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INDIA bloc demands EC action against PM Modi for 'bulldozer on Ram temple' remark

NEW DELHI: The INDIA bloc leaders on Saturday slammed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for claiming Congress will run a bulldozer over Ayodhya's Ram temple if the INDIA bloc is voted to power. INDIA bloc leaders — Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar and Shiv Sena (UBT) president Uddhav Thackeray — also called for a strong action against the PM by the Election Commission for "inciting people".

The alliance leaders stressed that they were committed to protecting the religious freedom of all citizens and ensuring that the country runs as per the Constitution. "No prime minister before Modi has ever indulged in inciting people like he has been doing. He speaks about democracy repeatedly but doesn't adhere to the tenets of democracy," Kharge said in a joint press conference with other INDIA bloc leaders in Mumbai.



On PM Modi's recent statement that the Congress will bulldoze the Ram mandir in Ayodhya and also restore Article 370 if the INDIA bloc is voted to power, Kharge said, "We have never used a bulldozer on anyone. Bulldozer is their government. This comment is to instigate and the Election should take action against him. Our government will function as per the Constitution. We will protect everything," Kharge said. "Wherever he goes, he tries to create division, speaks of dividing society," the Congress president added. Speaking in the same voice, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav

Thackeray said if BJP says Congress will bulldoze Ram mandir, that party will also ban RSS. Attacking the BJP and PM Modi for calling his party "nakli" (fake) Shiv Sena, Thackeray said the BJP will also call RSS 'nakli Sangh'. Citing BJP chief JP Nadda's interview, in which he said that BJP is capable and runs its own affairs, while the RSS is an ideological front and does its own work, Thackeray said, "BJP wants to disassociate itself with an organisation that gave birth to it." The "jumla era" will end on June 4 and "achhe din" will come when the INDIA alliance comes to power, the Sena (UBT) chief said.

Khurshid also voiced strong opposition to PM's 'bulldoze Ram temple'

Speaking at a separate event, former Union minister Salman Khurshid also voiced strong opposition to PM's 'bulldoze Ram temple' charge. "The entire nation has accepted the temple that was built in accordance with a Supreme Court verdict," Khurshid said. "The Prime Minister should remember that the credit for the construction of the temple goes not to him but to the Supreme Court. God belongs to all, so do places of worship. It is unfortunate that the PM is speaking such language," he added. PM Modi, in a rally on Thursday in Uttar Pradesh's Barabanki, alleged that the Congress will run a bulldozer on the Ram temple if the INDIA bloc comes to power. "If the SP-Congress comes to power, it will send Ram Lalla once again to a tent, and a bulldozer."

BSS monks working for BJP on Delhi's orders: Mamata Banerjee

KOLKATA/BEHRAMPUR:

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee Saturday accused "a few monks" from Bharat Sevashram Sangha and Ramakrishna Mission of directly working against TMC & helping BJP.

At a rally in Hooghly's Jayrambati, Banerjee named BSS monk, Kartik Maharaj (or Swami Pradiptananda). "There is a maharaj in Behrampur; Kartik Maharaj. He says he will not allow any TMC agent in the poll booth," she said.

She also referred to RKM and "instructions (the order had got) from Delhi" during her speech.

RKM: Don't know reason behind Mamata remark

There is a maharaj in Behrampur; I have been hearing about him for a long time. Kartik Maharaj. Says he will not allow any TMC agent in the poll booth. I do not consider him a saint because he is directly involved in politics and is ruining the



SBI fails to hand in ATM footage, told to pay man who lost Rs 80,000

DEHRADUN: Uttarakhand Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission directed State Bank of India (SBI) to give appropriate compensation to its customer with a refund in a case of card cloning after Roorkee resident Parthasarathi Mukherjee was defrauded of Rs 80,000 in 2015 when a

country, Mamata Banerjee said. "I used to respect Bharat Sevashram Sangha a lot. It has been on my list of respected organisations for a long time," she added. Swami Pradiptananda headed Ek Lakh Konthe Gita

fraudster withdrew money from two ATMs in Delhi. The decision came after consumer court found the bank failed to provide CCTV footage to police for investigation and rejected the bank's argument that the customer had shared the ATM card and password with someone else.

Path Committee, which organised a Gita recital by one lakh people in Kolkata last Dec in the run-up to the Ayodhya consecration ceremony. He is known to have close ties with BJP netas. A few hours after Banerjee's remarks, the monk told.

Patanjali official, get 6 months in jail as 'soan papdi' fails quality test

PITHORAGARH: The chief judicial magistrate of Pithoragarh sentenced three men, including an assistant manager of Patanjali Ayurved Ltd, to six months in prison and fined all three defendants for failing a soan papdi food test.

On Oct 17, 2019, a food safety inspector visited Lila Dhar Pathak's shop at Main Market in Beringarh, Pithoragarh, where concerns were raised about Patanjali Navratna Elaichi Soan Papdi (a sweet). Samples were collected and notices issued to Kanaha Ji Distributor, Ramnagar, and Patanjali Ayurved Ltd, Haridwar. Forensic testing at the state food and drug testing laboratory in Rudrapur, Udhampur Singh Nagar, was conducted on May 18, 2019. In Dec 2020, the state food safety department received a report.

Abu Salem 'fears for life', Taloja jail told not to shift him



MUMBAI: A special court on Friday directed Taloja jail authorities not to transfer 1993 Bombay serial bomb blasts convict Abu Salem until further orders, after the extradited gangster moved court expressing fears for his life and cited depression. Salem sought direction to Taloja Central Jail Superintendent to not transfer him to another prison facility. Salem, who has been in jail since his extradition from Portugal 19 years ago, apprehended that as his release from the jail is near, a conspiracy is being planned to kill him by transferring him to other prisons where there is a threat to his life. Salem also cited two previous attacks, including one by now deceased gangster and co-convict Mustafa Dossa in Arthur Road jail. His plea said even Dossa is not alive, however his associates and those of Chota Rajan are lodged in various prisons like, Mumbai Central Jail, Aurangabad Central Jail, Amravati Central Jail and Kolhapur Central Jail and he apprehends they will bribe and pressure jail officials and attack him. The matter has been adjourned to May 28 for the superintendent's reply. Salem's plea said Taloja Jail (Anda Cell) authorities are planning to transfer him on the excuse of breaking down or repairing the Anda Cell for security reasons. "That even if it is considered to be true requires repairing, the applicant (Salem) can easily be shifted to any other circle or barrack or safe space inside Taloja Central Prison itself as it is huge and very spacious..." the plea said. He said he has been lodged in Taloja jail for 15 years, he knows almost all prisoners and none of them is connected to any gangsters who can cause serious threat to his life. "...thought of his transfer..."

After 39 years, Gadchiroli free from Permili dalam of Maoists

NAGPUR: After 39 years, commandos in Gadchiroli crushed the Permili dalam formation of Peoples' Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA) last Monday, severing the supply chain to the Maoist headquarters in Abujmarh, police said Saturday. This wing was crucial for providing logistic support to insurgents in the Red corridor, linking the north-south axis in the Maoist-affected district, spanning 14,400sq km in northeastern Maharashtra.



With commandos reaching the mouth of the guerrilla HQ, they now have a strategic upper hand. The Maoists' Abujmarh force called Company 10 is now directly exposed to security forces as the buffer zone commanded by Permili dalam is shattered. Permili dalam - established by educated Telugu youths - had turned Gadchiroli into

the epicentre of Maoist violence since 1985. It was one of the five armed formations under South Gadchiroli division of Maoists in Dandakaranya zone. The final blow was dealt by C-60 commandos after they gunned down PLGA commander and divisional committee member Vasu Korcha, who carried a bounty of Rs 22 lakh, along with two other women guerrillas.

Air India Express flight heading to Kochi catches fire at Bengaluru, 'all passengers safe'

KOCHI: An Air India Express flight from Bengaluru heading to Kochi made an emergency landing at Bengaluru airport late Saturday, immediately after take-off, due to a fire being detected. Air India Express officials said that all passengers on board are safe. According to eyewitnesses, the pilot and crew could make the emergency landing immediately after detecting the fire. "The flight came from

Pune. The flight had to leave for Kochi by 9.40 take off. But it took off only 11 am. I was sitting in the rear side. Immediately after take-off, we felt some jerking. After some moments, I saw a flash of fire from the right cockpit area. It was seen twice. Soon, a woman sitting near me raised alarm by shouting 'fire ..fire'. Then, the cabin crew rushed to our area. They said there is nothing to be panicky. They also said

that everything is under control," said advocate A Rajasimhan, who boarded the flight from Bengaluru. "They asked us where we saw the fire. Meanwhile, fire was seen once again. Soon, the cabin crew announced that we are going for emergency landing. Asked all of us not to jump and be seated. It took around five minutes to for crashlanding.

Pakistan had bombs in hand, now begging bowl: PM Modi

AMBALA/GOHANA: Troublemaker Pakistan has been reduced from brandishing bombs to begging bowls, PM Narendra Modi said Saturday during his first rally in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections in and around Ambala of Haryana - a state he likened to his own govt with the Haryanvi expression "dhakad" (strong). "Pakistan, which troubled India for 70 years, kept bombs in its hand. Today, it has a begging bowl in its hand.



The enemy shivers when a dhakad govt is in office," Modi said, underscoring the neighbouring country's economic crisis and India's growth. The PM said his "dhakad" govt abrogated Article 370 and J&K started walking on the path of development. Videos INDI alliance and all their members have lost in all four corners of the country in the four phases of voting so far, he

said, while accusing Congress of scams tied to India's military, referencing Bofors, howitzer, submarine, and helicopter deals. He alleged that "our soldiers did not even have good rifles". Without directly naming opposition parties, Modi accused them of conspiring to dis-

tribute people's wealth to "jihadis". Referring to the one rank one pension (OROP) demand of ex-military personnel, Modi said previous Congress govt made a provision of mere Rs 500 crore for OROP and started spreading misinformation that they fulfilled the demand.

'Harassed by HOD', doctor ends life in hostel

DEHRADUN: A 25-year-old junior resident doctor at a private medical institute in Dehradun died by suicide on Friday due to alleged harassment by the HOD over submission of his thesis. The body was found in his hostel room. His classmate, speaking on condition of anonymity, said he had faced rejection several times. While trying to submit his thesis. "He was under pressure as the submission deadline was nearing and missing it would have meant that he had to pay a penalty or miss exams.

On Friday, he again tried to submit it, but the professor rejected it and tore it up in front of him," the student said. Police was notified of his death and they proceeded to interrogate some students. Patel Nagar police station in-charge, inspector Kamal Lunthi, said, "A team visited the institute.

Jaipur couple wounded, ex-sarpanch killed in J&K terrorist attacks

SRINAGAR: Two separate terrorist attacks in J&K on Saturday evening left a young tourist couple from Jaipur wounded and a former BJP sarpanch dead, marking attempts to sabotage Lok Sabha elections in the Union territory. Sources said Tabrez and his wife Farha from the Rajasthan city were attacked in Yannar near Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district. According to PTI, they were at a tourist campsite at the popular destination when the attack happened. Kashmir zone police confirmed the couple was taken to a hospital for treatment. , but the nature of their wounds and their condition were unknown at the time of reporting. This is the third terrorist attack on non-natives in

J&K this election season. On April 17, a 35-year-old roadside food vendor from Bihar was shot dead in Anantnag, and on April 8, a tourist taxi driver from New Delhi suffered bullet wounds in Shopian district when he stopped at a restaurant while transporting tourists. In another attack in Shopian district, terrorists gunned down former sarpanch Aijaz Ahmad Sheikh near his home in Heeripora. Security forces have launched manhunts at both attack sites. According to sources, Lashkar-e-Taiba-backed The Resistance Front (TRF) could be behind the attack on the Jaipur couple. Former CM and PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti condemned both assaults in a tweet: "...the timing of these attacks .

Someshwar Nath Temple in Prayagraj goes digital

Sangam City has an unmatched confluence of spirituality and astrology, according to Astrologer Acharya Dev

Prayagraj: Prayagraj-born astrologer Acharya Dev has taken the initiative to digitalize the temples. In this sequence, he also digitalized the Someshwar Nath temple of Sangam city, Prayagraj. Now you can watch the aarti or puja being performed in Someshwar Nath temple online. Also, the devotees who are unable to reach Someshwar Nath temple for some reason can perform the puja online as per their wishes, like Rudrabhishek, Griha Shanti, Mahamrityunjaya chanting, etc.

Astrologer Acharya Dev has created a mobile app called Virtual Astrology and Temple App (VAMA). Through this mobile app,

you can learn everything about your horoscope through astrology while sitting at home for the first time. Along with this, you can perform many pujas like, Kaal Sarp Dosh, Bal Gopal for having a child, Abhishek in your name, Pitradosh Shanti Puja, etc., and you can also watch your puja happening live. You will not have to pay any kind of fee to watch the puja aarti.

