidates by highlighting their contributions, stating that they needed to win in order to realise the goal of a developed India, and expressing confidence about their prospects. In what was seen as an attempt to re-emboss his seal of approval on each candidate in the fray by describing them as a "great asset for me", Modi used his communication with them to appeal to voters not to be deterred by the heat and turn out in large numbers. He also exhorted the cadre to make a last-minute push to see the party



through. While the theme was common, the content in different regional languages was customised for each candidate. For instance, in the one to TN BJP chief K Annamalai, Modi emphasised that the BJP candidate in Coimbatore had quit IPS to join politics, as well as his effort to strengthen the organisation in Tamil Nadu. He also sought to boost Annamalai's prospects by portraying him as the likely winner and also seek-

ing to link his personal electoral fate to the larger cause of a "developed India". The PM extended similar support to head of BJP's media cell Anil Baluni, the candidate from Pauri Garhwal in Uttarakhand. "I would like to tell the people of your constituency that this is not an ordinary election. Families across India, especially the senior members, would remember the difficulties they have gone through in the 5-6 decades.

CM Patnaik to contest from Kantabanji as second assembly seat

BHUBANESWAR: Chief minister Naveen Patnaik will contest from two assembly seats this time. Apart from his usual seat of Hinjili, Naveen will also contest from the Kantabanji assembly segment under the Balangir Lok Sabha constituency in western Odisha, as he announced on Wednesday. Naveen's move is meant to counter the growing influence of the BJP in the region and is expected to have an impact on the overall political dynamics in the state. By contesting from Kantabanji, Naveen aims to boost the morale of party.

Russian strike on Ukraine's Chernigiv leaves 17 dead

KYIV: A Russian strike on the northern Ukraine region of Chernigiv has left at least 17 people dead and several injured, a local official said Wednesday, in Moscow's latest aerial assault on Ukraine. The region, which borders Belarus to the north, was occupied at the beginning. of Russia's invasion but has been spared fierce fighting for around two years since Moscow's army withdrew. At least sixty-one people, including three minors, sustained injuries during the early hours of the assault, according to Ukrainian emergency services. First responders scoured through buildings that were partially destroyed and sifted through debris in the aftermath of the incident..

Missiles, drones and warships: How Australia plans to tackle 'coercive'

NEW DELHI: Australia on Wednesday announced a significant increase in its defense budget, committing an additional A\$50.3 billion (\$32 billion) over the next decade, as it prepares for the possibility of a conflict in the Pacific involving China and the United States. The announcement was made by defence minister Richard Marles during a national press club address on Wednesday. The new funding is part of a broader A\$330 billion defense budget spanning ten years, which will see Australia's defense spending increase to 2.4% of GDP by 2034 from just over 2% today. Most of the new funding will kick in after five years, reflecting a strategic shift to prioritize long-range missiles, drones,

and warships. Marles highlighted that the optimistic assumptions that once guided post-Cold War defense planning are obsolete. "Our environment is characterized by the uncertainty and tensions of entrenched and increasing strategic competition between the United States and China," he explained. This shift marks a significant realignment of Australia's military strategy, focusing more on maritime capabilities and advanced technologies. Approximately 40% of the new funds, or up to A\$145 billion, will be allocated to the navy. This includes expanding the surface fleet and investing in the AUKUS nuclear-powered submarine program, along with the development.

Praveen Patel will make Prayagraj district beautiful and a model of development

Bharatiya Janata Party Phulpur Lok Sabha Central Election Office inaugurated BJP and Apna Dal workers loudly said that this time it will cross 400

Prayagraj: Bharatiya Janata Party Phulpur Lok Sabha Central Election Office was inaugurated in the courtyard of George Town Club. On this occasion, BJP candidate from Phulpur parliamentary constituency Praveen Patel said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is not only the best leader of the country but also of the world under whose leadership India is making waves in the world and said that Malini is the vision of Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya ji. To make Prayagraj the most beautiful city of the world and for this we will unite day and night and make Prayagraj district a development model of the world along with beauty. On this occasion, MP Kesari Devi Patel and senior party leader, former Cabinet Minister Narendra Kumar Singh Gaur said that the wave of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Bharatiya Janata Party is running all around the country and the entire country has accepted the strong leadership of the Bharatiya Janata Party Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said with a huge

majority on both the Lok Sabha seats of Prayagraj. Lotus will bloom. On this occasion, senior Prasad Pawan Srivastava and senior BJP leader Anurag Sant



said that we will bloom lotus on all three seats and give them to PM Modi.

On this occasion, Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani said that the Bharatiya Janata Party is fighting the elections for a developed, self-reliant and strong India and the Congress, SP and its allies are fighting the

elections only to promote the divisive forces of their family and the country. The workers of Bharatiya Janata Party have given up and have taken a pledge that we

Mother India for the future of the country in this Lok Sabha elections. Phulpur Lok Sabha convenor and MLA Guru Prasad Maurya further said that today un-

maximum lead.

Presiding over the program, Metropolitan President Rajendra Mishra said that the fight of the Bharatiya Janata Party has been the fight of the people of the country and the opposition leaders SP and Congress have already accepted defeat and are fighting for their existence. And Ganga Par District President Kavita Patel said that the Bharatiya Janata Party will break the record of both the Lok Sabha seats of Prayagraj in its last election contest and will win with a huge majority. On this occasion, Apna Dal leader former MP Nagendra Singh Patel said that every worker of Apna Dal will stand shoulder to shoulder with BJP and bloom on the Phulpur, Allahabad and Kaushambi Lok Sabha seats of Prayagraj. Apart from this, former MLA Prabhat Shankar Pandey, Regional General Secretary Santosh Singh Patel, Regional Vice President Awadhesh Chandra Gupta, Director Uttar Pradesh Co-operative Bank Upendra Singh, Vibhuti Narayan Singh, Ashwani Dubey, Anita Tripathi Shashi

Varshney, Vikram Singh Patel, Ashwani Patel expressed their views. Media in-charge Rajesh Kesarwani told that before this, senior leaders of Bharatiya Janata Party offered prayers at the inauguration of the office and paid tribute to Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay and Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee by offering flowers on their paintings. Apart from this, regarding the nomination of candidates in the party office. A meeting of the steering committee was held regarding other programs. Regional General Secretary Kamlesh Kumar Gautam and Sanjay Gupta conducted the program and thanks were given by Anuj Parihar. On this occasion, Rajesh Kesarwani, Ramesh Pasi, Varun Kesarwani, Vivek Mishra Devesh Singh, Rajesh Singh, Raghavendra Singh Kushwaha, Anand Sudarshan Vaish, Rajesh Gond, Anand Jaiswal, Rakesh Bharti, Prashant Shukla, and all our groups and Indians from across Prayagraj metropolitan Ganga Janata Party workers and officials and thousands of supporters were present.

Archita, Jagruti, Saksham, Ragini, Akshat, Eklavya and Sayesha passed

Prayagraj: The monthly color belt examination was organized on Wednesday in the courtyard of Pandit Ramchandra Mishra Memorial Public School, Jhalwa. 170 players from Vishnu Bhagwan Public School, Sai Dham Taekwondo Academy, Genius Public School participated in this examination. Displaying her beautiful technical art, Archita Tripathi got first position in white belt, Jagruti Vishwakarma yellow belt, Saksham Kumar green belt, Ragini Pandey green one belt, Akshat Kumar Chaturvedi blue belt, Eklavya Sharma blue one belt and Sayesha Gupta red belt. Did. The chief examiners were Kaushambi Taekwondo Association Secretary Kamesh Sharma, President Anurag Singh, Ashish Arya, Akash Soni, Rajesh Bhagat, Deepak Kumar. The program was conducted by coach Deepak Kumar. The names of the participants who were successful in their respective belts are as follows.

White Belt- Archita Tripathi, Atharva Tripathi, Priya Gupta, Vinayak Dwivedi, Kiara Tiwari, Nishtha Dutt, Agrima Gaur, Angel Yadav, Sara Mishra Swastik Shree, Kavya

Srivastava, Samridhhi, Kridaya Tiwari, Rehanshi Tiwari.

Yellow Belt- Aarav Kumar, Aadya Srivastava, Aaradhya Chandra, Nirbhay Raghuvanshi, Pranavi Sharma, Arpit Singh Solanki, Adhyayan Singh, Arna Pal, Aakhya Pal, Chandni Pal, Michelle Rawat, Jagruti Vishwakarma, Abhijeet Kumar, Vedant Singh.

Green Belt- Bhavya Jaiswal, Mrigank Singh, Aparajita Shukla, Arya Divyanshi Singh, Arya Raghuvanshi, Ritvik Agrahari, Vanjul Mani Tripathi, Rani Singh, Saksham Kumar, Viraj Patel, Pawan Rai, Palak Rai, Ashi Patel, Ansh Kumar, Naman, Sarvang. Sohni, Aryan Sonkar, Siddhi Sonkar, Aastha Yadav.

Hari Ek Belt- Ragini Pandey, Saanvi Pathak, Aina Krishna Singh, Anaisa Prasad, Reyansh Kumar Prasad, Aviral Arpan, Dakshit Sagar, Siddhi Vinayak Singh, Samar Pratap Yadav, Priyamvada Singh, Anika Jain.

Agrima Arya, Aaron Shawn Frederick, Kanishka Kaithal, Rinki, Eklavya Sharma in blue belt.

Blue One Belt- Alok Tiwari, Yangad, Aasthasree, Rashesh Singh.

Body of a one-and- a half year old girl sleeping on a cot with her mother found in bushes

PRAYAGRAJ: The body of a one-and- a half year old girl, who was sleeping on a cot with her mother, was found in the bushes 200 meters away in Mandar village under Handia police station area here on Wednesday. As soon as the information was received, police officers reached the spot. The forensic team also reached the spot and collected evidence. The police have registered case against unidentified and started investigation. The body has been sent for post-mortem to find out the exact cause of death.

Mahendra Musahar, resident of Mandar village, works as a labourer. Last night he had gone to the nearby village to thresh wheat. At home, his wife Rani slept on the cot at night with their one and a half year old daughter Ranjana. When she woke up at dawn, her daughter was not on the cot. After this she started searching for her. Even after a long time, when the girl was not found, she went to the nearby village to search and informed her husband.

Both husband and wife started searching frantically but failed to trace her out. After searching for a long time, both of them started screaming after seeing the dead body of the girl amidst the bushes in a pit about 200 meters away. The village people also reached the spot. After getting the information, apart from ACP Handia Pankaj Lavania, Kotwali Handia BK Gautam reached with the force and started investigation. The forensic team also reached the spot and collected evidence.

Even after a long investigation, the reasons for the incident could not be ascertained. No injury marks were found on the girl's body. It is suspected that she was murdered by strangulation. Police have sent the body for post-mortem, so that the cause of death can be clearly known. Police have registered a case against unidentified.

