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

PM Modi offers prayers to Sun god, Congress slams release of videos



KANYAKUMARI/MADURAI: On the second day of his meditation in Kanyakumari, PM Narendra Modi offered prayers to the Sun God from Vivekananda Rock at sunrise on Friday. A short video clip, "Sunrise, Surya Arghya, Spirituality" posted by BJP on its 'X' handle showed the PM pouring water from a traditional beaker-like small vessel into the sea as an offering (Arghya) and praying with prayer beads (a rudraksh mala) in his hands. Watch: PM Modi

'dhyana magna' in new video from Kanniyakumari Clad in saffron shirt, shawl and dhoti, the Prime Minister was also seen strolling on Vivekananda Rock before returning to the Dhyana Mandapam and resuming his meditation. Authorities allowed tourists onto Vivekananda Rock later in the day, with restrictions - they were not allowed to carry mobile phones or cameras. Nevertheless, the ferry service was stopped in the afternoon. Modi will conclude his

meditation by Saturday afternoon, after which he will visit the Thiruvalluvar statue nearby. He is to fly to Thiruvananthapuram by helicopter. K Selvaperunthagai, in a post on 'X', criticised Modi over the release of BJP of video clips and photographs that show him meditating. "How many angles! how many videographers! Swami Vivekananda is silent," the Congress politician said in his post, PTI reported.

There's been no leniency in recovering bad loans: FM Sitharaman

NEW DELHI: Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said there has been no leniency in recovering bad loans, especially from large defaulters, and banks have turned around, reporting record profit of over Rs 3 lakh crore last year, from being a "cesspool of bad loans, vested interests, corruption and mismanagement" during UPA regime. On the day she completed five years as FM, Sitharaman said that between 2014 and 2023, banks recovered more than Rs 10 lakh crore from bad loans. "Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has investigated around 1,105 bank fraud cases, which resulted in the attachment of proceeds of crime amounting to Rs 64,920 crore. As of Dec 2023, assets amounting to Rs 15,183 crore have been restituted to the PSBs.

'Our great leader' Rahul Gandhi is my PM choice: Mallikarjun Kharge

NEW DELHI: Asked about West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee's proposal at a Nov meeting of the INDIA group that Kharge should be projected as the opposition's PM candidate, he said Congress would decide his fate and "why should we unnecessarily confuse ourselves and also others". He said the alliance was focussed on winning the elections, after which the allies would sit together and take a decision, as was done in 2004 and 2009. He exuded confidence that the opposition would oust BJP from office. "In Congress, our great leader Rahul Gandhi is there. Why should they unnecessarily bring my name? My party will decide my fate," he told NDTV.

"I want my leader Rahul to become PM. Our young leader is known to the entire country now. Rahul worked so hard. He is facing so many cases. If anybody asks me, my preference will be



Cops seize Revanna's phone, to seek court nod for medical tests

BENGALURU: Soon after Prajwal Revanna's flight landed in Bengaluru from Munich at 12.47am on Friday, an all-woman SIT team met him at the exit and took him to a waiting vehicle. The SIT, originally constituted to probe a series of purported sleaze videos involving the Hassan MP, is prob-

ing three cases of sexual assault against him, the first of which was registered in Holenarasipura police station of Hassan district on April 28. Flanked by two cops in the backseat, Prajwal was taken to Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital for a medical check up and then to CID.

Rahul (for the PM's post)," he added. Kharge said he had urged Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi to contest from Amethi and Rae Bareilly respectively but Rahul was hesitant to fight out of concern that he had to campaign across the

country and there would be nobody to take care of his campaign. He said Priyanka sat out the elections to become Rahul's campaign manager in Rae Bareilly. "We wanted Rahul to be free to campaign across the

Court on Chhota Rajan: Hotelier killed after extortion plot

MUMBAI: In a 55-page detailed judgment convicting and sentencing departed gangster Rajendra Sadashiv Nikalje alias Chhota Rajan (67) to life imprisonment for the 2001 murder of hotelier Jaya Shetty, a special court said it is seen that as a gang leader he conspired with the co-accused and killed the victim due to non-payment of the extortion amount. The judge said it was significant the murder took place just days after the victim complained to the police and the multiple letters he had written to them expressing concerns for his safety were the most crucial evidence.

BJP: Opposition mocking PM Modi's meditation is a display of hatred for Sanatan Dharma

NEW DELHI: BJP on Friday attacked opposition parties for mocking PM Narendra Modi's meditation in Kanyakumari and said it was another evidence of INDIA bloc's hatred for Sanatan Dharma. "PM Narendra Modi is meditating at the world-renowned Vivekananda Rock Memorial in Kanyakumari, the same spot Swami Vivekananda had dreamed of a developed India. It is unfortunate that Congress and INDI Alliance are troubled by this," BJP's chief spokesperson Anil Baluni said in a statement. "Why does Congress and INDI Alliance have so much hatred for Sanatan Dharma, meditation and worship for a developed India?" he asked. Baluni dismissed as baseless opposition's charge that Modi's meditation was violative of model code of conduct and pointed out that the PM would observe silence during the 45 hours he would be meditating. "If his mere silence has so much strength that it can disturb the heretics and the forces who defame the country, then that person can only be an ascetic. Who has stopped the opposition from doing sadhana, worship or offering namaz? The opposition is actually making such statements out of frustration and disappointment because of their inevitable crushing defeat," he added. "Did not the functionaries of Congress and INDI partners hold a press conference today?"

'Cong's accepted defeat': Amit Shah on boycott of exit poll debates

NEW DELHI: Home minister Amit Shah on Friday said Congress's decision to boycott TV debates on exit polls showed it has realised that it was headed for another crushing defeat, and asked the opposition party to face the loss and introspect instead of running away from it. "Congress has been in denial mode for long.

Government may be planning these 'China-like' rules for gamers

NEW DELHI: The Indian government is considering imposing time and spending limits on online and real-money games to tackle gaming addiction among children and young adults. The rules in China restrict players under 18 to play games for a limited time daily and on holidays. Government may



be planning these 'China-like' rules for gamers, and why it is good news. The Indian government is reportedly considering imposing time and spending limits on

online and real-money games to tackle gaming addiction among children and young adults, sources told. "A consensus on this method, which has also been adopted in China, emerged in the recent internal meetings.

Record high temperatures: How scorching heat is making India 'unlivable'

NEW DELHI: India is currently grappling with unprecedented levels of heat, making daily life increasingly challenging for its citizens. The extreme temperatures are not only a warning sign of the effects of climate change but also a significant obstacle to the nation's economic aspirations. With the heatwave season extending from March to June, many regions in India are



experiencing record-high temperatures, putting immense pressure on infrastructure, health services, and the agricultural sector. Delhi sees highest temperature ever recorded in India: Did it really hit 52.9°C? This unrelenting heat is rendering parts of the country nearly unlivable. Writing an opinion piece on high temperatures and climate change in Bloomberg, David Fickling.

PM Modi mentioned divisive issues 421 times but people voted against bigotry: Kharge

NEW DELHI: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said people of India have voted against bigotry in the 2024 LS elections, as he claimed that PM Modi mentioned "Mandir-Masjid and divisive issues 421 times" and referred to "Muslims, Pakistan and minority 224 times" in the campaign, not mentioning inflation and unemployment even once. He also slammed Election Commission for not acting against "Modi's violation of model code by inciting religious feelings for votes". Party general secretary in-charge of communications Jairam Ramesh said while Modi "ducked the 272 questions



about his governance" over 72 days of campaign, EC did not act on any of the complaints concerning model code violations by Modi (14), home minister Amit Shah (3) and UP CM Yogi Adityanath. Congress not to be part of exit poll debates He said in all, Congress had submitted 117 complaints to EC. "We respect EC but sadly, impartiality was not seen during the course of the campaign," he said. Kharge Thursday said PM, in his speeches in the last 15 days, took Congress' name 232 times, his own name 758 times and mentioned INDIA bloc and oppn parties 573 times. "But not once did he speak about inflation and joblessness. It shows that Modi put issues on

Those disrespecting medals, uniform won't be spared

NEW DELHI: Enough is enough, says the 12-lakh strong Army, grappling with the repeated unauthorised use of its uniform and medals across the country. The force is now cracking the whip with the message that those "disrespecting the sanctity" of military attire and decorations, will not be spared and could even face legal action. "The Army headquarters has taken a stern view of such violations," a senior officer told TOI on Friday. A strong warning, for instance, was recently issued to a Noida-based event management firm after one of its employees was spotted flaunting Army medals at a function, which drew widespread attention on social media platforms.

BJP targets Congress for opting out of Lok Sabha election exit poll debates

NEW DELHI: The Bharatiya Janata Party on Friday took a dig at the Congress for opting out of Lok Sabha election exit poll debates on the television channels which are scheduled for Saturday after the polling ends in Phase 7. Taking a swipe at the grand old party, Union home minister and BJP leader Amit Shah said, "Congress has been in denial mode for so long. The whole election they kept campaigning that they are going to get the majority but they know the situation. In the coming exit polls, it will be their massive defeat so they can't face the media." "Therefore, they are boycotting the entire exit poll exercise. Exit polls have been happening for a long time but this time, because of the defeat, they don't know how to explain and that's why they are boycotting. Since Rahul Gandhi has taken charge of Congress, they are in denial mode," he added. BJP president JP Nadda launched a scathing attack on the Congress and said, "Congress's decision to not participate in Exit Polls, on the eve of Phase 7 polling, is an unequivocal confirmation that the Congress has conceded the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. It is not surprising, since the Congress usually opts out when it doesn't expect results to go in its favour, but has no compunction showing up, if it thinks it has even an outside chance. Their hypocrisy is not lost on anyone. Let no one in Phase 7 waste their vote on them." Further, the BJP chief also accused the Congress party of questioning exercises.

AESL unveils Aakash iTutor in Hindi for NEET preparation

Praygraj: To facilitate the seamless continuation of studies and help more students realize their dream of becoming doctors and engineers, Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), India's leader in test preparatory services, is proud to announce the launch of the Aakash iTutor in Hindi language. This is a significant step towards democratizing quality education for students across the nation who aspire to crack NEET. This marks AESL's plan to offer training in regional languages for students of various state boards of examination. The same will be provided for JEE as well in future.