Devotees can also chant mantras along with all the priests. All this has been possible because of Prayagraj-born astrologer Acharya Dev Ji. Acharya Dev said that he started making this mobile application during COVID-19. This mobile application was

ready in one and a half years. In this, Himanshu and Manu Jain are associated with him as co-founders of this app, who have technical knowledge.



Jyotish Acharya Dev comes from a family of generations of astrologers, and he is a third-

generation astrologer, so he got technical knowledge in 2012 when he was doing online astrology consultation work for some private companies like Vodafone, Airtel Idea, etc. Started doing, now runs a startup with an astrologer

Acharya Dev told me that first, you have to download this mobile application from your mobile's Play Store or Apple Store. After downloading, you will have to fill in all the information required. After this, if you want to take advice from astrology, you will have to click on the option given there, and if you want to get worship done, then an option for worship is given. You have to click on it.

After this, information

about all the temples and pujas will be available. Whatever puja you want to do, in whatever temple you want to do you can choose the one for which that temple is famous. Along with filling out your information on it, you can also make an online payment. The person's puja is completed, and its recording is also sent to him.

Talking about temples, many temples like Nepal's Pashupati Nath, Someshwar Nath Temple Prayagraj, Jwala Devi Himachal, Hanuman Garhi, Chowkia Dham Shitala Mata Temple Jaunpur, and Naina Devi Himachal Pradesh Shani Shingnapur have been connected to the Vama app.

Bhoomi Pujan of PM's rally venue conducted

Prayagraj: On Saturday, BJP officials and workers performed Bhoomi Pujan of the venue of the public meeting in connection with the public meeting of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on May 21. BJP's National General Secretary Dr. Radha Mohandas Aggarwal, who reached the parade ground at the venue of the public meeting at 6 pm, performed Bhoomi Pujan near the stage amidst chanting of Vedic mantras. During this, while talking to the media, in response to a question, Radha Mohandas Aggarwal said that the opposition alliance is dead. BJP is winning the elections. All the seats in Delhi are going to BJP's account. He said that the incident done by his own PA with the female MP of Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal's party has

made it clear how much respect women have in his party. National General Secretary said that BJP will win all 80 seats of UP. Rahul Gandhi left Amethi fearing defeat and will also lose Rae Bareilly. During this, Cabinet

Shakya, Ravi Kesarwani, Kuldeep Mishra, Shyam Prakash Dwivedi, Neelu Shukla, Prashant Shukla, Rakesh Bharti, District Spokesperson Media Incharge Rajesh Kesarwani, Anand Vaishya Sudarshan,



Minister Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi, Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani, Metropolitan President Rajendra Mishra, Abhilasha Gupta, Gangapur District President Kavita Patel, Brij Area President Durvijay Singh

Ashish Dwivedi, Naveen Shukla, Vijay Dwivedi, Neeraj Dixit, Phulpur Lok Sabha Election Steering Committee Media Management Vivek Mishra and Umesh Tiwari, Brijesh Tripathi etc. workers were present.

RaGa will be the PM: Sarvey Sathyanarayana

Prayagraj: Senior Congress leader and former Union Minister of State for Road Transport Sarve Satyanarayana has said that Rahul Gandhi will be the next Prime Minister of the country. There is a wave going against Modi government. The former Union Minister, who reached here to campaign in favor of Rahul Gandhi in Rae Bareilly parliamentary constituency, said during his welcome by the Congressmen that in the last ten years, the farm-

ers, youth, wrestlers and laborers of the country were tortured. PM Modi waived off the loan of Rs 16.5 lakh



crore of his industrialist friends but did not give fair price to the farmers for their crops due to which more than seven hundred farmers died. This election is to

save democracy and constitution, people are troubled by inflation, unemployment and broken economy. He condemned Prime Minister Modi and Union Minister Smriti Irani's address to the election rally of Prajwal Ramanna, convicted in more than three thousand sex scandals. Said that the victory of the Indian Alliance candidates is certain on all the nearby seats including Allahabad, Phulpur, Kaushambi. He later left for Rae Bareilly for election campaign.

MPVM bids farewell to senior teachers

Prayagraj: M.P.V.M. is a name synonymous to excellence in the field of education, nurturing the youth to evolve into beings of character, competence and compassion. The exemplary contribution of the dedicated teachers of the school, is one of the major foundational pillars for this architecture. There have been teachers who have been a part of the institution since its inception and have played an unparalleled role in shaping the young minds under their care, with all their expertise, love and care for the learners. Having served the institution for decades, five senior teachers of the school retired with contentment of have given their best in their service.

The teachers who retired were Mrs. Deepa Rani, who served the institution

for 38 years from 1986 till 2024, teaching Hindi and Culture to the senior school. Sangeeta Srivastava, with 36 years of service to M.P.V.M. from 1988 till 2024, teaching Hindi, Culture and Sanskrit. Anil Kumar Sharma, being the melodious music maestro of the school for 35 years from 1989 till 2024. Mrs. Snehlata Gopesh, like her name itself, taught Mathematics with love, care and ease to her learners for 31 years from 1993 till 2024 and Mrs. Bindu Malviya, who taught Hindi and Culture for 15 years of her service since 2009 till 2024. None of the above teachers were just limited to their academics but also excelled in a lot many co-curriculars across the curriculum and trained the students in the same.

The farewell program began with welcoming the

beloved retiring teachers. The school was overjoyed to have their presence for the bitter-sweet adieu gathering. Each of the teachers shared their journeys of joining the

sorrow alike.

The program was hosted by Ambika Keshri, with melodious renditions of some classics presented by Shiv Shankar Mishra and



institution, serving it for decades, growing, evolving and learning in its hallowed branches, and seeing the seed-like school, blossom into a full-fledged tree. With a bag full of memories, each of them felt overwhelmed with their sharing. Everyone present could also share in their experiences of joy and

Anshul Malviya. Vineeta Singh, a senior teacher and the activity in-charge of school, summed up her memories and experiences with each of the retiring teachers.

The school presented each of them with tokens of gratitude in the form of bouquets, scroll messages and

travelling trolley bags. Rekha Baid, Director of the Patanjali Group of Schools, shared her message on behalf of Dr. Krishna Gupta, Honorary Secretary. She gave her best wishes to all the senior teachers and expressed gratitude for the dedicated years of service. She wished them the best for their restful years to come post-retirement and that they should now devote time to their own selves, fulfilling all their desires and hobbies. Alpona Dey, the Principal of M.P.V.M. shared anecdotes of her experiences with each of the teachers, and cherished their memorable learnings and adventures. She wished them a content retirement, hoping healthy and happy old age and enjoyment of yet another beautiful phase of their lives.

Youth's body with injury marks found on roadside

Kanpur: The body of a youth was found on Saturday on the side of the service road near Chakarpur Mandi in Sachendi police station area. Blood was coming out of his mouth. The police reached the spot after receiving the information and started investigation by taking possession of the body. Forensic team also reached the spot. Police say that the clear cause of death is not yet known. Forensic team also reached the spot and evidence has been collected. In this regard, nearby people say that the deceased youth lived in a rented room in a soldier's house in Chakarpur. He left the room at night and did not return. He was found dead this morning. However, the family members have not yet filed any complaint. If a complaint is re-

ceived, further legal action will be taken on the basis of the post-mortem report.

ceived, further legal action will be taken on the basis of the post-mortem report.

Police arrested vicious snatcher, recovered looted jewellery

Mirzapur: Police Station Dehat, District Mirzapur, Pramila Jaiswal, wife of Suresh Jaiswal, resident of Indiranagar Navjeevan Society, Shantakunj, Mumbai Maharashtra, against two unknown snatchers riding a motorcycle in relation to Vadini snatching her neck chain and earrings and running away. A written complaint was given. On the basis of which FIR No. 125/2024 Section 356 IPC was registered at Dehat police station and investigation was started. Taking the above incident seriously, Superintendent of Police Mirzapur Abhinandan, under the leadership of Area Officer Sadar

Manjari Rao, gave instructions to the police station in-charge, Dehat, to arrest and recover the accused as soon as possible. In accordance with the above instructions, it was registered at the rural police station. In the course

of the process of collecting physical and electronic evidence in the investigation of the above mentioned case, on the basis of the informer's information received by the police station Co. Dehat on Friday, an accused Ravi Shankar Bind, son of a motorcycle rider, passed by Gandhi Ghat culvert located at Lohandi Kalan under the police station Co. Dehat area. Mooselal Bind resident of Nakahra police station, rural district Mirzapur was arrested. near the arrested accused One pair of earrings (yellow metal) related to M.O. No. 125/2024 (Po. Dehat) and one broken chain (yellow metal) related to M.O. No. 96/2024 (Po. Katra) and part of the money from the sale of jewellery, Rs 15,000 in cash and one country made pistol of 315 bore and live cartridges were recovered. Taking legal action against the arrested accused as per the rules under Section 392, 411 IPC and 3/25 Arms Act. Sent to court/jail and the numberless motorcycle used in the incident was seized under Section 207 MV Act.



Two arrested including chief constable in nurse kidnapping and murder case

Kanpur: The police of Barra police station, while uncovering the nurse kidnapping and murder case, have arrested two people including the chief constable posted in the Uttar Pradesh Police Department. The police team has recovered the towel and bolero used in the murder. Giving this information on Saturday, Deputy Commissioner of Police South Ravindra Kumar said that among the arrested accused is Manoj Kumar, resident of Aliganj Jaithra Gandhi Nagar of Etah district, who is employed on the post of Chief Constable in the Uttar Pradesh Police Department. Manoj Kumar currently lives in LIG Tatyta Tope Nagar O Block Gujaini lo-

cated in Gujaini police station area of Kanpur. The second accused is Rahul Kumar, a resident of Purva village of Bhimsen Ram Singh of Sachendi police station. In this regard, by removing the earlier case registered under section 366, the section was increased by increasing section 364, 302, 201 and taking legal action against the accused on Saturday. They have been sent to jail.

DCP Ravindra Kumar told that Manoj Kumar was posted in Barra police station two-three years ago. During the same time, Manoj Kumar got acquainted with nurse Shalini Tiwari. Gradually, as the closeness between the two increased, she started pres-

surizing accused Manoj Kumar to marry her. Since accused Manoj Kumar was already married, he was refusing to get married. Shalini repeatedly pressurized him for marriage. For this reason, to get rid of Shalini, the accused kidnapped and murdered her and with the help of his associate Rahul Kumar, son of late Rajkumar, resident of village Ram Singh, Purva Post, Bhimsen police station, Sachendi, Kanpur Nagar, with the aim of hiding the evidence, he took the body of the deceased to his ancestral home. Her body was taken to village Jaithra district Etah and thrown into a dry well. After this, he came back to

Kanpur in the night with his partner Rahul. He had given the deceased's mobile with SIM to his friend Rahul Kumar and sent him to Ayodhya and told him to turn on the mobile in Ayodhya and break the mobile and throw it in a drain, so that the police could be misled. Police kept searching for Shalini in Ayodhya. The body of the deceased was recovered from Jaithra district Etah police station on 18 February, in connection with which a case has been registered at Jaithra police station. With hard work by Barra police station and surveillance team, the accused were arrested and the incident was successfully exposed.

AF authorities refutes misleading info on Chinook Helicopter

Prayagraj: The news circulating about a DRDO installed Chinook Helicopter Model at Lucknow during DefExpo 2020 missing is misleading. Chinook is made by Boeing and DRDO has never installed any Helicopter Model at Lucknow anytime or handed any such model over to Lucknow Municipal Corporation (LMC). DefExpo2020 was an incident free exhibition and no product or model went missing during its conduct. LMC has stated that in 2020 a one dimensional helicopter model was installed in view of Global Investors' Summit and G20, and was later removed via scrap vehicle, with the metal being used in LMC's Waste to Wonder Park, informed Group Captain Samir Gangakhedkar, PRO Defence, Prayagraj.

Only BJP honoured Maharaja Suheldev Pasi: Siddharth Nath Singh

Prayagraj: In a meeting organized by the elite people of Pasi community in Puramufti Prayagraj, former cabinet minister and MLA City West Siddharth Nath Singh said that if anyone has honoured Maharaja Suheldev Pasi, it is BJP. Siddharth Nath Singh while addressing the gathering said that Pasi community has made a huge contribution in the independence of the country. But Congress did the work of suppressing the historical fame and contribution of Pasi community among the public. He said that only Bharatiya Janata Party has done the work of honoring Maharaja Suheldev Pasi and bringing the story of his bravery before the public. Today the entire Pasi community is united and determined to support the BJP.