PM Modi is turning his back on scams, scams, corruption and inflation: Pramod Tiwari

Pratapgarh: Lalganj, Deputy Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Pramod Tiwari has said that even at the time of general elections, Modi government is shying away from accountability among the public regarding corruption, scams and inflation during its tenure. He said that Modi government has made the economic situation of the country from bad to worse. Deputy Leader of Opposition Pramod Tiwari said that there has been a worrying decline of fourteen paise in the rupee against the dollar. At the same time, due to the PM's lack of political will in the trade sector on the issue of China, the growth of China's economy at an annual rate of 5.3 percent in the recent first quarter is teasing the present government. Deputy leader of opposition Pramod Tiwari said that BJP and its Prime Minister are scared that the scam of electoral bonds worth thousands of crores has come to light among the public. He said that by conducting raids by CBI, ED and Income Tax, BJP has become unmasked

across the country for running an extortion racket. On Wednesday, while meeting a group of party workers at Manipur, Lalganj, Naya Ka Purva, Raniganj Kaithaula etc. in Rampur Khas assembly constituency, Deputy Leader of Opposition Pramod Tiwari said that at this time, instead of giving the account of the last ten years to the public, the Modi government is She is just venting her irritation on the burning national issues raised by the opposition. He told the workers that in ten years, Prime Minister Modi has brought the country to the brink of failure in the fields of inflation, unemployment and national security. He said that in such a situation, the public has not only lost confidence in the BJP and its Prime Minister but has also started showing anger and rage among them.

Congress Rajya Sabha member Pramod Tiwari said that there was no hearing of farmers anywhere in this government. He raised the question that leave alone MSP, today farmers have to pay seven percent interest



even on Kisan Credit Card. He said that BJP has made only false and hollow promises in the manifesto. At the same time, Congress' national star campaigner Pramod Tiwari attacked the Modi government for excessive misuse of constitutional institutions and said that the government has adopted the biggest undemocratic tactic by using these institutions to attack

the federal structure. Before this, Deputy Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Pramod Tiwari participated in the program organized on the festival of Shri Ram Navami at Sangramgarh ancestral temple. He said that the national festival of Shri Ram Navami inspires us to dedicate Maryada Purushottam to the welfare of the people for the welfare of Lord Shri Ram's

people. In Purwara, Rajya Sabha member Pramod Tiwari recently consoled the family members of Awadhesh Saroj over the death of his wife Tadhin and daughter Kajal in a road accident. Shri Tiwari also assured all possible help to the victim's family on behalf of himself and MLA Mona. Advocates honored Deputy Leader of Opposition Pramod Tiwari on the

festival of Shri Ram Navami in conjunction with Anil Tripathi Mahesh, President of Joint Advocates Association, Manipur, Diwani Ward, and Pt. Ramsevak Tripathi, former General Secretary of High Court Avadh Bar Association. While attending the Shrimad Bhagwat Katha Gyan Yagya organized in association with former principal Mata Prasad Pandey in Kaudiadih, Rajya Sabha member Pramod Tiwari and social worker Ramlakhani Jaiswal in Lalganj and Jitlal Kesarwani in Naya Ka Purva, he paid obeisance to Lord Dwarkadish. Rajya Sabha member Pramod Tiwari was also seen welcomed in the camp office and various markets. On this occasion, KD Mishra, Bhagwati Prasad Tiwari, Gyan Prakash Shukla, Santosh Dwivedi, Amit Singh Pankaj, Ashok Singh Bablu, Vikas Mishra, Chhotalal Saroj, Pappu Tiwari, Dadan Singh, Murlidhar Tiwari, Geeta Singh, Devi Prasad Mishra, Ramji Jaiswal, Pintu. Mishra, Dinkar Pandey, Monu Pandey etc.

It is the duty and duty of the next generation of Sanatan Dharma to keep the temples and idols of Sanatan Dharma safe

Prayagraj: Shri Nav Samvatsar Manas Samiti, in his inspired blessings in the 52nd Shri Ram Katha of the committee organized in the premises of Maa Kalyani Devi Temple, said that the saints, mahatmas and Sanatani warriors of the old generation have struggled continuously for almost 500 years to establish Sanatan Dharma. Kept the temples, religious places and religious followers safe. By constructing a divine and grand temple of Ram Lalla in Ayodhya and consecrating the divine idol of Lord Ram Lalla there on 22nd January, with the support of Sanatani people across the country and the world, the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi

ji witnessed the presence of lakhs of Sanatani saints, Mahatmas and devotees. By sacrificing my life, the story of Shri Ram was kept alive and strengthened forever. In his blessings, Pujya Shankaracharya said that now it is the duty and duty of the next generation to protect the Sanatani temples and idols of the world including Shri Ram Temple.

Today, on the Prakatya Utsav of Lord Shri Ram, Pujya Vyas Dr. Aniruddh Ji Maharaj said that Vipra Dhenu Sur Sant Hit Lean Manuj Avtaar is the basic reason for God's incar-



nation. Those who should have intellectual awakening and who should constantly look after the interest of the nation and it is the responsi-

bility of a saint to think about the welfare of the entire society. Shri Nav Samvatsar Manas Samiti, convenor of Kalyani Devi and president

of Maa Kalyani Devi Temple, Pandit Sushil Kumar Pathak laid wreath on Vyas Gaddi. He took blessings and said that today Maa Kalyani Devi Ji was grandly decorated in the form of Siddhidatri and daily new worship and worship Sat Chandi Mahayagya was performed and further he participated in the nine-day Shri Ram Katha organized in the temple of Shri Nav Samvatsar Manav Samiti and Maa Kalyani Devi. And blessed the people of the organization engaged in the arrangements of the fair and the District Administration, Police

Administration, Municipal Corporation Administration, Water Institute Administration, Electricity, Decoration and those who made arrangements for the tent and Councilor Neeraj Tandon OP Dwivedi Sahil Arora for extending their support. Expressed gratitude. In today's story, Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani and Uttar Pradesh Cooperative Bank Director Upendra Singh had darshan of Maa Kalyani and heard Ram Katha. The story was conducted by spokesperson Omkar Nath Tripathi. Anil Pathak, Krishna Kumar Pathak, Rajesh Kesarwani, Hari Krishna Yadav, and all the committee officials, workers and devotees were prominent in the story.

28-year-old cyclist killed after being crushed by a tractor driver Kaundhiyara

PRAYAGRAJ: A 28-year-old cyclist was killed after he was crushed by a tractor driver near Lotad village under Kaundhiyara police station area here on Wednesday. After the accident the tractor driver managed to escape from the spot. Report said that a high-speed tractor moving in Khujli crushed the cyclist Radhika Prasad traveling from the front. While passers-by and local people, with the help of 108 ambulance, sent the injured youth to the hospital for treatment. Some people present at the spot also informed the family members of the youth who was seriously injured in the accident. After getting information about the incident, Lalchand Sahu, brother of the seriously injured youth, who reached CHC Jasra, was told that after reaching the hospital, by the doctors that his brother had died in the accident and the information of which was given to the police.

Lalchand Sahu has given a complaint to the police. In which it is told that the tractor with which his younger brother was met with an accident tractor met was being driven by the younger brother of village head Khuzhi Ashish Kumar Pal and after causing the accident, he fled from the spot with the tractor. He informed the police that his brother Radhika Prasad was married eight months ago. Preparations were going on at home to bring Radhika's Gauna on April 18th, but destiny had something else.

Ram Navami celebrated with great religious fervour in Prayagraj

PRAYAGRAJ: Ram Navami was celebrated with great religious fervour in Sangam city here on Wednesday. A sea of devotees lined up outside the temples of Alop Devi, Kalyani and Lalita Devi to pay obeisance since morning. On the occasion, a shobha yatra was also taken out from Ram Mandir Johnstanganj which after passing through different parts of the city terminated at Zero road.

Apart from the daily shringaar, havan and poornaahuti were also performed in different temples where visitors gathered in large numbers to seek the darshan of Lord Rama.

It may be pointed out here that the festival of Ram Navami is the celebration of birthday of the Hindu God, Shree Ram who was the seventh incarnation of Lord Vishnu and born in Ayodha.

Rama Navami is celebrated on the ninth day of Hindu month of Chaitra. Ram Navami marked the end of nine day long festival called

special prayers, took religious processions and the special readings of Ramayana were also held, said a prominent priest Pandit Kailash

Ram Navami vrata was considered to be one of the five most important vratas in the ancient times.

According to the an-

in the material world and achieved salvation at the same time, he added. On the occasion, devotees called nine small laces at their houses and offered them sweets and fruits and also worshiped them. Besides, cultural programme were also organized at different places.

Meanwhile, the members of Akhil Bhartiya Samajik Samarsata Abhiyan celebrated Ramnavmi at a temple located at High Court with great gaiety and enthusiasm. They also let off fire crackers and distributed sweets amongst the people there. The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) leader Pawan Srivastava said the character of lord Rama had been supposed to be the ideal one and He dwelt in the heart of all the Indian. He further appealed the people to tread the path shown by Lord Ram.



Chaitra Navratri or Vasanta Navratri.

On this auspicious day devotees observed fasting, visited temples to offer spe-

Tripathi. Explaining the importance of fasting on Ram Navami he said that a Ram devotee kept a strict fast on Ram Navami, because the

ancient religious texts, it is imperative for every devotee to observe the Ram Navami vrat, as it was the only easy mean of gaining happiness

Shakti has always been respected and worshiped in India



Prayagraj: Like every year, this year also councilor Neeraj Gupta bid farewell to 108 girls by worshipping them, offering Mahavar and feeding them 11 types of gifts, Kheer Puri. On the said occasion, all the goddess-like girls blessed the devotees so that happiness, peace and prosperity reside in all the families and took leave with the hope and desire of meeting them again after one

year. At the beginning of the programme, Councilor Neeraj Gupta, while addressing all the people present, said that Shakti has always been worshiped in India, that is why there has always been a war of attrition and India has become successful, today the people and government of India have carried within themselves the same values. It is moving forward to give

India the top position in the world. On the said occasion, many dignitaries including BJP leader Kavita Yadav Tripathi, former councilor Kanhaiyalal Gupta, former councilor Ruchi Gupta, councilor Pawan Srivastava, Vinod Sonkar, Vineet Kesarwani, Vishal Agrahari Gaurish Ahuja, Radha Rani Manju Gupta Sheela Kesarwani, Seema Kesarwani were present.

