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

Was assured that incident would be investigated: S. Jaishankar

NEW DELHI: External affairs minister S Jaishankar held discussions with Abdullah Ali Al-Yahya, his Kuwaiti counterpart, in the wake of the devastating fire that claimed the lives of over 40 Indian nationals in Kuwait. During the conversation, Jaishankar emphasised the need for the swift return of the mortal remains of those who perished in the tragic event. Taking to X, formerly known as Twitter, Jaishankar said, "Spoke to Kuwaiti FM Abdullah Ali Al-Yahya on the fire tragedy in Kuwait. Appraised of the efforts made by Kuwaiti authorities in that regard. Was assured that the incident would be fully investigated and that responsibility will be fixed." He urged the early repatriation of the mortal remains of those who lost their lives. He also emphasised that those



injured were getting the requisite medical attention. "We will review the situation after MoS @KVSinghMPGonda reaches Kuwait tomorrow," he added. Earlier, the MEA, in a statement, said that minister of state Kirti Vardhan Singh is immediately travelling to Kuwait on the directions of Prime Minister Narendra Modi "to work towards early repatriation of mortal remains as well as for medical assistance to those injured." The Embassy of India

in Kuwait remains in constant communication with local authorities to provide relief to those affected by this tragic event. A dedicated helpline, +965-65505246 (available via WhatsApp and regular calls), has been established by the Embassy to assist family members seeking information and support. The helpline will be regularly updated with the latest information. Earlier, PM Modi described the fire incident as "saddening" and held a meeting with external affairs

minister S Jaishankar, NSA Ajit Doval, foreign secretary Vinay Kwatra, and principal secretary to the PM PK Mishra to review the situation. "The fire mishap in Kuwait City is saddening. My thoughts are with all those who have lost their near and dear ones. I pray that the injured recover at the earliest. The Indian Embassy in Kuwait is closely monitoring the situation and working with the authorities there to assist the affected," PM Modi said on X. PMO released a statement noting that PM Modi expressed deep sorrow over the "unfortunate incident" and extended condolences to the families of the deceased. He announced an ex-gratia relief of Rs 2 lakh to each of the families of the deceased Indian nationals from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund.

Retail inflation at 12-month low, IIP holds steady at 5%

NEW DELHI: Retail inflation eased slightly to a 12-month low in May with prices of some food items moderating marginally, while the index of industrial production (IIP) growth held steady at 5% level in April. Data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Wednesday showed retail inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), rose an annual 4.8% in May, nearly at the same level as the previous month. Rural inflation was higher at 5.3%, while urban was at 4.2%. The food price index was at 8.7%, similar to the level in April. This is the ninth consecutive month when retail inflation has been below the 6% upper tolerance level of RBI. The data showed food and beverages inflation at 7.9%, while fuel and light contracted 3.8%.



Elon Musk has unusual sexual relationships with women at SpaceX

Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk has been accused of having sexual relationships with two of his employees, according to an exclusive report by Wall Street Journal (WSJ). One of these employees was an intern at SpaceX. He is also alleged to have asked the third woman to

have his children several times; she refused. He then reportedly denied her a raise and complained about her performance. According to The Wall Street Journal, Musk in his companies -- Tesla and SpaceX, created a culture which made the women staff uncomfortable.

Vegetable prices continued to be a concern, rising an annual 27.3% in May, while pulses and products rose 17.1% during the month. Core inflation, which is estimated after stripping out food and fuel, was steady at 3.1%.

Vegetable prices have come under pressure due to the heatwave sweeping parts of the country. "Looking ahead, a favourable base effect is expected to persist until July 2024, helping absorb potential upward risks."

26/11 accused to be quizzed to track down 'absconder'

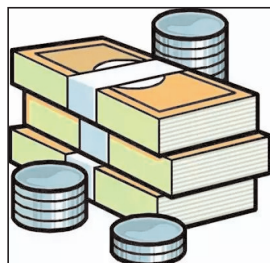
MUMBAI: A special trial court on Monday granted permission to police to question arrested 26/11 Mumbai terror attack accused Abu Jundal while in custody, to help establish the identity of a key absconder accused. Jundal is the sole accused on trial in the case. The Crime Branch sought permission to question Jundal about freshly acquired information received on the identification. Jundal has been in custody in the case since his arrest in 2012. "Prosecution filed an application for permission to interrogate accused Sayyed Zabiuddin Sayyed Zakiuddin Ansari alias Abu Jundal... Application is hereby allowed," judge RN Rokade said.

Govt inaction lets firm sell human milk using HC stay

Neolacta, a Bengaluru-based company, continues to sell human milk despite licence cancellation. Interim stay by Karnataka high court and inaction of govt agencies allow this. India is the only country in Asia where breast milk is sold for profit. Govt inaction lets firm sell human milk using HC stay. Nearly two years after its licence was cancelled, Neolacta, a Bengaluru-based company, continues to process and sell human milk despite this being not permitted under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. It is able to do so because of an interim stay granted in Sept 2022 by the Karnataka high court on the cancellation of licence and because no govt agency has moved to have the stay vacated. India is the only country in Asia where breast milk is being sold for profit. When granting the interim stay, the high court order stated: "It is open to the respondents to move the matter at any time." Yet, none of the respondents in the high court case -- the Ayush department of Karnataka, the Ayush state licensing authority or the union Ayush ministry -- made any effort to get the stay vacated till March this year. With FSSAI cancelling the licence of other companies trying to commercialise human milk, Neolacta now has a virtual monopoly on selling human milk for profit. However, no govt agencies moved. Seeing the continuing inaction of the union Ayush ministry, Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI), a non-profit working to protect, promote, and support breastfeeding, wrote to the union health ministry on March 19, urging it to intervene in the high court to explain govt's objections to get the stay vacated. On March 25, Ayush ministry moved to vacate the stay. Before this, the Ayush ministry had only filed objections in June 2023. Neolacta was established in 2016 with a licence from the Karnataka office of the FSSAI in the category of dairy products.

ED attaches 32 crore bank deposits of ponzi co

NEW DELHI: After two days of searches in Kochi on a multi-level marketing company, Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday attached bank deposits of Rs 32 crore, taking the total attachment in the case so far to Rs 260 crore. The directors of the company are



accused of collecting over Rs 1,500 crore from the public and laundering the 'proceeds of crime'. The agency said that MD of the company, High Rich

Pratapan along with his wife Sreena Pratapan managed to escape before the ED's search team arrived at their residence on Tuesday. The agency also searched the premises of a software company involved in the ponzi scam. Pratapan was earlier arrested by the

Kerala GST department, which had booked him for tax evasion of more than Rs 126 crore in Dec, 2023 and later released on bail granted by Kerala HC. The accused offered its members, if they invested in its cryptocurrency, an interest of 15% on the invested amount besides.

New devices to check FASTag to cut toll plaza delays soon: NHA

NEW DELHI: Soon you may not have to wait in queues at toll gates due to technical glitches in reading FASTags strapped on vehicles, which often force toll booth operators to use handheld devices to read the smart tag. The NHA has ordered a major change in deployment of IT system and hardware at toll plazas for processing transactions through FASTag to make them hassle free for commuters. The



highways authority will now only empanel players who have good experience, and they will have to mandatorily procure equipment from manufacturers certified by Standardisation Testing and Quality

Certification directorate of the ministry of electronics and IT. The STQC certification will be mandatory for equipment, including RFID reader along with the antenna, automatic number plate reader, toll lane controller and toll plaza server, as per specifications issued by IHMCL, NHA's entity responsible for management of tolls. According to the new specifications, the system integrators.

PM Modi to come face to face with Trudeau at G7, may take up separatist issue

NEW DELHI: With PM Narendra Modi and his Canadian counterpart Justin Trudeau set to come face to face at the G7 summit in Italy on Friday, the govt reiterated that India's main issue with Canada remained the political space given to anti-India elements who advocate violence and extremism. PM Modi will arrive in Italy on Thursday for what will be his fifth consecutive participation in the summit of the economically most advanced nations as the leader of an invitee country. He will look to address issues related to the Global South while underlining the significance of dialogue and diplomacy for resolving the Russia-Ukraine conflict, an



issue high on the G7 agenda along with the Gaza conflict. The PM will participate in the G7 outreach session on Friday and is also expected to have many bilateral meetings with G7 and other invitee leaders. Foreign secretary Vinay Kwatra on Wednesday only confirmed a meeting with Italian PM and host Giorgia Meloni, as he said the list of bilateral meetings was still being finalised. A meeting

with Trudeau wasn't ruled out. "The main issue is the political space that Canada provides to anti-India elements that advocate extremism and violence. We have repeatedly conveyed our concerns to them and we expect them to take strong action," Kwatra said, briefing reporters about Modi's G7 visit. The summit is being held in a luxury resort in the southern region of Puglia. As expected,

Modi will skip the peace summit on Ukraine in Switzerland and return straight to India. India will be represented by senior officials at the summit. Asked about the focus on Russia-Ukraine conflict, Kwatra said India has always maintained that dialogue and diplomacy is the best option. He recalled Modi's remark in Sep 2022 before Russian President Vladimir Putin that "today's era is not of war". Kwatra spoke about the consequences of the war including its derivative impact on food, fuel and fertiliser availability, challenges to global supply chains and disruptions in the global economy.

Exhausted over being targeted: Salman to cops

MUMBAI: Actor Salman Khan, who has been allegedly facing persistent threats from the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, while recording his statement before the crime branch expressed his frustration and exhaustion over being targeted for a crime he claims to have already suffered greatly from. and paid fines imposed by various courts. The gang has been targeting Khan since 1998, when he was accused of hunting chinkaras near Jodhpur while shooting for a movie. The city crime branch, probing the case in which two shooters fired at Khan's Bandra residence on behalf of Bishnoi on April 13, recorded the statements of Salman Khan and his brother Arbaz Khan on June 4.

Sanctity of NEET-UG exam not compromised, says NTA

NEW DELHI: Denying any question paper leak, National Testing Agency (NTA) is likely to oppose any move for cancellation of NEET-UG 2024. There are multiple petitions being filed in high courts and SC on diverse allegations - right from question paper leaks to grace marks and significant jump in the number of high scorers. The agency on Wednesday reiterated that the sanctity of the medical entrance exam hasn't been compromised and there has been no paper leak and said that 63 students were reported to have used unfair means in NEET-UG out of whom 23 have been debarred for varying periods. According to NTA sources, it is going to take a call after the recommendation of the four-member panel set up by the ministry of education to review

the compensatory marks awarded to 1,563 candidates to address the issue of time loss in the exam. The committee is expected to submit its report on Thursday. Screenshot 2024-06-13 04:19:38 It is learnt that the committee is likely to recommend re-test for the 1,563 candidates who were given grace marks or an alternate mechanism may be devised to ensure no candidate faces any disadvantage. On social media being abuzz with candidates sharing score sheets and videos claiming they were given "incorrect" results, official sources said that the matters are sub judice and NTA would wait for the courts' directions on the issue. On allegations of paper leak, according to a senior NTA official, "The cases are under police investigation."