Aakash has been running Hindi medium batches in various cities across the state successfully since the last academic session. With a mission to reach every corner of India and cater to diverse linguistic preferences, Aakash iTutor is ex-

tending its comprehensive online learning platform to cater to the Hindi-speaking student community. This strategic initiative aims to bridge the language gap and provide accessible, high-quality educational resources to students preparing for competitive exams such as NEET (National Eligibility cum Entrance Test) and various school board exams.

Recognizing the importance of linguistic inclusivity in education, Aakash iTutor in Hindi will offer a wide range of features including video lectures, study materials, practice tests, and doubt-clearing sessions, all delivered in the Hindi language. This initiative aligns with Aakash Institute's commitment to leveraging technology to enhance learning outcomes and empower students with the tools they need to succeed.

Dr. H.R. Rao, Regional



Director, Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), shared his enthusiasm about the launch, stating, "We are thrilled to introduce Aakash iTutor in Hindi language, a milestone in our journey towards making quality education accessible to every student. By offering our renowned educational resources in Hindi, we aim to cater to the unique needs of Hindi-speaking students and enable them to realize their academic aspirations."

AESL already offers curriculum in Hindi in sync with the syllabus of the Rajasthan Board. The curriculum and the teaching is in Hindi and separate Hindi medium batches are conducted all over the state. The launch of Aakash iTutor in Hindi language reaffirms Aakash Institute's position as a pioneer in the education sector, dedicated to innovation and inclusivity. Through this initiative, Aakash Institute remains committed to its vi-

sion of empowering students with the knowledge and skills they need to excel in their academic pursuits.

Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL) is India's leading test preparatory company that specializes in providing comprehensive and effective preparation services for students preparing for high stakes Medical (NEET) and Engineering entrance examinations (JEE), School/Board exams and competi-

tive exams such as NTSE and Olympiads. AESL has a pan India network of over 315 centres with over 400,000+ currently enrolled students and has established an unassailable market position and brand value over the last 35 years. It is committed to providing the highest quality test preparation services to unlock students' true potential and achieve success in their academic endeavours. AESL takes a student-centric approach to test preparation, recognizing that every student is unique and has individual needs. It has a team of highly qualified and experienced instructors who are passionate about helping students achieve their dreams. The company's programmes are designed to be flexible and its teaching methodologies are backed by the latest technologies to ensure that students are well-prepared for their exams.

To protect against heat, Lord Jagannath offered bhog of cold beverages

Praygraj: Prayageshwar Nath Temple Jagannath Dham Kashi by Shri Jagannath ji Mahotsav Samiti Trust Praygraj, in view of the increasing heat of 50 degrees in Rajnagar Katghar, Lord Jagannath Ji Maharaj Devi Subhadra and brother Balbhadr were given pure and cool water, cumin, lassi, buttermilk and mango juice by the Trust's Rath Yatra coordinator Basant Lal Azad and Minister Gagan Das Gupta. Sugarcane and vine juice



were offered. Trust's Rath Yatra co-coordinator Rajesh Kesarwani said that till the summer temperature becomes normal, cold drinks and fruits like litchi, watermelon, melon etc. were offered to Lord Jagannath. Will continue and in view of the heat, the Aarti of Lord Jagannath ji will be performed from a distance and coolers for cool air will be arranged by the Trust. On this occasion, Amar Rastogi, Dau Dayal Gupta, Jai Ram Gupta, Kanhaiya Lal Gupta, Happy Kaser, Shatrughan Jaiswal, Arun Sahu, Mahesh Soni, Virendra Agarwal, Ashish, Krishna Happy Kaser etc.

DM gave instructions to subordinates to protect themselves from heatwave

Praygraj: Due to the current temperature being more than 47 degrees Celsius, District Magistrate has given instructions to the concerned departments to protect themselves from the scorching heat, hot wind and heat wave. He suggested ways to protect from this scorching heat, hot wind and heat wave and how to stay safe. To avoid hot winds, cover the windows with reflectors like aluminum foil, cardboard etc., so that the outside heat can be prevented from coming inside. Black curtains should be placed on those windows and doors from which hot winds come in during the afternoon. Listen to the local weather forecast and be aware of upcoming temperature changes. Get first aid training to deal with emergencies. Never leave children and pets alone in a closed vehicle. As far as possible, stay indoors and avoid the heat of the sun. To avoid the heat of the sun, stay on the lower floor of the house as far as possible. Eat balanced, light and regular food and never use stale food and do not consume alcoholic beverages. Cover your body and head with cloth or cap outside the house. Use beverages at home like lassi, buttermilk, buttermilk, wood apple sherbet, salt-sugar solution, lemon water or mango pana etc. According to the forecast released by the weather department, there is a possibility of high/high temperature from March to June. In such a situation, people should make necessary preparations to protect themselves from heatwave. The Health Department is running an awareness campaign among the general public regarding protection from heatwave. When the temperature of the environment reaches 3-4 degrees more than 37 degrees Celsius, it is called heat wave. Now the heat wave will increase further hence various measures should be adopted to protect from heat. Special appeal:- The general public is requested not to go out of the house unless there is extreme need and if there is any urgent need then go out for work. If you have to go out, try to leave before 10.00 am and after 4.00 pm.

HC seek answers from top officials...

Denial of promotion on post of SI to Head Constable Drivers & Head Constable Armed Police

Praygraj: Allahabad High Court sought reply from the senior officers to the post of Head Constable Drivers and Head Constable Armed Police posted in UP. Regarding not giving promotion to the post of Inspector, reply has been sought from the top officials of Uttar Pradesh Police. Hundreds of people posted in Allahabad, Agra, Kanpur Nagar, Meerut, Ghaziabad, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Muzaffarnagar, Bareilly, Varanasi, Gorakhpur, Banda, Mirzapur and many other districts. Chief Constable Drivers and Chief Constable Armed Police have filed petitions separately group wise in the Allahabad High Court, demanding promotion to the post of Sub-Inspector Driver and Sub-Inspector Armed Police under the right to equality. Senior advocate Vijay, on behalf of the petitioners, Gautam and Atipriya Gautam's argument in the court was that all the petitioners were recruited in PAC on the post of constable be-

tween 1984 and 1990. Later the petitioners were transferred from PAC to Armed Police in the year 2000-2002. Thereafter, the petitioners did a driver's course and the petitioners were given posting on the post of reserve driver. All the petitioners were promoted to the post of Chief Constable Driver in the year 2017-2018.

The petitioners said that hundreds of junior constables from them up to the 1991 batch had received promotion in the civil police to the post of sub-inspector. While the petitioners are constables from 1984 to 1990 batch, they have not been promoted to the post of Sub-Inspector, which is against the right to equality. The petitioners said that 100 per cent of the vacancies on the post of Chief Constable to Sub Inspector Motor Transport will be filled from such Chief Constable Transport by promotion on the basis of seniority, rejecting the unsuitable ones. Those who have completed 3 years of service on the first day of

the recruitment year and for recruitment to the post of Sub Inspector Armed Police / Civil Police from Chief Constable Armed Police / Civil Police, they should have completed 3 years of service on the post of Chief Constable. It was said that promotion is a process of excluding the unsuitable ones on the basis of seniority. It has been said on behalf of the petitioners that under the government order dated 30 October 2015, 18 October 2016 and 12 March 2016 issued by the Home Secretary of Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow, the constables are armed. The total sanctioned posts of Police along with the posts of Reserve Civil Police have been merged into the post of Reserve Police in the Police Department. And Reserve Armed Police and Reserve Civil Police are the same cadre (Reserve will be considered as Uttar Pradesh Cadre). The High Court has also propounded the rule of law in the case of Sunil Kumar Chauhan and others that PAC, Civil Police

and Armed Police are branches of the same cadre and all will be considered in the same cadre. All the petitioners are either driving the vehicles of SP/SSP/DIG/IG/ADG and other top police officers or are deployed under the protection of the honorable Chief Constable of the Armed Police. While hearing the said case, Justice Salil Kumar Rai of the High Court, Answer has been sought from Principal Secretary Home of Police Department, DGP UP, Chairman of Police Recruitment Board, DIG Establishment/Personnel and ADG Logistics UP within eight weeks. It has been asked why the petitioners have not yet been given promotion to the post of Sub-Inspector, whereas the constables of the junior batch of the petitioners have received promotion to the post of Sub-Inspector in Civil Police. Petitions Sanjay Kumar Singh and others, Danveer Singh and others and Gulab Chandra Tiwari and others have filed.

Thieves decamp with valuables from house



Praygraj: Thieves stole gold and silver jewelry and cash by cutting a window in Bhandra Umarganj of Naini Kotwali area on Friday and absconded from the spot, police is investigating the case.

Villagers present were given an oath not to consume tobacco

Praygraj: On the occasion of World No Tobacco Day (31 May), prohibition exhibition, seminar and educational cultural program was organized by the Prohibition Department. The villagers present in the program were given an oath to not consume tobacco products and stay away from drugs. Regional Prohibition and Social Development Officer, Praygraj Region has informed through a press release that on the occasion of World No Tobacco Day (31 May), the Prohibition Department in the presence of Ankur Pandey, Deputy Regional Prohibition and Social Development Officer, Gram Panchayat Secretariat Jamkhuri, Development Prohibition exhibition, seminar, educational cultural program (Magic) was organized in the premises of Block Mauaima, Praygraj to make the villagers aware about the ill effects of tobacco. In the end, the villagers present were given an oath not to consume tobacco products and stay away from drugs.

World No Tobacco Day----- Cancer public awareness program successfully organized

Praygraj: Prof. Rajendra Singh (Rajju Bhayya) University, Praygraj. Successful organization of cancer public awareness program organized under the joint aegis of Aniket Smile Foundation, Social Development Service Committee Praygraj and Sanskrit Department Prof. Rajendra Singh (Rajju Bhayya) University, Praygraj, Uttar Pradesh on Friday, 31/05/2024 Prof. Rajendra Singh (Rajju Bhayya) was successfully completed in the Academic Bhawan-e-Auditorium G-6 of the University. The program started with the lighting of the lamp and garlanding of Saraswati statue and photograph of Rajju Bhayya by the honored guests and various Deans of the University. At the same time, the Sanskrit Department Vedic invocation was done by Anant Mishra, research student of . After this, Dr. Praveen Kumar Dwivedi, Assistant Professor of Sanskrit Department, welcomed all the guests present at the program. Thereafter the

topic was introduced by Dr. Akhilesh Kumar Singh, founder of Aniket Smile Foundation. He also told how he established this foundation. Present as a special statement, Dr. Dev Kumar Yadav, oncologist, Swarup Rani Hospital, Praygraj, said that India stands second in cancer-related deaths due to tobacco. He also said that tobacco contributes a lot to cancer. He also said in his statement that by giving up the consumption of all types of intoxicants, reducing obesity and following a regular routine, we can avoid diseases like cancer. With all these prevention, 70 percent cancer can be prevented.