A grand procession of Lord Ram was taken out under the auspices of Rajapur Trade Board

Prayagraj: On the auspicious occasion of Ram Navami in Rajapur, a grand procession of Lord Ram Laxman Bharat Shatrughan was taken out by Rajapur Business Board from Rajapur traffic intersection to Ashok Nagar. During this time, Sumit Mishra, Secretary of Pujari Manav Seva Nature Conservation Society, gave a warm welcome to Lord Ram's procession next to Rajapur outpost with garlands and aarti. K.P.Mishra Manoj, Secretary of the Trade Board, said in his address that this Shobha Yatra is a matter of every year, this year too, Sanatan Dharma is being



taken forward in this way, the feeling of love and harmony should be awakened within the people and advised to follow the example of God. During the Shobha Yatra, many officials of the trade association advised Workers were present. Trade Board President Sanjay Gupta, Sanjeev Kumar Gupta, Ramchandra Gupta, Secretary K.P. Mishra (Manoj), Uttam Kesarwani, Councilor Ahmed Ali, Mohit Gupta, Praveen Bharti, Sujit Kushwaha, Sunil Kesarwani, Ranjit Gupta, Krishna Kesarwani, Shivang Banodha, Aishwarya Gupta, Arunesh Kumar, Sashank, Chironji Lal, Atul Kumar Gupta, Pratik Kesarwani, Manish Kumar Gupta, Surendra Kesarwani along with K.P. Singh was present. Rana Chawla, Arun Kesarwani Sardar Pritam Singh from Civil Line Trade Board were present.

Director, Operations & Business Development, DFCCIL inspects New Manauri Station to envision new digital age Station Master Room and connect business

Prayagraj: Shobhit Bhatnagar inspected Prayagraj East Unit from New Karchana to New Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Station along with General Manager, North Central Railway on 16.04.24 during his two day inspection program of EDFC. Apart from this, he also inspected New Manauri station of Prayagraj (West) during his inspection program on 17.04.24. He envisioned digitization of the Station Master Room and providing world class system in the room for safe, smooth and fast movement of trains on DFC Railways.

He examined all the functions available on the video panel of the Station Master, along with the auxiliary transformer supply. He also checked the availability of signaling devices for opening of relay hut room, release of crank handle key etc. He also

checked the emergency counters, safety devices showing all indications available on the Station Master's video panel and availability of auxiliary transformer supplies. Took stock of operations showing indications of opening relay hut room, crank handle key etc.

Mr. Shobhit Bhatnagar, Director (Operations & Business Development) is a 1992 batch Indian Railway Traffic Service officer with wide experience in Information Technology, Commercial and Operations. Prior to this he has served as GGM (Commercial & Operations), Chief Freight Transport Manager (CFTM) in CONCOR as well as Chief Passenger Transport Manager (CPTM) in North Western Railways. He also served as CFTM North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur. He has been Deputy Chief Operations Manager (DCOM) Goods

Operations Information System (FOIS) in Northern Railway and Director, Computerization and Informatization System (CRIS) in Railway Board.

sheds at all the stations of the Dedicated Freight Corridor which will attract more cargo businesses and will prove to be a boon in helping small businesses and

built by customers at their own cost for railway cargo services at the premises of its plant or manufacturing unit. Centralization, production units to link customer

vendors of food grains, fertilizers, cement and parcel services in Kaushambi, Prayagraj Western region and indirectly Will be helpful for the local people. It is also envisaged to increase parcel traffic and military traffic due to good road connectivity with Prayagraj Air Base.

In this regard, instructions were given to all concerned stakeholders to take the matter forward expeditiously. During the inspection, Mannu Prakash Dubey, Additional General Manager Operations and Business Development, Prayagraj, Akhilesh Kumar, Deputy Chief General Manager, Engineering, Ashok Kumar Sinha, Manager Operations, Nitin Mohindru Assistant Manager Operations, Akhilesh Kumar, Senior Executive Operations, and Section Incharge Anil Kumar. Officers from various departments of DFCCIL including Pandey were present.



Mr. Shobhit Bhatnagar was part of the team that developed the prototype of FOIS in 1999-2000 where he programmed the prototype application. During the inspection he emphasized that there should be goods

farmers to transport their material in shorter period. Moving from construction phase to operation phase in DFCCIL, the visit focussed more on construction of GCT terminals and facilitating privately owned sidings

functions with the railway system etc. were discussed. He informed that the land available in New Manauri can be converted for Gati Shakti Cargo Terminal (GCT), which will provide better connectivity to

Daughters are the basis of happiness, prosperity and progress: Nandi

Minister Nandi and former mayor performed Kanya Puja with havan-puja

He washed the feet of the girls and blessed them

Prayagraj: Uttar Pradesh Government's Industrial Development Minister Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi and former Mayor Abhilasha Gupta Nandi completed the nine-day unbroken fast of Adi Shakti Maa Durga at their residence in Bahadurganj on the occasion of Mahanavami of Chaitra Navratri on Wednesday and praised Maa Durga with their family. Performed havan-puja. Along with the havan puja, while doing kanya puja, the girls were washed their feet and fed with food prasad and received their blessings.

Minister Nandi and the former mayor washed the feet of virgin girls with water from a pot in a brass vessel. Applied color on his feet. He received blessings by applying roli, sandalwood, curd, akshat tilak on his forehead and wearing chunri and giving gifts and dakshina. Per-



formed Aarti and served food with his own hands. Minister Nandi said that daughters are the basis of happiness, prosperity and progress. His worship is the best worship. Minister Nandi said that Navratri is the festival of worship of Adishakti, who is almighty and omnipresent. Navratri

is dedicated to this mother of the world and in Indian culture, virgin girls are considered to be the embodiment of goddesses. Minister Nandi said that in today's time, daughters are not behind sons in any sense and in any field. Making remarkable achievements in every

field. Therefore, in today's time, there is a need to empower and prosper daughters and encourage them to move forward. For which our government is committed. Minister Nandi said that women empowerment is very important for any country, state or society.

Ramotsav was celebrated with great pomp on the sacred occasion of Ram Navami

Prayagraj: Ramotsav was celebrated with great pomp on the sacred occasion of Ram Navami at Har-Har Mahadev Temple, Kanpur GT Road, Mundera. Pandit Vinay Tripathi Golu worshiped the Lord with Vedic mantras in the presence of Ramprakash Kesarbani. Later, renowned bhajan singers Manoj Gupta, Preeta Bajpai and Balaji's servants won the hearts of the audience by singing many bhajans of Lord Shri Ram. Anmol Kushwaha on harmonium, Rakesh Pandey on kesio, Anuj on dholak in the beautiful singing of Rinku Prasad Morya and Vishal Kushwaha. Rajesh Kesarwani on Manjira and Navratna Saxena on cymbals accompanied. In the program organized in coordination with Sumer Singh and Vijay Dixit, Temple Committee Chairman Rahul Singh and Manager Sunder Lal Yadav welcomed all the artists and guests with garlands. Hriday Narayan Pandey Many devotees like Shambhunath Srivastava, Upendra Kumar Pandey etc. along with enjoying the program made the atmosphere happy with slogans of Jai Shri Ram.

Gave new life to the passenger, Inspector General/Railway Protection Force honored the soldier

Prayagraj: Assistant Sub Inspector Sanjay Kumar Rawat, posted at RPF Post Prayagraj, was awarded by Inspector General cum Principal Chief Security Commissioner/Railway Protection Force/North Central Railway Shri Amiya Nandan Sinha for saving the life of the passenger. On 14.04.2024, when train number 15634 arrived at platform number 1 at Prayagraj station at 11.18 am, a passenger Sajjan Singh Shekhawat, aged 63 years, traveling in coach number 1 seat number 63 of the said train, passenger PNR no. 6732048009 Got down on the platform to get food, meanwhile the train left for the destination at 11.35. While boarding the moving train, the said passenger went out of control and hung between the train and the platform, which was noticed by Assistant Sub Inspector Sanjay Kumar Rawat and he quickly and wisely risked his life to save

the life of the passenger. Dalkar bravely grabbed the hand of the passenger who was between the train and the platform and pulled him onto the

platform and cash reward by Shri Amiya Nandan Sinha, Inspector General cum Principal Chief Security Commissioner/Railway Protection Force/



platform, thereby saving the passenger's life. This effort of RPF was greatly appreciated by the passenger who saved his life and said that he will be grateful to the Railway Protection Force for this work throughout his life.

For this courageous act done by Assistant Sub Inspector Sanjay Kumar Rawat, he was given a

North Central Railway. From time to time, citations/rewards are given by the Inspector General cum Principal Chief Security Commissioner/Railway Protection Force/North Central Railway to encourage the force members and boost their morale and such actions are also sent to the Railway Board.

Editorial

Iran causing a high number of fatalities

Douglas London, a former senior CIA officer who has specialised in counterterrorism and Central Asia said, "The Central Asian element of ISIS had always targeted Russia." He added, "I don't think there is shock and surprise in Russian intelligence that there was an issue. It just simply wasn't sufficiently high on their agenda."

It is unclear as to why the group chose this moment to strike when Russia had intervened in the Syrian civil in 2015, supporting President Bashar al-Assad against ISIS. Maybe they felt that the terrorist threat emanating from Central Asia had become a blind spot as Russia was focused on Ukraine.

A statement from the White House condemning the attack described the group as a "common terrorist enemy that must be defeated everywhere".

"I express my deep, sincere condolences to all those who lost their loved ones," President Putin said in an address to the nation on Saturday. "The whole country and our entire people are grieving with you." He vowed to punish those behind the "barbaric terrorist attack".

saying four gunmen trying to flee to Ukraine had been "found and detained". In his television address, the Russian president further said, "terrorists, murderers, non-humans ... have only one unenviable fate: retribution and oblivion." Russian television showed security services interrogating four bloodied men, who spoke Russian with an accent, on a road in the Western Bryansk region, which borders both Ukraine and Belarus. "They tried to escape and were travelling towards Ukraine, where, according to preliminary data, a window was prepared for them on the Ukrainian side to cross the state border," said President Putin.

Sunday was observed as a day of national mourning and he promised, "All the perpetrators, organisers and those who ordered this crime will be justly and inevitably punished."

Olga Skabeyeva, a prominent state television host, claimed on Telegram that Ukrainian military intelligence had recruited assailants "who would look like ISIS. But this is no ISIS". President Putin did not name the Islamist terror group during his public statements on the attack, while directly accusing the "Ukrainian side" of involvement. Kyiv has strongly denied any connection with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in his evening address on 23 March accusing Putin of trying to shift the blame onto them. "What happened yesterday in Moscow is obvious," he said.

"Putin and the other scum are just trying to blame it on someone else." The US Embassy in Russia had warned on 7 March that "extremists have imminent plans to target large gatherings in Moscow, to include concerts", advising caution. Just three days earlier, President Putin had publicly dismissed a US warning of an "imminent" attack in Moscow as propaganda designed to scare Russian citizens. Speaking to FSB Chiefs he had called it a "provocative" statement and "outright blackmail ... to intimidate and destabilise our society".

The Russian Ambassador to the US Anatoly Antonov told the TASS news agency on Saturday that the US did not pass any specific information through the Russian Embassy in Washington about preparations for the attack. "Nothing was passed. No concrete information, nothing was transferred to us," he said.