Dirt ubiquitous in Shringverpurdham, and excreta flows freely

Lot of turmoil at Shringverpurdham and devotees are scared

BLOCK ADMIN ARRANGEMENTS ARE ENTIRELY LACKING



Shringverpurdham: The amount of crores of rupees spent by the state government in Treta era Shringverpurdham is only adding to its paper glory. In the name of cleanliness, only the block administration is engaged in arrangements. So to say, the situation is the same that the names are big and the philosophy is small. Treta era Shringverpurdham which gave the name of Ram and Ram to the world, where the eyes of the Chief Minister and the Prime Minister are, but it is difficult to stand on

the concrete ghat built in Shringverpurdham with crores of rupees spent. The insensitivity and carelessness of the government officials is tarnishing the image of Shringverpurdham. The present situation is such that it is difficult to even stand in Shringverpurdham. Funds have also been spent for cleaning the Ganga in Shringverpurdham from the Namami Gange project. But Ganga is full of pollution. Dirty water from the drain at Shiram Ghat in Shringverpurdham is get-

ting into the Ganga. There is a pile of garbage on the ghat. Excreta are spreading from the clothing store built

sands of devotees reach Shringverpurdham during Ganga Dussehra to take a bath in the Ganga.

Cows eating dirty waste

Cows are eating dirty waste in Shringverpurdham. Cattle are eating waste wrapped in polythene, contaminated clothes and medicine boxes. But no one is going to take care of them. Despite four cowsheds being operated in Shringverpur block, the condition of cows is worse.

by the government to the ghat. Saints and devotees are not even getting space to stand. Ganga Dussehra is about to come. Thou-

But the pile of chaos is such that even the tourists are hesitant in coming to the Dham. Arun Dwivedi, President of

Shringverpur Teerth Kshetra Trust, says that government officials only sit in their offices. If you want to see the reality then DM Prayagraj can come and see it himself. Neither the village secretary nor the BDO reaches Shringverpurdham. Just in the name of cleaning the files, money is being collected. Along with this, not a single high mast light of the Dham is lit. Due to which there is darkness in Shringverpurdham. Many times when a complaint is made to the Block Officer,

he says that the sweeper goes to the Dham. But the reality is that DM Prayagraj should himself come and see Shringverpurdham lying in filth and swamp. Along with the filth in Shringverpurdham, the water of Ganga has become contaminated. The color of Ganga is completely red. The saint is not able to get water even for bathing. On top of that, the dirty water from the drain is getting into the Ganga. Clean Ganga Mission is visible only on paper.

In Shringverpurdham, groundwater level fell, water became salty

Shringverpurdham: Every person is surrounded by some cover or the other. Similarly, every living creature on earth is affected by its environment. But over time humans themselves have influenced the environment. In the phase of increasing modernity, the increasing trend of individualism has taken away moral conduct from humans. In the race for development, humans are moving towards development without morality. The side effects of which are visible in social life.

These days, there is a lot of water problem in Shringverpur Dham area because the water level here has gone very low and the water has become salty. This is the situation in 90 percent of the taps. President of Shringverpur Teerth Kshetra Trust, Arun Dwivedi, says that the government should pay special attention to this. There should be extensive tree plantation here and kilns should be closed here. - Cutting of trees and exploitation of resources reduced the groundwater level. Today, the impact of climate change and increase in global temperature is not limited only to the earth and oceans. The groundwater present several meters deep in the ground is also facing the brunt of rising temperatures. Due to this, not only is the groundwater level declining, but the groundwater is also becoming warmer than ever before. Due to climate change, the temperature of groundwater is increasing rapidly. It is expected that this increase in groundwater temperature could reach an average of 2.1 to 3.5 degrees Celsius by the end of the century under different emission scenarios. How much groundwater will warm will depend on how much we humans cut our emissions to deal with climate change.

Let's Play Drama campaign culminates

Prayagraj: "Let's Play Drama" Concludes the second phase of Indian Folk and Modern Art Academy's Let's Play Drama campaign. The 15-day workshop (28th May to 12th June 2024) running under Indian Folk and Modern Art Academy's Let's Play Drama campaign in col-



laboration with The Quinch. The workshop concluded on Wednesday at Shri Mahaprabhu Public School, Telianganj, where the children studied all the aspects of theater and prepared for the play Andher Nagari written by Bharatendu Harishchandra. The play was directed by Kunwar Tejbbhan Singh and the second presentation of this play was given by Shivam Prajapati Dholak on this occasion in the auditorium of Shri Mahaprabhu Public School, Shivkuti, Prayagraj. Modern Art Academy members Shubham Kashyap, Atul Shukla, Ved Prakash Pandey and all the staff of Shri Mahaprabhu Public School were present.

Flipkart collaborates with DPIIT to empower Indian Toy Manufacturers

Varanasi: Furthering the agenda to position India as a "Toy Export Hub", Flipkart, India's homegrown e-commerce marketplace, in collaboration with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), organized a workshop aimed at enhancing India's capabilities in the global toy supply chain. The workshop focused on upskilling and reskilling domestic manufacturers to produce innovative and high-quality toys that represent India's rich cultural heritage.

Hundreds of toy manufacturers across India participated in the workshop, which included interactive and expert-led discussions with Flipkart, covering quality improvement, innovation, and adherence to industry standards. The workshop aimed to equip Indian toy manufacturers with the necessary tools, knowledge, and resources to enhance their competitiveness and help them grow their businesses online. The event was graced by Shri. Rajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary, (DPIIT); Shri. Sanjiv, Joint Secretary, DPIIT; Mohammad Isharar Ali, Director, DPIIT; Rajneesh Kumar, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, Flipkart and Manjari Singhal, Head of FMCG and General Merchandise, Flipkart.

Commenting on the event's success, Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) said, "We are dedicated to creating a conducive environment for the Indian toy sector to thrive. By collaborating with industry leaders like Flipkart, we are taking significant steps towards making India a leading exporter of high-quality toys. We believe that with the right guidance and support, India can become a powerhouse in toy manufacturing."

Rajneesh Kumar, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, Flipkart said, "Through the Flipkart marketplace, we have been able to provide local toy manufacturers a platform to reach customers across India thereby supporting their growth. We are happy to support DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce's efforts to help strengthen the Toy industry in India, and accelerate India's development as a global toy manufacturing and export hub. This workshop and hackathon will help all participating stakeholders identify opportunities to achieve this goal of the government."

In pursuit of making India a global manufacturing hub for toys, the Government has implemented a series of strategic initiatives, including the formulation of a comprehensive National Action Plan for Toys (NAPT). The key initiatives under NAPT aim to elevate the Indian toy industry through quality enhancement, innovation, and market expansion.

The collaborative workshop by DPIIT and Flipkart aimed to elevate the Indian toy industry through quality improvement, innovation, and adherence to industry standards, by harnessing the power of e-commerce.

London most supportive hub for developing AI according to Indian business leaders

Noida: New research by London & Partners shows that the majority (87%) of Indian business leaders surveyed in the AI sector consider London to be more supportive of AI development than other leading AI hubs.

These findings come as over 200 Indian delegates, including Bahwan Cybertek, Productiva, Visionet, Network Science, LS Digital, Vajra Global, Thingstel, VenPep Solu-

opportunities as another significant benefit of being located in the capital.

Location is unsurprisingly a top consideration for Indian business leaders at AI companies, with over nine out of ten (94%) surveyed stressing the importance of being located in a city that actively addresses factors which include the likes of data privacy and security (64%), as well as infrastructure and scalability (56%).



tions, Ad Astra Consultants, Xforia and Helios Batteries gather in the capital for London Tech Week, Europe's hottest tech event.

Nearly three in five (59%) respondents cited supportive government incentives and policies tailored for AI development as London's key advantage, while 54% highlighted access to international markets and global business

The good news for London is that it ranked highly in both areas, with 91% of respondents believing it will be effective in helping address data privacy and security in the next twelve months and 88% confident in the capital's infrastructure and scalability.

When asked why London will be effective in these areas in the next year, almost three in five (58%) respondents said that the capital

has a favourable regulatory environment promoting ethical AI development, while 57% said that London has a well-established infrastructure and technological ecosystem conducive to AI innovation and growth. Additionally, 94% of decision-makers surveyed at Indian AI companies said that they are very confident in the capital's ability to attract and retain talent over the next twelve months.

Hemin Bharucha, Regional Director of India and Middle East at London & Partners, said: "London's unique blend of talent, infrastructure, and supportive government policies creates an ideal environment for AI companies to thrive. Indian AI companies looking to expand globally will find London to be a fertile ground for innovation and growth. London Tech Week underscores the city's commitment to technological advancement and international collaboration, offering Indian AI companies ample opportunities for innovation and growth in the sector."

MEETING HELD

On 12/06/2024, a meeting was convened by Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani regarding the development works being done in the city, drain cleaning and city cleanliness. In the meeting, Hon'ble Mayor instructed all the officers present that all the development works should be completed on time on priority basis and special attention should be paid to their quality. The rainy season is about to start, the cleaning work of all the drains and sewer lines located in the city should be completed before the rains so that the problem of waterlogging does not arise in the city. Apart from this, special attention should be paid to the cleanliness of the city, for this all the concerned officers should regularly visit their work allocation areas and make full efforts to keep the city clean. From time to time, I will also inspect the works being done by the Municipal Corporation. Chandra Mohan Garg, Municipal Commissioner, Deependra Yadav Additional Municipal Commissioner, Dr. Abhishek Singh, Dr. Mahesh Nagar Health Officer, Satish Kumar Chief Engineer and Anupama Srivastava Office Superintendent were present in the meeting.



Two motorcycle borne youths died in a road accident on Handia-Kokraj highway

PRAYAGRAJ: Two motorcycle borne youths died in a road accident on Handia-Kokraj highway in front of Bakarganj village of Tharwai police station area late Tuesday night. The accident was so severe that both the youths fell away after the collision. Both died on the spot. Police arrived on getting the information of passers-by and after sending the body for post-mortem, informed the family about the incident. Amit Kumar Vishwakarma (35), a resident of Malakmay Bhaishahi village of Tharwai police station area, was going home from Soraon on a bike with Deepak Kannaujia, son of Munnial, also

hit the same village. An unidentified vehicle hit his bike on the railway overbridge on the highway in front of Bakarganj village. The collision was so strong that both of them were thrown away. When the police reached the spot after receiving information from passersby, both of them had stopped breathing. On receiving the information from the police, the bereaved family members reached there wailing and weeping crying. Amit was married, while Deepak was unmarried. SHO Tharwai Brijesh Yadav said that erring driver of the unidentified vehicle managed to flee from the spot.

BSP failed to play spoiler for Oppn, hurt BJP more: Javed Urfi

Prayagraj: "After being outrightly rejected by the people again, Mayawati has once again blamed Muslims for her loss, arguing that despite fielding a large number of candidates from the minority community its voters failed to back her Bahujan Samaj Party. Going solo proved to be disastrous for Mayawati as the BSP

thought" to avoid a "terrible loss" like this. She also claimed that most voters of her Jatav community, UP's largest Dalit caste, still backed the BSP," said Congress leader Javed Urfi while commenting on Mayawati comments on Muslims, blaming them for BSP poll rout.

Addressing queries of mediapersons outside Prayagraj aairport, after returning from Delhi, he opined, "Mayawati's disingenuous call to fault Muslims for their political adeptness reeks of a disgruntled leader who failed to make any impact on the election. But she does have the right to feel upset, as despite deploying all dubious tactics and tacitly backing the incumbent, the BSP failed to play the role of a spoiler for the Opposition parties. The results also demonstrated

that the BSP was not indispensable to the Opposition, further reducing Mayawati's bargaining chip. Assuming that Mayawati is correct in assessing that most of her 9.4% vote share came from Jatavs (which is difficult to ascertain), her move to field 20 Muslims, as against the six by the INDIA bloc, proved inadequate to divide or distract the Muslim community to the BJP's advantage."