Moving forward in the program, cancer survivor Prof. Brijendra Singh Princi-pal Mahatma Gandhi P.G. College Fatehpur told how he got relief from incurable disease like cancer. He told that earlier he also used to consume tobacco but after getting cancer, he completely boycotted tobacco and with full confidence, under the

care of doctors, through regular routine and regular medicines etc., he fought this incurable disease like cancer. Kar returned to his life safely. He appealed to the students and youth to take an oath today that they will not consume any kind of tobacco, alcohol or drug related substance. If he loves his home and family, then first of all he should take care of his body and health. After this, Mahamandaleshwar Kaushalyanand Giri Kinnar Akhara Tina Maa, who came to this program as the chief guest, said that we also have a partnership with the government to free our society, our nation, our families from tobacco and from dreadful diseases like cancer. Be free. He also appealed that some facts in Sanatan Dharma are being wrongly disseminated in the society. By removing them, one can become free from diseases like cancer. Pro. Dr. Manoj Kumar Yadav, guest spokesperson of the Department of Sociology of Rajendra Singh (Rajju Bhayya) said that the govern-

ment should take some strict steps so that the youth can become free from drugs. After this, Rajendra Mishra also gave a statement. Prof. Rajendra Singh (Rajju Bhayya) University, guest lecturer of Sanskrit Department, Dr. Piyush Mishra conducted the program successfully. Dr. Priya Jha, guest spokesperson of Sanskrit Department, expressed her gratitude to all the guests. The program concluded with the national anthem. On the occasion of this program Prof. Brijendra Singh, Dr. Vikram Shukla, Dr. Ekta Chaturvedi, Dr. Pramod Kumar Singh, Anil Mishra, Rakesh Yadav, Shiv Prasad Giri, Vinay Pandey Balkrishna Shukla Aniket Smile Foundation and Prof. Dr. Praveen Kumar Dwivedi, Dr. Pradeep Kumar Tripathi, Dr. Alka Mishra, Dr. Kavita Gautam, Dr. Anand Tripathi, Dr. Garima Singh, Dr. from Rajendra Singh (Rajju Bhayya) University, Akhand Pratap Pal, Dr. Anuj Kumar, Dr. Manoj Yadav, Dr. Lavkush Pandey, Dr. Sachchidanand Mishra etc. were present.

Take inspiration from Ahilyabai and strengthen social harmony: Mayor

Praygraj: The 300th birth anniversary of Goddess Ahilyabai Holkar was celebrated on Friday at Holkar Bhawan located in Kachcha Bada, Daraganj. Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani garlanded the statues of Lord Dattatreya ji and Ahilyabai Holkar ji installed in the building premises and described Ahilyabai Holkar as the queen of social harmony. He appealed that everyone should come together and strengthen the fabric of social harmony by following the footsteps of Lokmata Ahilyabai. On this occasion, the Mayor announced that the Municipal Corporation will install a notice board on Ahilyabai Holkar Bhawan, so that people can have information about this historical place. The Mayor warned that social disintegration will weaken the country's culture and strengthen separatist forces. The mere remembrance of a queen like Ahilyabai Holkar awakens the resolve for national unity. He set a new example by constructing temples, ghats etc. all over the country. He said that it is surprising that even

the people of the city do not know about this historical place. This situation is not good, because when the society sleeps, the country is in trouble.

Principal Dr. Murar ji Tripathi described Ahilyabai Holkar as a symbol of justice, good governance and social harmony. The Queen increased the prestige of Sanatan Dharma through her



actions. Thinker Charumitra Pathak said that Ahilyabai Holkar created a new history by renovating the ruined temples in the major pilgrimage centers of the country. He was deeply pained to see the broken temple of Vishwanathji in Varanasi and he made a plan to renovate the temple at the same place where the Gyanvapi Mosque stands today, but due to some reasons it could not be

realized. Vice President of BJP Kashi region Avadheshchandra Gupta said that today an exemplary tradition is being started from this historical place in Praygraj. Queen Ahilyabai followed the path of truth and virtue throughout her life and her amazing sense of justice was seen in this. He did not even spare his son in the name of justice.

Vratsheel Sharma said that due to her beneficial contribution, Holkar's queen became popular among the people as Goddess Ahilyabai. The work they did hundreds of years ago to preserve the country's religion and culture, even big institutions can hardly do it today. There would have been very few brave women like Maharani Ahilyabai Holkar and Rani Rasmani in history. It is a matter of pride for Praygraj that the statue of such a goddess queen is installed here and her 300th birth anniversary is being organized there today. Efforts should be made that this tra-

dition continues further.

Poet Ajay Bhalchandra Kher presented useful and researched information regarding the Holkar royal family. On this occasion, it was collectively demanded that the road in front of Holkar Bhawan should be named Maharani Ahilyabai Marg and for easy water supply of Kachcha Bada. Mini tube well should be installed. Subhash Chandra Vaishya conducted the programme. Vote of thanks was given by Councillor Rajesh Nishad. Vikas Kelkar, Manoj Kelkar, Anil Dharmadhikari, Rajendra Gokhale played a notable role in organizing the programme. Priest Pandit Rajnarayan Mishra conducted the puja as per the rituals. On this occasion, Bharat Nishad, Vineeta Puranik, Aarti Dixit, Supriya Puranik, Jyoti Acharya, Radha Mishra, Rupali Dharmadhikari, Raju Srivastava, Praveen Tiwari, Gendhi, Keshav Pandey, Jitendra Kumar Srivastava, Rajul Shukla, Rajan Shukla, Amar Singh, Krishnakumar Pathak etc. were present.

CAC Annual Aerospace Safety Council Meet (AASCM)-2024 held

Prayagraj: Central Air Command (CAC) of Indian Air Force conducted the Annual Aerospace Safety Council Meeting 2024 (AASCM-24) on Friday at Air Force Station Gorakhpur. The Council meeting was chaired by Air Marshal RGK Kapoor PVSM AVSM VM, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Central Air Command. The meeting included discussions on criticalities of aviation, its challenges and nu-



ances related to aviation safety.

The council meeting was conducted in a hybrid mode to ensure maximum reach and participation of air warriors of all bases of Central Air Command. The event was a huge success in increasing the aerospace safety awareness and consciousness amongst all personnel, informed Shantanu Pratap Singh, Public Relations Officer, Ministry of Defence, Prayagraj.

RPF saved passengers lives

Prayagraj: Railway Protection Force personnel saved the lives of a male and female passenger at Prayagraj Junction. While boarding the train at Prayagraj Junction,



the leg of a male and female passenger slipped, the Railway Protection Force personnel present at the spot showed courage and rescued them from death.

Car bursts into flames

Prayagraj: Safari car suddenly caught fire in front of Naini Chowki Agriculture, the car burnt to ashes, cre-



ated panic. According to the local people, the car caught fire due to the high definition electric wire breaking and falling on the car. After hard work by fire brigade the fire was brought under control.

Retired: LI in-charge Arvind Rai felicitated

Prayagraj: A farewell ceremony was organized in the collector's office on the retirement of LI in-charge Arvind Rai on Thursday. During this, the Collector honored re-



tired LI in-charge Arvind Rai by presenting him a bunch of flowers. He said that retirement is the responsibility of every police that providing security to the citizens should be their first priority, one day everyone has to retire as per the fixed date.

NGOs and social workers to be honoured: Rajnikant

Prayagraj: Rajnikant Srivastava, co-convenor of Bharatiya Janata Party NGO cell, Kashi province, said that the role of NGOs becomes important during the election period. Co-ordinators, co-convenors, associate friends of the districts of the province are NGO volunteers who work continuously in the society. Make a list of social workers and seek cooperation. Provide the name and number of the NGOs providing cooperation to the province. These organizations will make an important contribution in increasing the voting percentage and helping voters reach the booths. If they succeed in getting more people to vote at their booths than in the previous elections, so, all such social workers and NGOs will be honored. If the NGOs and social workers of Kashi contribute in giving a historic victory to Modi ji, all such NGOs and social workers will be honored. If there is a historic victory in Ghazipur including Chandauli, Mirzapur in other districts, then By organizing a grand felicitation ceremony, the morale of those social workers will be boosted, they will be decorated by giving honors to the businessmen who will give exemption to increase the vote percentage in their establishment, all such establishments will be honored which will contribute significantly in increasing the vote percentage with one vote. Atal Bihari's government had fallen, 28 governments of the world had fallen, the importance of one vote is very high, one must vote in the national interest. Cast your vote with pride and be a part of the biggest celebration of democracy. For any voting related information, visit elections24.eci.gov.in. Province Helpline Number 9415 970989 NGO Send Your Name Number Booth Number.

Workshop on fire safety and electrical safety organized

Prayagraj: A workshop on fire safety and electrical safety was organized in Prayag Inn Hotel under the chairmanship of Additional District Magistrate and Chief Executive Officer, District Disaster Authority Prayagraj Vinay Kumar Singh, in which the City Magistrate, Assistant Deputy Director Electrical Safety, Civil Defense Instructions regarding fire safety were given by Chief Barden Anil Kumar Gupta, Divisional Officer Civil Defense Raunak Gupta, Dr.R.K. Pandey CFO Commissionerate Prayagraj, Rajesh Kumar FSO, Civil Line, Hospital, Hotel, Mall, by Dr.R.K. Pandey CFO Commissionerate Prayagraj. In multi-



plexes and multi-storey residential buildings, instructions were given to take precautions regarding fire safety, functionality of equipment and to keep the exit routes free from obstructions and instructions were given to appoint a fire operator in the institution. Assistant Deputy Director of Electrical Safety, D.D. Sharma, inspected the electrical equipment in the institution, hotel and hospital. In the workshop told to conduct safety audit, doctor, hospital operator, hotel operator, guest house operator, mall multiplex operator, manager of Prim Rose Education Institute Farhan Alam and media incharge Gufran Khan and other officials, president of Shahganj trade board Animesh Aggarwal, women Trade board officials, respected journalists and citizens of the city participated in the workshop.