The US National Security Council spokeswoman Adrienne Watson said, "There was no Ukrainian involvement whatsoever" while Russia's Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova .



Happiness Report was a publication of the Sustainable Development

Happiness surveys often rely on self-reported data, they may be influenced by cultural factors, personal biases, and momentary emotions. In contrast, objective measures such as GDP per capita, human development indices, and inequality metrics offer more concrete and quantifiable indicators of a country's overall well-being. By examining factors like income distribution, access to healthcare and education, and environmental sustainability, these methods provide a more comprehensive understanding of the factors that contribute to citizens' quality of life. Additionally, objective measures are less susceptible to fluctuations and can provide policymakers with reliable data to assess long-term trends and formulate effective policies to address societal challenges.

In conclusion, while happiness surveys might sometimes feel as accurate as trying to forecast the weather with a broken umbrella, they do serve a purpose in highlighting the whimsical nature of human contentment. Perhaps, as we navigate the maze of statistics and subjective feelings, we can take solace in the fact that happiness, much like the perfect cup of coffee or the quest for the ultimate meme, is a journey rather than a final destination. So,



let's raise a toast to the quirks of happiness surveys, the absurdity of statistical rankings, and the delightful chaos of being human. After all, if laughter is the best medicine, then a good chuckle about happiness rankings might just be the cure for our existential woes.

Until 2023, the World Happiness Report was a publication of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, a global initiative of the United Nations, and from 2024 onwards, it is a publication of the Wellbeing Research Centre at the University of Oxford. At first glance, it looks like the work of a genius—a report compiled after in-depth research and collated by the world's most esteemed institutions.

However, once you start noticing the details, their inaccuracies and biases inadvertently start jumping

at you like a bunch of Bernie Sanders fans squeaking about wealth redistribution at a corporate dinner. Our first stop on this merry-go-round of analysis is the cultural carnival of the survey questions. Picture this: a questionnaire designed with all the cultural sensitivity of a bull in a china shop, asking respondents if they smiled or laughed yesterday as if happiness were a universal language spoken with a grin. It's as if the report believes the entire world shares the same sense of humour as a dad joke enthusiast at an open mic night. Job security? Income inequality? Access to education and healthcare? Who needs those when you can simply ask if someone had a good laugh yesterday? Speaking from personal experience, I am not sure about yesterday, but I did laugh a lot today, and that was when I looked at the World

Happiness Report 2024.

Another flaw that the report indulges in is interpreting "aspirations" as unhappiness. Individuals from developing countries might be a lot more aspirational or ambitious; it does not necessarily make them unhappy with their lives. In fact, the opposite can still be argued. Someone who draws meaning from their everyday struggle, one who wants to turn their start-up into a billion-dollar venture, might be extremely content with their life, wishing to take it to another level. Imagine hustling day and night, dreaming of a better future, only to be termed "depressed" by some reports that mistake ambition for anguish and growth for gloom. This year's World Happiness Report isn't the only one under scrutiny; the entire notion of happiness surveys seems flawed as it effectively ends up conveying nothing. Take the UN report averaging self-reported happiness scores from 2014 to 2016, for example. It claims that the happiest countries on Earth that year were, in order, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Switzerland, Finland, the Netherlands, Canada, New Zealand, and, tied for ninth, Australia and Sweden. It's like trying to rank the world's best pizza toppings; everyone has their own opinion, and nobody can

agree on the supreme winner. Also, imagine claiming that any two countries are exactly equal in happiness. In a Pew survey conducted in 2014 across 43 countries, Mexico, Israel, and Venezuela emerged as the unlikely champions, securing the top three spots, while the US made it into the top 10, barely beating Vietnam and Colombia. If that is not confusing enough, here are the countries that scored better than Japan: Argentina, Peru, Malaysia, Pakistan, South Africa, and Nicaragua. If any survey ranks Pakistan higher than Japan in happiness, then we might.

as well start measuring happiness through tarot cards instead of surveys. These surveys mostly rely on subjective self-reporting, overlooking cultural nuances in the process. In Japan, for example, there exists a cultural reluctance to boast about one's good fortune, while in Scandinavia, there's an overwhelming societal expectation to proclaim one's happiness to the world. Coming back to the World Happiness Report 2024, India is ranked 126th out of 143 nations. It is not disputable that India is a third-world country with very low per capita income and miles to achieve in alleviating poverty, infant mortality, women's safety issues.

As China had risen, its ambitions also soared

As China had risen, its ambitions also soared, with all-round assertive.

behaviour across the neighbourhood and beyond. Taiwan was at the forefront of bearing Beijing's brunt with live missile fire exercises across the Straits during its first elections in 1996. Intimidating military responses were also seen subsequently with "Dongshan" exercises, crossing the median line across the Straits, flying thousands of sorties with multi-role fighters and bombers, circumventing the island with aircraft carriers, or threatening to blockade the Straits. None of these deterred the Taiwan electorate. Beijing also wooed Taiwan's political elite and the chambers of commerce with lucrative deals in the Chinese market. On April 29, 2005, former

Vice President and KMT Chairman Lien Chan visited China and met with CCP General Secretary Hu Jintao. A decade later, Xi Jinping and Ma Ying-jeao, the leaders of two political parties, the CCP and KMT, met in Singapore on November 7, 2015. Both awkwardly greeted each other as 'Mr Xi' and 'Mr Ma', jettisoning their official titles! Former President Ma Ying-jeao recently visited China in March 2023, where he said, "We are all Chinese." Both the CCP and KMT cobbled up the 1992 consensus, which the DPP has rejected. Beijing also proposed an 'Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement' but criticised other countries' free trade deals with Taiwan. However, a vigilant Sun Flower Movement curtailed

any under-the-table deals with Beijing. China's penchant to weaponise trade, investment, and tourism with Taiwan, as with other countries, was stoutly resisted by the Taiwanese youth. Thirdly, the Taiwan elections are a test case for Beijing in pushing its "one country, two systems" policy, first suggested in the 1970s for Taiwan but eventually applied to Hong Kong and Macao, even though the people in these former colonies were never consulted about their future setup. China implemented the National Security Law in June 2021 and revamped its provisions to intensify "one country" rather than the "two systems" that it promised. Thousands were incarcerated with no proper trial. Hong Kong candidates for public posts.

Russia as the guardian and promoter of a multipolar world

Furthermore, the election outcomes may encourage Putin to escalate military engagements.

notably through the second mass mobilisation of reservist forces for operations in Ukraine. The Putin regime during this tenure can be increasingly seen as pivoting towards a strategy that emphasises the assertion of a Slavic Russian identity alongside the promotion of Russian cultural superiority within its sphere of influence. This strategic orientation seeks not merely to reaffirm Russia's historical and cultural legacy but also aims to reinforce its status as the predominant power, thereby cementing its hegemony in the face of Western encroachments and influence. Integral to understanding this dynamic is the ideological framework influenced by thinkers like Aleksandr Dugin, whose notions of a Russian cultural revival play a pivotal role.

Dugin, a prominent figure in Russian intellectual circles and often touted as Putin's ideological guide, advocates for a renaissance of Russian cultural and spiritual values as a foundation for national policy and geopolitical strategy. His philosophy, often encapsulated in the concept of Eurasianism, posits Russia as a civilisational state that transcends the traditional nation-state model, characterised by its unique Slavic identity and

Orthodox heritage. This conceptualisation envisions Russia as the guardian and promoter of a multipolar world order, in which its cultural and moral values stand in stark contrast to the perceived materialism and moral relativism of the West. Under Putin's leadership, there is a visible alignment with Dugin's ideas, as evidenced by the regime's efforts to promote Russian language, history, and cultural symbols throughout the region. The emphasis on Slavic brotherhood and the spiritual bonds that unite the Russian people with their neighbours in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus serves not only as a tool of soft power but also as a means of constructing a coherent identity narrative that can counterbalance Western cultural hegemony.

The pursuit of this strategy involves a multifaceted approach, including the support of Russian-speaking communities abroad.

the promotion of Russian Orthodox Christianity as a unifying spiritual force, and the leveraging of cultural institutions and media to disseminate a narrative that highlights Russia's role as the defender of traditional values and a bulwark against the encroachment of globalist influences. By championing this revival of Russian cultural dominance, Putin's regime endeavours to solidify its regional influence,

thereby reinforcing its position as a central actor in the reshaping of the global geopolitical order in accordance with Dugin's vision of a multipolar world rooted in distinct, civilisation-specific values and norms. A significant element of Putin's geopolitical strategy can include efforts to undermine the bipolarity dominated by the US and its allies, shifting the narrative towards multipolarity, particularly in military terms. This entails forging stronger ties with countries like India and China, enhancing economic and military cooperation, and countering the effects of Western sanctions and diplomatic isolation. Such a strategy not only diversifies Russia's strategic options but also challenges the so-called unipolar dominance of the West, advocating for a more equitable global power distribution, which other global south countries like Brazil and South Africa will welcome. Despite these ambitious geopolitical initiatives, Putin faces considerable domestic challenges, including managing elite power dynamics within Russia and mitigating the economic impacts of his policies. Selecting a successor represents a delicate endeavour that necessitates navigating various interests and factions within the Russian political landscape. Additionally, the Russian economy, burdened by sanctions and military.

Popular perceptions have lost hope

Internal conflicts in their governments. Popular perceptions have lost hope in them. The total absence of LDP from governments since 1955 has been four years over the two breaks.

The LDP functions as a single dominant party and has the ability to grasp power through the manoeuvres of its factions, working strongly with local interests. At present, the Kishida government is challenged by scandals, mainly embroiling the largest Abe faction.

Kishida's approval rating has been under 30 per cent this year, the lowest for a

Japanese government for so many months in a row, for the first time in a decade. Compared to the long-term popular Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and even his successor, Yoshihide Suga, Kishida's popularity is the lowest. Kishida is pursuing political reform within his own party, creating a new cabinet without the influence of the Abe faction, nudging senior LDP leaders out of the reckoning, and trying to create a more reformed LDP. He emphasises the economic recovery, higher salaries for blue-collar workers, and record-

breaking scores on the Tokyo Stock Exchange as gains of his administration. The expectation is that Kishida could bring the economy out of persistent deflation, which 15 prime ministers before him have failed to do. Besides the effort for economic management, Kishida hopes to score popularity due to his effort to reduce the value of LDP factions by dissolving them, beginning with his own. This is partly because Kishida was at the political mercy of these factions to come to power and sustain it. However, the improved eco-

nomical situation and his efforts at political reform do not match up, and his popularity continues to remain low as a reluctant reformer. The Yomiuri Shimbun, in a poll, said that the LDP's general support across the country is 60 per cent, which has declined by about 20 per cent since 2022. The LDP membership has decreased by 3 per cent. LDP supporters are exasperated by the string of scandals and perceive a lack of leadership within the party. LDP MPs will face challenges in their constituencies, particularly if institutionalised.