In Modi government, all sections are getting food without any discrimination. In which he did not see Hin-

dus and Muslims and ration was being given to 80 crore people on the basis of humanity. Singh said that when there was Modi's government, Ram temple could be built with everyone's cooperation and support. Now we will unite and reiterate our resolve to make Narendra Modi Prime Minister for the third time by making Phulpur BJP candidate Praveen Patel win. During this, he talked about the glorious history of Pasi community which was hidden for centuries due to politics.

On this occasion, media in-charge and social worker Dinesh Tiwari, Virendra Pasi former district panchayat member, Sanjay Pasi Pradhan Meerapur, Hari Jeevan Pasi Pradhan Manauri, Sarvan Pasi Pradhan Mardanpur, Dr. Anup Kumar Saroj, Bhim Pasi, Kuldeep Arya, Brij Mohan Arya, Rani Pasi etc. were present.

'Achaar Ka Perfect Jodidaar' Celebrates India's Pickle Season Celebration

Varanasi: Adani Wilmar Limited (AWL), one of India's largest food & FMCG companies, has rolled out the second edition of 'Achaar Ka Perfect Jodidaar' campaign to celebrate the vibrant pickle season in India during the months of May and June. The initiative, centred on its renowned Fortune Kachi Ghani Mustard Oil (KGMO) pickle pack, focusses on reviving the age-old tradition of pickle making and evoking the nostalgia associated with it. The campaign features a plethora of activities that will unfold in key cities like Banaras,

Gorakhpur, Agra, Lucknow, Patna, and Muzaffarpur between May 18th and May 26th. Fortune KGMO is renowned for its purity, ensuring a rich taste and aroma for consumers. With low moisture levels, the product facilitates the pickle-making process while ensuring freshness and deliciousness for an extended period.

At the heart of the campaign lies the Fortune Achar Carnival, where women from all walks of life gathered to celebrate the art of pickle-making. A demonstration by renowned chef Joseph Gomes at the Varanasi event showcased

unique pickle recipes crafted with Fortune Mustard Oil. Participants engaged in interactive cooking sessions led by the chef, fostering a spirit of culinary exploration. Additionally, an exciting Achar Quiz hosted by Ms Shilpi Seth added to the event's excitement.

Mr. Mukesh Mishra, Vice President, Sales & Marketing, Adani Wilmar Limited, voicing his support for the campaign, said, "The 'Achaar Ka Perfect Jodidaar' campaign celebrates a cherished aspect of our culture - the pickle season, deeply ingrained in

Indian life, especially in North India. As a brand, Fortune takes pride in preserving the timeless tradition of pickle making, ensuring it endures despite the rise of modern, convenient cooking methods. With the campaign in its second edition, we continue to not only honour the tradition of pickle making, inspiring nostalgia and encouraging creativity among consumers, but also document it for posterity. We have also introduced a range of activities to strengthen our bond with consumers and communities, reaffirming our dedication to excellence and innovation."

Minister Nandi inspected venue of public meeting of PM and Home Minister

Prayagraj: Regarding the proposed public meeting of Home Minister Amit Shah at Soraon Pati village of Meja assembly constituency on Sunday and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's proposed public meeting at the Parade Ground in Prayagraj on May 21, Uttar Pradesh Government's Industrial Development Minister Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi inspected both the public meeting places. He took stock of security arrangements as well as other preparations. Minister Nandi said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's public meeting in Prayagraj will be historic. For which there is tremendous enthusiasm

among the officials, workers as well as the general public. During the inspection at the parade ground, BJP's National General Secretary Dr. Radha Mohan Aggarwal, Braj region President and coordinator of the Prime Minister's public meeting Durvijay Shakya, Metropolitan President Rajendra Mishra, Metropolitan Vice President Anil Kesarwani Jhallar and other officials were present. After inspecting the parade ground. The minister reached Soraon Pati village of Nandi Meja assembly constituency. Where he inspected and took stock of the preparations for the public meeting to be held by



Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday.

Minister Nandi, along with taking stock of the public meeting venue, appealed to the Home Minister to make the public meeting grand and historic by meeting and holding meetings with local officials, workers, businessmen in markets like Sirsa Bazaar, Meja Road Square, Karchana, Bheerpur, Rampur Square etc. of. Minister Nandi said that Modi government is going to be formed once again in the country. After June 4, lotus will once again bloom all over the country. During this, officials like Yogesh Shukla, Baba Tiwari, Nathu Gupta etc. were present.

Our vote belongs to the person who safeguards our honour: Female voters

Prayagraj: When our delegation visited Saji, Belbania, Vaidwar, Udhar, Hata, and Dhanwal villages in the Koraon area of Allahabad's parliamentary seat in the trans-Yamuna region, the fair sex voters there uniformly backed the Modi government. While appreciating, they stated that Prime Minister Modi has granted us the right to live in dignity. The ladies claimed that before the Modi regime, they had to struggle for their honour every day. "Modiji has shown respect for women by installing toilets in every house. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has improved our lives by providing free Ujjwala gas connections. We ladies are grateful to the Modi government for giving us the right to live with our heads held high," said a female voter during candid poll discussion with our representative.

Modi ji has made us (women) home owners. Modiji, through the Prime Minister Awas Yojana, has given us the right to live with our heads held high. Before Modi became Prime Minister, we ladies could not have imagined receiving such a service from the government. Prior to this, votes were cast in elections based on fraudulent promises, and for the next five years, no one was seen, there was no power,

roads, or drinking water in the community. It was only there on occasion, and when the transformer failed, it may take months to replace the transfer. Drinking water was scarce. Today, the current administration has made every mechanism in our village more efficient.

There is no longer any reason to be concerned about therapy. Doctors are available at health centers, and medicines are provided for free. When asked who they would vote for as Prime Minister this time, all women agreed unequivocally that only Modi, the BJP candidate, would receive their votes. They will be our representatives, and we will ensure that they win by a large margin of votes. The BJP has given women the right to live in dignity. We have earned the respect of the entire society. The government has guaranteed that we, as women, participate in every sector. In what fields do women volunteer today? She is free to decide whether or not to go. Modi ji has given us this privilege as women. He has improved the level of living for us rural ladies. Prime Minister Modi is not just the country's Prime Minister, but also the defender of women, and he is worried about our collective honor. He is always concerned about our rights.

Curtains draw over six-day summer camp

Prayagraj: Summer camp, where the great outdoors become your greatest classroom!

Six days summer camp at Patanjali Nursery School started from 13th May 2024 and concluded on 18th May 2024 with great joy and enthusiasm. Summer camp provides a refreshing and wholesome experience and children enjoy the multifarious activities along with their friends. An array of activities conducted like Craft medley, Story flowerpot, Cooking bees, Dance expression, Music loft, Games Fusion and last and foremost was the Potters wheel, which was the striking attraction of all the activities. Provided with an even platform for all



kids to explore and express their creativity in any form, also let the students keep themselves away from the gadgets at least for some time. Children had a joyful experience. The camp concluded with unforgettable memories and children carried the craft takeaways made during the summer camp as a remembrance of the efforts and participation. Director of the school Ms. Rekha Baid Gupta was amazed at our camper who showed up every morning with a zest of life and lauded the various activities. Our Head Mistress Ms. Vibha Srivastava extended tons of thanks to the parents for their support.

Catering specifically to the fashion-forward youth

Prayagraj: Reliance Retail's youth-centric fashion brand, Yousta, made its debut in North India, with a store opening in Prayagraj at SP Marg, Civil Lines. The launch event was celebrated with the distinguished presence of renowned Bollywood actor Rajkumar Rao, who inaugurated the store, adding a touch of star-studded glamour.

During the event, Rajkumar Rao took the opportunity to explore the extensive collection, appreciating the stylish and affordable fashion options that Yousta offers. His presence at the store highlighted Yousta's commitment to providing trendy and budget-friendly clothing, catering specifically to the fashion-forward youth.

Since its launch in August 2023, Yousta has been rapidly expanding across India, with stores now in Maharashtra, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand, West Bengal, and the latest addition in Uttar Pradesh. Yousta is committed to captivating young shoppers

with its diverse range of trendy top-to-bottom ensembles, unisex and character merchandise, and weekly fashion drops through its distinctive "Starring Now" collection, all priced below Rs. 999, with the majority below Rs. 499.

The Prayagraj store offers a modern, tech-enabled shopping environment with self-checkout counters for efficiency, and charging stations for convenience, ensuring a contemporary shopping experience. Yousta also emphasizes community engagement and sustainability. The store collaborates with local non-profit organizations, encouraging customers to donate old clothes as part of community support and sustainability efforts. Patrons in Prayagraj are invited to visit the new Yousta store to explore the vibrant collection firsthand, or they can shop online via the AJIO and JioMart platforms. For the latest updates and fashion releases, follow Yousta on Instagram at @youstafashion.

IDA camp held

Prayagraj: The Indian Dental Association (IDA) held a camp at MPVM. The renowned dentists of the city taught the importance of oral hygiene. They also held a dental



check up for the students of MPVM. The students of Patanjali Sarva Siksha Prarambhik Vidyalaya and Mahila Swabalanbhan evam Prashikshan Kendra: two projects run by Maharshi Patanjali Vidya Mandir for the economically weaker sections of the neighbourhood benefitted vastly from this drive.

Cong-led Oppn can topple BJP: Shekhar Bahuguna

Prayagraj: A large convoy of youth from every section will reach Rahul Akhilesh's meeting to overthrow the government which is playing with the lives of 140 crore people, said senior Congress leader Shekhar Bahuguna. "First and foremost the camping this time is led and driven by workers. Workers are more enthused and sense a victory by a big margin. The energy among the workers are unparalleled. Secondly, the formal alliance with the Samajwadi party has also reinforced the campaign. The combined rallies of Rahul Gandhi and Akhilesh Yadav is beginning to have its effect and I am sure that it will yield huge electoral dividend. This time both the groupings have ensured that they penetrate down the organisation and deliver a clear message to the masses via its organisational work," he added. Today Congress Party's youth leader Rahul Gandhi, former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and Samajwadi



Party chief, Akhilesh Yadav will hold a joint rally in the afternoon at Padala of Phulpur Lok Sabha and Mogri of Allahabad Lok Sabha constituency. In order to make it successful, former state spokesperson of Congress Javed Urfi and senior Congressman Shekhar Bahuguna visited different areas of the city to make the rally successful. Both the leaders issued a statement and said that there is tremendous enthusiasm in every section of the society, especially among the youth. Javed Urfi and Shekhar Bahuguna told reporters that the effect of the appeal made to the common people is being seen that people assured that we will together fight against the government which is risking the lives of Rs 140 crore people to increase the party fund and fill its own coffers. "People are completely united against the government and will reach in maximum numbers in Akhilesh-Rahul's meeting," they concluded.

Neeraj Tripathi along with Mayor did public relations

Prayagraj: 52nd Lok Sabha Allahabad BJP candidate Neeraj Tripathi started public relations in Johnson Ganj, Loknath, Chowk Zero Road and Malviya Nagar. BJP media in-charge, Gopal Ji Malviya Rajesh Kesarwani told that 52nd Lok Sabha Allahabad is the city of BJP candidate Neeraj Tripathi and Mayor Umesh Chandra Ganesh Kesarwani, public relations program in the Southern Assembly under the leadership of Dnyaneshwar Shukla Assembly Convener Date ~ 18 May 2024 at 11 am Johnson Ganj Loknath Started public relations from the Chowk. In the public relations, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of developed India was shared among the public. Mayor Umesh Chandra Ganesh Kesarwani described Congress as a sinking boat and said that the people of Indi alliance are riding on the same boat. Lok Sabha BJP candidate Neeraj Tripathi was welcomed with



great enthusiasm by the business community at various places. Then drinking water at the residence of Malviya Nagar media in-charge Gopal ji Malviya. Passing through Chaudhary Saheb's residence in Malviya Nagar, it ended at Kalyani Devi. Former councillor Mr. Giri

Baba, councillors Sunita Chopra, Kiran Jaiswal, Sahil Arora, senior former councillor who was mainly involved in public relations, former General Secretary Mahanagar Giri Shankar Prabhakar (Giri Baba), Senior BJP leader Rajan Shukla, Ram Ji Kesarwani, Shailendra Mishra (Baba),

Metropolitan General Secretary Rajan Shukla, Advocate Amit Malviya, Senior BJP leader Padum Jaiswal, District Vice President Grijesh Mishra, Senior BJP leader Manoj Mishra, door-to-door public relations campaign was conducted. Mainly present in the program were Mandal President Sumit Kesarwani, General Secretary Bablu Mishra, Vice President Mayank Agarwal, Mahila Morcha District General Secretary Rita Singh, Mahila Morcha Mandal President Shikha Khanna, Social Media Head Dev Dwivedi, Ayush Agrahari, Mandal Vice President Mayank Agarwal, Intezar Ahmed (Munna). A large number of workers including Dinesh Vishwakarma, Councillor Sunita Chopra, Minority Morcha General Secretary Harinder Pal Singh (Lali Sardar), Mukesh Srivastava, Jitu Saraswat, Gaurav Bajpai, Dheeraj Kesarwani were present.