RPF reunited woman passenger with her family

Prayagraj: Assistant Sub Inspector of Railway Protection Force/Manikpur, Vimlesh Kumar, on the basis of information received from the Divisional Security Control Room, at Manikpur Railway Station. In train number 15017, Lokmanya Tilak-Gorakhpur Express, a woman who was separated from her family was attended by the staff. On inquiry by the Railway Protection Force, the woman passenger revealed her name as Mithlesh. Mithlesh along



with his family members was coming from Dholpur to Chitrakoot by train number 12190 Hazrat Nizamuddin-Jabalpur Mahakaushal Express. His family members got down at Chitrakoot station but due to heavy crowd, female passenger Mithlesh could not get down from the train and reached Maihar after getting separated from her family. The Government Railway Police of Maihar station sent the woman passenger to her family in Manikpur by train number 15017, Lokmanya Tilak-Gorakhpur Express. Assistant Sub Inspector Vimlesh Kumar of Railway Protection Force/Manikpur handed over the female passenger Mithlesh to her parents.

3-day third National Drama Festival organized by BAFTA kicks off

Prayagraj: The event started with the lighting of the lamp in the air-conditioned Zahida Auditorium of Prayagraj Benhur School and College, Karelabagh. On this occasion, renowned actor and director Salim Arif was present as the chief guest and Dr. Vidhu Khare Das as the special guest. BAFTA Founder Tariq Khan and President Dr. Afroz Jahan welcomed the present guests by garlanding them. After this, the staging of the plays scheduled for today started. The play 'Bet', based on the story 'The Bet' by Russian writer Anton Chekhov, was first staged in the auditorium packed with spectators. The bet was on the issue of what was better between death sentence and life imprisonment. This bet of twenty million rubles between a banker and a lawyer forced the lawyer to remain in a room alone for 15



years because the lawyer believed that life imprisonment was the better of the two sentences. The play was successful in keeping the audience engaged from beginning to end. At the end of the play, the lawyer, being alone a little before the scheduled time, comes to the conclusion that life is more important than money and wealth, which needs to be lived with loved ones every moment, and he gives up the condition. This play, full of script, decorations, sound and light, dialogues and excellent acting, received a lot of applause.

Amidst Yagya & havan, Chappu to hold Ramcharitmanas recitation on June 3

Prayagraj: In a noble initiative, Umesh Kumar Gupta Chappu, Vice President of Public Welfare Committee Bahadurganj Prayagraj and businessman, to materialize the return of BJP government in the country and the resolution of the country's new Prime Minister Narendra Modi this time to cross 400, yagya and havan are being performed continuously at Moti Park Laxman Bazaar from 18th April 2024. The ritual Havan program is going on in the temple. In this sequence, a program of recitation of Ramcharitmanas has been organized in the temple premises on 3 June 2024, in which many distinguished personalities will mark their presence. The recitation of Ramcharitmanas will con-

clude on 4 June 24, after which a program of distribution of Prasad has been organized. Gaya businessman Umesh Kumar Gupta Chappu told that this time he has been performing ritu-



als to fulfill the resolution of the country's famous Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji of crossing 400 and is trying to bring awareness

among the people that the country will not be ruled by BJP. Why is there a need for a government? Those issues which were hindering the progress of the country were efficiently resolved by

has been in his Those who were not able to go to the temple were also victims of politics. The illustrious Prime Minister has protected Sanatan Dharma by reaching the temple and offering his life to Lord Shri Ram. This is a moment of pride for the people of India. With this illustrious Prime Minister May the resolution receive the blessings of Lord Shri Ram and the lotus completes the figure of 405. This is our prayer to Lord Shri Ram. Lotus is God's favorite, he is seated in his hands, he is called Kamal Nayan, he will make lotus bloom all over India and will be the famous Prime Minister of the country. This is my belief of the entire country that we will fulfill our resolve.

RPF handed over two kids to Child Help Line

Prayagraj: Sub-Inspector of Railway Protection Force/Prayagraj, Vivek Kumar, while on duty, found two children on platform number 1 of Prayagraj Junction. When interrogated by the Railway Protection Force, the children revealed their names as Chunnu, son of Ratan, age 9 years, and Payal, daughter of Ratan, age 7 years. Both the children are

residents of Golavas, Dausa, Rajasthan, their mother has died and their father is a drug addict. Both the children were brought and kept at Railway Protection Force Post Prayagraj and information was given to Child Helpline Prayagraj. When Neetu Shukla reached the post of Child Helpline Prayagraj, both the children were handed over to her.

Over 9 lakh government elementary kids in UP are still without Aadhaar

Prayagraj: Of over 1.26 crore students registered in more than 1.33 lakh government-run primary (up to Class 5), upper primary (Classes 5 to 8) and composite (Classes 1 to 8) schools running across Uttar Pradesh, Aadhaar numbers of a large number of children have not been made till date, say teachers of these schools. Due to this, there will again be a delay in transferring the financial assistance amount of Rs. 1,200 given annually to each student every year for their free school uniforms, bags, shoes, socks and stationery items etc di-

rectly in bank accounts of their parents/guardians, they add. This financial aid is sent by the state basic education department directly in the bank accounts of the parents of the students through direct benefit transfer (DBT). But first, this amount is received by the parents of those children whose Aadhaar numbers are available. Director general (school

education), U.P., Kanchan Verma, while sending a report of May 27, directed all basic shiksha adhikaris (BSAs) to complete the Aadhaar verification process as soon as possible so that the assistance amount can be made available to the students well on time. As per state basic education department's data, maximum 44,477 students don't have Aadhaar numbers in Lakhimpur Kheri.

Likewise, there are 35,081 students in Bahraich, 34,573 in Azamgarh, 28,130 in Hardoi, 27,161 in Jaunpur and 25,297 in Budaun who do not have Aadhaar cards. "The Aadhaar card making process of students lacking them in Prayagraj is under way in full swing and we are undertaking the exercise as a top priority," said BSA, Prayagraj, Praveen Kumar Tiwari.

Nagesh Kesarwani zeroed in on to represent India in Maldives

Prayagraj: Body building champion Nagesh Kesarwani, champion player of UPBBFA organization and Prayagraj city, has been selected in the Indian team for the South Asian Championship to be held in Maldives from 6 to 8 June. Nagesh is the first male player from Prayagraj to be selected in Team India for the South Asian Championship. Nagesh has been Uttar Pradesh and North India champion in the past too, we all the UPBBFA family are confident that with his tireless efforts, Nagesh will make not only Uttar Pradesh, Prayagraj but the whole of India feel proud by getting a medal.



Editorial

A Shaky World Order: Can India Navigate A Russia-China-Iran Axis?

The world today appears to be on the verge of a cascade of conflicts. Over two years since it started, the Russia-Ukraine war does not seem to be heading towards an imminent settlement. Likewise, despite calls for a ceasefire, the Israel-Hamas conflict appears unlikely to abate anytime soon. And now, events over the past month involving Israel and Iran have demonstrated the potential for a wider regional conflict. While the wars in Eurasia and the Middle East may seem disjointed and seeped in their own historical and political contexts, they are also interconnected in a broader sense of the emerging great power competition for the future of the world order. What we are witnessing today is an era of great power competition in an increasingly multipolar world. The US and China are the chief protagonists in this new order, although each is constrained by its domestic politics and capacities. This creates a certain power vacuum, but also space for autonomy of action, balancing and bandwagoning, and even adventurism by middle powers. In this environment, while there are no distinct blocs that have emerged, there are certain alignments that are becoming more prominent. For instance, NATO seems to have found a fresh purpose following Russia's assault on Ukraine, but there are deep concerns related to American policy continuity. Likewise, there is the emergence of a Russia-Iran-China axis based on common interests and grievances with the West. But there are limits to the nature of support that each lends to the other. After years of mutual antagonism, Israel and Iran now appear to be on the brink of a new conflict. The proximate cause for this can be traced back to Israel's frustration with what it argues is Iranian support for Hamas, and other groups such as the Hezbollah, the Houthis, the Syrian government and groups in Iraq. Over the course of the past month, the two countries have engaged in a cycle of attack and counter-attack. Neither seems to desire a major escalation. But the ladder of escalation often follows its own logic, which can put the best-laid plans to waste. Two strategic outcomes can be observed amid these recent events. First, the persistence of the war in Gaza and the emerging spillovers have exposed the limitations of American and Chinese power, particularly since the situation does not necessarily serve either's strategic interests. Second, there is a clear alignment, albeit with increasing friction, between the US and Israel. The US has been at the forefront, supporting Israel in its war against Hamas, and led its defence amid the recent Iranian strikes. It is interesting to note that this effort was supported by regional actors like Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Jordan. In addition, options to coerce Iran economically are being discussed in both the European Union (EU) and the US. On the other hand, China and Russia have been critical of Israeli actions since October 2023. Amid the Iran-Israel tensions, Beijing has backed Iran and sought to preserve its tenuous effort at reconciliation between Saudi Arabia and Tehran. Russia, meanwhile, has become Iran's largest military backer since 2022 and threw its diplomatic weight behind Iran's "retaliatory measures" on April 14 against Israel. On the other side of the world, the war in Ukraine is well into its third year. The conflict has fundamentally reshaped European geopolitics and geoeconomics. The war has re-energised transatlantic unity for the moment. However, the direction of American domestic politics has a significant bearing on this momentum. Beijing has sought to straddle the line in Europe by trying to appear neutral while backing the Russian call for a new regional security architecture. It has supported Russia's defence industrial complex with the supply of dual-use items, but has been cautious to avoid direct weapons support.