MVA secures Maharashtra Lok Sabha seats with 21-17-10 formula



Delhi: For weeks, Sangli, Mumbai South Central, and Bhiwandi seat talks stalled. A key deal in Maharashtra's electorally critical Lok Sabha elections was declared by the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) with the Shiv Sena (UBT) contesting 21 seats, the Congress 17 and the Sharad Pawar faction of the Nationalist Congress Party 10.

At Shivalaya, Sena's south Mumbai office, former chief ministers Sharad Pawar and Uddhav Thackeray and state Congress chief Nana Patole announced the seat-sharing arrangement. The Congress claimed

all three Sangli, Mumbai South Central, and Bhiwandi seats, while the Sena (UBT) declared its candidates for the first two and the Pawar faction for the third, stalling seat talks for weeks. Congress eventually gave up the seats. "We took a step back, we did not surrender," Patole told reporters. For the National Democratic Alliance, which hopes to win 400 Lok Sabha seats, and INDIA, which hopes to perform well in one province with strong regional leaders, Maharashtra is crucial. The unified Shiv Sena contested 23 Lok

Sabha seats alongside the BJP, which contested 25. The Congress contested 26 seats and the NCP 22. Sena-BJP won 41 of 48 seats, a landslide victory. The NCP won four, Congress one. Seven NCP-SP and 13 Congress candidates have been announced. The MVA will declare candidates for 13 seats—Madha, Satara, Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg, Raver, Jalna, Dhule, Nashik, Palghar, Thane, Mumbai North, North West, North Central, and South—over the next two days and present a manifesto focused on Maharashtra issues.

Netas feel superior after this class 5 passout

Hyderabad: Asking TSPSB and govt officials to be honest in their communication, Telangana high court on Tuesday directed director general of police and Hyderabad police commissioner to brief the court within two days the steps they are taking to control noise and sound pollution at function halls in Hyderabad and all over the state. The court, while making S e c u n d e r a b a d Cantonment Board as a respondent to the case, issued notices to the state govt, municipal, police and pollution control officials. The case was posted to Thursday for further hearing. A

bench of Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice J Anil Kumar, which took up a letter written to them by an additional chief engineer (environment) from the military's research and development wing as a PIL, wanted to know from the officials how they were implementing the noise pollution control and regulation rules, which were notified in a GO issued in 2010. The military engineer in his letter pointed out the inaction of officials in controlling unbearable noise levels from two function halls in T a d b u n d in S e c u n d e r a b a d Cantonment. He named Bantia Gardens and

Imperial Gardens for violating the rights of the people residing in the vicinity. "These function halls collect lakhs of rupees towards rent for conducting marriages and other functions. but show scant regard towards the noise pollution norms," he said.

The advocates representing the state and civic bodies were quick to point out to the notices issued to the two function halls and also instances of penalties of Rs 5,000 collected from them. The bench turned critical towards the state counsel and said this kind of action will not yield any result.

The manifesto of the SP also proposes a Caste Census

Delhi : a caste census by 2025, the abolition of the Center's Agniveer policy for Army recruiting, and an NREGA-inspired urban employment creation program. These are a few of the main pledges made by the Samajwadi Party (SP) in its manifesto, which was made public

on Wednesday, for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. A resolution titled "People's Movement for the Rights of the Communities Under the "PDA" — Pichde (Backward), Dalit, (Minorities), and Aadhi Aabadi (women) — opens the 20-page manifesto.

This election season, the group has been a major component of the SP's platform. According to the manifesto, the resolution would give these populations equal chances and prioritize "inclusive development for the weak and poor in society."

CAPSULES

1 in 4 Congress, 1 in 5 BJP from political families

Delhi: Given the political churn, not all political family candidates are running for the same party as their elders. Multigenerational politics is seen in the fact that one in four Congress candidates in the Lok Sabha elections are from political families, compared to one in five (of the 424 announced) Bharatiya Janata Party candidates. Thus far, 87 of the 424 BJP candidates are from political families, compared to 65 of 250 Congress candidates. For this analysis, A political family has a grandparent, parent, or elder sibling who is an elected or nominated member of Parliament or a state assembly or a key political party position. Analysts expect the BJP's list to include many political families for two reasons. First, the party has always prioritized winnability. Two, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated in Parliament that candidates who follow their elders are fine. The BJP's Andhra Pradesh candidate is D Purandeshwari, daughter of Telugu Desam Party founder NT Rama Rao. She and BJP candidate Kiran Kumar Reddy (former CM) were Congress members. His Congressman father was connected to Indira Gandhi and PV Narasimha Rao. BJP candidates come from anti-Congress political families. Its Bihar candidate is the son of former Bettiah MP Madan Kumar Jaiswal. Newada candidate Vivek Thakur is the son of former Union minister CP Thakur. In Gujarat, the BJP nominated Poonamben Madam, daughter of six-term MLA and former mayor Hemantibhai Madam. Bharatsinh Dabhi, son of two-term MLA Shankarji Okhaji Thakor, is another seasoned state candidate. BJP candidates from political families include Bansuri Swaraj, daughter of late Sushma Swaraj in New Delhi, BY Raghavendra, son of BS Yedyurappa (the sitting MP from Shimoga who was refiled), and former chief minister Basavaraj Bommai, son of SR Bommai.

Raj Cong treasurer joins BJP

Delhi: Sitaram Agarwal, Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee treasurer, joined the BJP after losing the 2023 State Assembly election to Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari. Over 300 people from all backgrounds joined the BJP at its State headquarters alongside Mr. Agarwal. Congress candidate Mr. Agarwal lost against BJP's Ms. Kumari in Vidyadhar Nagar, Jaipur. Former Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot knew him. His BJP membership was witnessed by Ms. Kumari and senior party officials Narayan Lal Panchariya and Onkar Singh Lakhawat.



Jannayak Janata Party leader Raghuveer Singh Tanwar, who ran in the 2023 Assembly elections, All-India Reserve Bank Employees' Union former national secretary G.N. Pareek, Vishwakarma Industries Association president

Jagdish Somani, Macheda Hanuman priest, Sudarshan Maharaj, and Municipal Councillors Kesharmal Sharma, Dhapa Devi, and Mahesh Agarwal joined the BJP.

Misa and Rohini, Lalu Prasad's daughters, are listed

Delhi: Misa Bharti and Rohini Acharya, the daughters of Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) president Lalu Prasad, are two of the party's 22 announced candidates for the Bihar Lok Sabha, the latter of whom is running for office for the first time. From Saran (formerly Chhapra), Rohini has been fielded, and her older sister Misa is from Pataliputra.

Congress picks Vikramaditya, Tewari

Delhi: The party announced 16 candidates for the Lok Sabha elections in three states and one Union Territory, including former Union minister Manish Tewari from Chandigarh and Himachal Pradesh minister Vikramaditya Singh from Mandi. After a lengthy meeting of the party's Central Election Committee (CEC), the Congress named two Himachal Pradesh candidates, four Gujarat candidates, and nine Odisha candidates, along with Tewari in Chandigarh. Tewari, the Anantpur Sahib MP and one of the party's most vocal



Lok Sabha lawmakers, will challenge Sanjay Tandon. Singh faces Kangana Ranaut in Mandi. Former Gujarat Opposition leader Pares Dhanani will face Union minister Parshottam Rupala in Rajkot. Former railways minister Pawan Bansal and Chandigarh unit president Harmohinder Singh Lucky also ran for the coveted Chandigarh

seat. Tewari is an MP, while Bansal lost in 2019 and 2014. CEC top members said it was possibly the key. Tewari was one of Punjab's eight Congress MPs in 2019. According to a second senior leader, who requested anonymity, he wanted to run in Chandigarh, where his family hails from. The Congress was receptive to it.

'Unconditional support' is declared by Raj Thackeray for Mahayuti and Modi

Delhi: Raj Thackeray, the leader of the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS), announced that he will "unconditionally support" the Mahayuti, led by the BJP and comprising the Shiv Sena of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and the NCP of Ajit Pawar, in the Lok Sabha elections, "solely for Narendra Modi" and "for the growth of the nation." This LS poll, he said, would determine whether India was "achieving growth or moving towards its downfall."

Digvijaya, Kamal Nath manage to get their Rajya Sabha pick nominated

NEW DELHI:

Congress's nomination of Ashok Singh from Madhya Pradesh for Rajya Sabha marked a climbdown for Rahul Gandhi who was pushing for former MP and confidante Meenakshi Natarajan for the upper House. The advantage for Singh was that he became a sort of joint candidate of veterans Digvijaya Singh and Kamal Nath, while the central leadership is learnt to have stuck to Natarajan for elevation. Singh's profile is intriguing as he has lost four consecutive Lok Sabha elections from Gwalior, even though it is argued in his defence that he came second by close margins in a tough constituency. But what became his calling card was that he has been "pathologically"



Arun Singh, the National General Secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Party, provided the Election Commission with a roster of forty prominent leaders

opposed to former party insider Jyotiraditya Scindia. This testimonial seems to have clinched his case, since the party is looking to rebuild in the Gwalior-Chambal region after Scindia's exit and defeat of key leaders in the recent assembly polls. That he is an OBC only boosted his claim. But sources said Singh's camp credentials became mysteriously bipartisan this

time around. While he has been known as a loyalist of Digvijaya Singh, and Nath was said to have lobbied for himself for RS, sources close to Nath said he had indeed put forward Singh's name. The surmise now is that once Nath was turned down by the party brass, he suggested Singh for RS. "Ashok Singh is a Digvijaya man, but Nath made him the treasurer

ICICI Bank's iMobile Pay is used by over one crore customers

GURUGRAM / FARID-ABAD : ICICI Bank announces that its retail mobile banking app, iMobile Pay, has on-boarded over one crore customers of other banks. This significant achievement comes just over three years after ICICI Bank made the app open for customers of other banks. ICICI Bank was the pioneer in launching mobile banking app in 2008, expediting the way for digital banking in India. In December 2020, it became the first bank to make the app interoperable by extending the benefit of its services to customers of other banks. Since then, customers of any bank can use iMobile Pay by following a few simple steps: link their savings bank account with the app, generate a UPI ID and enjoy a wide range of convenient services. These include making payments to any UPI ID or merchants, paying bills, recharging online



and transferring money to any bank account, payment app and digital wallet. Further, users can also open a savings account, apply for a home loan or credit card among other banking services provided by ICICI Bank. With over one crore customers of other banks using iMobile Pay, there has been 26% growth in the overall transactions value in this financial year till the end of February 2024 (April-February), compared to the same period last year. During this period, the average ticket size increased by 16%. Commenting on this remarkable achievement, Mr. Sidhartha Mishra, Head- Digital Channels and Partnerships, ICICI Bank stated, "We have

consistently aimed to innovate and simplify banking for our customers. The fact that our retail banking app has on-boarded over one crore customers from other banks in just three years is a testament to iMobile Pay's significant role in providing seamless digital banking experiences. With iMobile Pay, we are revolutionising the way customers manage their finances and conduct transactions. We have built a simple, seamless, secure, and accessible banking platform that offers over 400 services. anytime and anywhere. We are thrilled to witness the widespread adoption and eagerly look forward to enhancing users' banking convenience through continuous

innovations." Since its launch, iMobile Pay has gained immense popularity among users for its diverse features. Services like UPI transactions, fund transfers, credit card payments, mobile recharges, and bill payments are most used by users. In addition, features like UPI transfer by using a mobile phone number/UPI ID, scan to pay, bill payments,

and check balance are frequently used for repeat transactions. Further, the value of their transactions have also increased with each visit by users. Other notable features including viewing credit card summaries, loan accounts, loan summaries and creating VPAs also contribute to the app's popularity.