To corroborate and vindicate his arguments he cited an analysis, which claims that there were 47 Lok Sabha seats in UP, where the BSP's vote share was more than the victory margin of either the SP or the BJP. Of these 47, 31 were won by the INDIA alliance. "This means that the Opposition benefitted more from the BSP deciding to contest alone. There were 16 seats that the BJP won where its victory margin was less

than the BSP's votes. On 33 seats in UP, the BSP's vote was irrelevant as it did not impact the final outcome whatsoever. An important question on everyone's mind this election was, which way would the Dalit vote, in particular Jatavs, swing now that there was no grand alliance of the SP and BSP? In 2019 and 2022, the SP believed that on many constituencies, Dalit voters of the BSP were strategically made to shift to the BJP to ensure that the SP did not get the advantage. In this election, with Akhilesh Yadav running a high-pitched campaign to safeguard the constitutional rights of marginalised Hindu castes, and Mayawati staying out, a large section of Dalits might have picked the INDIA bloc. The BSP's vote share shrunk from 13% in

2022 to 9.4% in 2024," he remarked.

"A closer look at the results explains why Mayawati is resentful towards Muslims. None of the 20 Muslims she fielded could come close to even being the runner-up on any seat. In fact, barring Amroha, which the BJP won after defeating the sitting Muslim MP of the Congress, Kunwar Danish Ali, the BSP's Muslim candidates did not hurt the INDIA bloc on any seat.

On the contrary, on nine seats, the INDIA bloc candidate managed to defeat the BJP even when the victory margin was less than the votes polled by the Muslim candidate of the BSP. In simple words, the BSP's Muslim candidates could not spoil the game for the Opposition, if that was the intent of the party to make

its presence felt. These nine seats were Saharanpur, Aonla, Azamgarh, Budaun, Firozabad, Ambedkar Nagar, Sant Kabir Nagar, Sambhal and Etah. That Mayawati fielded Muslims on these seats, many of which the Opposition looked strong to win from day one, also compels us to question her intentions, which seemed focused on damaging the SP. In Azamgarh, Budaun and Firozabad, Akhilesh Yadav's cousins Dharmendra Yadav, Aditya Yadav and Akshay Yadav won, respectively. In Saharanpur, a seat with a substantial Muslim population, Imran Masood of the Congress was the winner. Ambedkar Nagar was won by senior Kurmi leader Lalji Verma, while in Sambhal, the SP's Muslim candidate Ziaur-Rehman Barq retained the seat for the party," he said prior to signing off.

IMPRESSIONS: If Indian Railways is about journeys, a few of its officers have embarked on another equally fascinating voyage-painting, and have distinguished themselves at that

"Impressions" is a group exhibition by visual artists and civil servants, namely, Bakhtiar Dadabhoi, Mukul Saran Mathur, Aashima Mehrotra, Krishnath S. Patil and Kuldeep Tiwari. The artworks of these artists will be displayed at the Visual Arts Gallery, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi during 14-18 June 2024.

The exhibition will be inaugurated on 14 June 2024 at 5:00 PM by Amb. Bhaswati Mukherjee, President, India Habitat Centre, with Smt. Jaya Varma Sinha, Chairman & CEO of Railway Board as the Guest of Honour. It will be open for public viewing from 15-18 June 2024 (from 11 AM to 07 PM).

This exhibition focuses on the emotional and expressive qualities of form and colour with each artist conveying a particular mood or feeling. It cel-

brates the unique perspective and styles of each artist while exploring different themes or colour palettes. The paintings also delve into the world of abstract art pushing the boundaries of colour, shape and composition. The themes are designed to be flexible and inclusive allowing each artist to interpret and express a unique vision within a shared framework. The artists include Aashima Mehrotra who has numerous art shows to her credit. The medium of art ranges from water color, acrylic, oil to mixed media.

A brief profile of each artist is given below:

1. **Bakhtiar Dadabhoi**, a former civil servant and the author of nine books, is a self-taught artist who started out painting in oil but switched to acrylic later on. His current oeuvre showcases abstract paintings inspired by the splendor of nature. The

paintings capture the essence of the natural world, distilling its beauty into vibrant expressive works of art. His works evoke emotions, spark imagination and invite viewers to explore the intricate relationships between form, color and texture. Through bold brushstrokes and vivid colors his paintings bring the natural world to life in a way that is both deeply personal but also one with universal resonance.

2. **Mukul Saran Mathur** is a civil servant with the acumen for creativity, precision and an eye for details. His works cover a wide array of his experiences that amalgamate into expressions as a way to bring the natural world into the man made world which often encourages his audience to dwell about the environment, heritage and the social milieu surrounding life. His art encourages conversation about the syn-

ergy between nature and human existence and their profound impact on the development of society over time. Mukul's preferred medium is watercolor and oil through which he expresses his endless stories of nature, love and harmony. While he loves the sheer simplicity of the medium of watercolors, he has also adopted oil painting with fervor and passion. His work in oil is a dialogue between color and form seeking harmony within the incessant tumult.

3. **Aashima Mehrotra** is a visual artist and a civil servant based in Delhi. She had an intense interest in art since childhood. She was always inspired by people, nature and travel. Her job in Railways and Tourism helped her to explore the diversity of Indian towns and various art forms. She has participated in various international and national art com-

petitions and exhibitions, and received awards at various platforms. She has recently collaborated on behalf of Railways with the Ministry of Culture for ideation and execution of installation made from scrap metal. All her works are a reflection of her experiences and personality. Today she is a visual artist with her own visual language and 'ISM'.

4. **Krishnath Patil's** works are a gift of his curious observation, deep knowledge and enthusiasm for art. He is a self trained artist who has delved deeply into the study and research of various methods, techniques and applications of painting. He is inspired by a number of artists, the list of which is long and impressive. Yet, he has come up with a truly brilliant style of his own. It is surely not an exaggeration to say that his roles, both as an artist and as a civil servant,

are almost inseparable and immortalize each other. He has command over his stylised techniques and methods with a lively imagination of fusing abstraction with nature. He is amazing with marvelous dense and luminous colors. He had several group shows and a solo show to his credit with a futuristic approach towards art, and he describes his art as a platform to search for truth of love and peace.

5. **Kuldeep Tiwari** is a visual artist and civil servant working with Railways. He has been inspired by the varied expressions of nature. He mainly works in acrylic.

The magical brushes of B. K. Dadabhoi, Aashima Mehrotra, Mukul Saran Mathur, Krishnath S. Patil and Kuldeep Tiwari capture the diverse colors of existence in the multitude of space, time and rhythm of life.

SJC Summer Camp: Where great outdoors becomes your greatest classroom

Prayagraj: Ever ready to let the inner spark find acceptance, appreciation and accolades aplenty, St. Joseph's College, Prayagraj has been holding a plethora of activities in summer camps and this year's summer camp was no exception to the rule. Commencing from 21st May and concluding on 6th June, the summer camp was surely a great success. The programme kicked off with the Master of Ceremonies, Er. Prateek Hemrajani welcoming the Guests and the trainers and a Bible reading by Praise John. Enthralling dance performances by the groups A, B, C, D and E were interspersed with a slew of variety Acts. While Captain A.B. Singh and Mathew



De Silva caught everyone's attention with the band performance under their guidance, the audience were in for a soulful treat courtesy Avinash Sharma and team's guitar renditions. Theatre loving audiences are well aware of the repertoire of Sachin Chandra. Naturally, a skit titled Vikram Betaal, guided by Chandra and Ankit Tandon, left the gathering spellbound.

Ever motivating, the College Principal, Rev. Fr. Thomas Kumar, thanked the trainers for never slowing the pace or curbing the enthusiasm despite the demanding weather and letting each and every child feel the sweet rewards of achievement. He then, gave away mementos as tokens of appreciation to every trainer. The events for the day wrapped up with keyboard performance by Raju Solomon and his team and the singing of the National Anthem by all those gathered.

Local BJP unit celebrates swearing-in of CM's in Odisha & Andhra

Prayagraj: Mohan Charan Manjhi as the Chief Minister of Orissa, Chandrababu Naidu as the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Pawan Kalyan as the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and Prabhati Parinda and Kanak Vardhan Singh Dev ji as the Deputy Chief Minister of Orissa, BJP Metropolitan President Rajendra Mishra and Metropolitan Congratulating him, Spokesperson Rajesh Kesarwani said that under the leadership of Honorable Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Andhra Pradesh will touch new heights of development and his government will be dedicated to the welfare of the poor and under the leadership of the newly elected Chief Minister of Orissa, Mohan Charan Manjhi, Orissa will enter a new era. He is going to create history and his government will fulfill the common aspirations of the common people of Orissa and will be dedicated to making Orissa a prosperous state and Orissa will emerge as a prosperous state. Those who congratulated are Kunj Bihari Mishra, Varun Kesarwani, Rajesh Kesarwani, Ramesh. Pasi, Devesh Singh, Vivek Aggarwal, Vijay Vaish, Sushil Jain, Prashant Shukla, Rakesh Bharti, Anand Vaish Sudarshan, Pramod Modi, Raju Pathak, Girjesh Mishra, Raghavendra Singh, Sachin Jaiswal, Subhash Vaish, Rajan Shukla, Ajay Agrahari, Shatrughan Jaiswal, remain etc.

Membership of Shri Jagannathji Mahotsav Committee Trust kicks off

Prayagraj: Shri Jagannathji Mahotsav Committee Trust, dedicated to the service of Lord Jagannath, membership has been started. Trust Rath Yatra co-convenor Rajesh Kesarwani said that the membership campaign to join the trust has been started from the head office of the trust, Arya Bhawan, Johari Tola, which will run till June 20 and the devotees who want to join the trust can reach the head office and register through the organization. Deposit the prescribed amount, fill the active membership form and for membership contact Trust Minister Gagan Das Gupta on 93363 40167.

Sundarkand and Bhandara organized

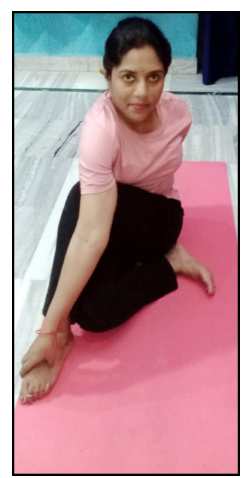
Prayagraj: Like the last 7 years, this year also on the third Bada Mangal of Jyeshtha month, Shri Akshantre Samiti organized a grand Sundarkand and huge Bhandara in Hanuman temple in front of Excise Bhawan Mumfordganj Prayagraj. In this program, along with the



officers and employees of the Excise Department, representatives of distilleries, sugar mills and industrial units of the state provided important support in the organization. After Sundarkand, thousands of devotees kept taking prasad in the Bhandara till late night.

Yogacharya Ekta Srivastava to be honoured in Yoga Mahakumbh

Prayagraj: Yoga Mahakumbh 2024 is being organized in Ayodhya on June 14 by All India Yoga Teachers Federation and All India Yogasana Sports Federation. In which Yogacharya Ekta Srivastava of Prayagraj will be honoured with Patanjali Yoga Ratna. Ekta Srivastava has been providing her services to the public for the last 18 years along with Naturopathy, Acupressure, Therapy of Yoga Science along with Post Graduate in 2009. As a Yogacharya, the services of the students and teachers of Army Public School New Cantt are continuing. Ekta Srivastava has also been honoured with the National Yoga Veer Award in 2024 itself. The work of continuously connecting everyone with yoga through yoga stories through both online and offline mediums are going on. The Yoga Mahakumbh to be held at Shri Ram Auditorium Ayodhya on 14th June will mainly be attended by Padmashree Agum Indra Udwan



from Bali Indonesia, former Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma; Vedmurti Pawan Dutt Maharajji along with other dignitaries will be present. Yoga teachers across the country and everyone for their excellent work in the field of yoga will be honored by them.