Impact of mobilization of caste panchayats on voting



In the first phase of voting of this Lok Sabha election, a large number of Jat voters were seen missing in Western UP, called Jatland. Rajputs and Thakurs have also opened a front against the BJP governments in the entire northern region of India. Their Panchayats are being held and despite the persuasion of many big Rajput and Thakur leaders, their opposition is not calming down. In this way, the disappointment shown among the voters in Western Uttar Pradesh, known as Jat Land, on April 19 and the number of voters who came to vote at the booths till almost noon, has given rise to disappointment that whether this time are voters so angry with the attitude of one party governments that they do not even want to exercise their voting rights? But what is this resentment that if people are angry with the governments of one party, then they should not vote, this will only increase the problem. The way Jats are disappearing from the Panchayats, and the Rajput community and other castes also want to establish their dominance by doing Panchayats and want to show the ruling party that not only Jats, but also Rajputs and Thakurs live in the area. The government is feeling scared because of it, but the unity seen in the

Panchayats of these three big castes will be affected in some way or the other. In such a situation, when these three castes have tried to create an opposing wave through Panchayats, then they need to remain united to get their demands met. In western Uttar Pradesh, there is evidence of unity of Aijars i.e. Ahirs, Jats, Gurjars and Rajputs. In a way, Thakur is also a caste of Rajputs, so it is counted in it. These four farmer communities are not only hardworking but also honest. And these four communities can tolerate everything, but do not tolerate fraud. Although I believe that all the farmer communities or should we say all the farming communities are honest and hardworking, the Jat and Rajput communities have always been at the forefront in taking decisions in the Panchayats, taking everyone along and history is witness to this. These communi-

ties have always resolved all small and big disputes in the villages through their Panchayats. Apart from this, the kindness among the farming communities, especially the big farmers, is so much that no one can go through their doors without eating and drinking. About four years ago, when the Corona epidemic was spreading globally and there was chaos all around, people suffering from Corona were dying and villagers living in cities were returning to their homes on foot hungry and thirsty, then the farmers He had opened the stores of his house and helped such helpless travelers a lot. Not only this, almost all the works were closed at that time, but the farmers kept the country's GDP intact by working day and night in their fields. At that time, only one or two leaders would have come forward to help the people, the rest of the help was

either done by the farmers, or by those who were sons of farmers and were in jobs. But the way farmers have been ignored in this country for the last few years and especially what has happened to them during the farmers' movement, it is clear that the resentment of Jats, Rajputs and other big castes was bound to come to the fore. But it is not wise to stay away from voting and separate from each other. However, if we talk about reduction in voting, we will see that while 69.2 percent voting took place in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, this time only 55 to 66 percent voting took place at various booths. If the voting percentage remains the same in future, then it will be a big warning not only for the democracy of the country but also for the Election Commission about the dissatisfaction of the voters. Because voters are the basis of elections and if voters do not vote, then how will governments be elected? The fewer voters will vote, the easier it will be for the political parties to manipulate them in their favor and it will also be easier to win, because the mood of the voters is such that the angry voters do not vote or Those who vote for a particular party get burnt on NOTA, whereas those who vote only for a particular party come to

Above-Normal Rainfall Is Good News, But There's A Deeper Problem

According to the India Meteorological Department's (IMD) latest forecast, India is expected to receive above-normal rainfall during the upcoming June-September southwest monsoon season. This is great news after a gap of eight years; 2016 was when India last experienced decent rain. The country's dependence on monsoon can be gauged from the fact that it receives about 70-90% of its annual rainfall in the four months of June-September. Normal monsoon has a direct impact on the country's economy. Evenly-distributed rainfall is crucial for the 61% of Indian farmers who are dependent on monsoon for agriculture. A positive monsoon enhances agricultural production, which in

turn boosts the country's economy and enhances food security. Over the last few decades, dwindling resources have led to overuse of groundwater. According to the Central Groundwater Board of India, 18% of India's groundwater assessment units are overexploited or critical, meaning that the rate at which water is extracted is higher than the rate at which the aquifer can recharge. The overuse of groundwater for agriculture has increased since the 1960s, especially after the Green Revolution. To fulfil requirements, a largely unregulated groundwater irrigation economy has mushroomed in rural areas. Increased availability of borewells and free or subsidised electricity have allowed farmers to withdraw groundwa-

ter at will, leading to the resource's overexploitation. The practice raises concerns given that about 75% of the annual groundwater recharge takes place during the southwest monsoon. With climate change altering monsoon patterns, these recharge cycles can get disrupted, consequently leading to high crop failures. The IMD's latest monsoon prediction is music to not only farmers but also lakhs of people in Indian cities that have been battling water-related crises. Bengaluru is foremost among them these days. It has two major sources of water - while Cauvery water takes care of 60% of the city's water needs, the rest is fulfilled by borewells handled by Bengaluru's water supply authority.

Another election, another round of suspicion and allegations on the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). The voting machine has always been mired in controversies, with debates heating up around the time of elections. The Election Commission of India (ECI) has repeatedly defended EVMs as non-tamperable, citing technological measures and strict administrative and security measures taken by the poll body. Unfortunately, S. Rangarajan, the man who designed the EVM, is no longer here to defend the device that has drastically reduced the time taken to count votes. However, he was more popularly known as 'writer Sujatha' - among the most prolific writers in Tamil - who wrote thrillers, science fiction, human drama, critiques on Tamil classics, and explained science and technology. He also wrote screenplays that went on to become hugely successful. If alive, he would have turned 89 on May 3 this year. He passed away on February 27, 2008. Rangarajan was an electronic engineer at Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), where he led the team that designed such machines. After their experimental use in 1989, followed by other successful exercises during elections, about one million EVMs were deployed in the 2004 elections. In 1977, S.L. Shakhdar, the then Chief

Commissioner (CEC), during a tour to Hyderabad, requested the Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL) to study the possibility of using an electronic device for conducting elections, writes Anil Maheshwari and Vipul Maheshwari in The Power of the Ballot: Travail and Triumph in the Elections. In 1979, a prototype was developed, and its operation was demonstrated by the Election Commission of India (ECI) before the representatives of political parties in August 1980, they add. Meanwhile, BEL, a Defence Ministry PSU, had also developed a microcomputer-based voting equipment, which they had used for the elections for the various unions of the company, say the authors. In January 1981, BEL approached the ECI for a contract for manufacturing EVMs, and on July 29, 1981, the ECI held a meeting with the representatives of BEL, ECIL, the Ministry of Law, and the CEOs of some states regarding the use of EVMs in elections. But since its introduction, some parties have raised doubts over the possibility of EVMs malfunctioning or being tampered with to register votes in favour of a particular candidate or party. Even the introduction of the Voter-Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) has not been able to satisfy

machine is attached to the main EVM, which, as soon as a button is pressed, prints out a piece of paper with the voter's choice. The printed slip is visible for seven seconds. These slips are used later by officials to verify the votes cast in randomly selected polling booths. It was with the very idea of introducing more transparency into the election process that the concept of VVPAT was proposed in 2010. Following discussions with political parties and others, the idea was referred to the ECI's Technical Expert Committee. Finally, VVPAT machines were attached to EVMs and trials were conducted in some constituencies during the 2013 assembly elections. Following that, the ECI decided to introduce VVPATs in a phased manner, and in the 2019 General Elections, all EVMs were used with VVPAT machines. Let me point out two things. Firstly, it was precisely to remove doubts regarding the EVMs that VVPAT machines were introduced - to provide voters with a means to verify that their vote was cast correctly and for the audit of stored electronic results. Using these machines, voters can review a physical ballot to confirm their electronic vote. Secondly, it was the VVPAT machines that malfunctioned in the recent by-polls, and not the EVMs," writes former.

What A Caste Census Can Come To Mean

I was born in the Indian Railways township of Tundla, a major junction on the historic Delhi-Howrah trunk route, in the heartland of Uttar Pradesh. The town had a population of just 30,000 then, divided almost equally between the railwaymen and their dependents and 'the townwallahs', as the others - shopkeepers, traders, professionals and some farmers - living there were fondly called. Tundla was like a microcosm of India, with people from all parts of the country, representing all religions, faiths, languages, traditions, colours and festivals, living there. Ramlila, Durga Puja and Guru Parva festivities always fascinated me, as did the sombreness of the

Muharram processions. Nobody ever asked me my caste or, for that matter, my religion. My parents were refugees, thanks to the unfortunate Partition. My father had to leave behind his ancient village in the Frontier, bordering Afghanistan, and my mother had to flee from Mianwali in western Punjab. But it did not matter to our neighbours or friends. It was a childhood full of carefree joy, play and happiness. The whole town was like a family, which would transform into a big mela (a fair) on occasions like Diwali, Durga Puja and 'chhabbis january' (January 26, the Republic Day of India). I did not know anything about caste. Two families living opposite our house

were Dalit, which I had heard - mostly in whispers - from the priest of our local temple, but we all prayed together, celebrated together, and often ate together. I am sure the caste fissures were all there, and probably profoundly, but they were under the radar, never paraded nakedly. Caste was a reality, a big social cleavage in villages just outside our microcosm, but I also know for sure that most even in those villages would have wanted to be like us. Honestly, I did not know - and did not care to know - my caste until I was already settled, had travelled all around the world, married and even had the first child. The 1990 violence over the implementation of the Mandal

report shattered me. Suddenly, everybody was asking each other about their caste. If you used only 'Kumar' or 'Singh' or 'Bharti' as your last name, people were careful not to offend you, staying neutral on the Mandal debate in social gatherings. It was in such an atmosphere and anxiety I called up my father one evening to ask him about our 'caste'. He was baffled. All he managed to say was, "We are Hindus, Panjabi Hindus." I persisted, "That I know, but what is our caste ... I mean caste?" I listed out all the four varnas and asked him to tick the right box. He said, "We are Arora. I do not know beyond that." There was no Google in those days.

Precision herbicides use essential for cotton protection – Godrej Agrovet

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

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

Delhi high court orders parents to pay for school AC

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



UP leads 2024 JEE (Advanced) aspirants at 11%

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

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

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

CAPSULES

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

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

JNU VC: No faculty de-reservation

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



allowed to remain vacant in public interest, the university concerned may prepare a proposal for de-reservation of the vacancy giving following information." No proposed rules have been withdrawn. Jawaharlal Nehru University vice-chancellor Santishree D. Pandit wrote: "As VC, JNU, I want to assure stakeholders that no JNU

positions have been de-reserved. We have excellent reserved candidates." The Supreme Court shared her sentiment, she said. UGC chairperson M Jagadesh Kumar said there will be no de-reservation of reserved category posts in central educational institutions. The ministry of education said the 2019 Act on central insti-

tution reservation forbids de-reservation. JNU Students' Union plans to burn Kumar's effigy. Delhi University registrar Vikas Gupta told "No de-reservation. There are enough SC, ST, and OBC candidates. Thus, DU will not de-reserve any above-category posts." Teachers' groups are worried.