For the LS elections in Tamil Nadu, AIMIM will back the AIADMK

Delhi : In anticipation of the April 19 Lok Sabha elections in Tamil Nadu, the AIMIM declared its backing for the AIADMK, which is led by Edappadi K Palaniswami. Asaduddin Owaisi, the president of AIMIM, stated on "X" that the "alliance would also continue for the Assembly elections in Tamil Nadu," presumably alluding to the state elections in 2026. "The AIADMK has vowed never to form an alliance with the BJP again and has declined to form one now. Additionally, it has promised to oppose NPR, CAA, and NRC. As a result, AIMIM offers AIADMK its support for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. For the Assembly elections, our coalition will likewise persist," Owaisi declared. Interestingly, AIMIM fought three seats in the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections.

NECC Ltd. Board Approves Allotment of Equity Shares and Warrants on Preferential Basis

CHANDIGARH: North Eastern Carrying Corporation Ltd. (NECC) (BSE: 534615, NSE: NECCLTD), a leading player in domestic, international, commercial, and industrial goods transportation, has announced that its Board of Directors approved the allotment of 6,70,000 Equity shares and 39,55,062 Share warrants convertible into equity shares on preferential basis of face value of Rs. 10/- at a price of Rs. 32.05/- which includes a premium of Rs. 22.05/- per Equity Share, to Promoters and other non-promoter group person for cash consideration by way of preferential issue on a private placement basis in accordance with the Companies Act, 2013, SEBI (ICDR) Regulations and other applicable laws. Earlier, the company announced that it bagged an order from GAIL (India) Ltd. for trans-



portation of polymer under a contract value of Rs. 52.48 Crores for a period of three years. The company had recently entered into MOU with SG logistic Management Pvt Ltd. to invest up to Rs. 20 Crores for up to 20% of shares/ Securities for the purpose of trucking through Electric Vehicles. Since its inception, North Eastern Carrying Corporation has been providing clients with flexible, responsive, and affordable services that they deserve. The company utilizes its deep operating knowledge to offer extraordinary solutions tailored to the unique needs of its clients. Specializing in

domestic, international, commercial, and industrial goods transportation, along with warehousing services, North Eastern Carrying Corporation has established itself as a leading freight forwarding company in India. For those seeking to transport goods from one destination to another, North Eastern Carrying Corporation offers cost-effective solutions. Its services encompass a wide array of freight management and customized logistics solutions, supported by an automated ERP-based software system. Leveraging its operational expertise, extensive transportation network.

MCM celebrates Happiness Day with culmination of 2-day International Conference on Happiness

Chandigarh : Mehr Chand Mahajan DAV College for Women, Chandigarh, marked the celebration of International Happiness Day in a befitting manner with the culmination of 'The Soul in Symphony: Journey of Happiness through Self Actualization and Self Realization'- a two-day multidisciplinary international conference. The valedictory of this enriching conference was graced by accomplished writer and poet Dr. Surjit Patar, Padma Shree Awardee, Dr. Jaspal Singh, Principal (Retd.), Dr. Sarabjit Sohal, Chairperson, Punjab Sahitya Academy, Dr. Gurdip Sharma, General Secretary, SD Pratinidhi Sabha, Dr. Vinod Sharma and Sh. Prem Vij. In his address interspersed with his poetic creations and verses from Gurbani, Dr. Patar impressed upon the therapeutic power of poetry and showed how poetry teaches the way of living life. Terming true poetry as a sure shot way to self-realization, he asserted that the silences within a human come out as metaphors in the form of poetry, and poetry that is 'satyam', 'shiv-



am', 'sundaram' brings true happiness. His soulful rendition of his poetry exemplified how creativity is a highly potent way to happiness. Categorizing happiness into two types, namely worldly happiness and spiritual happiness, Dr. Jaspal highlighted the fleeting nature of happiness and said that complete surrender to the divine ensures happiness. Quoting extensively from Gurbani, Dr. Jaspal pointed out the similarities between the scientific and spiritual perspectives of soul as he talked about Darwin's Theory of Evolution and the Big Bang Theory, and how Gurbani makes a mention of these two. He concluded on the note that eternal happiness

can be attained through God's name. Dr. Sohal said that self-realization occurs when we become conscious of our thoughts as these shape us into what we are. She shared simple, practical steps to happiness that include living in the moment, deleting negative thoughts, giving happiness to others, doing good, practicing thankfulness, being grateful for the blessings in life and bringing qualitative change in one's consciousness. Principal Dr. Nisha complimented the organizing committee for bringing the spotlight on happiness- a state, the pursuit of which acquires centre stage in human's life, and yet remains so elusive.

Not asking India to cut down oil imports from Russia: US

NEW DELHI: Two senior treasury department officials, who are in India to discuss what is Phase 2 of the Russian oil price cap, said Thursday the US and others imposing the cap, are seeking to minimise Kremlin's profits and stifle its Ukraine aggression, but without destabilising the global energy market or forcing India to slash its imports from Russia. The officials, however, said allowing unrestricted Russian oil trade will remain unacceptable. Eric Van Nostrand, assistant secretary for economic policy, and Anna Morris, assistant secretary for terrorist financing and financial crimes, said the US isn't asking India to cut down its oil imports from Russia, adding the price cap isn't meant to block the flow of Russian oil. Russia accounted for a third of India's oil imports last month. Nostrand said it's important to keep the oil supply going in the market and that what the US is seeking to do is to limit Putin's profit. Russia has the option of selling under the price cap or to sell at deep discounts if it doesn't follow the Western regulations. The officials were speaking at an event organised by Ananta Centre. The US and an international coalition opposed to Russia's war on Ukraine had implemented a price cap, \$60 per barrel, on Russian oil, allowing them to support trade in Russian oil only if it was sold at or below the price cap. The second phase was launched in Oct last year to tighten the enforcement of the cap and to restrain the Kremlin's ability to export oil through alternative shipping ecosystems. "There is no curbs, we have not asked India to reduce Russian oil buying," said Morris, adding US hasn't sanctioned any Indian entity for importing or refining Russian crude. With India exporting oil products.

Chief Minister Saini has patted Saurabh Goyal Chaudhary on the back in the campaign to connect traders with BJP

Kaithal: BJP Business Cell Haryana Co-convenor Saurabh Goyal Chaudhary said that Modi Naib Government has always protected the interests of traders. BJP Government is fully committed to provide a good environment to traders. Businessmen should work to make lotus bloom in 10 Lok Sabha and 90 seats of Haryana Assembly. It is worth mentioning that BJP leader Saurabh Chaudhary is continuously organizing meetings and programs at



the ground level in various districts of the state to connect the business class with BJP and under his able leadership, the business class, especially the young business class, is joining BJP after being influenced by the

business friendly policies of BJP.

In the campaign to connect traders with BJP, Chief Minister Naib Singh Saini has praised BJP leader Saurabh Goyal Chaudhary by patting his back. Talking

here, Saurabh Goyal Chaudhary said that the business cell has been formed under the guidance of the Chief Minister and the Naib Government will not let any harm come to the interests of traders. The interests of the business class are completely safe in Modi Naib Government.

Every problem of the traders will be solved by making Chief Minister Naib Singh Saini aware of it, so that the traders do not face any problem.

Embassy of the Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Hosts An Evening of Love Walk for Humanity

New Delhi: The Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia hosted a heartwarming "Love Walk for Humanity" on the eve of Valentine's Day, February 14, 2024 curated and presented by Dr Sanjanaa Jon. The Love Walk for Humanity aimed to transcend the traditional celebration of Valentine's Day by fostering love and compassion for humanity. In a world grappling with conflicts, attacks, and hatred, the event aimed to build a collective love for humanity, extending beyond per-



sonal relationships to include care for the environment, animals, and all aspects of life. Distinguished guests in attendance included Raghav Chandra, Managing Director, Audi Delhi South, H.E Demeke Atnafu Ambulo,

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ethiopia to India, H.E Fleming Raul Duarte Ramoos Ambassador of Paraguay, H.E Jason Hall, Ambassador of Jamaica to India Ambassador of Venezuela Mrs Capaya

Rodriguez Gonzalez, H.E KL Ganju, Honorary Consul of Comoros, Dimitrius, Greek Embassy, Hissain Omar Saiddon Deputy Chad Embassy, Gokul Ji, Nepal Embassy, Dr. Sanjanaa Jon, Social Activist, Fashion Entertainment, Philanthropist, Film maker, Philanthropist, Animal Lover., Kiran Chopra Philanthropist, Blossom Kochhar, Chairperson, Blossom Kochhar Group of Companies, Shalu PVR IMAX, DJ Sheizwood, Music Composer, Music Director.

Supreme Court restores Scheduled Caste status to BJP leader Navneet

NEW DELHI: In a relief to BJP leader and MP from Amravati reserved constituency Navneet Kaur Ravi Rana just ahead of general elections, Supreme Court on Thursday quashed Bombay high court order by which her Scheduled Caste certificate of 'Mochi' was cancelled. A bench of Justices J K Maheshwari and Sanjay Karol held that 2017 order of District Caste Scrutiny Committee which validated Kaur's caste claim as 'Mochi' was right and the HC inadvertently undertook an erroneous exercise of appreciating evidence and swayed itself into a roving inquiry which was not expected as per settled legal position. "When the scrutiny committee which is principally tasked with the fact finding exercise for validation of caste claim, had

applied its mind and reached a conclusion, then in such a situation, whether a roving enquiry by HC was required? It is well settled that high courts as well as Supreme Court should refrain themselves from deeper probe into factual issues like an appellate body unless the inferences made by the concerned authority suffers from perversity on the face of it or are impermissible in the eyes of law. In the instant case, the order passed by the committee reflects due appreciation of evidence and application of mind and in absence of any allegation of bias/malice or lack of jurisdiction, disturbing the findings of the committee cannot be sustained," the bench said. Kaur was elected from reserved seat on the basis of the certificate which attested to her being a 'Mochi'

which is Scheduled Caste in the state making her eligible to contest from a reserved seat. The court had in 2021 stayed the HC order, paving the way for her to continue to represent the constituency in Parliament. The HC quashed the order of the scrutiny committee primarily on the ground that the same was obtained fraudulently. Finding fault with the HC order, SC said, "the Scrutiny Committee duly considered the documents placed before it and after due application of mind on being satisfied, accorded reasons for accepting/validating the caste claim of the appellant herein while accepting/rejecting other certain documents. The Scrutiny Committee heard all the parties in detail complying with the principles of natural justice.