Dorilal, Office Superintendent/Cadre (Araj) best employee of Personnel Dept

Prayagraj: North Central Railway, Personnel Department, Headquarters Prayagraj. Best employee and best section award distribution program for the month of June was organized. Chief guest Principal Chief Personnel Officer Anurag Tripathi was present in the program. In the award ceremony, the Best Employee Award for the month of June was given to Dorilal, Office Superintendent/Cadre (Araj) for his commendable work. He completed the work of 94 out of 97 e-SR updation by 30 April 2024, almost one month ahead of schedule. It was completed a month in advance and the process related to promotion and MACP, Up-gradation, L-8 of 139 employees was also

completed before the scheduled time. He completed the single window sale cases continuously week after week. Senior Clerk, Level-5, Junior Clerk, Level-2 and JE/TMC, and after reporting by the candidates, were sent on appointment/training through HRMS. In this series, Best Section Award Policy for the month of June. Section, Personnel Department, Headquarters. This award was given to Chief Office Superintendent of this section, Ashish Srivastava and his colleagues for their excellent performance in all the tasks while performing various tasks very efficiently in the past. This award was given to this section. Establishment related policy papers issued by Railway Board are

being circulated timely on North Central Railway.

Apart from this, the references received related to the policies are also being studied and disposed of by the Policy Section in a timely manner. In the Policy Section, clarifications and suggestions are being promptly processed on the clarifications or suggestions sought by the Railway Board on various subjects from time to time. Apart from this, when the divisions, factories and units of North Central Railway sought guidance on various subjects and the rules related to establishment applicable there, clarification/guidance was given after the approval of the competent authority. Establishment was also provided by vari-

ous sections of the personnel branch. Clarifications regarding the doubts raised on related topics are also being given by the Policy Section from time to time. As a special program this month, a quiz competition was organized to increase the reading and intellectual awareness among the employees. In this competition, the Personnel Department All the employees of Personnel Department participated enthusiastically. The program was organized with the aim of increasing the confidence, creativity and curiosity of all the employees of Personnel Department, Headquarters. During this time, all the officers and employees of the Personnel Department and Headquarters should be present.

Play 'Gagan Damama Bajyo' staged in partake shot of 40-days drama workshop

Prayagraj: The play "Gagan Damama Bajyo" filled the spirit of patriotism. At the conclusion of the 40-day presentational drama workshop organized by the North Central Region Cultural Centre, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, the play 'Gagan Damama Bajyo' was staged in the Auditorium of the Cultural Center on Wednesday. In the play, the theater workers instilled the spirit of patriotism among the people through their live acting. The play, written by Piyush Mishra and prepared under the direction of Sanjay Upadhyay, features

the country's revolutionaries Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, Ashfaq Ullah Khan, Ram Prasad Bismil, Chandrashekhar Azad, Sukhdev. Based on the lives of revolutionaries like Bhagwati, 'Gagan Damama Bajyo' is not only a drama staged, it is a true tribute to Shaheed Bhagat Singh, it is a play capable of awakening patriotism and enthusiasm among the youth, on one hand it talks about the methods of freedom of Mahatma Gandhi. On the other hand, the struggle of people of revolutionary ideology like Bhagat Singh, Ashfaq Ullah Khan is also



discussed. Every character in the story plays an important role in it. While it is filled with patriotism, some scenes were so poignant that today they inspire

people to become another Bhagat Singh or should we say, a true patriot.

The play deals with incidents related to the revolutionary life of Bhagat

Singh like throwing a bomb in the assembly, but instead of showing it in full, it moves ahead by giving expression to our memory and like a collage. After the staging of the play, the audience stood up and expressed their respect towards the artists. In the play, Shwetank Kumar Mishra in the role of Bhagat Singh, Shubhendru Kumar in the role of Pt. Chandrashekhar Azad and Namrata Singh in the role of Vidyavati along with all the artists gave a lively presentation of the

sacrifices and sacrifices of the revolutionaries with their powerful dialogues and unmatched acting. This play was prepared by the participants who participated in the workshop. The stage design was done by Bhartendu Kashyap, co-direction by Sajjazz Hussain Khan and color arrangement by Salim Arif. Center Director Prof. Suresh Sharma honored the trainers by presenting mementos and giving certificates to the artists. On this occasion, a large number of spectators including officers and employees of the center were present.

By removing child labour, teaching creative work; Vishal Sankalp

Prayagraj: Vishal Sankalp organization has been working in the field of child labor eradication for decades. Vishal Sankalp is causing change in the lives of hundreds of children. Today, on Child Labor Abolition Day, the organization honored some children who both run a house and maintain friendship with books. Be it, talking about the queen who packs spices, or the winner who burns the stove after collecting garbage. These girls are examples of courage. Dr. Anjali Kesari told that the organization has been engaged in promoting such girls for years. Every evening these girls come to class at the appointed time to shape their future. The name of this project itself is Mahakane Do. Because they also have talent but no direction. Anjali ji told that the organization does not



of which was today at the Boat Club. Children participated enthusiastically. Children were also rewarded on this occasion.

have enough resources to give them any option of work but we all are trying to give them two wings of education and skill. Every year one or two children become role models for the rest of the children in the colony. Like this time Priya and Anamika passed matriculation while doing beautician course, Rani and Vijeta started studying while running the family. You should also connect any child in your neighborhood with their real work i.e. studies, only then their future will be bright. The organization had organized a summer camp for these children, the closing ceremony

Subhashini Shahi felicitated with Outstanding Teacher Award

Prayagraj: Subhashini Shahi, Director of KJS Gurukul, Prayagraj, was honored with "Outstanding Teacher Award" for her outstanding contribution in the field of education in the two-day international seminar on the topic of Knowledge Tradition in the Global Scenario organized by



Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal on 6th and 7th June was awarded. Chief guest of this program Dr. Indira Rana, Deputy Speaker of Nepal Lok Sabha and special guest Rekha Yadav, Member of Nepal Parliament and Director, Central University Kathmandu, Vice Chancellor Shri Prakash Narayan University, Bihar honored Subhashini Shahi by giving her Rudraksha rosary, body clothes, certificate and insignia. Scholars and research scholars from many countries including India participated on this occasion.

Editorial

Growth trajectories of its states

India's economic progress is a composite reflection of the growth trajectories of its states. Given the federal structure of the country, each state operates with a degree of autonomy in implementing policies that drive their individual economies. This results in a broad spectrum of growth rates across states, highlighting significant disparities. For the nation to achieve holistic growth, it is imperative for all states to experience economic advancement. Despite this, there is a notable discrepancy in the attention paid to fiscal matters at different levels of government. The Union Budget, detailing the central government's finances, often garners substantial scrutiny and debate for its potential impacts on the nation's economic direction. In contrast, state budgets, which are crucial for addressing local needs and fostering regional development, do not attract a similar level of public and analytical scrutiny. Fiscal capacity, the government's ability to generate revenue from available tax and non-tax bases, is crucial for several reasons. First, it underpins a government's ability to provide essential public goods and services. These range from healthcare and education to infrastructure and defense, which are fundamental for the welfare of the citizenry and the smooth functioning of the economy. Without adequate fiscal capacity, governments may struggle to maintain these services at levels that meet public demand and expectations, potentially leading to social unrest or a decline in the quality of life. Second, fiscal capacity is vital for economic development and growth. Governments need resources to invest in infrastructure projects like roads, bridges, and digital networks, which are critical for enhancing productivity and competitiveness. Such investments not only improve current living standards, but also set the stage for future economic expansion. The Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) in 2017 and the World Bank in 2015 highlighted the risk of economies falling into a 'middle-income trap' where they are unable to transition to high-income status due to inadequate fiscal capacity among other factors.

Moreover, fiscal capacity is essential for macro-economic stability. It allows governments to manage economic cycles more effectively, applying fiscal stimulus in downturns and restraint in booms to maintain economic stability. The Covid-19 pandemic's impact on Indian states underscored this point, as reduced fiscal capacities constrained their ability to respond effectively to the crisis and its economic repercussions.

Finally, a robust fiscal capacity enables equitable social development. It allows for redistributive policies that can mitigate income inequality and fund social safety nets for the vulnerable. Studies have shown that factors such as high per capita income, education levels, and low corruption contribute to higher fiscal capacity, which in turn can be used to foster a more inclusive society. Given that state governments account for over 60 per cent of general government expenditure in India, enhancing their revenue-generating capacity is imperative for the needed investment in areas such as education, research and development, and skill development.

The Reserve Bank of India recently released a report on state finances, which gives an insight into the state budgets of 2023-24. It has some important findings. First, revenue mobilisation in Indian states comprises both tax and non-tax revenues, with a significant portion coming from state's own tax revenues (SOTR). Over the years, there has been a noticeable increase in SOTR, growing from 5.7 per cent of GDP in 2003-04 to 6.9 per cent in 2022-23. This growth, particularly in the post-GST era, reflects a shift in the composition of tax revenues.

with the State Goods and Services Tax (SGST) becoming a predominant source.

BJP is dreaming of returning to power by crushing the movements and opposing voices

But it seems that by giving the slogan of 'This time we cross 400', BJP does not want to win so many seats but wants to snatch them. Otherwise, any government would not only get nervous due to so many protests from different sections of the people all over India, but would also try to pacify the angry people and also accept their legitimate demands. But despite opposition on many issues across the country, not only the Modi government at the Center and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, but even a single BJP worker is not ready to bow down. Not only this, the Modi government at the Center is eager to come to power at the Center for the third time by crushing every protest, every movement and every person who opposes its policies like an intoxicated elephant. In fact, if we look at the two tenures of the Modi government at the Center in the last 10 years, we find that it has not refrained from crushing any movement, any protest or any opposition. Be it the movement by ex-servicemen demanding One Rank One Pension, be it the movement of farmers, be it the movement of the country's daughters and women wrestlers, or any demonstration by unemployed youth demanding jobs, Be it the movement of women



employees of Anganwadi centres, or the protests against EVM Tehelka, or the movements in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh to the North-Eastern states. In this way, if we look at the last 10 years of the tenure of the Modi government at the Centre, about twenty types of movements took place at various places; But most of the movements were either crushed badly by this government which suppressed democracy or they were suppressed to such an extent that their voice could not reach the country and abroad. The remaining work in ending these movements was done by a special group of Modiya and those people who have got contracts for various odd jobs in the country. However, if we look at the movements going on in the country in the last 10-12 years, then first of all we have to look at the protests that took

place across the country against the Anna movement and the Nirbhaya incident, due to which the UPA central government was ousted. However, the UPA central government of that time also tried to crush both types of movements; But not to the extent that the Modi government at the Center has done anything to crush all the movements. If we talk about the time after Prime Minister Narendra Modi came to power at the Centre, then the Patel movement of Gujarat, Maratha movement of Maharashtra, farmers movement of Maharashtra, farmers movement of Tamil Nadu, Anganwadi movement, teachers' movements in different states.