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

School fee hikes under scrutiny

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

The rules don't allow retrospective hikes. The vigilance agency noted that such hikes are intended to benefit school management at the expense of parents. The study also found that schools violated the Delhi School Education Act and Rules, 1973 by using collected monies. DOE announced charge structure recommendations for 2010-2011. "If the school must raise tuition, it must first consult with parents, the main stakeholders. Since parents pay for fee hikes, the school

must present its case for a fee hike with a detailed financial statement to the committee of the duly selected parents-teachers association and get their approval before the managing committee approves it "DOE's circular read. The education department has been asked to provide a tabular analysis of price hike instances for 2019-2024 sessions and explain why the hikes were permitted despite persistent regulation infractions. Admissions to EWS were also examined.

IIT grads are earning under Rs 10 lakh this year

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

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

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

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

Delhi: Although Canada attempted to improve the attractiveness of its start-up visa program in July of last year, an announcement tonight will terminate the aspirations of prospective immigrant entrepreneurs. In reality, a number of them who received early investment or assistance from business incubators can wind up in a limbo. Beginning on April 30, Canada will only accept petitions for permanent residency linked to ten or fewer startups per approved organization for processing each year. The Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) released a statement stating that this action was taken to expedite application processing and minimize backlogs. To put it simply, there are currently about 82 of these



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

have sufficient means to support themselves and their family upon arrival in Canada. The Startup Visa (SUV) program does not require applicants to invest any of their funds or have a minimum net worth. It's essential to have support from one or more of the approved partners, such as venture capital funds (VCF), angel investor groups (who must invest a minimum of CAD 200,00 and 75,000, respectively), or be accepted into a program offered by a business incubator. Under this policy, the goals for immigration

Centre considering NIFT overseas campus



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

Unclaimed deposits in banks have surged by 26% year

NEW DELHI: The Reserve Bank of India's Annual Report, released on, revealed that unclaimed deposits in banks have surged by 26% year-on-year, reaching Rs 78,213 crore by the end of March 2024 from Rs 62,225 crore reported a year ago.

Banks, including cooperative banks, are required to transfer unclaimed deposits of account holders that have remained dormant for 10 years or more to the RBI's Depositor Education and Awareness (DEA) Fund. The central bank, earlier this year, issued extensive instructions in an effort to assist account holders and streamline the existing guidelines on inoperative accounts. These guidelines cover various aspects of classifying accounts and deposits as inoperative or unclaimed, as well as measures to be



implemented by banks. The RBI advised banks to conduct periodic reviews of such accounts, implement measures to prevent fraud, establish grievance redress mechanisms for swift complaint resolution, and take steps to trace customers of inoperative accounts or unclaimed deposits, including their nominees or legal heirs, for account reactivation, claim settlement, or closure. These instructions were expected to complement the current initiatives taken by banks and the Reserve Bank to

decrease the amount of unclaimed deposits within the banking system and return such deposits to their rightful owners/claimants. The updated instructions, which came into effect on April 1, 2024, are applicable to all commercial banks (including Regional Rural Banks) and all cooperative banks. To make it easier for depositors to search for unclaimed deposits across multiple banks in one centralized location, the Reserve Bank developed a web portal called UDGM - Unclaimed Deposits Gateway to Access Information.

Oyo posts first profitable year in FY24

MUMBAI: Oyo Hotels & Homes has recorded its first profitable year in FY24, posting net profits of nearly Rs 100 crore, founder Ritesh Agarwal said on Thursday. "This (January-March quarter) was our eighth consecutive quarter of a positive EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation) and we also have a cash balance of about Rs 1,000 crore," Agarwal said in a post on social media platform X, adding that the numbers are provisional. EBITDA is a metric of operational profitability.

Oyo is among a batch of late-stage startups which have been working towards reduc-

ing cash burn, building in operational efficiencies and achieving profitability. A global tech downturn and reset in startup valuations nudged companies to set their financials in order and chase prudent growth. Investors have been maintaining a cautious stance and only cutting cheques for companies which have been at least able to demonstrate a path to profitability. SoftBank-backed Oyo recently withdrew its draft initial public offering (IPO) papers with market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for the second time and is negotiating with investors for a fundraise

at lower valuation. The fresh funding could be at a 70% drop from its peak valuation of \$10 billion, had reported last week. Company insiders claim that the Gurgaon-based startup plans to refinance its \$450 million loan.

Agarwal said that various emerging travel trends bodes well for the hospitality sector. "I see growth ahead not just in India with emerging travel trends such as premiumisation, spiritual travel, business travel and conferences, destination weddings but also in our other key markets of Nordics, South East Asia, US and UK," Agarwal said.

At 61.3%, Maha LS polling shade better than in 2019

PUNE: Maharashtra registered 61.3% voter turnout in the five phases of the ongoing general, almost on a par with the last LS poll turnout, amid urban voter apathy. State chief electoral officer S Chockalingam said the

state's average in this election was better by 0.6% as compared to 2019 polls. "If we look at phase five, we are 1.4% better as compared to the last LS polls. This, however, does not include postal ballots, which will be

added on the counting day," he said. "We will take more steps to make voting easier and increase voting percentage in the coming assembly elections," Chockalingam said. Additional chief electoral officer .

Corporates debate setbacks in creating gender inclusive workplaces

BENGALURU: Corporates acknowledge that there is a need for streamlining the system to increase female workforce participation in the organized sector. Poor pay parity is one of the key aspects contributing to high attrition, stakeholders agreed.

Karthik SK, head of talent acquisition, human resources at Biocon Biologics, mentioned that women construction workers were tasked with heavy lifting while men did plastering, stone laying, and were paid Rs 200 more. After a dialogue with the contractor, he ensured the rectification of this discrepancy to provide equal pay for all. During an in-depth study, Karthik discov-

ered that the lack of clean and dedicated washrooms contributed to women leaving the workspace within six months of joining. "When young girls join, I observe their families waiting outside until evening for them. They are unsure if their daughter is in the right job or a safe space. That assurance must be provided," he said. Over the years, with reforms at the ground level, he noted that attrition was reduced from 11 percent to six percent. Sayantan Nandy, chief of staff at Delhivery, mentioned the need to sensitize people in the warehouse about their language. "The warehouse is a loud space, and the language used may

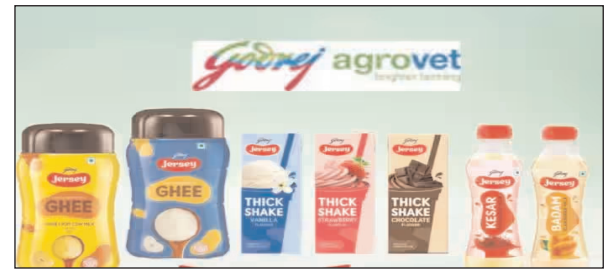
not be appropriate. We sensitized them. Whenever we encountered resistance, we inquired why it was difficult." Nandy added that with the integration of technology in the workspace, where battery-operated pallet trucks and telescopic conveyor belts were introduced, the physical hazards of the job were mitigated. This made it easier for women to join. "Initially, we did not have separate female washroom facilities or female security guards. But that changed. A larger diversity presence was seen with more female employees, even in admin and HR," he said.

Anitha Jayapal, head of human resources at L&T

EduTech, said women were taught roller-skating to handle multiple machines. "Having a seat at the table is important for women's participation in the workforce," she added. They were speaking at the roundtable discussion on 'Gender-Inclusive Workplaces in the Staffing Industry' hosted by Ques and Udaiti Foundation on Thursday. Another subject expert noted a change in language when a woman attended the executive meeting. Vasanthi Srinivasan, professor of Organizational Behavior & Human Resources Management and Chairperson of Digital Learning at IIM Bangalore.

Godrej Agrovet arm Creamline Dairy forays into premium milk

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



Hyderabad. The farm has a 9,000 litres per day capacity and the company is currently selling around 400 litres of the premium milk exclusively in the Hyderabad market through the quick commerce route, Godrej CEO Bhupendra Suri said. The company also launched its milk

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

US GDP growth was slower last quarter on soft consumer spending

The US economy grew at a slower pace in the first quarter than initially reported, primarily reflecting softer consumer spending on goods. Gross domestic product rose 1.3% annualized in the first three months of the year, below the previous estimate of 1.6%, Bureau of Economic Analysis figures published Thursday showed. The economy's main growth engine — personal spending — advanced 2.0%, versus the previous estimate of 2.5%. The numbers underscore a loss of momentum to start 2024 after continual upside surprises in 2023. High interest rates, waning pandemic-era savings and slower income growth are some of the key factors weighing on American households and businesses. Consumer spending was marked down as outlays for goods —

particularly autos — were much softer. Federal government spending slowed, while imports picked up compared to the first estimate. Net exports subtracted from growth for the first time in two years. The downward revision to consumer spending was partially offset by stronger business and residential investment. A key measure of underlying domestic demand known as final sales to private domestic purchasers rose 2.8%, versus the initially reported 3.1% increase. Economists have pointed to the strength in this metric as reason to believe that demand is still strong, even if the headline GDP figure looks weak by comparison. "Monthly data beyond March generally point to a continued, albeit gently cooling, economic expansion. We anticipate continued GDP gains this year

and a healthy advance in 2024 overall," Nationwide Financial Markets Economist Oren Klachkin said in a note. "Some warning signs regarding the economic outlook are visible beneath the surface, but nothing that makes us pessimistic about the road ahead." GDP +1.3% +1.6% Consumer spending +2.0% +2.5% Nonresidential investment +3.3% +2.9% Residential investment +15.4% +13.9% Government spending +1.3% +1.2% Alongside its second estimate of GDP, the BEA also publishes data on gross domestic income, its other main measure of economic activity. GDI rose 1.5% in the first quarter, according to the report. GDP measures spending on goods and services, whereas GDI measures income generated.