BJP MP, Who Ignored The Public Out Of Arrogance Of Power, will be Defeated: Deepender Hooda

Bahadurgarh: Rajya Sabha MP Deepender Singh Hooda has said BJP MP, who ignored public support in the arrogance of power, will have to face a crushing defeat this time, as people are hurt that the current MP has never taken care of the area in the last five years. "After taking the vote he never turned back, and showed his face. The MP did not ever raise the voice of Rohtak in the Lok Sabha, or found it necessary to spend his MP fund on development works," he stated. Deepender, who had come to meet people in Bahadurgarh under the 'Ghar-Ghar Congress, Har Ghar Congress' campaign, visited shops and homes and interacted



with the public. On this occasion, Deepender said the public has made up its mind for change in these elections. "This time in the Lok Sabha elections, it will not be the arrogance of power but dedication towards the people that will win. This time, development on the ground will win, not empty claims. BJP has no work to show, whereas Congress, despite

being in opposition for 10 years, is asking for votes in the name of its development works," he stated. Responding to the issue of JJP leaders continuously leaving the party, Deepender said this is just the beginning. "JJP will have to bear the brunt of forgetting its election promises, and forming an alliance with BJP. This party has wasted five years of

the people of Haryana in their greed for power, now it is the people's turn. The public will defeat JJP in entire Haryana with the power of their votes, in a democratic manner," he added. "People also understands that JJP's internal alliance with BJP continues even today, and both the parties should not be under the illusion that they will mislead the public. Just as people had destroyed '75 paar' slogans of BJP, in the same way this time they will destroy slogans of 400 plus sears. BJP, which talked about crossing 75, was reduced to 40 seats in the assembly elections. Similarly, BJP, which gave the slogan of 400 seats in the Lok Sabha.

New tax regime hits private sector addition to NPS

NEW DELHI: The pension scheme for the corporate and individuals, regulated by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), may have been hit by the new tax regime, which offers lower tax rates but no exemptions, such as, those for investment. Latest data released by PFRDA on Thursday estimated that the growth in overall subscriber base, comprising govt, private sector and Atal Pension Yojana, slowed to 16.3% during the last financial year, with the total number pegged at over 7.3 crore. Within National Pension System (NPS), with under 36 lakh subscribers, the share of private sector contributors, comprising the corporate scheme (where the employer and employee contribute) and individual pension accounts, was estimated at 7.5%. pvt sector In terms of growth, in the last financial year.

CBI books Megha Engineering

NEW DELHI: Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a case against Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Ltd, two MECON, and eight NISP and NMDC officials over alleged corruption of Rs 315 crore.

MECON officials have been booked for receiving an alleged bribe of around Rs 78 lakh in clearing bills of Rs 174 crore of Megha Engineering in connection with works related to Jagdalpur integrated steel plant, officials told news agency PTI on Saturday.

According to the FIR, the CBI had registered a preliminary enquiry on August 10, 2023 about the alleged bribery in Rs 315 crore project related to works of intake well and pump house and cross-country pipeline at the integrated steel plant Jagdalpur which was awarded to the company.

Based on the findings of the preliminary



enquiry, a recommendation was made on March 18 to register a regular case into the alleged bribery which was filed on March 31. The CBI has named eight officials of NISP and NMDC Ltd -- retired executive director Prashant Dash, director (production) DK Mohanty, DGM PK Bhuyan, DM Naresh Babu, senior manager Subro Banerjee, retired CGM (finance) L Krishna Mohan, GM (finance) K Rajshankar, manager (finance) Somnath Ghosh, who allegedly received Rs 73.85 lakh bribe.

Two officials from MECON Ltd are - AGM (contracts) Sanjeev Sahay and DGM (con-

tracts) K Illavarsu - who allegedly received payment of Rs 5.01 lakh against the payment of Rs 174.41 crore by NMDC Ltd to MEIL against 73 invoices from Subhash Chandra Sangras, general manager, MEIL and Megha Engineering and unknown others. Chandra and Megha Engineering have also been named as accused in the case.

Hyderabad-based Megha Engineering & Infrastructures Ltd (MEIL) is one of the biggest electoral bond donors to BJP and BRS, and the second largest donor to Congress. The company also donated Rs 195 crore to BRS.

PAT Day 1 marked by shortage of question and answer booklets

Mumbai: As the Progressive Assessment Test (PAT) for class 3 to 8 students of government and aided schools in the state began on Thursday, a number of schools complained of shortage of question-cum-answer booklets.

On the very first day, schools had to take photocopies of the first language paper. The maths and third language English papers will be held on Friday and Saturday, respectively. The question papers were set by the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT). School heads said despite sending details of the number of

students appearing for PAT, the SCERT on Wednesday directed schools to take photocopies of the question papers wherever there was a shortage. Schools also complained of not receiving the answer keys to the questions. Teachers assess papers based on answer keys.

Mahendra Ganpule, spokesperson of the Maharashtra School Principals' Association highlighted the need for improved planning by the education department. Ganpule said, "Despite the challenges, teachers managed to distribute papers on the first day, albeit with additional effort and expense. The issue was more

pronounced in remote areas and was exacerbated by a lack of manpower at the taluka level for distribution." Over one crore students are participating in these exams, which are part of the Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States project funded by the World Bank. The PAT aims to enhance the quality and governance of school education and includes a basic test followed by two comprehensive assessments. The mandatory test is to determine the learning outcome of students. It is based on second semester syllabi. Schools that incurred expenses on photocopying question papers last year.

Girders launched between Kalyan & Kasara till early Sunday morning

MUMBAI: The Central Railway launched a girder on the bridge between Khadavli and Vasind stations shortly till early Sunday morning and also girders for FOB between Asangaon and Atgaon. Due to the girder

work and related rail blocks, passengers were inconvenienced with late night suburban train cancellations for Kasara. Six Mail and Express trains were rescheduled while ten other long distance trains were regulated due to

the girder work. Girders were also launched for FOB between Shahad and Ambivali station. As a result, the suburban local train for Kasara leaving CSMT at 12.15am on Sunday was short terminated at Thane.

Ajit Pawar and Eknath Shinde are no longer the BJP's top campaigners

Delhi: Following a letter from the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) in Maharashtra stating that star campaigners could only be members of their own party and leaders of other parties could not be included on that list, the BJP withdrew Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and Chief Minister Eknath Shinde from their list of endorsers for the state's Lok Sabha elections. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and Ajit



Pawar were prominent campaigners on the Shiv Sena list. Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, and Union Minister of State

Ramdas Athawale were on the state BJP list. The BJP's action was taken a few days after the NCP (SP) lodged a complaint with the Election Commission

over the Shiv Sena (Shinde faction) and the BJP's list of campaigners. According to the lawsuit, Section 77 of the Representation of the People Act.

Killer caliber: Meet BSF's first woman sniper

INDORE: The sniper stealthily crawls into position, smoothly works the bolt and slides a round into the chamber. Target in crosshairs. And a glass ceiling pierced at 3,200kmph... It's only when the sniper gets up and takes off the camouflage ghillie suit that you realise it's a 'she'. Meet BSF's first woman sniper, sub-inspector, Suman Kumari, also the first woman to get 'instructor grade' in the grueling eight-week BSF sniper course at Central School of Weapons and



Tactics (CSWT), Indore. Suman joined BSF in 2021 and was commanding a platoon in Punjab when she realized, with fury, the threat of sniper attacks from across the border. Determined to pay back in kind, Suman volunteered for the sniper course and

wrote to her superiors. Encouraged by her steely resolve, they readily gave the go-ahead. "She was the lone woman among 56 men and she put up an amazing performance in every activity. We are hoping that more female recruits will take up this course,"

CSWT IG Bhaskar Singh Rawat told TOI on Saturday.

"Trainees who perform exceptionally well get Alpha and Bravo grading, but a separate screening test is done for 'instructor grade' that Suman has achieved. She is the first woman sniper in BSF and will be an inspiration for other women to come forward. This course is one of the toughest after the commando training," Rawat said. She is now eligible to get posted as a sniper instructor.

Megablocks on Central Railway suburban to inconvenience commuters, no blocks on W.Railway

Special suburban trains will run on the CSMT Mumbai-Mankhurd section during the block period.

The Central Railway will carry out megablock on slow lines between CSMT Mumbai and Vidyavihar from 10.55am to 3.5 pm today on Main line. On the Main line, during the rail blocks, the Up slow services departing Ghatkopar from



line between Vidyavihar and CSMT stations and will halt at Kurla, Sion, Matunga, Dadar, Parel and Byculla stations, an official said. On the Harbour line, the rail blocks will be carried out between Mankhurd and Nerul from 11.15am to 4.15pm. Special suburban trains will run on the CSMT Mumbai-

Mankhurd section during the block period. Harbour line passengers are permitted to travel on Trans Harbour / Main Lines from 10am to 4.30pm during the block. period, the official said. There will be no megablock on the Western Railway suburban section on Sunday, bringing relief to citizens.

Jamia Hamdard organises Cultural and Sports Week

Jamia Hamdard University wrapped up its Sports and Cultural Week recently. Over eight days, the university grounds bustled with a myriad of activities, offering a platform for students to display their diverse abilities.

Under the leadership of Vice Chancellor M Afshar Alam and with support from Chancellor Janab Hammad Ahmad and Sajid Ahmed, CEO HNF HECA, the festivities commenced with an inaugural ceremony. DSW Prof Reshma Nasreen ignited the spark for an exhilarating journey filled with literary, cultural, musical, and sports performances, encapsulating the essence of Jamia Hamdard. At the helm of the seamless execution was the core coordination committee, led by Reshma Nasreen, and comprising faculty members



such as Dr Kursheed Ansari, Prof Sohrab Ahmad Khan, and the renowned academician and media personality Prof Farhat Basir Khan. Their collective expertise underscored the university's commitment to excellence, ensuring every moment of the event was a success. Students during Salman Ali's performance during Salman Ali's performance. From captivating calligraphy to vivid rangoli displays, students unleashed their artistic prowess, infusing the atmosphere with

vibrancy and color. Entertainment soared as participants engaged in activities like Dumb Charades and delivered soul-stirring musical performances, ranging from solo acts to ensemble renditions. Meanwhile, on the literary front, intellectual discourse flourished with stimulating debates, insightful essay writing, and moving poetry recitations, fostering a culture of understanding and intellectual growth. Throughout the week-long celebration, the dedication and hard work of

Jamia Hamdard's youth resonated with the ethos of sportsmanship and camaraderie. The grand finale witnessed the crowning of champions in sports and cultural events, graced by distinguished guests like B Shankar Jaiswal, and Danish Ashraf. Adding to the grandeur was the electrifying performance by Indian Idol 10 winner Salman Ali, marking a fitting conclusion to the festivities.