INDIASKILLS 2024: A NEW RECOGNITION FOR YOUTH SKILLS

Prayagraj: "Win the world with skills!" This is the tagline of IndiaSkills competition. It's clear that if you possess a skill, nothing can stop you from progressing. All participants in the IndiaSkills competition are embodying this tagline. National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), under Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, organised a national-level competition, "IndiaSkills 2024," at YashoBhoomi in Dwarka, New Delhi. It's not just a competition; it's a grand

campaign that boosts the confidence of Indian youth and introduces them to a new global recognition.

The largest skill competition in India is underway, where participants are showcasing their talents. Students from across the country are actively participating in IndiaSkills. The winners of IndiaSkills will have the opportunity to represent India at the WorldSkills competition in Lyon, France.

IndiaSkills 2024 brings together over 900 stu-

dents from more than 30 states and union territories, along with 400 industry experts. Participants are competing in diverse areas such as drone-film making, textile weaving, leather shoe making, and prosthetics. They receive training from institutions like ITIs, NSTIs, polytechnics, engineering institutes, and biotechnology institutes.

Speaking about IndiaSkills 2024, Mr. Ved Mani Tiwari, CEO of

NSDC and MD of NSDC International, said,



"India's performance in the WorldSkills competi-

tion is commendable. From 39th place, we've climbed

strates that we're making progress in every field.

Our winners will have the chance to showcase their talent in Lyon, France, and make their mark globally."

In IndiaSkills, Rina Vagh from Odisha has carved a unique identity for herself in welding skills. She says, "I want to make a difference in society through welding. My hard work and dedication have earned me a platform at

IndiaSkills, which I'm immensely proud of." Similarly, Fahim Javed from Kupwara district in Jammu and Kashmir has scripted a new success story in graphic designing through IndiaSkills. Fahim, who harnessed his skills in graphic designing using the IndiaSkills platform, credits his success to his mother. He says, "Graphic designing is a vast field. It offers me the opportunity to build a better future. The best part? Whatever we imagine, we can create it on paper or digitally." IndiaSkills is a

competition that turns dreams into reality for young people, propelling them toward a brighter future. Today, Indian youth are using their skills across various trades, giving wings to their aspirations. NSDC is leaving no stone unturned to make their dreams come true. IndiaSkills participants are inspiring the entire nation. NSDC has paved a new path by providing a platform to Rani Vagh and Fahim Javed, among many other young talents, to illuminate their futures through IndiaSkills.

Editorial

Biden's xenophobia, low-growth charges fall flat on India

President George W Bush was famous for his quite often hilarious gaffes, but he has been receiving steady competition from the 81-year-old President Joe Biden. The latest Biden pronouncement may be more by way of a clumsy and ill-informed analogy gone wrong. Luckily for him, his presidential election rival, the almost 78-year-old Donald Trump, makes quite a few bloopers too. Republican contender, former President Donald Trump, may be tough on Mexican immigrants with his infamous, if not too effective, border fence and wall, but Democrat Joe Biden, the incumbent president, is in harmony with the Democratic Party pro-immigration stance. This even in the face of internal advice that he should tough talk on the same border issue. Of course, hordes of poor and largely illiterate illegal immigrants in 2024 who don't speak English are not as welcome as they were in the 1870s. In the 19th century and before, immigrants, largely from Europe, slaves brought in from Africa, and some immigration from China, helped to populate the vast country. They threw out the British colonists, pushed back the French and Mexicans, subdued the native Red Indians, built the engines of growth, and even fought a civil war amongst themselves. Immigrants, many originally poor and persecuted in their erstwhile home countries, have been a crucial feature of American DNA. This is what Biden meant, but perhaps he should have stopped right there. Immigrants into America are known and lauded for their hard work, ingenuity, and grit, and Biden was addressing a crowd of mostly Asian Americans. More recently, the brilliant IIT educated ones from India, its 'brain drain' and America's gain, have been most useful in building America's preeminence in IT, other technology, and commerce. Scores of Indian-origin CEOs of marquee companies on the Nasdaq and S&P 100 indices have led to the joke that you can't be CEO in America if you aren't Indian. It is a complete makeover of the earlier American image of India as a land of teeming poverty, with tigers, snake charmers, and fakirs thrown in. President Joe Biden, keen to distinguish his candidature from that of Donald Trump, decided to praise immigrants at a campaign reception fundraiser. On the campaign trail for Biden 1.0, he had vowed to enact legislation to make the immigration process more 'humane' in contrast to President Trump's mostly intended, but not implemented, harsh measures. This time, too, Trump is speaking of deportations. However, as president, Biden could not make much progress on immigration legislation without bipartisan support because of surges of illegal immigration at the southern border. And calls, certainly from Republicans, but even from Democrats, to seal the border and crack down on asylum seekers. Some went so far as to call for banning asylum altogether. But the consensus is that, at this fundraiser, Biden let his analogies run away with him. Biden said American allies and partners Japan and India are struggling economically 'because they're xenophobic'. He included 'frenemy' China and combatant Russia in the illustration as well. Japan is opening up to a cautious immigration policy as it grapples with its diminishing and ageing population, and its economy has been showing signs of recovery from a 25-year-long recession. It is keen, however, not to import terrorism and other social upheavals into its very well-ordered culture. India is the most populous country in the world, with 65 per cent of its people under the age of 35. It is the fastest-growing major economy in the world, with 6-7 per cent GDP growth per annum, and harbours, willy-nilly, nearly 50 million illegal immigrants, mainly from Bangladesh and Myanmar. These immigrants have not been rounded up and deported in the main.



How frontier highway in Arunachal is India's strategic asset

The 1,700 km-long frontier highway along the McMahon Line connecting the border districts of Tawang, East Kameng, Upper Subansiri, West Siang, Upper Siang, Dibang Valley, Lower Dibang Valley, Anjaw, and Changlang in Arunachal Pradesh adjoining Tibet and Myanmar is a geostrategic milestone. Image: Facebook The work-in-progress frontier highway in Arunachal Pradesh is a strategic asset for India. This project should have seen the light of day in the immediate aftermath of the Sino-Indian War in 1962. The Chinese intention was crystal clear then and even now. It is and was intended to expand territorially and exercise its hegemony

in the neighbourhood. India went through unwarranted procrastination over a few decades. This procrastination continued, which risked India's Himalayan border space. Decoding the prolonged indecision, S Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs, called it the era of diffidence. He characterises the current strength of India and its proactiveness, global importance, and determination to protect its border space, come what may, as an era of confidence. He gives credit to the diplomatic heft of India over the last ten years and its keenness to protect its interests and the interests of its friends. Inarguably, India is cautious but not afraid.

Protecting its interests is its top priority. Much against the Chinese irritations, India went ahead with its critical project of the frontier highway because it realised the safety of its border space was of great importance. The geostrategic gravity of this highway emanates from the Chinese brinkmanship in the eastern Himalayas. The Chinese geopolitical weight in the region became evident in the 1950s because, during this period, it annexed Tibet by force, which led to a massive migration of Tibetans, including His Holiness Dalai Lama, to India. Following this geopolitical tension, the Sino-Indian War in 1962 unsettled the region. The Chinese territorial

appetite was amplified, and behaved like a regional hegemon. Salami slicing (incremental territorial expansionism), border skirmishes, and cartographic redrafting became its preferred tactics to keep the tension in the region brewing. Beijing's expansionist streak has recently been seen in Doklam, Galwan, Tawang, etc. This was responded to in equal measure. For India, territorial integrity is paramount. This resolve is shown in action under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The 1,700 km-long frontier highway along the McMahon Line connecting the border districts of Tawang, East Kameng, Upper Subansiri.

Global strategic sw China is stockpiling, India must boost reserves

In late 2023, China created a new 31.5 million-barrel strategic oil storage facility at the eastern Chinese port of Dongying. The heavy purchases of Russian crude oil have found their place there. Is it hedging for a future oil price surge or building stocks for a future conflict is being speculated. China currently holds roughly 511 million barrels of Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR), which corresponds to less than 50 days of Chinese petroleum imports. Petroleum products continue to be strategic assets that are still the drivers of all transportation, significant electricity production, and many industrial processes. Petroleum and gas reserves are nature's blessing to only a few select regions of the world. Most large economies in Europe, China, Japan, and India, among others, are major importers of petroleum products. Global strategic petroleum reserves refer to crude oil inventories (or stockpiles) held by the government of a particular country, as well as private industry, to safeguard the economy and help maintain national security during an energy crisis. Strategic reserves are intended to be used to cover short-term supply disruptions. The Ukraine war once again emphasised the need for logistic supply chain man-



agement and how disruptions can upset any country's strategic and tactical intentions. They also impact the day-to-day lives of the citizens. The disruption of electric power, petrol, and gas in winter 2022 in Europe and Ukraine was severe. American sanctions on Iranian and Russian oil have greatly upset demand and supply dynamics. The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) often operates as a cartel to control production and thus influence prices. There is thus a need for all importing nations to not only broaden the basket of sourcing countries but also to build their own strategic storage capacities. **Global Petroleum Reserves** The world consumes roughly 100 million barrels of crude oil per day. This translates to 36.5 billion barrels per year. The proven global oil reserves currently are nearly

1,650 billion barrels, and that will last nearly 45 years. For the last one decade there has been no addition to known oil reserves. Major countries with percentages of reserves are Venezuela (18.2 per cent), Saudi Arabia (16.2 per cent), Canada (10.4 per cent), Iran (9.5 per cent), Iraq (8.7 per cent), Kuwait (6.1 per cent), UAE (5.9 per cent), Russia (4.8 per cent), Libya (2.9 per cent), United States (2.1 per cent), China (1.5 per cent), India (0.29 per cent), and Pakistan (0.021 per cent), among many others. **Global Strategic Petroleum Reserves** The International Energy Agency (IEA), a group of 31 countries, requires members to hold strategic reserves equal to 90 days of the previous year's net imports, though commercial stockpiles can be included in that total. Only net-exporter members of the IEA are

exempt from this requirement. The forward commercial storage agreements allow oil-exporting countries increased flexibility in commercial storage and allow petroleum to be stored within an oil-importing country. Such reserves remain technically under the control of the oil-exporting country. In 2022, approximately 4.1 billion barrels of oil were held in strategic reserves by IEA member states, of which 1.4 billion were government-controlled and the remainder were held by private industry. The US, China (non-IEA member), and Japan are leading crude oil consumers and maintain the largest SPR. Many other non-IEA countries have started working on their own SPR. **China's Strategic Petroleum Reserves** China has the second largest storage, at 511 million barrels. China's daily consumption is around 12 million barrels of crude. Thus, their SPR is equivalent to between 40 and 50 days of imports. China eventually wants to raise the figure to 90 days of reserve. Russia has been the major supplier to China of late, contributing as much as 2.14 million barrels per day, overtaking Saudi Arabia. Russian oil was substantially discounted due to Western sanctions. Stockpiling partly insulates Beijing from the supply chain and pricing

dynamics. Also, larger stocks will be required for a possible Taiwan Strait conflict that could result in a military blockade or economic or trade sanctions. China has also secured supply chains through pipelines from Russia, the trans-Myanmar oil and gas pipeline, and from central Asia, predominantly Turkmenistan. Simultaneously, China is rapidly shifting to electric vehicles and is not only building lithium stocks for batteries but has also acquired processing facilities and mines, including overseas. Investment bank UBS estimates that China might control a third of all global lithium supplies by 2025. The US SPR is the world's largest, with an authorised maximum capacity of 727 million barrels. The reserves are kept in salt caverns located at different locations along the Texas and Louisiana Gulf Coasts. The US consumed an average of about 20.01 million barrels of petroleum per day. It was a net petroleum exporter of 1.64 million barrels per day in 2023. It thus has the capacity to play around with the SPR. The US government has historically tapped into its SPR following man-made accidents, economic crises, and natural disasters, though it has also sold and loaned crude oil from the SPR to other nations at times.