CA Students Talent Hunt Competitions held



Chandigarh The apex body of the CAs - The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) organised CA Students Talent Hunt Competitions was organised at CA Bhawan on Thursday with an aim to provide them all-round development along with their academics. As many as 80 students participated in the Essay Writing and Pitch Deck Competitions. Vansh Goyal emerged as the winner in Essay Writing Competition

which were themed on 'Future of Work in the Digital Age', Economics of Poverty and Inequality and other topics. Divya secured second spot while Janvi Garg stood third. Meanwhile the team comprising Tanya Rana, Anuj Goyal and Arpana Gupta were declared winners in the pitch deck competition while Mukul Lamba and Ketan Kakkar got second place. Sakshi Bhama and Anuj Tiwari console with third place. The jury com-

prised senior members of ICAI which includes CA Uma Kant, CA Harmanjeet Singh, CA Jasleen Daswal, CA Keshav Bansal, CA Harsh Kaushal and CA Yuvraj. ICAI Chandigarh Branch's Chairman CA Abhishek Singh Chauhan awarded the winners and runners-up teams. These zonal level winning teams will get a chance to represent Chandigarh at the regional level followed by national level competitions at the end of the hunt campaign.

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

HYDERABAD: India's pharmaceutical exports clocked a nearly 10% growth in FY24 to hit \$27.8 billion, propelled by the double digit growth in the US and UK generics market, and is poised to reach \$31 billion in the current fiscal year, a top official of Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (Pharmexcil) said on Thursday. India's pharma industry, which is currently pegged at around \$65 billion, is poised to grow to around \$130 billion by 2030, Pharmexcil director general Ravi Uday Bhaskar said at the inaugural of the 10th edition of PharmaLytics here. Pointing out that 50% of the Indian pharma sectors exports go to highly regulated mar-

kets, Bhaskar said exports to US grew over 15.6% to over \$ 8.7 billion in FY24 due to shortages in drug manufacturing capacities and the increasing demand for drugs pertaining to lifestyle diseases such as hypertension, depression, diabetes in the US. He said exports to the UK saw a 21.6% growth partly due to the increased cost of drugs, which were earlier sourced from Europe, post-Brexit. Apart from this, Africa showed a positive turnaround during FY24, from a degrowth of 5% to a growth of 8% as NGOs, who had diverted their funds towards Covid-19 vaccines and medicines, restarting procurement of drugs, he said.

Blood donation camps were held by Sant Nirankari Mission in Vijay Vihar (Rohini), Shalimar Bagh, and Najafgarh



Delhi: Under the auspices and divine direction of Nirankari Rajpita Ramit Ji and Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj, the Sant Nirankari Charitable Foundation, the social arm of the Sant Nirankari Mission, organized blood donation camps at Branch Rohini, Shalimar Bagh, and Najafgarh, where 185 Mission devotees generously gave their blood for the good of humanity. To gather blood, medical professionals and members of the AIIMS blood bank team visited the camp. Smt. Rajwasdev

Singh Ji, the Deputy Head of Sant Nirankari Mission, gave the camp its opening. She gave all of the blood donors who took part in the blood donation camp encouragement and recognition for their unselfish devotion and priceless contribution to the well-being of the populace. The CPAB Department Convener, Hon. Shri S.L. Garg ji, officially opened the Shalimar Bagh camp. He urged everyone in the camp who was donating blood, saying that giving blood is the greatest kind of giving. In addition, the

esteemed Mrs. Raj Kumari (Mami ji), Member Incharge of the Publicity Department, officially opened the Najafgarh camp. She also urged everyone who volunteered to give blood, emphasizing that we should do it at all times for the good of humankind. Upon completion of the blood donation camp, Mr. Vinod Khanna, the local coordinator, conveyed his sincere appreciation to all the dignitaries, blood donors, medical professionals, and their support staff.

When Will Delhi Get Monsoon

Delhi: Delhiites are eagerly awaiting Southwest Monsoon, but relief may not arrive until June. The monsoon arrived over the Bay of Bengal three days early, on May 19, according to the IMD. IMD anticipates above-average June-September rainfall at 106% of the long-term average. This is likely due to La Nina and good Indian Ocean Dipole circumstances. Although there may be more rain, some forecasts expect powerful bursts with dry spells in between. The IMD expects the monsoon to reach Kerala by May 31, with a four-day delay. This matches the typical June 1 start. "Not early. Near regular date" IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra



said. The weather agency also reported that the monsoon will reach the Bay of Bengal and Andaman on May 19, Karnataka on June 3-8, and Maharashtra on June 9-16. Delhi should get some relief from the heat on June 27. IMD issued a red signal on Sunday, May 19, expecting two days of high

heat in several sections of Delhi.

The temperature in Delhi reached its highest point of the season on Saturday, and it is projected to soar further. The southwest monsoon arrives in Kerala around June 1. It surges northward and covers the country by July 15.

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general Ravi Uday Bhaskar said at the inaugural of the 10th edition of PharmaLytics here. Pointing out that 50% of the Indian pharma sectors exports go to highly regulated markets.

CAPSULES

New Mahipalpur STP forthcoming

Delhi: Delhi Development Authority informed the National Green Tribunal that it had given Delhi Jal Board land in Mahipalpur for a sewage treatment plant. DJB promised to finish the plant quickly after land ownership. Vasant Kunj Sector E-2 residents wrote to the green tribunal in 2022, alleging that wastewater in the open drain on the northern side of the DDA Legal Housing Complex Society wall was stagnating and sewage was seeping through the boundary wall into the society. DDA informed DJB to pay Rs 708.5 per acre to finalize land assignment in its NGT report. They stated DJB officials had submitted the payment request for approval. Priority will be given to land payments after approval. The DDA indicated that purified water will be used to maintain south Delhi's plantations and waterways after the STP is built. Another DJB report to NGT stated, "Currently, the allotment process is ongoing, and the construction will be completed within a reasonable time after obtaining possession of the land."

Government standards for spice export quality

Delhi: An official stated India has detailed procedures to prevent EtO (ethylene oxide, a hazardous chemical) contamination in spices for export. The official noted that the government tests spices exported to Singapore and Hong Kong as a precaution. The precautions are important after MDH and Everest goods were recalled in Singapore and Hong Kong due to EtO residue in spices.

Studies show polluted air increases Type 2 diabetes risk

Delhi: Air pollution may increase Type 2 diabetes risk. Air pollution, especially PM2.5, is known to cause chronic lung ailments, heart attack, stroke, and cancer, but the diabetes argument is gaining ground. Several research from the US, Europe, and China have shown the association, but a new two-city study from India found that even a 10 g/m3 increase in PM2.5 exposure raises blood sugar. Mumbai-based JAPI (Journal of Association of Physicians of India) published an editorial headlined, 'Air



Pollution: A New Cause of Type 2 Diabetes? this month. Diabetes specialist Dr. V Mohan from Chennai wrote, "We now know that PM2.5 is an endocrine disruptor that affects insulin secretion and also leads

to insulin resistant." Due to summer, the air quality index has been low in recent weeks, but air pollution is becoming one of urban India's largest problems, killing 20,000 in Mumbai and 50,000 in Delhi annual-

ly. Dr. Mohan and Public Health Foundation of India researchers published the first PM2.5-diabetes study a few months ago. 'BMJ Open Diabetes Research & Care' found links between short-, medium-, and long-term PM2.5 exposure. "A 10 g/m3 increase in monthly average exposure to PM2.5 was associated with a 0.4 mg/dL increase in finger pick blood test and a 0.021 unit increase in HbA1c test," claimed the study. The HbA1c blood test measures blood sugar over three months. The study followed

Indian Ayushman Bharat digital mission to be shown at WHO

Delhi: Official sources said India will promote Ayushman Bharat, public health emergency preparation, and digital health changes at the World Health Assembly in Geneva from May 27. At the annual WHO event, it will display the Arogya Maitri Disaster Management Cube, an indigenous portable hospital with novel features to improve disaster response and medical support. Geneva will host the 77th World Health Assembly (WHA) from May 27 to June 1. The Indian Ministry of Health and Family Welfare delegation



is led by Union Health Secretary Apurva Chandra. Participants from 194 nations will shape the global health ecosystem. This year's WHA theme is "All for

Health, Health for All". WHA proceedings are held in Plenary, Committee A, and Committee B. Sources say health ministers/heads of delegation from 194

nations will attend the Health Assembly plenary session. India will chair Committee A, which will tackle universal health coverage, public health emergency preparedness and response, antimicrobial resistance, climate change, sustainable WHO financing, etc. Committee B handles internal and external audit, budget, financing, and the WHO secretariat.

At least 14 side events and various strategic roundtables will be held on the sidelines of WHAT to discuss diverse health problems and the global health architecture.

Indian traditional knowledge and genetic resources are further protected by a new patent agreement

Delhi : A new treaty finalized by members of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) requires patent applicants to reveal the nation of origin or the source of genetic resources if the claimed invention is derived from those materials or related traditional knowledge. One of the main demands of the developing world, led by India, is the treaty that will offer extra protection for Indian genetic resources and traditional knowledge, including yoga, siddhi, and ayurveda. The agreement was finalized by the Geneva-based agency that is in charge of developing regulations pertaining to patents and trademarks. This will force some nations to revise

their domestic laws. Rather than trying to register patents to take advantage of the immense traditional knowledge and genetic resources, India has asked that the world's largest corporations now give credit to these resources. Even while there is protection against misappropriation in India and other nations without disclosure requirements, the disclosure standards will offer protection internationally.

Currently, there are disclosure requirements in 35 countries, the majority of which are voluntary and lack the necessary legal framework to be implemented successfully. For the first time, the knowledge and wisdom that have long underpinned

economies, civilizations, and cultures will be recognized by the WIPO treaty on intellectual property, genetic resources, and related traditional knowledge. These resources are now part of the global intellectual property system. "As a source of traditional knowledge and wisdom and a reservoir of biodiversity, India has championed these historic achievements. is a huge victory for India and the nations of the global south," a government official declared. The fact that it took 150 nations and two decades of negotiations to reach an agreement is indicative of the resistance from nations like the US and transnational corporations.

District Courts receive instructions to facilitate smooth case hearings via VC

Delhi: On May 20, the Delhi High Court directed the national capital's district courts to follow a number of guidelines to guarantee that video conference equipment functions properly during court sessions.

The Delhi High Court's Acting Chief Justice Manmohan issued the following directives. The video conference must remain active throughout court hours.