The event reached its crescendo with Salman Ali's mesmerising performance at the sports complex, blending sportsmanship with cultural vibrancy. Known for his soulful voice and dynamic stage presence, Salman Ali took the audience on a musical journey, leaving a lasting impact with his renditions of iconic hits and sufi melodies.

Met museum head talks art of repatriation and relevance

Vatika Times

It's not easy running one of the world's largest museums with more than 1.5 million works spanning 5,000 years. And certainly not easy amidst heightened scrutiny over looted objects and mounting pressure for repatriation. Max Hollein—who took charge of the Metropolitan Museum of Art (Met), New York as director in 2018 and CEO last July—knows this all too well. Fresh from signing an MoU with India's Ministry of Culture, being "blown away" by the Sanchi Stupa, Jantar Mantar and the Kanheri Caves and ahead of delivering a lecture at the CSMVS on Friday, Hollein remained composed as he sat down for a chat about policing its art and artefacts with a problematic past recent restitutions and keeping the museum relevant in an age of sensory overload. What kind of collaborations do you foresee with the signing of the MoU with India's culture ministry It marks a continuatio.

Delhi Capitals register their biggest win of the IPL after defeating Gujarat

NEW DELHI: Delhi Capitals achieved their most resounding victory in IPL history by securing a convincing six-wicket win over Gujarat Titans (GT) at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Wednesday. DC dominated from start to finish, displaying exceptional performances with both the ball and the bat. Restricting GT to a lowly total of 89 after opting to bowl, the Capitals' bowlers displayed remarkable discipline and control to bundle out Gujarat in 17.3 overs. Subsequently, their batsmen chased down the target in just 8.5 overs with ease, highlighting their depth and skill. This comprehensive triumph not only boosts DC's confidence but also massively boosts their NRR. Delhi, who were



without injured David Warner, registered just their third win and second consecutive of this season, jumping three places to sixth in the 10-team table. This was DC's biggest win in terms of balls remaining (67), bettering their previous one against Punjab Kings (57) in Mumbai two years ago. Biggest IPL win for DC in balls remaining 67 vs GT, Ahmedabad, 2024 57 vs PBKS, Mumbai, 2022 42 vs Deccan Chargers, Hyderabad, 2008 40 vs CSK, Delhi, 2012 DC skipper Rishabh Pant, making a remarkable comeback to this year's IPL

following a harrowing car crash, remained unbeaten on 16, showcasing his resilience and determination. Jake Fraser-McGurk, an Australian batter, contributed with a brisk 20 to support Pant in their pursuit of victory. Pant's stellar performance in the tournament has seen him amass 210 runs, including two half-centuries, enhancing his prospects for a potential return to the T20 World Cup in June. Behind the stumps, Pant exhibited his agility and sharp reflexes, initiating proceedings with a diving catch to dismiss David Miller.

IPL 2024: Uncapped Indians take centrestage

The ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) has seen several eye-catching performances from young Indian uncapped players. They have not only made their presence felt, but also won matches on their own as the 2024 edition approaches the halfway stage. who can go on to don the national team colours...

Riyan Parag (Rajasthan Royals) This season has been the unravelling of the years of investment Rajasthan Royals have put in the Assam youngster. Parag is giving tough competition to Virat Kohli for the Orange Cap. What has been striking is his hitting ability coupled



with a new-found consistency. The Royals have given him a fixed spot (No.4) in the batting line-up and that has worked wonders for Parag. He is just behind Heinrich Klaasen in the list of top six-hitters in the tournament with 20 maximums. Out of Rajasthan's six victories, Parag has fashioned three of them with telling contributions of 43, 84*, and 54* against

LSG, DC and MI. **Mayank Yadav (Lucknow Super Giants)** The most enthralling story to come out of the IPL has been the emergence of Mayank Yadav. The Delhi speedster bowled thunderbolts in the three games he played for Lucknow, registering an average speed of more than 148 kmph. He regularly breached the 150 kmph mark and bowled.

England fast bowler Jofra Archer fears another 'stop-start' year

NEW DELHI: England fast bowler Jofra Archer has cautioned that he might find it challenging to deal with additional injury setbacks, saying: "I don't know if I have another stop-start year in me". Archer, who inked a two-year central contract with England

back in October, hasn't featured in a Test match since February 2021. His career has been plagued by injuries, with the 29-year-old Sussex pacesman sidelined for the entirety of last year's home season due to a stress fracture in his right elbow. However,

Archer, who gained widespread recognition in 2019 for his crucial role in the Super Over that secured England's victory over New Zealand in the 50-over World Cup final, is currently on the path to recovery. He harbors aspirations.

'Gussa nahi gussa nahi': Pant's stump-mic chatter goes viral

NEW DELHI: A captain's job in cricket is not only confined to making tactical moves to adjusting field placements and managing the bowling and batting order based on the match's dynamics. He should also intervene if players from his team engage in a spontaneous altercation or conflict. Delhi Capitals skipper Rishabh Pant exhibited a brilliant example of being a leader when Kuldeep Yadav lost his cool during the IPL match against Gujarat Titans in Ahmedabad on Wednesday. The incident occurred when



pacer Mukesh Kumar unleashed a powerful throw from point towards Kuldeep at the non-striker's end, leading the spinner to express his displeasure. "Pagal wagal hai kya",

furiously Kuldeep was heard saying to Mukesh. Pant stepped in to calm down Kuldeep, saying "gussa nahi gussa nahi" which was caught by a stump mic. Coming to the

match, Delhi Capitals opted to field first and efficiently bowled out former champions Gujarat Titans for a mere 89 runs. Titans suffered a significant batting collapse, with Rashid Khan emerging as their top-scorer with a quickfire 31 off 24 balls. Apart from Rashid Khan, Sai Sudharsan (12) and Rahul Tewatia (10) were the only other batters to reach double figures. This dismal total of 89 marks Titans' lowest-ever score in IPL history, surpassing their previous lowest score of 125.

Pant stakes a big claim in T20 World Cup squad with sensational wicket-keeping

NEW DELHI: Rishabh Pant's exceptional display of wicket-keeping skills against Gujarat Titans in the IPL match has undoubtedly solidified his position in India's T20 World Cup squad contention. The dynamic wicket-keeper not only showcased his prowess with the bat in the ongoing IPL but also highlighted his prowess behind the stumps, leaving a lasting impression on spectators and selectors alike. Pant continues to dazzle with his electrifying performances behind the stumps, and



Wednesday night at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad was no exception. The Delhi Capitals skipper showcased his acrobatic prowess by taking a stunning catch behind the stumps, leaving spectators in awe of his agility and reflexes. His remarkable display of

athleticism didn't stop there; he followed it up with an electrifying stumping that left the host Gujarat Titans stunned. In a pivotal moment during the fifth over of the innings, David Miller, returning to the field after injury, faced a challenging delivery

from Ishant Sharma. The ball found the edge of Miller's bat, sending it hurtling behind the stumps. In a breathtaking display of agility and reflexes, Pant launched himself to his left, fully stretched, and plucked the ball out of the air with stunning precision. In the ninth over of the match, a moment of brilliance unfolded as Tristan Stubbs, slightly erring in his line, induced Shahrukh Khan to make an unintended movement outside his crease. Seizing the opportunity.

'I didn't need a second invitation...': DC's Jake Fraser-McGurk

NEW DELHI: "I didn't need a second invitation to be aggressive," remarked Delhi Capitals' Jake Fraser-McGurk after his impactful performance in the match. The young cricketer's assertive approach was evident as he swiftly took charge, demonstrating his attacking intent from



the outset. Fraser-McGurk's proactive batting style, characterised by quick runs and powerful strokes, set the tone for DC's successful run-chase. His eagerness to seize the initiative and make significant contributions underlines his confidence and commitment to excel on the field, showcasing his potential as a dynamic force in the team's lineup. Coming out to chase 90-run target, DC

openers Prithvi Shaw and Fraser-McGurk were able to put in just 25 runs before McGurk was sent back to the dressing room after playing a quickfire knock of 20 runs in just 10 balls which was laced with two boundaries and two sixes each. DC were 67/4 in 5.4 overs with skipper Rishabh Pant and Sumit Kumar on the crease. The duo built an unbeaten partnership of 25 runs as the side won the match inside nine overs.

'Unless someone takes a double hat-trick': Gill's cheeky response

NEW DELHI: After Gujarat Titans succumbed to their lowest ever total in the Indian Premier League, a miracle or two were needed if they were to defend 89. But on expected lines, Delhi Capitals made light work of the chase, securing their biggest win ever -- in terms of balls (67) -- and cruised to their third win of the season. While Titans skipper humbly accepted that the batters had a nightmare outing in their heavy thrashing, the 24-year-old admitted that defending such small totals is next to impossible. Although Titans bowlers did manage four wickets amid DC's attempt to finish the game in no time, Gill cheekily said a double hat-trick was needed for



the miracle win to happen. "When the opposition is chasing 89, unless someone takes a double hat-trick, you cannot win," Gill responded to hopes of pulling off a near-impossible win. With only three batters getting to the double-digit scores in a horrendous batting display, Gill refused to blame the pitch and conditions and said that his batters were at fault.

"Our batting was very average. Need to move on from this game and come back with the same mindset before the next game. The wicket was alright. If you see our dismissals - me, Saha and Sai - it had nothing to do with the pitch," Gill said. With their third defeat of the season, last-year's finalists Titans are now at the seventh spot while Delhi are at sixth position.

Rampant Rajasthan Royals continue to sit at the top spot with 6 wins in 7 matches.

off Ishant Sharma's bowling. He further showcased his prowess with two lightning-fast stumpings, sending back Abhinav Manohar and Shahrukh Khan in quick succession, courtesy of South African spinner Tristan Stubbs. Despite GT's struggles at 66-7, Rashid Khan's gritty knock of 31 off 24 balls provided some resistance before he was caught behind, with Pant completing a routine catch. Pant's all-round contribution, both with the bat and behind the stumps, proved instrumental in DC's commanding win.

football legend Romario announces come-back at 58

NEW DELHI: At 58 years old, Brazilian football icon Romario boasts an impressive resume: a World Cup winner, a senator, and the president of his beloved club, America of Rio de Janeiro. Now, 15 years after retiring from professional football, the legendary striker has decided to add another chapter to his storied career. Romario has announced his comeback from retirement to rejoin America as a player. The announcement came on Wednesday, with the 1994 World Cup winner officially registering to play again for struggling America. Currently competing in the second division of the Rio state championship, the club is fighting to regain its position in the top-flight league. Romario's return is sure to inject excitement and optimism into the team and its supporters as they strive for success on the pitch.