Apart from the movement of unemployed youth and the movement of women wrestlers, all the farmers' movements across

the country and the farmers' movement that started in the year 2020 have been crushed by the Modi government at the Center and the BJP state governments. Their demands and problems have been ignored. And the agitators and protesters have been kicked and water cannons have been used. In the first farmer movement against the three agricultural laws, an attempt was made to end the movement by putting all kinds of pressure on the farmers, and this time, when the central government did not fulfill its promises, the farmers decided to march to Delhi. So the attack on them was intensified. Attempts were made to harm them in every possible way, which again led to the martyrdom of 16 farmers. There is still a ban on farmers coming to Delhi as if they are not food providers but terrorists. Recently, Section 144 was imposed in Delhi for more than a month to stop the farmers and even today Section 144 is applicable at some protest sites in Delhi. For example, after the protest by women wrestlers was crushed at Jantar Mantar, Section 144 is still in force and no victim can sit there and raise his voice. Recently, regarding crushing the farmers' movement, Rajasthan's Jat leader Hanuman Prasad Beniwal wrote on Twitter

handle '@narendramodi ji, the way he arrogantly wrote on India Is! Let me remind you that you did not fulfill the promise made to the farmers during the farmers' movement. Therefore, the step to agitate again for the farmers and their rights was forced to be taken. On one hand you say that violence has no place in democracy. Farmers are being shelled at the behest of the other government, keeping in mind the current situation after the Rashtriya Lok Dal, which fought for the farmers of Western UP, joined hands with the BJP, it is your utmost responsibility to Take cognizance yourself and agree to the demands of the farmers! Leader of the main opposition Congress, Rahul Gandhi has spoken many times about suppressing the voice of the people by the Modi government at the Centre. Fearless and impartial journalists and intellectuals of similar nature are also unhappy with this attitude of the government.

Experts and scholars belonging to the rural context are also continuously opposing the policies of the government.

But the government does not care about all this. In fact, now even the police pick up people sitting in any protest and put them in jail, even if.

China has been blocking His Holiness the Dalai Lama's visits

China has been blocking His Holiness the Dalai Lama's visits to Sri Lanka. Recently, a renowned Sri Lankan Buddhist monk revealed this in a media interview. When asked about China's view on the Dalai Lama, the most venerable Dr. W a s k u d u w e Mahindawansa said, "We respect him and invited him to Sri Lanka, but China did not like that. China pressed against our government as well, we don't like that. He is a Buddhist leader, he has freedom, and we have the freedom to invite." This incident wasn't an exception; China has been blocking His Holiness the Dalai Lama's visits to Sri Lanka since 2015. In fact, China has never shied away from expressing its displeas-

ure whenever the Dalai Lama moves from one place to another or meets any person of repute. For China, the Dalai Lama, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989, is a 'separatist'. China has even called him 'wolf in monk's robes'. Why does a benevolent exiled leader agitate an aspiring superpower so much? The answer lies in the complex history of Tibet and the Chinese subjugation of the same over the last 70 years Tibet lies in the confluence of Central, South and East Asia. It has a recorded history dating back to 602 AD when Namri Songsten became the first king of Tibet, uniting the central Tibetan states. There are records of conflict between China and Tibet, which was ended by the China-

Tibet Peace Treaty 821 AD. The treaty famously mentions, "Tibetans shall be happy in Tibet, and Chinese shall be happy in China." After more than 700 years, China and Tibet both sustained subsequent Mongol invasions. In the latter half of the 16th century, Altan Khan, the Mongol ruler, gave the title of Dalai Lama to Sonam Gyatso, leader of the Gelugpa school of Buddhism. In return, the Dalai Lama decreed that Altan Khan be reincarnated as Kublai Khan, which gave legitimacy to his rule. This event marks the founding of modern Tibet. For the next two hundred years Chinese tried to take hold of Tibet but could not succeed, and their influence declined in the first half of the 20th century.

"Unprecedented" is the adjective used in almost every global newspaper's description of Iran's retaliatory attack against Israel on 14 April, which the Benjamin Netanyahu government responded militarily by firing missiles at an Iranian airbase in Isfahan Friday morning. Iran's counter-attack last week wasn't exactly unpredictable—Tehran made it pretty clear it would respond to a suspected Israeli attack on its consulate in Syria on 1 April that killed two of its senior military commanders. It named its operation "True Promise", reflecting its vow to punish those who attacked its diplomatic mission. But the barrage of Iranian drones and missiles—approximately 300—had no precedent. Neither did the suspected Israeli strike near an Iranian military base that followed. It was the first time, after 45 years of an icy shadow war, that we saw a direct confrontation between the regional archenemies. And that is why the new arc of violence in the Israel-Iran conflict, now marked by direct confrontation, is ThePrint's Newsmaker of the Week. Some view Iran as dealing the first hand or lighting the first match. But certain analysts suggest Tehran's calculation involved not just sending a message to Israel but also to its own proxies in the region. Sanam Vakil, Director of the Middle

East and North Africa programme at the Chatham House think tank, told The Guardian: "Iran's calculation was that if [it] didn't respond, Israel will keep trying to push back and degrade the axis of resistance across the region. This was about reinforcing its red lines and some measure of deterrence." For five days, the world waited with bated breath for Israel's response. The German and British foreign ministers flew into Israel earlier this week in efforts to prevent an escalation of the conflict, but it was clear that Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu was going to strike back. It was just a matter of when and how. By launching direct attacks on each other's soil after decades of covert operations, cyber attacks and proxy wars, Israel and Iran have diverted from long-standing foreign policy strategies. On the one hand, Iran had always followed a policy of "strategic patience", which involves propping up proxy forces in the Middle East to fight off Israel and its Western allies, while also projecting power in the region. Hezbollah in Lebanon is a prime example of this. In 1982, when Israel invaded Lebanon to expel the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) sent in what was known as the

"Prophet Mohammad Corps" to Syria, which was then sent to Lebanon to fight against Israeli forces. This was the birth of Hezbollah. "The Islamic Republic is a survivalist regime," explains Arman Mahmoudian, a lecturer of Russian and Middle Eastern Studies and a PhD candidate in politics and international affairs at the University of South Florida, in an article for International Forum.

"Hezbollah's foundational purpose raises the question: why has the militant group thus far avoided confrontation? The brief answer is that Hezbollah is too valuable an asset to be deployed recklessly," he adds. By launching 300 drones and missiles into Israel, Tehran effectively abandoned this policy and any previous reluctance it had in attacking Israel directly. Similarly, Israel seems to have diverted from its "reverse periphery doctrine". Previously, under Israel's first prime minister David Ben-Gurion, Israel followed the "periphery doctrine" in a bid to end its isolation in the Middle East. The idea was to pursue relations with non-Arab states at the 'edges' of the Middle East, mainly Iran and Turkey. With Iran and Israel diverting from their traditional strategies, the big question is whether an all-out war is on the horizon and whether it's one that could drag in Israel's ally, the US.

Sanatana Dharma has allowed for differences of opinion

One of the primary issues of the 2024 national election campaign has become Sanatana Dharma. The BJP accuses the Opposition of insulting Sanatana Dharma. The Opposition rebuts this by saying that the BJP is deliberately politicising the issue, and misleading ordinary voters. Elections will come and go. Political parties will win and lose. But in a country where the overwhelming majority is Hindu, the debate is one of pivotal importance, transcending transient political dividends. It has a bearing on the very nature of Sanatana

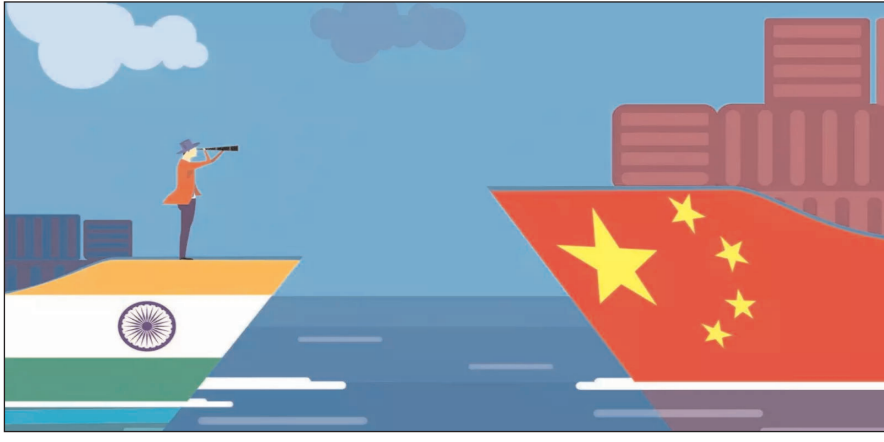
Dharma, its evolution, its philosophical wisdom, its inherently eclectic and inclusive character, and all the factors which make it different from Abrahamic faiths. Let me clarify at the outset that I am a proud Hindu. The number of books I have written on the Hindu faith, and the sheer profundity of its thought as well as the remarkable achievements of Hindu civilization which forms the foundational period of our history, bears testimony to this. My real worry, however, is that this acrimonious political wrangling on Sanatana

Dharma could reduce this great religion to a new level of fundamentalist illiteracy. And such a consequence goes far beyond the immediate political fortunes of expedient politicians. The crux of the matter is: what is Sanatana Dharma? Is it an unchanging monolith? Is it compiled in a single text, like the Bible or Koran, which cannot be transgressed by believers? Is it written in stone, to be interpreted by one Pope or Ayatollah? Or, has it evolved to be what it is precisely because it is none of the above? It is exceptionally significant that in its entire

history, not a single Hindu has been burnt on the stake or killed for blasphemy, as is not uncommon in some other faiths.

What this means is that Sanatana Dharma has allowed for differences of opinion within its fold, including trenchant criticism of some aspects of it, by its own followers. The Hindu faith had not one but six systems of philosophy attempting to understand the truth behind the vast and bewildering plurality of the cosmos. Each of them had a different interpretation.

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



Delhi: Recently, the US has banned, restricted, or imposed high taxes on hundreds of Chinese imports to stimulate domestic production and reduce dependence on Chinese commodities. The USTR has already added tariffs to half of 429 items. The USTR excluded further duties from the "Section 301" probe of China's technology transfer, intellectual property, and innovation measures in previous announcements. The current 429 product-specific exclusions (352 reinstated and 77 COVID-related) expire on May 31, 2024. The US trade agency declared a 14-day transition period for all current exclusions until June 14, 2024, and to "extend certain exclusions through May 31, 2025" in a new notice. "To allow for a transition period, the US Trade Representative is extending all currently expiring exclusions through June 14, 2024," it stated. Chinese motors and medical equipment are excluded until May 2025. The USTR ruled that "extending these exclusions will support efforts to shift sourcing out of China, or provide additional time where, despite efforts to source products from alternative sources, availability of the product outside of China remains limited". Last March, the USTR reinstated some "Section 301" tariff exceptions for Chinese goods. Former President Donald Trump began a trade war with China and imposed tariffs on nearly \$300 billion in Chinese goods, invoking Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974. Trump granted product tariff exclusions for select businesses

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



Bhiwani : Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), the national leader in test preparation services, is proud to announce the remarkable achievement of its 11 students in Bhiwani who have scored 650 and above marks in the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) 2024. Along with this, they have achieved impressive All India Rank. Among the students who scored impressive marks, Disha Agarwal scored 710 marks and AIR 368, Arjun scored 690 marks, Amrendra Singh scored 681 marks, Shubhi scored 680 marks and Kartik Kapoor scored 677 marks. At the same time, a total of 11 students from Bhiwani scored 650 and above. The National Testing Agency (NTA) has recently declared the results of National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) 2024. The students' achievement is a big contribution of their families, teachers, and Aakash Educational Services Limited. The united support of their family, and supporters has brought them to this important milestone. The students have made their parents and the entire staff of Aakash Institute proud by achieving impressive scores. Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL) Regional Director Parmeshwar Jha said, "Congratulations to all the students on their outstanding achievement. We are proud of the achievement of our students. Their impressive scores are shining examples of the potential of our students and the effectiveness of our teaching methods. At Aakash, we are committed to providing our students with the best resources and training to help them achieve their dreams. The success of these students will undoubtedly inspire many more students to strive for excellence."

