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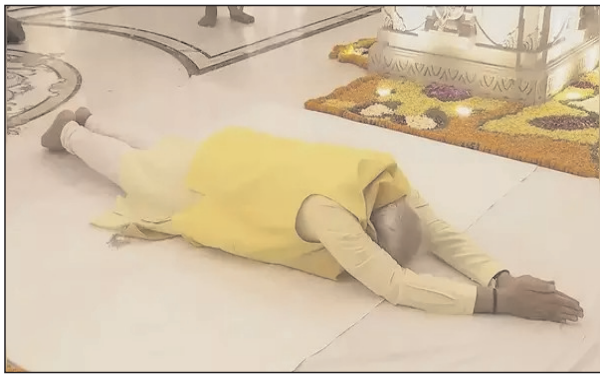
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UNIQUE GIFT OF KRIYAYOGA ASHRAM AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE TO GIVE IMPETUS TO WORLD BUILDING AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.

PM Modi offers prayer at Ayodhya Ram temple, leads grand roadshow

Ayodhya
PM Modi offers prayers Prime Minister Narendra Modi offered prayers at the Ayodhya's Ram Temple. After offering the prayers, PM Modi's roadshow on the 'Ram Path' started from Sugriva Fort and continued till Lata Chowk. PM Modi arrived in Ayodhya for the first time after the 'Pran Pratishtha' ceremony at the Ram temple on January 22. (Photo: PTI) The entrance gates to the temple were decorated with flowers, with 'Om' formed with yellow petals. Replicas of a bow and an arrow made using flowers were also seen at various places. (Photo: PTI) According to the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra, Ram Lalla seated in the temple wore a light pink attire on Sunday.

PM Modi praises Ayodhya's hospitality
"The hearts of the people of Ayodhya are as big as Lord Shri Ram. Greetings to the people who came to give



blessings in the road show!," Modi said in post on X. **PM's second roadshow in five months**
This will be PM Modi's second roadshow in Ayodhya in the last five months. PM Modi held a grand roadshow during the inauguration of Maharishi Valmiki International Airport on December 30, 2023.

(Photo: ANI) **BJP's dominance in Ayodhya continues**
The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has demonstrated a solid majority in UP in the previous two Lok Sabha elections, gaining the majority of seats. Meanwhile, the BJP has again fielded sitting MP Lallu Singh from Ayodhya.

3 held for setting forest on fire in bid to get more social media 'views'

DEHRADUN: Chamoli district police have arrested three men from Bihar for allegedly starting a forest fire in the district's Gairsain area, approximately 260km from Dehradun, and uploading a video of the incident on social media to "get more views". The arrest was done on Saturday evening after police took suo-motu cognisance of the video making rounds online, officials said. Superintendent of police (Chamoli) Sarvesh Panwar said, "Based on the video from Pandukhal village under Gairsain police station, the three accused were tracked down and arrested. Brajesh Kumar, Sukhlal and Salman.

Raging wildfires disrupt life in Uttarakhand, claim 4th life in 3 days

DEHRADUN: Raging fires in several forest ranges of Uttarakhand have claimed the life of a 28-year-old woman — the fourth casualty in the past three days — even as the Adi Kailash helicopter darshan service, which began last month, has been suspended for the second day in a row. Flight arrivals at the Naini-Saini airport in Pithoragarh have been stopped due to low visibility in fire-induced haze. At Dunagiri temple, a prominent shrine in Almora district, were forced to flee on Saturday as fire engulfed the passage to the shrine, lined with bells. Videos showed pilgrims screaming and scrambling for safety, as leaping flames appear to give chase. Forest officials attributed the rapid spread of the fire to strong winds that transformed it into a "crown fire". Priests and the forest department team quickly helped pilgrims to safety and no casualties were reported.



Locals said the fires have left a trail of ash dust everywhere and they are breathing it in. "There are a few places on the road from Haldwani where rocks have fallen and there are landslides due to the fires. We are seeing the hills burning at night and in daytime, the smoke prevents visibility. It's almost like an apocalypse," said a resident of Mukteshwar. In Chamoli district, the blaze engulfed a large kiwi orchard. Fires on hilltops in parts of Garhwal region like Rudraprayag and Chamoli were also reported on Sunday. Forest officials said that

about 910 incidents of forest fire have been reported since Nov 1 last year, when the blaze was first reported in the state, destroying over 1,144 hectares of forest land. The fires have been raging for almost six months now, not unlike the California wildfires. Kumaon division is the worst-affected, reporting the maximum of 482 incidents. The wildfires have resulted in the deaths of five people so far. The most recent death was that of a 28-year-old woman labourer of Nepalese origin. The victim, identified by her first name, Puja, 28,

was grievously injured while trying to douse a forest fire near a pine resin factory in Almora district three days ago. She died of burn injuries on Saturday. Her husband and two others had died last week while battling the same fire. The fires have also impacted tourism activities, putting a question mark on trekking and mountaineering trips in Kumaon region, with many groups who were planning such trips now unsure whether to go ahead. "Normally, trekking season starts after May 10 in the Kumaon region. We're hoping that wildfires will be controlled by then. If not, we will have to issue an advisory for visitors," said Kirti Arya, district tourism officer of Pithoragarh. Officials said forest fire incidents in Uttarakhand are mainly attributed to human activities. They said locals sometimes ignite grasslands to clear areas for agriculture.