Rafah offensive and war in Gaza

A girl walks next to a tent sprayed with a message in solidarity with pro-Palestinian university students, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestinians in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip, May 2, 2024. Image: REUTERS The war in Gaza is due to complete seven months on May 7, marking the longest war in Gaza since Israel's voluntary vacation of Gaza in 2005. Contrary to expectations, borne more out of Israel's enormous military superiority against Hamas as well as past conflicts in Gaza, the conflict has not ended swiftly. During this time, however, Israeli strikes have flattened Gaza to the ground, making it completely uninhabitable, perhaps for decades. The stench of death and decay overwhelms the thin strip straddling

the Mediterranean Sea, with estimates of over 34,500 deaths, including 13,000 children, and over 77,500 injured and maimed for life. Medical aid, food, and water have been severely restricted, and most international aid agencies, including UNRWA as well as WCK (World Central Kitchen), have been targeted and prevented from delivering lifesaving aid. Despite a UN Security Council resolution of March 25 calling for an immediate ceasefire and the unconditional release of hostages, neither of the warring parties has been able to come to a common understanding. In the midst of it, there was a period of dangerous escalation when an Israeli strike on April 1 targeted the Iranian Consulate building in Damascus, Syria, resulting in the

deaths of seven members of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), including General Mohammad Reza Zahedi, the senior-most commander in Lebanon and Syria. Outraged by the attack on its 'sovereign territory', Iran retaliated on April 13 with a massive and well-synchronised attack by drones and missiles. While most of the drones were intercepted mid-air, some of the missiles found their mark and struck the Negev Israeli air base in the Negev desert. Negev is the air base from which Israel launched its F-35 fighters that attacked the Iranian consulate in Damascus. Despite decades of hostility between Israel and Iran, this was the first time that Iran had launched strikes directly on Israel from its territory.

What a sight to behold! Once the world's most powerful person, who strode majestically on the world stage, is now sitting sullenly in a New York court as an accused in a criminal trial. If convicted, he can be imprisoned for up to four years and be debarred from holding a public office for life. Of course, I am referring to former President Trump. So, has the ethos of democracy and the rule of law finally prevailed? Let's hold judgement pending a deeper dive. But first, the atmospherics and optics. Naturally, the high-octane spectacle has the country riveted and divided. Depending on your political affiliations, you're either enraged or elated to see the spectacle of Trump flitting across the nation from courtroom to courtroom to defend himself in numerous civil and criminal cases, some quite serious. The hardcore Republicans, comprising under 30 per cent of the electorate, fall into the first category and firmly believe that their leader is being subjected to vendetta. Trump accuses the current administration of orchestrating a 'witch hunt' ad nauseum. The Democrats, on the other hand, see it as his comeuppance and are eager to see him behind bars. Meanwhile, the media is having a field day. Cameras are not allowed in American courtrooms, though artists can draw sketches and reporters can cover the courtroom proceedings. Lurid details of the trial hog the limelight, with sub-

stantive parts relegated to the margins, at times. Trump's alleged scowls, naps, jury and witness intimidation, as well as the daily barrage of media statements, complaints, innuendoes, social media posts, and name-calling, provide enough grist for the mill. Nothing is off-limits for Trump. He has roasted practically every judge, prosecutor, and witness just for doing her/his job and has hitherto been getting away with it. Any other defendant would have been hauled up for contempt of court many times over. But as is his wont, he went a bit too far in the ongoing 'hush-money' criminal trial in New York, presided over by Judge Juan Merchan. The case stems from Trump's alleged dalliance with porn star Stormy Daniels and Playboy model Karen McDougal in 2006, which is not illegal in the US. However, in 2016, in the midst of his presidential race against Hillary Clinton, Daniels threatened to go public with the story, which could have caused irreparable damage to his campaign and presidential prospects. McDougal's counsel, too, sought to have the story published. Trump's associates then embarked upon a so-called 'catch-and-kill' practice to hush up such stories by paying off the women and buying their silence. Daniels received \$130,000 from Michael Cohen, Trump's former lawyer and confidant, which was reimbursed to him as 'legal fees' by falsifying the business records. McDonald

received \$150,000. Meanwhile, the candidate maintained his innocence in public by completely denying the stories, stating that he was being viciously attacked with smears and lies. The prosecutors see this as a criminal act, especially as it led to tax evasion and suppression of information, preventing the American voter from making an informed judgement. Numerous legal experts are not convinced and opine that the case is weak. The Trump legal team tried hard to delay the trial until after the elections or have it shifted to another city. They have been successful in most of the cases, including three prospective criminal trials involving unlawful possession of classified documents by Trump even after demitting office and an attempted insurrection on January 6, 2021, to overturn the people's mandate. His lawyers took the stand that their client could not get justice in the Manhattan Court in New York, a bastion of the Democratic Party. They further alleged that Judge Merchan's daughter had a business relationship with the Biden administration, and hence there was a conflict of interest. They demanded that the judge must recuse himself. Next, they asked that the hearing be deferred until the Supreme Court's decision on Trump's claim of absolute presidential immunity from all public or private actions. They tried to delay the jury selection.

Justice or witch hunt?

1 killed, couple injured in separate terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir

NEW DELHI: A former sarpanch was killed while a tourist couple from Rajasthan sustained injuries in two separate terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday night. According to the officials, the first attack took place on an open tourist camp near Pahalgam while the second on the former sarpanch at Hirpora in south Kashmir. "Terrorists fired upon and injured a woman, Farha, a resident of Jaipur (in Rajasthan) and her spouse Tabrez at Yannar in Anantnag. The injured were evacuated to a hospital for treatment. The area has been cordoned off. Further details shall follow," the Kashmir Zone Police posted on X. In another attack, within a half-an-hour, terrorists shot dead former sarpanch Aijaz Sheikh in Shopian's Hirpora around 10.30 pm, the officials said. Sheikh, who was associated with the BJP, was rushed to a hospital where he succumbed



to injuries, the officials added. The areas in Anantnag and Shopian have been cordoned off and search operations have been launched to nab the attackers, the officials said. The attacks came as the state is preparing to go for the polls for the ongoing Lok Sabha elections. Polling in Baramulla will be held on May 20 in the fifth round of the seven-phase general elections. Political parties in Jammu and Kashmir, including the National Conference, PDP and the BJP, condemned the attacks. Former chief minister

and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti, said on X, "While we condemn the attack in Pahalgam today that resulted in injuries to two tourists followed by another attack on a (former) sarpanch in Hirpora, Shopian - the timing of these attacks given that the south election was delayed without any reason is a cause of concern. Especially keeping in mind normalcy claims touted by GOI (Government of India)." National Conference president Farooq Abdullah and vice president Omar Abdullah also condemned the terror attacks.

Poll promises unfulfilled, iron factory linked to Dalai Lama waits for revival

KODERMA: On the outskirts of Jharkhand's Koderma town, a defunct iron factory stands abandoned and corroded, greeting visitors at the entrance of Hirodih, a dusty and sleepy settlement of four villages next to a forgotten legacy. Thousands of residents of Hirodih swing between hope and despair every election, as their demand to revive the plant, once owned by Tibetan spiritual leader and Nobel Prize winner, the Dalai Lama, getting them promises and assurances from candidates seeking

votes every time, only to be forgotten after the polls. After the Buddhist monk crossed into India from Tibet in the 1950s, he set up this plant, spread over 350 acres of land bought from the villagers for Rs 4 crore in 1960, and named it Gayday Iron & Steel Company. The only venture owned by the Tibetan spiritual leader, the factory was a major avenue for employment in the region. But, more than four decades since its closure, hopes of its revival have only diminished due to half-baked attempts, failed promis-

es and administrative apathy, turning Koderma into a migration-prone region. Jung Bahadur Singh, who is now in his late 70s, was among the first employees of this factory. He continued to be on the rolls even when the factory's ownership kept changing hands, but the jobs continued to shrink owing to a lack of proper patronage to run the factory. The septuagenarian lives in Gamarwad village, one of the four villages where people voluntarily gave up their lands for the factory, hoping it would usher in prosperity.

In jail since 2019, J&K candidates' assets up, liabilities dip

BARAMULLA: Independent candidate from Baramulla Lok Sabha seat Abdul Rashid Sheikh, who is lodged in Tihar for alleged terror-funding activities, has significantly reduced his liabilities and increased assets in the last five years, his poll affidavit

shows. Better known as 'Engineer Rashid', the former MLA's assets are now valued at Rs 1.5 crore compared to Rs 80 lakh in 2019. It includes a 41,072 sq ft non-agriculture land in his home town Langate and a house in Srinagar

worth Rs 90 lakh. Rashid has declared Rs 11.3 lakh home loan and Rs 3.1 lakh Kissan Credit Card loan as liabilities. The former MLA has only Rs 1,424 in his sole bank account, his financial disclosures show. In the affidavit, he cited pension as his source.

After British, it's fight against 'desi Angrez': Amit Shah in Bundelkhand

LUCKNOW: Union home minister Amit Shah said on Saturday that there was a time when Uttar Pradesh was known for "producing country-made pistols (kattas)" but, after PM Narendra Modi built a defence corridor in Bundelkhand, "cannonballs are made". Addressing an election rally in Lalitpur, Shah said, "If Pakistan makes any mistake", shells made in Bundelkhand will be used to "destroy" that country. At a rally in Jhansi, in an apparent reference to Congress functionaries, he asked Bundelkhand voters to fight the "desi Angrez" just like they fought against the Mughals and the British. In Amethi, Shah attempted to give a last-minute push to BJP's campaign with a roadshow. Addressing a crowd in Amethi, Shah attacked Congress for referring to Amethi and Rae Bareilly as their "family seats". "Did Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, or Priyanka turn up in Amethi or Rae-Bareilly when the Covid pandemic struck," Shah asked as people shouted "No". Shah also asked the people to choose between Modi and Rahul. He said that after losing from Amethi, Rahul fled to Wayanad and is now back in Rae Bareilly. "I have been in Rae Bareilly for three days and can say with confidence that he (Rahul) is losing from there also," he said. In Jhansi, he told voters they have a choice to make between two categories of leaders: one, a person behind a Rs 12 lakh crore scam who was born with the proverbial silver spoon and holidays in Thailand; and two, Modi, whose tenures as CM and PM have been unblemished, and who was born in a poor house and never took a holiday.

Uddhav holds 4 Mumbai rallies on last day, calls MNS chief Raj 'mercen-

MUMBAI: Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray went into overdrive on the last day of campaigning in Mumbai, holding a road show and public meetings for all four of his party's candidates in Mumbai, reports Chaitanya Marpakwar. At 10 am, Uddhav addressed a press conference of the INDIA bloc. In the afternoon, he held a road show for Amol Kirtikar in Mumbai North West, followed by a rally in Vikhroli for Mumbai North East candidate Sanjay



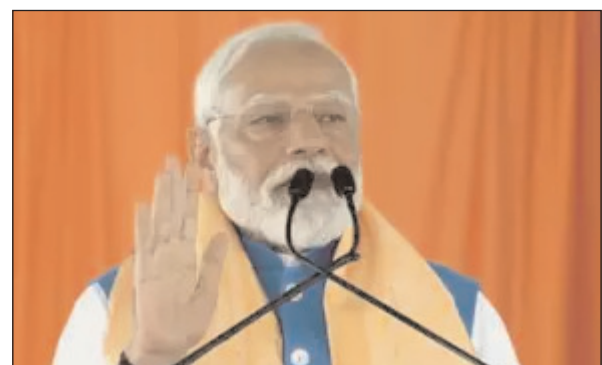
Patil, a public meeting in Dadar (West) for Anil Desai from Mumbai South Central and another rally in Kalachowki for Mumbai South candidate Arvind Sawant. At his rally in Dadar, Uddhav, without naming MNS chief Raj

Thackeray, described him as a mercenary. Uddhav slammed BJP and said it had a "use and throw" policy. He said that just like in 2014, Pakistan PM Nawaz Sharif was invited as a special guest for PM Modi's swearing in, PM Modi

would be invited for the INDIA bloc PM's swearing in. Uddhav said he was a 'desh bhakt' (patriot) but not an 'andh bhakt' (blind follower). He further said in Dadar, "Modi is trying to make Mumbai a beggar. A road show was held in Ghatkopar, it was a loot. The largest billboard in Asia collapsed. The exact number of deaths is not known. Modi's road show was held, with flowers scattered on his side... BMC spent money for this."