At the court end, the video will be turned on. According to the office order of June 5, 2023, it will be made sure that the video conference at the court's end won't be kept silent unless the court orders otherwise. According to the office order of June 5, 2023, it will be



made sure that the video conference is not locked and that litigants, counsel, and members of the public can all attend without difficulty, unless the court orders differently. Each Court is required to make certain that the item number is visible

throughout the video conference.

Every court must make sure that, in accordance with Office Order of June 5, 2023, a message appears on the video conferencing screen when the court retires, is not in session, is on leave, or when instructions

are given to restrict the proceedings. According to the ruling, the Principal District & Sessions Judges are required to provide a report on the video conference to the Registrar General's office of this Court using the stipulated format.

Record bank earnings benefit poor, MSME loans

Delhi: Modi said record bank profits in FY24 would enhance credit to the poor, farmers, and MSMEs, celebrating the revival of financial institutions that were plagued by bad loans. Modi posted on X that the banking sector had a remarkable comeback in the last 10 years' with net profit topping Rs 3 lakh crore in FY24. Due to UPA's phone-banking policies, our banks had large NPAs and losses when we took power. The underprivileged were denied bank accounts "Modi remarked. "This improvement in the health of banks will help improve credit availability to our poor, farmers and MSMEs," he said Modi's X comments on the banking sector's FY24 milestone earnings. Public sector banks made a record Rs 1.4 lakh crore in net profit in FY24, up 34% from Rs 1.05 lakh crore. Private banks grew 42% faster, raising their net profit to Rs 1.7 lakh crore from Rs 1.2 lakh crore a year earlier.

Low-pressure area over Bay of Bengal, forecasts IMD

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 south-west Bay of Bengal around, 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."

Samsung Solve for Tomorrow at a Glance

KARNAL/HISAR:

Samsung India has hosted a roadshow at Chandigarh University in Mohali where engineering students from the institute's incubator lab demonstrated their intent to participate in Solve for Tomorrow to solve pressing global issues. Samsung Solve for Tomorrow is a national education and innovation competition that aims to encourage a culture of innovative thinking and problem solving amongst the country's next generation. Youth can apply for Samsung Solve for Tomorrow at www.samsung.com/in/solvefortomorrow starting April 09, 2024, till 5 pm on May 31, 2024. The students came forward and expressed their commitment to solving real-world problems such as poor air quality and lack of clean energy fuels. They said they require a platform such as Samsung's 'Solve for Tomorrow' that can guide and support them in turning their ideas into action and help transform people's lives. Samsung has recently announced its partnership with the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology's (MeitY's) Startup Hub and Foundation for

Innovation & Technology Transfer (FITT), IIT Delhi, and the United Nations in India for the third season of 'Solve for Tomorrow'. This year, the 'Solve for Tomorrow' programme introduces two distinct tracks – School Track and Youth Track, each dedicated to championing a specific theme and targeted towards different age groups. Both the tracks will run simultaneously, ensuring equal opportunity and a level playing field for all students. The School Track, is tailored for students aged 14-17, focusing on the theme "community and inclusion". The track underscores the importance of uplifting underprivileged groups, improving accessibility to health & social inclusion for all through social innovations and hence 'Solving for India'. The Youth Track, on the other hand, targets individuals aged 18-22, with a focus on the theme "environment and sustainability". The track seeks innovative ideas for reducing carbon footprint, protecting the environment & promoting sustainability and hence 'Solving for the World'. **Samsung Solve for Tomorrow at a Glance**

Who can participate: 14-17 year-olds in School Track – individually or in teams of up to 5 members can submit their ideas in the "Community & Inclusion" theme and 18-22 year-olds in Youth Track –individually or in teams of up to 5 members can submit their ideas in the "Environment & Sustainability" theme Application themes: "Community & Inclusion", under School Track, caters to empowering underprivileged groups by improving accessibility to health, improving learning methods and access to education, and ensuring social inclusion for all "Environment & Sustainability", under Youth Track, will focus on environment protection, reducing carbon footprints and promoting sustainability. Hands-on training from various industry experts including Samsung, MeitY, IIT-Delhi, and technical support from United Nations in India. In addition, participants will get exclusive mentoring and coaching to build their ideas into prototype, an opportunity to attend a curated innovation walk with focused interactions with Samsung leaders.

CAPSULES

AIRIA Mall Gurgaon to Host Dino-Land 2.0 for Children

Gurgaon: AIRIA Mall announces its second edition of Dino-Land, redefining the traditional theme park experience and offering an extraordinary journey into the prehistoric era. Starting from 26th May, the adventure park will blend educational elements with entertainment for children. Building upon the success of its first edition, Dino-Land 2.0 promises an even more enriching experience. Spanning over a vast landscape, the park features life-sized animatronic dinosaurs, interactive exhibits, and a variety of activities for all ages. At the park, the children will be thrilled with the Dino 'meet and greet', games, and various crafts. It will be a delight for them to be engrossed with hands-on learning with fossil digging, baking soda volcanoes, and more, bringing the past world to life. For a nominal fee, families will have the perfect opportunity to create memories together filled with curiosity and refreshing engagements during this summer vacations.

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.

Congress government will be formed in Haryana with majority under the leadership of Hooda: Sultan

Kaithal: Senior Congress leader and former Chief Parliamentary Secretary Sultan Singh Jadoula said that in the assembly elections to be held in Haryana this year, Congress is fully prepared to wave the flag of victory under the able leadership of former Haryana Chief Minister Chaudhary Bhupendra Singh Hooda. Under the leadership of Hooda, Congress will come to power with full majority and all the announcements of Congress will be implemented with the first



stroke of the pen. While talking at his establishment in the town, Sultan Jadoula said that Hooda is the true well-wisher and sympathizer of the people of Haryana, who is fighting for the interests of the people day

and night and is playing an important role in strengthening and empowering the Congress in every corner of the state. As soon as the Hooda government is formed, Haryana will again become number one on the path of development and employment and with the flow of the Ganga development all around, an atmosphere of greenery, prosperity, mutual brotherhood, peace and tranquility will be established and new dimensions of employment will be established.

In the Lok Sabha elections concluded yesterday, the Congress India alliance will wave the flag of victory on all the seats of the state. Congress leader Sultan Jadoula said that under the leadership of Hooda, leaders of various parties, officials and people of every class are leaving various parties and joining Congress. The support base of Congress is increasing day by day and the public has come to know that their interests are completely safe in the hands of Hooda.

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 by a negative association with a malady. State govt acknowledged its limited jurisdiction in the matter but has, in turn, suggested that Centre could take necessary steps to rename the illness.

Students from Chandigarh Participate in Samsung 'Solve for Tomorrow' Roadshow; Want to Solve Environmental Issues

AMBALA: Samsung India has hosted a roadshow at Chandigarh University in Mohali where engineering students from the institute's incubator lab demonstrated their intent to participate in Solve for Tomorrow to solve pressing global issues. Samsung Solve

for Tomorrow is a national education and innovation competition that aims to encourage a culture of innovative thinking and problem solving amongst the country's next generation. Youth can apply for Samsung Solve for Tomorrow at www.samsung.com/in/solvefortomorrow starting April 09, 2024, till 5 pm on May 31, 2024. The students came forward and expressed their commitment to solving real-world problems such as poor air quality and lack of clean energy fuels. They said they require a platform such as Samsung's 'Solve for Tomorrow' that can guide and support them in turning their ideas into action and help transform people's lives. Samsung has recently announced its partnership with the Ministry of Electronics

& Information Technology's (MeitY's) Startup Hub and Foundation for Innovation & Technology Transfer (FITT), IIT Delhi, and the United Nations in India for the third season of 'Solve for Tomorrow'. This year, the 'Solve for Tomorrow' programme introduces two distinct tracks – School Track and Youth Track, each dedicated to championing a specific theme and targeted towards different age groups. Both the tracks will run simultaneously, ensuring equal opportunity and a level playing field for all students. The School Track, is tailored for students aged 14-17, focusing on the theme "community and inclusion". The track underscores the importance of uplifting underprivileged groups, improving accessibility

Flipkart's Big End of Season Sale 2024 sets the stage for the largest fashion extravaganza, with participation from over 12,000 Brands

GURUGRAM: Flipkart, India's homegrown e-commerce marketplace, has announced its much-anticipated 'Big End of Season Sale' (Big EOSS) beginning 1st June 2024. With the stage set to be one of the largest celebrations of fashion, the Big EOSS will offer customers a wide range of trendy styles, premium brands and exciting Gen Z offerings curated on 'SPOYL', delivered to every serviceable pin code PAN India. The Flipkart Big EOSS 2024 will offer choices from over 12,000 brands and 2 Lakh+ sellers, with the option of open-box delivery across categories like sports shoes, watches and jeans. Same-day delivery will be available on over 1 lakh products. Some of the



popular choices include styles from Puma, Adidas, Nike, Tommy Hilfiger, Fossil, Titan, Crocs, UCB, Vero Moda, Only, W, USPA, Arrow, American Tourister, Peter England, to name a few among the wide selection of brands available on Flipkart. Speaking about the Big

EOSS, Arief Mohamad, Vice President and Head of Flipkart Fashion said, "Season after season, Flipkart's Big EOSS isn't just a fashion shopping event - it's a celebration! It gives us the opportunity to bring joy to our customers as we continue to focus on offer-

ing the best value and the widest range of trendy styles from top brands. The Big EOSS shopping extravaganza has not only delighted customers across India, but has fuelled positive growth for sellers and brands on our platform.

Stock market crash today

Stock market crash today: The Indian stock market indices, BSE Sensex and Nifty50, experienced a significant downturn on Thursday, with the S&P BSE Sensex and the broader Nifty both falling by nearly 1% ahead of the final phase of polling. The Sensex hit an intraday low of 73,668.73, sliding by almost 800 points, while the Nifty touched 22,459.15, correcting by 250 points. This marks the fourth straight day of declines for the benchmark indices. BSE Sensex ended the day at 73,885.60, down 617 points or 0.83%. Nifty50 closed the trading session at 22,488.65, down 216 points or 0.95%. Firstly, heavyweights such as Reliance Industries (RIL), Infosys, and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) experienced corrections, significantly impacting the index movement. Also Read | What are 'Modi stocks'?