2 of trio held for Nijjar killing went to Canada on study visas

JALANDHAR/GURDASPUR: Two of three suspects held by Canada over last year's murder of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar come from well off families in Punjab and had gone overseas on study visas, following a trend common in the state. Their kin expressed shock at the arrests & were confident that they will be cleared in court. While Kamalpreet Singh (23) was in Canada for studies and comes from a farmer's family in Jalandhar, relatives of Karanpreet Singh (28) are also agriculturists and say he worked as a driver. Third suspect, Karan Brar, also went to Canada for studies. "Most youths here go abroad. He went there on a study visa in 2019," said Kamalpreet's father Satnam Singh, a key official in Chak Kalan near Nakodar in Jalandhar district. On Kamalpreet's association with other two accused, Satnam said he was aware of his friendship with Karanpreet and they had stayed together in the same house in Canada. "I have heard Karan's name for the first time," said Satnam. Also an agent at the local grain market, Satnam recalled that Kamalpreet would call the family every week. "For us, everything was normal till we received this shock," he said. At Sundel village in Gurdaspur district's Aliwal, Karanpreet's family said they had spoken to him on the phone a day before his arrest on Friday and that "everything was normal". "He appeared normal without any indication of being in trouble," said Karanpreet's dad Sukhdev Singh. Punjab police visited their home for an inquiry about Karanpreet. Sukhdev said Karanpreet had hired a lawyer and will be produced in court on Monday.

West Bengal governor gags Raj Bhavan staff; why so scared

KOLKATA: Bengal governor C V Ananda Bose, who has been accused by a woman of sexual harassment, on Sunday cited his constitutional immunity from criminal proceedings and issued a blanket order on Raj Bhavan staff, asking them to "ignore any communication from police" and barring them from issuing statements in any form. This prompted the



survivor to question why the governor was "hiding behind a shield of immunity", and why he was "so scared" and not allowing the investigation to proceed. Sunday's order, which Bose posted on his

who have set up a special enquiry team. The governor's order came three days after he was accused of sexual harassment on Thursday. After governor's order, the survivor texted her message to , saying that she was prepared to sit in front of Bose and take a lie detector test or 'any test'. "If he is that innocent, why he is escaping?" she said, adding.

Case against JNadda, Malviya over video after Congress's EC complaint

Vatika Times BENGALURU: A case has been registered against BJP president J P Nadda, its IT cell head Amit Malviya, and state president B Y Vijayendra regarding an animated video shared on social media, following a complaint from Congress to police and Election Commission. Videos KPCC's media and communication wing chairman Ramesh Babu alleged in his complaint that Malviya posted a video on @bjp4karnataka based on instructions from Nadda and Vijayendra to



spread enmity and trigger riots. According to Babu, the official X handle of BJP Karnataka posted the video, captioned "Beware...Beware...Beware...!" in Kannada. It depicted caricatures of Rahul Gandhi and Siddaramaiah, showing them placing an egg labeled "Muslims" in a nest with three other eggs marked "SC, ST, and OBC". The clip showed Rahul feeding "Muslim" egg, which then kicked the birds that hatched from the "SC, ST, and OBC" eggs. Babu alleged this video was posted to incite enmity among communities and violates the code of conduct. Congress also expressed shock.

India has unexplored opportunities, says Buffett

WASHINGTON: Billionaire US investor Warren Buffett (93) said that the Indian market has "unexplored" opportunities, which his conglomerate holding company, Berkshire Hathaway, would like to explore "in the future". Buffett's remarks came at Berkshire's annual meeting on Friday when Rajeev Agarwal of DoorDash Advisors, a US-based hedge fund that invests in Indian equi-



ties, asked him about the possibility of Berkshire exploring in India, the world's fifth-largest economy. "It is a very good question. I am sure there are loads of opportunities in countries like

15 tonnes of fake masala seized; wood dust

Delhi
The coriander powder, turmeric powder, and other spices in your kitchen may not be what you think they are. Delhi Police has seized a staggering 15 tonnes of spurious spices being manufactured at two factories in northeast Delhi's Karawal Nagar area and arrested three persons, including the owners of these processing units. Suspects Dilip Singh (46), Sarfaraj (32) - owners of the units - and Khurseed Malik (42) were supplying these adulterated spices to local markets and vendors in Delhi/NCR for the same price as the original products, a senior police officer said on Sunday. The recoveries included rotten leaves.