One corrupt party covering for another: PM Modi in Delhi

NEW DELHI: Calling the Congress-AAP alliance "opportunistic", PM Modi on Saturday said the world was watching one corrupt party covering for another. Addressing his first rally in the capital for the Lok Sabha polls, Modi said Congress had taken credit for exposing AAP gov't's involvement in the alleged liquor scam but was now forced to join hands. He also accused INDIA bloc of going to any extent to pursue "vote bank politics" and claimed the then Congress gov't handed



over 123 prime properties to Delhi Waqf Board during 2014 LS polls. **PM accuses opposition of appeasement politics** Local Congress functionaries are stuck in a bind because their facade of camaraderie

in Delhi and Haryana and rivalry in Punjab won't hold up for long. The public can clearly see how one corrupt individual is shielding another," Modi said at a rally in northeast Delhi. Taking a swipe at CM Arvind Kejriwal and

AAP, he said those who had entered politics promising to end corruption were now involved in scams worth thousands of crores of rupees and were making rounds of the jail. He also took a dig at Congress-AAP seat-sharing arrangement, saying there was a time when Congress held the reins across the country but now could not put up a candidate in the constituency where its "shahi pariwar" (royal family) lived, referring to the Gandhi family.

Rename namesake disease hitting Ranikhet's fame: HC

DEHRADUN: Uttarakhand high court has directed the state to propose a new name for a disease that has Ranikhet, a picturesque tourist spot, in its name. After a PIL highlighted that the hill station's reputation suffers due to its association with an avian disease known as 'Ranikhet disease', the administration has now been told to file an affidavit suggesting an alternative name by June 27. During the hearing, Chief Justice Ritu Bahri and Justice Rakesh Thapliyal discussed the negative impact of the disease's name on Ranikhet's tourism. Ranikhet renowned for healthy air, Himalayan views. The petitioner, Satish



Joshi, of Ranikhet, said "the picturesque town's allure is overshadowed by this association". Ranikhet, about 50km from Almora, is renowned for its healthy climate, pleasant breeze, stunning Himalayan views, and pollution-free greenery with deodar and oak trees. The area's attractions, including Kumaon Regimental Centre, museum, & golf course, offer memorable experiences for visitors. Ranikhet disease,

also known as Newcastle disease, affects the birds and poultry, leading to severe respiratory issues, nervous system problems, and high mortality rates. This affliction has significant economic implications for poultry farmers and can affect the large local bird populations. The petitioner contended other celebrated hill stations like Mussoorie and Nainital are exalted. Ranikhet, therefore, should not be overshadowed.

What led to mob attack on Indian & Pakistani students at Kyrgyzstan

NEW DELHI: Hours after India advised students in Kyrgyzstan to 'stay indoors' in the wake of the mob attack on Indian and Pakistani students at Kyrgyz university hostels in Bishkek, the foreign ministry of the Central Asian nation has said that the "situation in Bishkek is calm and under full control". Assuring that all necessary measures have been taken to ensure security, peace and stability, the Kyrgyzstan ministry said that "destructive forces are deliberately disseminating untrue and false information about the situation in the country in foreign media outlets and social networks, particu-

larly in Pakistan". "The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic informs that destructive forces are deliberately disseminating untrue and false information about the situation in the Kyrgyz Republic in foreign mass media and social networks, especially in the territory of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan," Kyrgyzstan's ministry of foreign affairs stated in a statement. "The Ministry informs that the situation in the city of Bishkek of the Kyrgyz Republic is calm and under full control, and all necessary measures have been taken to ensure security,

maintain peace and stability," it added. What led to mob attack on Indian & Pakistani students? What led to the escalation in violence was that on May 13, local students of Kyrgyzstan were involved in a skirmish with Egyptian and students from the Arab countries. In this incident a Kyrgyzstan student was reportedly injured. The situation took for the worse as on May 16, when foreign students were targeted and later attacked. Following this incident, mobs started targeting international students, particularly those from India and Pakistan. Groups of locals

attacked the students even as they shouted for help and pleading to go. An Indian national who called up the Indian embassy late on Friday night told the official that they were in dire need of help and security. In the attacks, at least 14 Pakistani students reportedly suffered injuries. India said 'monitoring situation in Bishkek' External affairs minister S Jaishankar on Saturday said that he is "monitoring the situation in Bishkek", amid the reports of violence targeting foreign students coming in from Kyrgyzstan. He urged students to maintain regular contact with the embassy.

19 years on, 20 get life imprisonment for double murder in poll violence

VILLUPURAM: Villupuram additional district judge S Rajasimmavaran sentenced 20 people to life imprisonment on Tuesday for murdering two people in violence during local body polls at a village near Villupuram in 2005. Those sentenced include an advocate, a police constable, and a government servant. The judge fined them Rs 50,000 each. The families of the two victims were awarded compensation of Rs 5 lakh each. Six others accused of the double murder died during trial. According to the prosecution, enmity prevailed between Kulasekaran (59) and Nakkeeran (49) over enjoying poramboke land (unassessed land, owned by govt) in the village. Nakkeeran had contested 2005 local body polls and another villager, Sekar, contested against him. Kulasekaran supported Sekar.

Delhi CM's aide held in Maliwal case; AAP cites new video in defence



NEW DELHI: The police on Saturday arrested Arvind Kejriwal's PA, Bibhav Kumar, from the chief minister's residence in connection with the alleged assault on AAP's Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal. Bibhav has been booked under IPC sections of attempt to commit culpable homicide, assault and using criminal force on a woman to disrobe and criminal intimidation. The sections have provision for punishment of less than seven years. Kumar was produced before the duty metropolitan magistrate and sent to police custody for five days. Even as the arrest was unfolding, AAP minister Atishi challenged Maliwal's version of the incident at a press conference where she shared CCTV footage of May 13. It shows Maliwal being escorted out of the CM's residence by a woman security personnel. She is wearing a pink kurta and frees

her arm from the woman's grip as they exit. "As per Maliwal's FIR, after the alleged attack, she was not in a position to walk and was writhing in pain but the CCTV footage is telling a different story," said Atishi. The sections have provision for punishment of less than seven years. Kumar was produced before the duty metropolitan magistrate and sent to police custody for five days. Even as the arrest was unfolding, AAP minister Atishi challenged Maliwal's version of the incident at a press conference where she shared CCTV footage of May 13. It shows Maliwal being escorted out of the CM's residence by a woman security personnel. She is wearing a pink kurta and frees

Maliwal being 'blackmailed' over ACB probe on recruitment: Atishi

She has mentioned that she was attacked so brutally that she was...in a state of unconsciousness... The footage shows she is walking comfortably," Atishi said. Even as AAP described the entire incident as a BJP conspiracy, police had been looking for Bibhav and visited his

house twice. His mobile location, however, took them to Ludhiana, Amritsar and Mumbai till late on Friday. Police sources claimed Bibhav was at the CM's residence since his return from Lucknow. They suspect he had handed over his cellphone to someone else allegedly to take the cops on a wild goose chase and buy time. Even the policemen deployed at the CM's residence had told the local police that they were not aware of his presence there. Sources said Bibhav got in touch with the police late Friday and early Saturday and offered to turn himself in and cooperate with the investigation if he was not arrested.

Priyanka Gandhi prays in Rae Bareli, holds Amethi road show



LUCKNOW: On the last day of campaigning for the fifth phase of polling in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday invoked divine forces in Rae Bareli and held a road show in Amethi. She began her day by

offering floral tributes to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose at his statue in the Civil Lines area. Mansa Devi Temple was Priyanka's next stop where she prayed for her brother Rahul Gandhi and the nation.

She also offered prayers at Gurunanak

Nagar gurudwara Amethi Lok Sabha media coordinator Anshu Awasthi said Priyanka sat atop an SUV along with Sharma all through the 3-km road show. The entire section appeared to be a mosaic of Congress and SP cadres and enthusiastic voters.

prayers at Gurunanak

In jail since 2019, J&K candidates' assets up, liabilities dip

BARAMULLA: Independent candidate from Baramulla Lok Sabha seat Abdul Rashid Sheikh, who is lodged in Tihar for alleged terror-funding activities, has significantly reduced his liabilities and increased assets in the last five years, his poll affidavit

shows. Better known as 'Engineer Rashid', the former MLA's assets are now valued at Rs 1.5 crore compared to Rs 80 lakh in 2019. It includes a 41,072 sq ft non-agriculture land in his home town Langate and a house in Srinagar worth Rs 90 lakh. Rashid has declared Rs 11.3 lakh

home loan and Rs 3.1 lakh Kissan Credit Card loan as liabilities. The former MLA has only Rs 1,424 in his sole bank account, his financial disclosures show. In the affidavit, he cited pension as his source of income and his spouse works as a "housemaid".

POK will be in India after BJP wins polls, UP CM Yogi

Amid chants of 'Jai Shri Ram', the 'demolition baba', as Yogi was referred to by speakers on the stage, said PM Modi will get a third term and they will cross the 400-mark.

MUMBAI: UP CM Yogi Adityanath, who BJP chose to woo north Indian voters in Nalaspada assembly segment - the largest voter base in Palghar Lok Sabha con-



stituency - on the final day of campaigning for the fifth phase, said "Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (POK) will also be a part of India after they win elections". Amid chants of 'Jai Shri Ram', the 'demolition baba', as Yogi was referred to by speakers on the stage, said PM Modi will get a third term and they

will cross the 400-mark.

Sensing the pulse of the crowd, speakers, be it candidate Dr Hemant Savara or sitting MP Rajendra Gavit, spoke in Hindi. Every speaker ensured slogans of 'Jai Shri Ram' were accompanied with the public being encouraged to raise their hands.

The UP CM said last time BJP candidate Gavit had won the seat, "this time, make sure that Hemant Savara also joins Modi's team at the centre."

Hitting out at Congress, he said Mahatma Gandhi wanted the party to be dissolved, but here, Congress wanted to introduce an inheritance tax.

Yogi has addressed 144 election programmes, including 111 public meetings, in just 49 days this LS election season as one of BJP's star campaigners. The UP CM has been addressing at least three to four meetings daily. As many as six are scheduled in UP on Sunday ahead of the fifth phase of elections on Monday.

IIT-IIM grad held guilty of killing fashion designer

LUCKNOW: A special CBI court in Lucknow Saturday found Rahul Verma, an alumnus of IIT-Kanpur and IIM-Lucknow, guilty of murdering 30-year-old Mumbai-based fashion designer Adesh Bajpai in 2008. The court will announce the quantum of punishment on May 22. Rahul was arrested in 2012 after a detailed scientific investigation confirmed his hand in the gruesome murder of Adesh, whom he had met through an online portal meant for same sex partners. He was charged under IPC sections 302 (murder), 364 (kidnapping) and 120 B.

(criminal conspiracy). CBI filed a chargesheet in April 2012 against Rahul, who had completed his MTech and was studying at IIM-Lucknow at that time. Adesh had visited Kanpur to meet Rahul in Aug 2008, after which he went missing. On Aug 10, the victim met his cousin Vivek Trivedi at Moolganj in Kanpur. Trivedi later informed police that after their meeting, Adesh left with a friend for IIT-K. Nothing was heard from him thereafter, following which his worried father Suryakant lodged a missing person report

on Aug 16.

Adesh's cellphone records indicated his presence at IIT-K on Aug 10, leading police to suspect it to be a kidnapping case. Investigations took a significant turn when human remains, including a skull, were discovered in a ditch on IIT-Kanpur campus on Aug 23. In 2010, following an order of Allahabad HC, the probe was handed over to CBI. CBI turned to Lalji Singh, a pioneer in DNA fingerprinting, for assistance. Singh recommended extracting DNA from the bones at LaCONE.

DK Shivakumar dismisses Gowda's pen drives claim

NEW DELHI: DK Shivakumar on Saturday dismissed the allegations levied by G Devaraje Gowda, BJP leader currently in custody, that the Karnataka deputy chief minister was responsible for distributing pen drives allegedly containing explicit videos of Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna. In response to Gowda's allegations, Shivakumar said, "Let him file a complaint to Lokayukta or anyone. He has some mental issues. It's all baseless and I don't want to talk about it. I don't want to talk about people who are mentally ill. The party will take a decision." Gowda claimed that Shivakumar had offered him a substantial sum of Rs 100 crore to tarnish



the reputation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and JD(S) leader H D Kumaraswamy in connection with sex videos scandal related to Revanna. Speaking to reporters while being taken to the district prison in Hassan, Gowda had said, "DK Shivakumar is behind the pen drive case, a team of four Ministers N Luvarayaswamy, Krishna Byre Gowda, Priyank Kharge and another minister was

formed to handle this. It was done to bring a bad name to the BJP, PM Modi and Kumaraswamy. I was offered Rs 100 crore." He further alleged that Shivakumar promised to protect him if he implicated Kumaraswamy in the distribution of the pen drives, but since he refused, he is now being framed in various cases. Revanna, aged 33, is currently facing allegations of sexually abusing multiple women, leading to a political uproar between the ruling Congress party and the BJP-JD(S) alliance.

An Interpol Blue Corner Notice has been issued against Prajwal to facilitate his return.