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

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

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

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

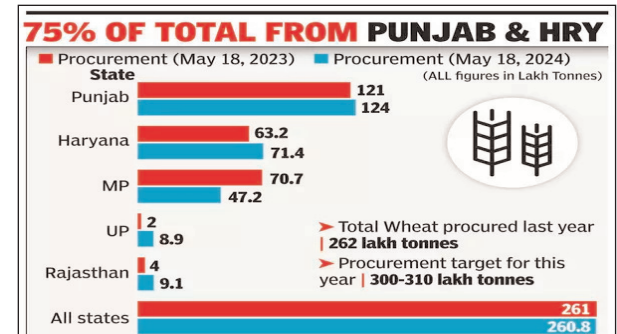


with 690 marks, Kusha Lamba with 687 marks, Aksha and Kanika with 685 marks. A total of 18 students from Ambala scored 650 and above. The National Testing Agency (NTA) has recently declared the results of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) 2024. The achievement of the stu-

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

Fully procured wheat by centre exceeds last year's mark

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



Uttar Pradesh followed with 9.66 and 9.07 LMT. According to the Ministry, 728.42 LMT paddy equivalent to 489.15 LMT of rice has been acquired directly from 98.26 lakh farmers during the Kharif marketing scheme 2023-24, with a total MSP outflow of Rs. 1,60,472 crores. The Food Ministry said the Central Pool's wheat and rice stock had topped 600 LMT, allowing the country to meet its food grain needs under PMGKAY, other welfare initiatives, and market interventions.

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

Kaithal: Haryana Congress Committee Executive Member Ramchandra Gurjar Dhand said that the Haryana government is playing with the future of the youth. The recent High Court decision regarding various recruitments shows that thousands of youth of Haryana will be affected by unemployment. The Haryana government is talking about appealing to the Supreme Court only for its political gains. Talking at his establishment in the town, Ramchandra Gurjar Dhand said that the BJP-led government disappointed the youth in its 10-year tenure and stalled the recruitment of youth due to its wrong policies. In the second term of the BJP government, the JJP in the alliance was also involved in playing with the future of the youth. Various vacant posts could not be filled and to garner applause, the tune of 75 percent reservation to the youth of Haryana in the private sector was also sung and that too was cancelled. Congress leader Ramchandra Gurjar Dhand said that similarly not a single recruitment process was completed in the 10 years of BJP rule and the youth is disappointed with the wrong policies of the government. There can be no greater sorrow for the youth than getting a job once and then losing it. He said that to take electoral advantage, the Haryana government talked about going to the Supreme Court regarding the decision of the High Court, but the government's promises.

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

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

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

DD Kisan launches 50-language AI anchors Krish and Bhoomi



Delhi: Doordarshan Kisan will be the first government TV channel to introduce AI anchors, ushering in the 'Artificial Intelligence' age in agriculture. Krish and Bhoomi, the AI anchors, are advanced computer algorithms that behave and perform like humans. Once unthinkable, they can deliver news 24/7, 365 days a year without tiring or taking breaks. Farmers in all states will see AI anchors, from Kashmir to Tamil Nadu and Gujarat to Arunachal. These anchors will provide national and global agriculture research, farm market trends, weather updates, and government scheme updates. The anchors' fluency in 50 domestic and international languages is remarkable. Only DD Kisan broadcasts nationwide. It serves farmers exclusively and was founded by the Indian government. DD Kisan Channel has met these standards for nine years. The DD Kisan channel promotes innovative farmers. To support the country's agricultural and rural populations, it promotes comprehensive education. The DD Kisan channel focuses on sustainable farming, animal husbandry, and plantation.

Paytm shares start flat on bourses after declining 3.74%

NEW DELHI:

Shares of One97 Communication, owner of brand Paytm, were trading flat on BSE and NSE. Shares were trading at 391.00, marking an increase of 0.68% or 2.65 points from its previous close at 09:27 am.

Earlier, shares of Paytm dropped by 3.74% to settle at 380.45 on Thursday, after hitting upper-circuit for four consecutive session. The stock prices, on Wednesday rose to Rs 395.25 and Rs 395.05 on the BSE and NSE, respectively, defying broader market trends.

This surge follows Paytm's recovery from a recent slump, with its stock rebounding more than 21% from last Thursday.

Reports indicate that Enforcement Directorate (ED) found no significant violations of foreign exchange rules in its ongoing investigation into Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL). However, it came



across some lapses in the company's KYC processes and reporting of suspicious transactions. The scrutiny on Paytm has intensified as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) tightens oversight on fintech firms globally. Recent actions by the RBI include directing to cease certain operations of PPBL due to non-compliance issues, affecting One97 Communications despite its 49% stake in the banking entity. The RBI's stricter stance comes as concerns over customer due diligence, data privacy, and systemic risks prompt a reevaluation of oversight mechanisms, primarily

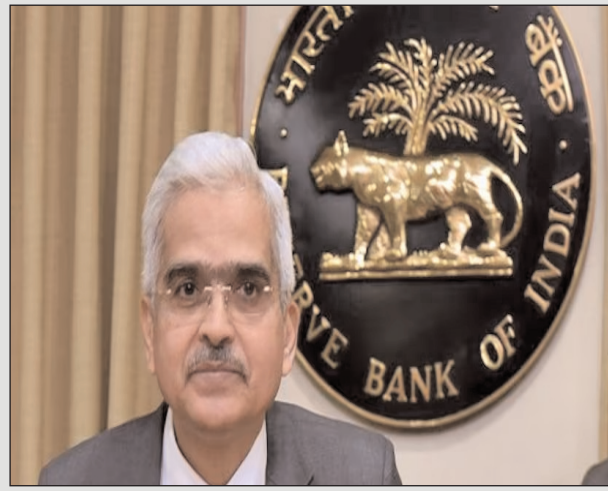
focusing on digital customer identification practices.

In response, the RBI has increased inspections and meetings with fintech companies, aiming to tighten compliance and ensure the integrity of the financial ecosystem.

The evolving regulatory landscape may lead to higher compliance and capital requirements for fintech firms, potentially resulting in sector consolidation. Industry stakeholders like Ashish Fafadia of Blume Ventures believe this scrutiny will foster compliance and support investment in law-abiding companies.

Premature move on monetary policy front could undermine efforts to check inflation: RBI

MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank of India's job to bring down inflation is not over, and any premature move on the policy front could undermine the success achieved so far on the price situation, according to RBI governor Shaktikanta Das. According to the minutes of the February Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting released by the central bank on Thursday, Das had said at this juncture, monetary policy must remain vigilant and "not assume that our job on the inflation front is over". He stressed that the MPC must remain



committed to successfully navigate the "last mile" of disinflation that can be sticky. Das made the remarks while voting for status quo in the key interest rate earlier this month.

"As markets are front-running central banks in anticipation of policy pivots, any premature move may undermine the success achieved so far," the governor said, as per the minutes.

100% FDI in space sector a game changer: IN-SPACE chairman Pawan

BENGALURU: A day after the union cabinet, in line with the Centre's reforms to open up the space sector, allowed 100% foreign direct investment (FDI) under the automatic route, space regulator and promoter Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre

(IN-SPACE) chairman Pawan Goenka termed it a "game-changing decision that will propel India to new heights in the space sector". Lauding PM Narendra Modi's vision Goenka said the move will boost participation of non-government entities in space research and man-

ufacturing. "By opening doors for massive investment and global collaboration, this move will transform India's space capabilities," he said. Elaborating on the impact, Goenka said that this reform comes at an opportune time when the space sector is witnessing massive growth.

CAPSULES

Byju Raveendran, board to skip 'procedurally invalid' extraordinary general meeting

MUMBAI: A day ahead of the extraordinary general meeting (EGM) which a group of Byju's major investors have called to seek removal of Byju Raveendran from position of CEO as well as a reconstitution of the firm's board, Byju's said that Raveendran and the board members will not attend the EGM which it said is "procedurally invalid." Following the resignation of representatives of Prosus, Peak XV Partners and Chan Zuckerberg Initiative from the board of Byju's in June last year, it has been reduced to a family-run entity, comprising Raveendran, his wife and co-founder Gokulnath and his brother Riju Raveendran. "This EGM is procedurally invalid, contractually in contravention of our AOA (Articles of Association) and SHA (Shareholders Agreement), legally on the wrong side of the Companies Act, 2013," a company spokesperson said in a statement on Thursday. Byju's said that with Raveendran and board members deciding to skip the EGM, it will not have the required quorum and cannot proceed to discuss or vote on the agenda. "As custodians of Byju's, it is the responsibility of the founders to respect the established procedures of law and protect the company's integrity," the company added. The EGM is supposed to take place on Friday morning, according to the EGM notice reviewed by investors claim that they will hold the EGM as per plan but if the resolutions are put to vote, then they will test the law in court, lawyers said.

Indians extremely demanding, but unwilling to pay: Uber CEO

BENGALURU: Uber CEO Dara Khosrowshahi said that Indians are extremely demanding, but unwilling to pay. The Uber top boss was in conversation with Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani in Bengaluru on Thursday at an interactive session on building population scale technology. "India is one of the toughest markets out there. If we can succeed here, we can succeed anywhere," Khosrowshahi said. Uber is also planning to expand to low-cost service segments of two-



and three-wheelers in India. The company will be getting into bus services in some of the geographies. "It is also an extraordinary opportunity for us to expand our services to a wider population. We don't just want to be an upper-middle-class product. We want to be available to everybody."

Khosrowshahi said companies and govts around the world can learn from the scale and ambition of India's digital public infrastructure. He added that as a technology company, Uber views open-source tech stacks with a lot of interest and recognises the opportunities they bring for everyone.

Khosrowshahi said that Uber's approach has changed since the pandemic. As much as the focus is on the customers, he also said there is a growing focus on improving the experience for its drivers. Uber has signed an MoU with the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) to explore an integration with the network to expand the range of mobility offerings on the Uber app. Khosrowshahi said that Uber made \$3 billion in terms of profits during the pandemic.

Bank deposits losing sheen? Why more savers are moving to higher-yielding investment

One of the reasons for the decline in CASA ratios could be the increase in bank fixed deposit rates. Bank deposits losing sheen? Indian banks are facing a significant challenge as the preference of urban savers shifts towards higher-yielding investment options like mutual funds and direct stock ownership. This trend is eroding the banks' biggest strength - access to low-cost current and savings account deposits. The rise of technology and the increasing familiarity with Dalal Street (the Indian stock market) among rural savers are



further intensifying the struggle for deposits in the banking industry. This democratization of technology is fundamentally changing the dynamics of financial savings, to the disadvantage of traditional high-street banks.

As of September 2023, the collective CASA ratio (current and savings account deposits) of all commercial banks in India stands at 40.5%, down from 43.1% in March 2023 and 45.2% in March 2022. This is a decline of nearly 5 per-

centage points in 18 months, according to report. One of the reasons for the decline in CASA ratios could be the increase in bank fixed deposit rates. State Bank of India's CASA ratio dropped to 41.18% as of December 31, 2023, a decline of 330 basis points compared to the previous year. P R Rajagopal, executive director of Bank of India, highlighted the shift in savings patterns, particularly in urban areas. Digitization has provided savers with access to alternative savings products like mutual funds, reducing their reliance.

'India to be small aircraft maker ATR's biggest market in 5 years'

NEW DELHI: Franco-Italian regional aircraft major ATR sees India emerge as its biggest market in the next five years. And as that happens, the turboprop-maker says "it will be foolish not to increase our footprint here" in terms of sourcing of components, pilot training and others. "India currently has 65 ATRs - 45 with IndiGo and 20 with Alliance Air. IndiGo is to get five more. Startup carrier Fly91 (which is being launched by aviation industry veteran Manoj Chacko) will get its first leased ATR anytime now and the second in a week or so," Jean-Pierre Clercin, ATR's head of commercial for Asia Pacific, said. "Indonesia has about 100 ATRs and is currently our biggest mar-



ket. India and Brazil come after that. But the way Indian economy and air travel in the country is booming, within five years India will have the maximum ATRs given the government's focus on regional air transport through ude desh ka aam naagrik (UDAN) scheme," Clercin said. ATR feels India will need 50-150 such planes in the next decade. "That is the official estimation. But given the way India is developing, the actual number could be even higher. Much higher," he said. The turboprop major is

in talks with several Indian airlines for more orders. "The focus here is on regional and ATR is for that. So we are talking to all the airlines in India," he said. Asked if ATR plans to make in India, Clercin said: "We do already have a presence in India. There are some simulators (for pilot training) operated by third parties in India. The footprint depends a lot on the size of the markets, and India is one of the most promising aviation markets globally. We've seen the amazing resilience of the country.

Foreigners pursue every avenue to access hot India bond trade

Overseas investors are showing such keen interest in India assets that they are taking proxy exposure to the country even if they don't have the license or physical presence to trade there.

Foreign funds lacking direct access to India's \$1 trillion government debt market are increasing their exposure via instruments such as supranational bonds and swaps ahead of the nation's upcoming inclusion in global bond indexes. There's an "increased engagement from global investors, with momentum picking up this year," said Siddharth Bachawat, head for markets at Barclays Bank India. "In addition to interest from index-tracking managers ahead of the inclusion, discretionary activity from a



wider investor base has also been notable." Indian sovereign bonds have gained prominence after JPMorgan Chase & Co's move to add them to its global debt indexes from June. The number of issuances by sovereign, supranational and agency entities offering investors an exposure to the country rose to a record in 2023, with the value of such offerings reaching \$3.2 billion, a five-year high, data compiled by

Bloomberg show. "There's been a marked increase in the sales of rupee-denominated supranational, sovereign and agency debt," said Wontae Kim, research analyst at Western Asset Management. Investors such as William Blair Investments and M&G Investments are venturing into supranational bonds. Issued by multilateral agencies like the World Bank and denominated in Indian rupees, these

triple-A rated notes give overseas investors exposure to local debt without having to secure a license to operate onshore. "Given India's disinflation trend and improved technical outlook with impending index inclusion, we favor duration in India," said Johnny Chen, fund manager at William Blair in Singapore. Also, buyers don't have to pay 20% withholding tax as these securities are settled offshore, which results in higher yields, according to Claudia Calich, head of emerging-market debt at M&G Investments in London. "Even if the pretax yield on supranational bonds tends to be lower than on India government debt, the yield is higher on an after-tax basis.

Attach bank accounts of ex-promoters of DHFL: Sebi



NEW DELHI: Markets regulator Sebi has ordered the attachment of bank accounts as well as shares and mutual fund holdings of Dheeraj Wadhawan and Kapil Wadhawan - former promoters of Dewan Housing Finance - to recover dues totalling over Rs 22 lakh. This came after the brothers failed to pay the fine imposed on them by Sebi in July last year in a case concerning the flouting of disclosure norms. The pending dues of Rs 10.6 lakh each from the Wadhawans comprise the initial penalty amount, interest, and recovery cost, it added. In July 2023, the regulator imposed a Rs 10 lakh penalty each on Wadhawans.

Joe dramatically raises US tariffs on Chinese EVs

Delhi: US President Joe Biden lambasted Beijing for "cheating" as he raised tariffs on Chinese products such as electric vehicles and semiconductors. Biden strongly opposed the sanctions as Biden sought to appear tough on trade ahead of a rematch with Republican Donald Trump in November's US presidential election. "We're not going to let China flood our market, making it impossible for American automakers to compete fairly," Biden declared in the White House Rose Garden. He said, "We're never going to allow China to unfairly control the market for these cars," before ordering duties. Trump's tariffs have been frequently criticized by Biden. He's been using similar tactics to win over blue-collar voters in swing Rust Belt states. The White House stated EV tariffs will treble to 100% this year and semiconductor duties will rise from 25% to 50% by next year.



File ITR or risk scrutiny

Delhi: A taxpayer will be investigated if they do not file an income-tax return after an inquiry notification. This notification under section 142(1) is provided when a taxpayer has not submitted the tax return or to request preliminary information about a detail such as bank interest or long-term capital gains/loss on property sale. This advice is part of the Central Board of Direct Taxes' new comprehensive rules for mandatory I-T return selection for complete inspection. Annual guidelines cover survey, search and seizure, tax evasion, and cases where no I-T return was filed in response to an inquiry notification for the current financial year (selection and thorough inspection). It also includes non-registration or termination of registration under sections 12A/12AB for charity organizations seeking tax benefits. In addition, if the taxpayers' income increased on a recurring issue in an earlier year, the I-T return will be picked up under obligatory inspection standards, subject to monetary restrictions. "The guideline states that all I-T returns filed during FY24 will have the outer time limit for issue of a notice by June 30, 2024." In selective cases, complete scrutiny is performed to ensure the taxpayer has declared income correctly and paid taxes.

AIIMS to open emergency cath lab



Delhi: The All India Institute of Medical Sciences will open a cath lab for emergency patients to provide primary neuro, cardiac, and endovascular procedures in the "golden hour". The emergency department has no specialized Cath Lab. After considering the patient load and the require-

ment for fast actions, especially in emergencies, this strategic option was made. Officials noted the number of functioning Cath Labs falls short of meeting rising demand, resulting in longer wait times for sophisticated brain and cardiac treatments. Lack of a dedicated Cath Lab in the

emergency department delays key interventions, affecting patient outcomes. The 2020 COVID-19 pandemic forced business workers to work remotely. To retain staff, employers use office peacocking, affecting work-life balance and trends.

Free bike rides home for voters

Delhi: The Delhi electoral office has partnered with bike aggregator Rapido to offer house drop services to boost Lok Sabha voter turnout. Anyone can arrange a free Rapido bike trip through its mobile app after voting. Voters must travel to the polling station alone. All ages can vote

at the facility. Delhi's top electoral officer P Krishnamurthy said this collaboration will promote voting and reduce transportation constraints.

"We offer free bike rides on election day to make voting easier and encourage folks to vote. Every vote counts, so eligible vot-

ers must vote without obstruction," Krishnamurthy added. The facility will supplement the pick-up and drop-off for disabled and elderly people. The weather department predicts a strong heat wave on May 25, so election officials are planning to boost voter turnout.

CAPSULES

Close fire-violating coaching centers: HC



Delhi: The Delhi High Court ordered MCD and DDA to close Mukherjee Nagar's tutoring centers that violated fire safety rules. A team of lawyers revealed that various MCD-claimed actions continued to operate, prompting Justices Yashwant Varma and Ravinder Dudeja to issue the instruction. The bench heard a number of coaching centre petitions, including one it filed after noticing a fire at one in Mukherjee Nagar last year. The amicus claimed numerous premises violated fire safety rules, and one had an electrical board at the door that blocked fire escape. "In light of apparent violation of sealing directions issued by us, we direct MCD/DDA to take action forthwith." HC also clarified that a building's "character" for identification as an educational building and fire safety norms must be determined by its "use" and asked MCD, DDA, and Delhi Fire Services to conduct a new survey within four weeks to identify non-compliant centres. The court ordered all tutoring centers to conform with Delhi Master Plan 2021 and other requirements or close after last year's fire.

Order mandating SpiceJet to pay Sun Group's Kalanithi Maran 270

Delhi: Judge ordered SpiceJet to refund over 1270 crore to Sun Group promoter Kalanithi Maran, but a Division Bench of the Delhi High Court overturned it. SpiceJet and CMD Ajay Singh appealed the single-judge's ruling to a Division Bench of Justices Yashwant Varma and Ravinder Dudeja. Appeals are allowed. The July 31, 2023 order is vacated "By the

Court. The Division Bench denied SpiceJet's request to postpone the single-judge ruling upholding an arbitral tribunal award ordering the airline to reimburse over 270 cases. The issue between Maran and SpiceJet began in January 2015 when Ajay Singh bought SpiceJet from him. Maran reportedly gave Singh his 58.46% airline ownership. According to the

contract, Maran would receive redeemable warrants for his airline promotion investment. Maran was entitled to 18 crore warrants and 26% SpiceJet shares. No convertible warrants or preference shares were issued to Maran, and he received no money. Maran sought roughly 1,323 crore in damages. Arbitration was ordered by the Delhi High Court. The

arbitral tribunal ordered SpiceJet to return Maran 1270 crore in July 2018. The tribunal also ordered the airline to pay 12% interest on warrant payments and 18% on Maran awards if they are late. The tribunal also found no breach of Maran, SpiceJet, and Ajay Singh's share sale and purchase agreement. Thus, Maran's shareholding return and damages claims were denied.

Influencers and celebrities will be accountable for deceptive ads: SC

Delhi: The Supreme Court reminded celebrities, social media influencers, and advertisers that they will share equal responsibility and liability for deceptive and misleading food and health product ads and services. The supreme court ruled "It is the shared responsibility of advertisers and endorsers, including celebrities and influencers, to ensure the accuracy of advertisements." "Public figures, influencers,

What SC Said
Advertisers, celebs and influencers to take responsibility for the accuracy of ads
Ensure consumers' trust not abused or exploited due to sheer lack of knowledge or experience
Govt should set up a specific procedure which will encourage the consumer to lodge a complaint

Seeks fresh affidavit on actions taken against false or misleading ads, particularly in the food and health sectors
Directs removal from online platforms of Patanjali products whose licenses have been cancelled by state authorities

celebrities, etc., go a long way in promoting a product, and it is imperative for them to act with responsibility when endorsing any product in advertisements," Justices Hima Kohli and Ahsanuddin Amanullah said. It

required marketers to submit self-declaration forms confirming compliance with cable TV and advertising guidelines before airing ads. The directive requires television stations to file these declarations to the Broadcast Seva

Portal before broadcasting commercials. Within four weeks, the relevant ministry must create a print media ad self-declaration portal. Advertisers' self-declarations will not be burdened by bureaucracy, the justices said. The goal is to establish accountability and responsibility in advertising, not to make it difficult for advertisers to promote their products. Influencers must disclose sponsored endorsements, the bench said.