Hospitals' failure to declare brain deaths hitting organ donations

MUMBAI: Failure to identify and certify brain deaths by hospitals is reducing the country's organ donation rates drastically despite a significant number of potential donors available, Union health ministry recently stated in a directive, asking states to insist on hospitals documenting brain stem deaths meticulously. The ministry said India's cadaver organ donation rate continues to be abysmally low - less than 1 donor per million population a year. In a recent letter, it reminded states that as per provisions of the Transplantation of Human Organs Tissues Act, hospitals must identify each potential brain stem death case admitted in the ICU. It said it is mandatory for hospitals to ask if such potential donors had pledged for organ donation, and if not,



to make family members aware of the opportunity to donate organs before the heart stops. The doctor-on-duty, with the transplant coordinator's help, is required to inquire after certification of brain stem death. It is estimated that India sees nearly 1.5 lakh potential brain stem deaths a year due to accidents. Other causes, like strokes, could add to the numbers. However, the total number of deceased donors in India was just 1,028 in 2023, which facilitated over 3,000 transplants. This falls drastically short of the annual need for

about 5 lakh organs. With barely 2-3% of the demand met, countless lives are lost to organ failure. In Mumbai alone, over 4,000 people are awaiting cadaver organs. "We need all transplant centres and non-transplant organ retrieval centres to start declaring brain deaths. This is the crucial first step to facilitate organ donation, yet it's not happening in most hospitals," said Dr Anil Kumar, director of National Organ.

& Tissue Transplant Organisation (Notto). He said even registered transplant centres are failing to declare brain deaths. An official from the Maharashtra public health department said most institutions lack a panel to certify brain stem death which hampers identifying such cases. In Mumbai.

MTP declared risky, woman tells HC she 'will give birth'

MUMBAI: After a medical board opined that if a seven-month pregnancy is terminated by inducing delivery, the baby is likely to be born deformed, a 27-year-old woman told Bombay high court she will carry the pregnancy to its full term. The woman, a sexual assault survivor, had moved HC to permit MTP as her pregnancy was beyond the 24-week permissible limit for termination. On Friday, Justices Sandeep Marne and Neela Gokhale were submitted a report of Thane Civil Hospital's medical board which stated the woman is not physically fit for MTP and unanimously expressed the possibility of the child being born alive. Also, continuing pregnancy may lead to complications like anaemia and hypertension. Finding "certain contradictions", the judges interacted online with the board. The doctors clarified their opinion on pregnancy-related complications were generic observations. They said "the baby is fully formed and is likely to be born alive." Inducing the woman for delivery at such an advanced stage may have "real risks of a deformed child as a result of premature birth". To the judges' query on comparative degree of risks to the foetus if the pregnancy is terminated prematurely and in case it is carried to full term, they clearly stated that "the chances of the baby being born healthy and normal are obviously much higher than if the pregnancy is sought to be terminated now". The woman, who was admitted to the hospital, was apprised of the doctors' opinion. Her advocate, Kanchan Pawar, said that she is willing to carry the pregnancy to its full term. The judges directed the woman's admission to a home till delivery. If she's uncomfortable there, hospital shall permit her to be admitted till delivery.

CAPSULES

Arrest warrant issued against Prajwal

The additional metropolitan magistrate court in Bengaluru on Saturday issued an arrest warrant against absconding Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna, who is accused of sexual harassment and rape, after the Special Investigating Team (SIT) drew a blank despite serving him multiple notices.

With this warrant, cops can now arrest Prajwal the moment he lands in India. Prajwal left for Europe on April 27, the day after the first phase of polling in Karnataka.

Footballer, 22, dies of cardiac arrest in Assam during practice

DIBRUGARH: A 22-year-old footballer died from cardiac arrest during a practice session at the Assam Agricultural University (AAU) ground in Jorhat on Friday afternoon. According to reports, Rishiraj Borah, who played for the All Star Club Jorhat, collapsed on the field during a practice match and was rushed to the Jorhat Medical College and Hospital. Despite efforts of the medical team, he could not be revived and was pronounced dead. The doctors confirmed that he had suffered cardiac arrest, a condition in which the heart stops beating, leading to a loss of blood flow to vital organs and, if left untreated, death occurs within minutes. Rishiraj was a promising footballer who had represented Jorhat in the under-13 and under-15 interdistrict football tournaments. Army Public School, Jorhat, where Rishiraj completed Class 12 in 2020, and where his father, Rajen Borah, is a teacher, released a statement expressing shock.

Ch. Bhupendra Singh Hooda had waived off electricity bills worth Rs 1600 crore: Deependra Hooda

Loharu: MP Deepender Hooda arrived today to campaign in support of Congress candidate Rao Dan Singh from B h i w a n i - Mahendragarh Lok Sabha constituency. He addressed election rallies in Loharu, Tosham, Bawani Kheda circles and appealed to make Rao Dan Singh win by a huge margin of votes. Addressing the rally, Deependra Hooda said that former Chief Minister of Haryana Ch. Bhupendra Singh Hooda had waived off electricity bills worth Rs 1600 crore, which benefited the people of Bhiwani-Mahendragarh the most. Hooda government of Congress made Bhiwani Mahendragarh the hub of education and sports. Hooda Saheb Ch. We respect the works of Bansilal very much. Paying humble tribute to Ch. A university and a medical college were built in



Bhiwani in the name of Bansilal ji. During the UPA government of Congress, many institutions and projects like Ayurvedic Medical University in Narnaul, Central University in Mahendragarh came up in this Lok Sabha constituency. Sports University in Bhiwani, Rajiv Gandhi Mahila College, Women's College in Bawani Kheda, Government Technical Institute, Women's Hostel in Loharu, Chowk in Tosham. Established Bansilal Mahila Mahavidyalaya etc. But, in the last 10 years, BJP has destroyed Haryana and made every person of Haryana cry. There is no class left

which has not been insulted, including farmers, labourers, traders, employees, sarpanch, players, Anganwadi, Asha workers. Seeing huge resentment among the public, BJP appointed CM, Dy. DM has been changed but BJP will now change the Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister, people will change the entire government. He said that B h i w a n i - Mahendragarh has been a minefield for the soldiers. These two districts have suffered the most due to the Agneepath scheme of the BJP government. Deependra Hooda assured that when the Congress government.

Swati Maliwal assault case: Court grants 5-day custody to Delhi police to quiz Bibhav

NEW DELHI: Tis Hazari Court on Sunday sent CM Arvind Kejriwal's aide Bibhav Kumar to 5-day police custody in the alleged assault on AAP Rajya Sabha member Swati Maliwal.

The Delhi Police on Saturday had produced Kumar before a magisterial court seeking seven-day custody to question him. Kumar was arrested by the Delhi Police earlier in the day and his anticipatory bail request was later deemed "infructuous" by a Delhi court. In the FIR, Maliwal has accused Bibhav Kumar of hitting with "full force again and again". She



alleged that Bibhav slapped her 7-8 times and kicked her in the chest and abdomen on May 13 when she had gone to meet the chief minister. According to her medico-legal certificate (MLC) issued by All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) New Delhi, Maliwal has "bruises over proximal left leg dorsal aspect of approx

size 3x2 cm and right cheek elbow below right eye of approx size 2x2 cm". The report also stated that according to the "history provided by the patient" of being allegedly assaulted by Bibhav Kumar at the chief minister's residence, she was "slapped multiple times", and "hit her head on a sharp object after she was pushed" by the accused.

82-yr-old woman lifts 50kg in her maiden deadlifting contest

COIMBATORE: An 82-year-old woman from Pollachi has proved that age is just a number by participating in her maiden deadlifting (powerlifting) contest. Inspired by her grandsons, Kittammal finished fifth by lifting 50kg in the open category for women, at the

'Strong Man of South India' contest held in Kuniyamuthur last week. She was among 17 women contestants, all of whom were under 30-years of age. Kittammal lives with her husband Venkatraman, a retired health department staff. Her grandson S Rohith,

16, who lives with her, has been practicing powerlifting at their residence for more than six months. Kittammal's other grandson S Rithik, 23, won a gold medal at the national level powerlifting championship held by the Indian Powerlifting Federation.

CAPSULES

Gunmen kidnap Manipur fashion designer, shoot him in leg

IMPHAL: Popular fashion designer of Manipur, Kumarjit Laishram, was shot in the leg by unidentified gunmen in Imphal West district's Khumbong area, police said. The Koireng group of the proscribed UNLF claimed responsibility for the shooting, saying Kumarjit was punished for his involvement in unethical activity of "supplying women to high-profile people" in the state. Kumarjit, 30, a resident of Takyel Khonbal Maning Leikai, also runs a beauty salon and spa close to his house. Sources said he was kidnapped by the assailants on Friday night and was found with a bullet wound in his left calf near the Khumbong community health centre around 8.40am on Saturday. He is undergoing treatment at a hospital here. Police registered a case in the matter and have begun an investigation. With Saturday's shooting, four people, including two women, have so far been shot, all in their leg, in the Valley districts by unknown armed men since the beginning of this month. This poses a challenge to the law and order situation in the state which is already embroiled in a simmering communal conflict.

Maoist with 1.1L bounty killed in Bastar

RAIPUR: Dudhi Hunga, a hardcore Maoist carrying a bounty of Rs 1.1 lakh on his head, was killed in an encounter in the forests near Banjarapara in the tribal belt of Bastar in Sukma district on Saturday, Chhattisgarh Police said. Dudhi Hunga, a resident of Arlampalli in Sukma.

Telugu actor kills self week after partner dies in car crash

HYDERABAD: Popular Telugu TV actor Chandrakanth alias Chandu died by suicide at his apartment in Hyderabad's Manikonda area on Friday night, police said. He died after Pavithra Jayaram, also an actor, with whom he was in a live-in relationship, died in a road accident at Kurnool on May 12. Pavithra and Chandu acted together in "Trinayani serial", which was one of the most watched serials on TV.



Chandu acted in TV serials like "Karthika Deepam" and "Radhamma Pelli", apart from "Trinayani". His wife, from whom he separated recently, said he took the extreme step as he was depressed after Pavithra's death. Police said Chandu's family was concerned

about his well-being after he stopped responding to phone calls.

They went to do a welfare check on him at his apartment only to find him dead. Although he did not leave behind a suicide note, police found WhatsApp messages he sent to friends stating he did not wish to live any longer. He is survived by his wife and two children. Police registered a case of suspicious death in the matter.

Five of family axed to death in Chhattisgarh village

Chhattisgarh's

Sarangarh-Bilaigarh district, a tragic incident occurred where five family members were hacked to death. The victims were Hemlal Sahu, Jagmoti Sahu, Meera Sahu, Mamta Sahu, and Ayush. Another villager, Manoj Sahu, was found hanging in the same house. Police, with local support and TNN assistance, are investigating the crime scene and collecting evidence. Five of family axed to death in Chhattisgarh village. Five members of a family were hacked to death



in Thargaon village of Chhattisgarh's Sarangarh-Bilaigarh district. While all five succumbed to injuries caused by an axe, another villager was found hanging in the same house. Police suspect he may be the assailant and possibly hanged himself after

he committed the crime. The five victims were identified as Hemlal Sahu, 55, his wife Jagmoti Sahu, 50, their daughters Meera Sahu, 30, and Mamta Sahu, 35, and grandson Ayush, 5. The other villager, who was found hanging in the house, was identified as Manoj Sahu,

police added.

A police team went to the scene after locals informed them about the incident. The team took bodies of the victims for postmortem.

"Evidence on the crime scene suggests Manoj may have hacked to death the five family members before hanging himself.

We will investigate the case thoroughly and ascertain facts," police said.

A forensic team was at the crime spot to collect all possible evidence and help with the investigation, police said.

Low-pressure area over Bay of Bengal around May 22

PUNE: A weather conundrum is gathering steam over Bay of Bengal ahead of monsoon arrival. India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast formation of a low-pressure area over southwest Bay of Bengal around May 22, while some independent forecasters sounded alarm about potential for an intense cyclone in the making that could impact Odisha, Maharashtra, and Gujarat. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, director general of meteorology, IMD, told TOI: "Low-pressure area will help monsoon advance over Andaman sea and adjoining Bay of Bengal, but it may not have an impact on onset of monsoon

in Kerala. However, we have not so far ruled out the possibility of the system turning into a cyclone later because May is known for cyclone formation. It is too early to confirm whether or not it will transform into a cyclone. If at all a cyclone forms, its impact on monsoon progress cannot be gauged as of now because it will depend on its path and intensity." GP Sharma, president of Skymet Weather Services, however, said the system did have a significant potential to become a cyclone, but is unlikely to hinder monsoon's progress. "There are ample chances that the Bay of Bengal system

could gradually turn into a cyclone. It is unlikely to disrupt the monsoon progress when it forms, rather only help in its progress," Sharma said. Roxy Mathew Koll, senior climate scientist at Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, told TOI: "A low pressure system will definitely develop over the south Bay of Bengal next week. Sea surface temperatures there are quite warm, so the ocean conditions are favourable. Madden-Julian Oscillation is reaching there soon, making the winds also favourable, providing rotational trigger for a cyclone to form. The restricting factor could be early monsoon development."

Grant citizenship to daughter of OCI card-holders: HC

NEW DELHI: Delhi high court has asked the Centre to grant citizenship to a 17-year-old girl, raised in India to parents who held Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) cards and US citizenship at the time of her birth. "The petitioner, despite having been born in India to two OCI card holders, educated in India and lived in India with her family, is unable to obtain a passport. These are clearly special circumstances as contemplated under Section 5(4) of the Act," Justice Prathiba M Singh noted while referring to provisions of the Citizenship Act of 1955 and the Passports Act of 1967. Petitioner Rachita Francis Xavier had



moved court challenging rejection of her plea for a passport. She informed the court that both her parents were earlier Indian citizens. However, they acquired US citizenship by 2005 and hence her parents were not Indian citizens on the date she was born. The petitioner submitted that she is not an illegal migrant and qualified as a person of

Indian origin entitling her to citizenship by registration. HC saw merit in the plea and noted that her circumstances would be covered under Explanation 2, as both parents of the petitioner were Indian citizens who had later obtained US citizenship. The court pointed out that even OCI card holders are free to stay in India and can also rear their families,

noting that in Xavier's case the parents were OCI card holders when she was born and she has continuously stayed in India since birth. She has been educated in India and now sought a passport, HC said. It allowed the plea and permitted the girl to apply for registration as a citizen under Section 5 of the Citizenship Act.

Founder of Naturals Ice Cream passes away at 70

MANGALURU

: Raghunandan Srinivas Kamath, the man behind Naturals Ice Cream, passed away in Mumbai on Friday. He was 70. Natural Ice Cream wrote on X (formerly Twitter): "Our thoughts on the sad demise of our patron and founder of Naturals Ice Cream, Late (Shri) Raghunandan Kamath. Indeed, a very sad and unfortunate day for us." They shared a poster that read: A smile that will forever melt our hearts. A smile that will never be forgotten. A smile that will keep inspiring us and reminding us that his era will never end. To the Ice Cream Man of India who will forever stay in our hearts".

Royal Challengers Bengaluru grab final IPL 2024 play-off berth

NEW DELHI: Royal Challengers Bengaluru extended their fairytale run, securing the fourth and final playoff berth with a 27-run victory over defending champions Chennai Super Kings in their must-win last IPL league game on Saturday.

This marked the sixth consecutive win for RCB, who initially posted a formidable total of 218 for five after being put in to bat. They then managed to restrict CSK to 191 for 7, securing their place in the playoffs for the ninth time in 15 seasons. Despite a late scare from Ravindra Jadeja (42 not out) and Mahendra Singh Dhoni (25), who raised hopes of a CSK comeback after Rachin Ravindra's 61, RCB's Yash Dayal maintained his composure in the final over to guide the hosts to victory.



With Kolkata Knight Riders, Rajasthan Royals, and Sunrisers Hyderabad already qualified for the play-offs, RCB's victory solidified their spot in the upcoming playoff stage. While it was ecstasy for RCB, the legion of fans of Dhoni sank into despair as it could potentially be the last time they witnessed their 'Thala' perform on a cricket field. Down and out after losing seven out of their first eight games, RCB had weaved five wins on the trot to script a remarkable turnaround and give themselves a chance

to make it to the final four. On Saturday, the hosts needed to win by at least 18 runs to book the final play-off berth and they did that in style with yet another impressive show at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium. The two teams finished at 14 points but RCB sneaked into the final four on the basis of a better net run-rate. The equation was in favour of CSK when they began their run-chase as a 200-plus score would have sealed their place in the final four at the expense of RCB even if they had lost the game.

Virat Kohli sets new record, becomes first batter in IPL to...



Virat Kohli has etched his name in the annals of Indian Premier League (IPL) history by becoming the first player to amass a staggering 3000 runs at a single venue.

This extraordinary feat underscores Kohli's unparalleled consistency and dominance in the tournament. The star Royal Challengers Bengaluru batter achieved the feat during the IPL 2024 match against Chennai Super Kings at M Chinnaswamy Stadium on Saturday. He got to the landmark with a massive six over long leg off Tushar Deshpande. The next highest run-scorer at a single venue is former Mumbai Indians captain Rohit Sharma, who has scored 2295 runs at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai. Kohli's accomplishment is a testament to his exceptional batting

skills, unwavering focus, and ability to perform consistently under pressure. His record at the Chinnaswamy Stadium is a source of pride for the RCB, which has benefited immensely from his prolific run-scoring. It is worth noting that Kohli's long-time teammate and South African legend, AB de Villiers, is third on the list of most runs scored at a single venue in the IPL. De Villiers has scored 1960 runs at the Chinnaswamy Stadium, further highlighting the formidable partnership that he and Kohli have forged over the years.

CAPSULES

Daryl Mitchell's rebound catch of Virat Kohli leaves Anushka Sharma frustrated, disappointed

NEW DELHI: Virat Kohli played a superb knock on a turning Chinnaswamy track in a must-win game for Royal Challengers Bengaluru against Chennai Super Kings on Saturday.

The former RCB captain entertained the Bengaluru crowd with a brilliant innings of 47 off just 29 balls studded with 3 fours and 4 sixes before being holed out to Daryl Mitchell at long-on off Mitchell Santner.

Mitchell, who took a catch on the rebound, initially gave Kohli's wife and Bollywood star Anushka Sharma a glimmer of hope that the catch wasn't cleanly taken. However, her optimism quickly turned to disappointment when she realized that Mitchell had, in fact, secured the catch without any doubt.

Kohli also equalled another RCB legend Chris Gayle's record for scoring most 700-plus runs in an IPL season.

This is now the second instance, Kohli has scored 700-plus runs in an IPL season -- 973 runs scored in 2016 season.

Gayle had previously scored 733 runs in the 2012 edition and 708 in the following season.

Kohli also became the first player to amass an astounding 3000 runs at a single venue. This extraordinary achievement underscores Kohli's unparalleled consistency and dominance in the tournament.

He now has 37 sixes in IPL 2024 -- second most after 38 maximums which he fired in the 2016 edition of the league.

How Yash Dayal trumped Jadeja, MS Dhoni and steered RCB into IPL 2024

NEW DELHI: It turned out to be a dream night for Royal Challengers Bengaluru pacer Yash Dayal as he successfully defended 17 in the last over against the mighty duo of Ravindra Jadeja and MS Dhoni to steer his side into Indian Premier League 2024 playoffs.

Dayal, who was remembered for his maligned over that saw Rinku Singh hit him for five consecutive sixes to win an improbable game last season, before tonight, rose to the occasion, bowling a perfect final over against Chennai Super



Kings, knocking the defending champions out of the knockouts race.

The win for RCB was their sixth on the trot as they successfully defended 218 to secure a place in the playoffs, beating CSK by 27 runs. CSK, who needed to

score 201 to qualify for the playoffs, ended up scoring 191 for 7 as Dayal gave away just 7 runs in the final over of the thriller.

Here's how Yash Dayal's final over turned out as he took RCB into the playoffs. Ball 1 - Yash Dayal to

MS Dhoni - SIX! As Dayal bowled a low full-toss on leg-stump, Dhoni went for a full-fledged swing and middled it to perfection. It turned out to be a mighty strike as the ball went over the fine-leg roof. Ball 2 - Yash Dayal to MS Dhoni - OUT! After getting hit for a maximum first ball by the legend, Dayal hit back in style, getting rid of Dhoni second ball of the over. As Dayal bowled a back of the hand slower ball on the stumps, Dhoni swiped it and unfortunately only managed a top-edge.

'Couldn't get over the line': CSK skipper

NEW DELHI: Following Chennai Super Kings' 27-run defeat against Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the IPL 2024, skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad admitted they couldn't get over the line at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium. Gaikwad himself had a disappointing performance, being dismissed for a golden duck on the first ball of the second innings by Glenn Maxwell.

Speaking after the match, Gaikwad acknowledged that the wicket in Bengaluru was favorable, offering good turn and grip for the spinners. He noted that the team



encountered numerous challenges in the game, including the absence of key players Matheesha Pathirana and Mustafizur Rahman. Gaikwad expressed his disappointment at failing to secure a place in the IPL 2024 play-offs. "It was a good wicket. For spinners, it was

turning and gripping a little bit. I was pretty happy with what the target was. To sum up the season, I'm pretty happy with seven games out of 14. Injuries, not having Conway as well--made a lot of difference. Challenges right from the first game. Pathirana got injured,

and we missed Fizz as well. When you have injuries, it is difficult to balance the squad. I couldn't get over the line, but these things can happen. For me, personal milestones don't matter a lot. After all, the ultimate prize is to win. We couldn't get it, so personally, I'm slightly disappointed as well," Gaikwad said.

Coming to the match, CSK won the toss and opted to bat first. RCB put on a fine score of 218/5 on the board, with skipper Faf Du Plessis (54 in 39 balls, with three fours and three sixes), Virat Kohli (47 in 29 balls, with three fours.

Emotions run high as Virat, Anushka seen in tears of joy

NEW DELHI: Royal Challengers Bengaluru defied all odds and accomplished the impossible by edging out Chennai Super Kings to secure a spot in the IPL 2024 playoffs at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on

Saturday. Despite the looming threat of rain and a passing shower, RCB needed to win by at least 18 runs but exceeded expectations by winning by 27 runs.

This victory, part of a remarkable string of six consecutive wins, secured them the fourth and final playoff berth.

The stadium and the entire RCB team burst into ecstatic celebration as Yash Dayal delivered back-to-back dot balls to Ravindra Jadeja in the final over. The atmosphere was charged with intense emotions and unbridled joy. Star RCB batter Virat Kohli and his wife Anushka Sharma were overwhelmed

with emotion following the team's triumph. The couple couldn't hold back their tears of happiness as they celebrated the win.

RCB are in fourth place with seven wins and seven losses, with 14 points. CSK are in the fifth spot with seven wins and seven losses, but they have slid down to fifth due to a lower net-run rate. RCB first posted a solid 218 for five after being invited to bat and then restricted CSK to 191 for 7 to make it to the play-offs for the ninth time.

Kolkata Knight Riders, Rajasthan Royals and Sunrisers Hyderabad have already qualified for the play-offs.

Shikhar says impact player rule's unavailability in T20 World Cup

NEW DELHI: Shikhar Dhawan believes that cricket has undergone significant changes this year but does not anticipate mind-boggling scores in the upcoming T20 World Cup, unlike in the IPL, due to the absence of the 'impact player' option during the tournament.

The impact player rule, which allows teams to field an extra batter or bowler, is credited with contributing to the high scores seen in this IPL season, with totals exceeding 250 recorded eight times.

This surge in high scores has reignited the debate over maintaining a balance between bat and ball, as IPL wickets and conditions



generally favour batters. "I feel as if the game itself has changed this year, which is why scores of 250 are being put on. The mindset has certainly changed," Dhawan told PTI.

"But when you go into the World Cup which won't have the impact player rule, the impact of it would be seen definitely. That is a differentiator and how we adapt to the con-

ditions is what will matter the most. "The mindset has changed after the introduction of the impact player. When a batter in the middle knows that there is batting available till number 8 and 9, he is going to take the aggressive route which is why so many high scores are being made," the aggressive Indian opener, who will host a TV show

'Dhawan Kareng' on Jio Cinema, said. Dhawan expressed confidence in the Indian team's prospects for the upcoming T20 World Cup, which will be held in the Americas. He emphasized that the players enjoy their game under Rohit Sharma. "All bases have been covered. The team looks balanced and India have got a very good chance.

The BJP is a threat to people's lives in addition to statutes

Delhi: As some strongholds of the Samajwadi Party (SP), like Mainpuri, prepare for the third phase of the Lok Sabha elections, party chief Akhilesh Yadav, who spoke at a public meeting in Budaun in support of his uncle Shival Yadav's son, Aditya Yadav, took a jab at the ruling party, claiming that the BJP will be completely destroyed in the next phase. "False promises characterized the BJP's reign. The first two waves of the polls showed that people this time rejected that," he stated. "Not just Constitution, BJP is a threat to peoples' lives," he stated, alluding to the controversy over the Covid vaccine. He made an attack on the BJP-led government, stating, "They used to declare that they would treble farmers' income. A farmer who examines his account will discover that, on the contrary, he is losing money. Farmers are currently in this situation... With the three black farm laws, the government intended to seize farmers' lands.