Government e-commerce platform accepting unicorns



Delhi: Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), a UPI-like alternative to e-commerce heavyweights, is onboarding unicorns like MakeMyTrip, Policybazaar, Cars24, and Zerodha to build traction. While ONDC was created to support small businesses like kirana stores and democratize online shopping, the govern-

ment believes large players will give consumers more choice and boost demand in smaller towns and cities. The goal is to assist consumers and businesses without platform fees. "It gained popularity in the last two years. Five lakh sellers—70% small and medium—have joined. ONDC processed 72 million transactions in April

"Rajesh Kumar Singh, industry and internal trade secretary, told reporters. Singh expects all types of players to join, when asked if big startups would overwhelm smaller ones. "The intent is noble, let us see how it works and to what extent we can actually crack some of the issues you raised in terms of market concentration," said.

Replace aging ACs with efficient ones under BSES' new strategy



Delhi: With the city's temperature reaching 40 degrees Celsius, BSES discoms are offering home customers up to 63% off energy-efficient air conditioners. A 5-star energy-efficient air conditioner can reduce a household's cooling load, which can account for up to 50% of its annual energy

costs, according to BSES. The limited-time AC Replacement Scheme was introduced by BSES Rajdhani Power Limited and BSES Yamuna Power Limited in conjunction with key air conditioner manufacturers. The statement added BSES' operating zones in south, west, east, and

central Delhi will offer the plan for all ACs, including next-generation inverter types. Around 40 "first cum, first served" window and split variants of prominent brands are available. BSES said domestic consumers can exchange up to three air conditioners per contract account num-

ber. BSES spokesperson: "We empower sustainable technologies like LED lighting, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and rooftop solar net metering. The AC plan will cut annual and monthly electricity expenditures and help us work toward a greener future.

Retailers to hire in tier 2, 3 cities in 2024

Delhi: Retail stores will dominate 2024 employment demand as brands that took space in 2023 open. Milan-based Gi Group predicts retail employment demand would rise 18% in 2023 and 15-20% this year. Layoffs, budget restrictions, and selective hiring are forcing e-commerce startups to tighten their hiring. Active logistics positions declined 13.89% in Q3 FY24 amid peak season fulfillment. According to the report, 52% of shops want to hire recent graduates this year, while 38% want experienced experts. Retailers will keep opening stores. We know of many organizations that are still increasing. 162 candidates are running in the May 25 Lok Sabha elections in Delhi. Delhi: 162 contestants are vying for seven seats in the capital's Lok Sabha elections. North East Delhi is the district with the most candidates, fielding 28 people. However, with just 17 candidates.

HMD, Makers of Nokia Phones, Launches 'Bharosa Wohi, Shuruat Nayi' Campaign; debuts first feature phone HMD 105 in India

GURUGRAM / KARNAL : HMD today announced the launch of its highly anticipated HMD 105 device. Building upon the company's legacy of ground-breaking products, the HMD 105 represents a major technological leap forward, combining exceptional performance, sleek design, and industry-leading specifications. The phone comes with an inbuilt UPI application, combining the trusted reliability of phones with the convenience and accessibility of UPI, enabling users to securely and seamlessly perform UPI payment transactions even without a smartphone.

HMD 105 phone comes with advanced industry leading attributes including excellent multimedia features, voice assis-



tance and large display with immersive clarity and enhanced visibility.

The phone also comes with an assured one year replacement guarantee making it a reliable option for the users. Ravi Kunwar, VP-India

& APAC, HMD Global, commented on the launch "The HMD 105 and HMD 110 are our first feature phones to be launched in India with stylish new

designs and UPI capabilities. These devices underscore our commitment to providing accessible technology. The feature-packed HMD 105 and HMD 110 aim to bridge the digital divide and enhance financial access for all within our feature phone category.

These phones embody our 'more for less' philosophy as we continue our multi-brand journey."

Paytm acquires five UPI addresses

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



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

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

Maharashtra specifies role of govt nominees in autonomous colleges' board

MUMBAI: In a govt resolution issued on , for the first time, the state has enlisted the role of government nominees in autonomous colleges in the state. While govt nominees were always there on the board of autonomous colleges, their roles were never explicitly defined. From

attending every meeting of the governing body to ensuring their budget comprehensively reflects all aspects, the nominee is now expected to be the eyes and ears of the government in the truest sense.

There are over 70 autonomous colleges affiliated to Mumbai

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

Nandan Denim Ltd. Reports Solid Earnings for Q4FY24, PAT Jumps 880% YoY

CHANDIGARH: Nandan Denim Ltd. (BSE: 532641, NSE: NDL), a leader in the denim industry, has reported solid earnings for the quarter and year ended 31 March 2024. For the quarter ended 31 March 2024, the company reported Revenue from operations at Rs. 579.12 Cr, a growth of 26.68% YoY. The EBITDA jumped 68.69% YoY, from Rs. 23.12 Cr (Q4FY23) to Rs. 39 Cr (Q4FY24). EBITDA margin improved by 168 bps, from 5.06% to

6.73% (Q4FY24). PAT grew a staggering 881.88% YoY, from Rs. 2.76 Cr (Q4FY23), to Rs. 27.10 Cr (Q4FY24). For the year ended 31 March 2024, the company saw a 0.82% decline in its revenue from operations, declining marginally from Rs. 2026.76 Cr (FY23) to Rs. 2010.08 Cr (FY24). EBITDA grew 40.67% YoY, from Rs. 84.1 Cr (FY23), to Rs. 118.30 Cr (FY24). EBITDA margin recorded an improvement of 174 bps, and stood at 5.89%.

PAT grew by a staggering 8384.91% YoY, from Rs. 0.53 Cr (FY23), to Rs. 44.97 Cr (FY24). A global leading denim manufacturer, Nandan Denim Limited is redefining the denim industry for more than 27 years. With a passion for fashion and design, it produces more than 2000 denim products every year. The company manufactures and supplies denim fabric, yarn/dyed yarn, cotton fabric and shirting fabric to renowned clients

across the globe. Along with an extensive range of products, the company reaps the benefits of economies of scale and continue to sustain its market leadership across key products, even in the most challenging circumstances. The Chiripal Group, incorporated in 1972, has an extensive presence across diverse business segments including petrochemicals, spinning, weaving, knitting, fabric processing, chemicals.

Switched to 'patriot' to save democracy: Uddhav

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar: Amid criticism from opponents, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray defended his opening remarks of "patriot" at the Mumbai rally. "Since we have to save democracy and the country, I switched to 'deshbhakt (patriot) and deshpremi (country-loving) brothers and sisters'. As soon as I said this, the BJP got rattled. Modi-bhaktas are claiming that my language has changed.

I want to ask these bhaktas whether they are patriots or not," he said, while addressing a public rally at Basmat in Hingoli district. Thackeray usually starts his addresses with the phrase: "Hindu brothers and sisters". However, on Tuesday, Thackeray had started his speech with "brothers and sisters of my family". Chief minister Eknath Shinde is among those

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

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

Dee Development Engineers Limited IPO to open on June 19, 2024

GURUGRAM : Dee Development Engineers Limited ("Dee Piping" or "The Company"), shall open its Bid / Offer in relation to its initial public offer of Equity Shares on Wednesday, June 19, 2024. The total offer size of Equity Shares (face value ? 10 each) comprises of fresh issue aggregating up to ? 3,250 million (The



"Fresh Issue") and offer for sale of up to 45,82,000 Equity Shares. (The "Offer for Sale"). This offer includes a reservation of up to aggregating up to ? 10.00 million (? 1 crore) for subscription by eligible employees. (The "Employee Reservation Portion") The Anchor Investor Bidding Date shall be Tuesday, June 18, 2024. The Bid/Offer will open on Wednesday, June 19, 2024 for subscription and close on Friday, June 21, 2024. ("Bid Details")

The Price Band of the Offer has been fixed at 193 to ? 203 per Equity Share. Bids can be made for a minimum of 73 Equity Shares and in multiples of 73 Equity

Shares thereafter. (The "Price Band"). The Company proposes to utilise net proceeds from fresh issue of Equity Shares towards (i) Funding working capital requirements of our Company estimated to 750 million in Fiscal 2025; (ii) Prepayment or repayment of all or a portion of certain outstanding borrowings availed by our Company estimated to 1,750 million in Fiscal 2025; and balance to General corporate purposes (the "Objects of Issue"). The offer for sale of up to 45,82,000 Equity Shares ("Offered Shares") comprising up to 45,82,000 Equity Shares by Krishan Lalit Bansal .

Bahamas Launches the Spring-Summer Collection for 2024

HISAR : Bahamas, the free spirited footwear brand under the leading footwear manufacturer, Relaxo Footwears Ltd., is thrilled to announce the launch of its highly anticipated Spring-Summer 2024 (SS '24) Collection. Infused with the spirit of fun, joy, and carefree living, this collection embodies the essence of the youth, captivating the hearts of Gen Z and millennials across the nation. The SS '24 Collection is tailor-made for individuals who enjoy the high-energy, high output work ethic and style with gusto. With a range of contemporary and fashionable articles, Bahamas invites customers to immerse themselves in the fun & youthful aesthetic and uplift their person-



al style quotient. Mr. Gaurav Dua, Executive Director, Relaxo Footwear Ltd., shared his insights on the SS '24 Collection, stating, "At Bahamas, we are dedicated to capturing the essence of youth through our dynamic and spirited designs. Our Spring-Summer 2024 Collection is all about embracing a lifestyle filled with joy, freedom, and unbounded energy. We prioritize providing the best in style and comfort, ensuring that

every step our customers take exudes confidence and flair. With the new range, we believe our valued customers will celebrate a season of exuberance and youthful vitality with Bahamas." Bahamas, known for its vibrant and carefree brand image, has strategically tapped into the larger-than-life persona of Bollywood superstar Salman Khan to further enhance its ethos of positivity and resilience.

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

LUCKNOW: Union home minister Amit Shah said that there was a time when Uttar Pradesh was known for "producing country-made pistols (kattas)" but, after PM Narendra Modi built a defence corridor in Bundelkhand, "cannonballs are made" Shah said, "If Pakistan makes any mistake", shells made in Bundelkhand will be used to "destroy" that country. In an apparent reference to Congress functionaries, he asked Bundelkhand voters to fight the "desi Angrez" just like they fought against the Mughals and the British. In Amethi, Shah attempted to give a last-minute push to BJP's campaign with a roadshow. Addressing a crowd in Amethi, Shah attacked Congress for referring to Amethi and Rae Bareilly as their "family seats". "Did Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, or Priyanka turn up in Amethi or Rae-Bareilly when the Covid pandemic struck," Shah asked as people shouted "No". Shah also asked the people to choose between Modi and Rahul. He said that after losing from Amethi, Rahul fled to Wayanad and is now back in Rae Bareilly. "I have been in Rae Bareilly for three days and can say with confidence that he (Rahul) is losing from there also," he said. In Jhansi, he told voters they have a choice to make between two categories of leaders: one, a person behind a Rs 12 lakh crore scam who was born with the proverbial silver spoon and holidays in Thailand; and two, Modi, whose tenures as CM and PM have been unblemished, and who was born in a poor house, and never took a holiday. Shah described Samajwadi Party as one that ordered firing on Ram bhaktas in Ayodhya (in 1990). "Then we have Modi, who got the Ramjanmabhoomi case pursued, won it, and eventually got a temple constructed," Shah said.