China is buying gold like there's no tomorrow

Delhi Chinese consumers have flocked to gold as their confidence in investments like real estate or stocks has faltered. At the same time, the country's central bank has steadily added to its gold reserves, while whittling away at its holdings of US debt. And throwing fuel on the fire are Chinese speculators betting there is still room for appreciation. China already held considerable sway in gold markets. But the country's influence has become more pronounced during this latest run - a nearly 50% increase.



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Guria village hitting headlines for 'Project Mala'

Prayagraj: Guria village located on GT Road between Varanasi and Allahabad has a story you might want to hear. Although, farming and carpet weaving are the main occupations of the villagers, the little dusty village Guria is hitting headlines for 'Project Mala', a program run for the elimination of child labour from the hand-knotted carpet industry, by providing education, mid-day meals and healthcare facilities for children in this carpet weaving belt. Primary school students are encouraged to be in their classrooms barefoot. They are also not referred to by their

family names. Both measures help them stay free of class, caste, societal, and sartorial pressures when in school.

Villagers here are happy to get an opportunity to educate their children. The school receives 500 applications for every 10 seats; however, the number of boy applicants exceeds girls. A couple of years ago, it was decided to open a nursery school for younger children. Once the notice went out, 300 boys lined up outside the school for admission and not a single girl child. The school then decided to make the class only for girls. Bi-

cycles are provided to students Standard VIII onwards to stem the dropout rate. The school has also created a girls' hostel. Slowly, some families are coming around. However, the battle to keep girls in school is as hard as ever. Parents want to get them married post middle school. Also, once girls reach puberty, parents are reluctant to send them fearing their safety, especially if they are from surrounding villages and have to walk quite a bit.

Rani (name changed) was 8-years-old when her father, a local weaver, allowed her to pursue her

education. 8 years later, she cleared her class 10th Exam, only to have her dreams of being a journalist crushed! She was pulled out of school so that she could get married. In anger and disappointment, she eloped, but was brought back and forcibly married to a young man in the village, who is illiterate. She is almost 19 now with little hope of ever making it on her own. A beginning, a dream, an ambition... a step towards the future with minor spelling hiccups.

The school generates earnings for local carpenters who make and maintain the school furniture. They

mostly work in one part of the schoolyard. Local tailors are also hired to make school uniforms. They have a small workspace within the school.

The erratic electricity supply discourages none. Everyone turns up as per schedule. Local teachers are hired as staff and then trained under Project Mala volunteers to hone their teaching skills and to be sensitive to the children's development needs. It is heartening to see how aware both boys and girls here are. Most of the girls want to become teachers and doctors, while the boys, engi-

neers. Very recently, another bright student, when she passed out of school, her parents wanted her to get married. She came to the school for help, and the teachers intervened. Today, she is pursuing a degree in the Sciences stream in Allahabad.

Despite the odds, it is worth a mention that even the remotest of villages in the Allahabad district is undergoing a wave of change. From extreme poverty to opportunities like this, most children now have aspirations of a career so that they are self-reliant and can look after their families.

Rise in mercury raises heat stroke scare

PRAYAGRAJ: At a time when the mercury is hovering above 43 degree Celsius mark, the chances of heat stroke have gone up manifold. A person can fall severely ill in such extreme weather conditions. It is therefore, necessary to take extra care during summer season to avoid falling prey to heat stroke. Experts say that the people who travel in sun mainly due to office work are likelihood of falling ill. Thus, they should take extra care of themselves. The water intake in such a weather should increase and one should drink

at least 10-12 glasses of water each day. Apart from heat stroke, skin related ailments like skin burn, rashes etc also take place during the time when the mercury is staying above 43 degrees mark.

People should wear dresses that cover their body parts including hands, neck and face to avoid sun burn or skin related ailments. Heat stroke, also known as heat hyperpyrexia, occurs due to overheating of the body during summers. This may also occur in people who are not habitual to hot humid

environment or hot sunny season.

According to experts, certain people, who lack sweat glands, are more prone to heat stroke. While, unsuitable clothing and poor eating and living conditions always increase the risk. People who are exposed to sun for longer period and lack sweating, may develop body temperature as high as 105 degree Fahrenheit, which is also known as summer-fever. Due to abnormal rise of body temperature, the central nervous system and brain may get commonly. The people

can faint even. Thus, there is a dire need in such a season to drink lots of water.

The recent records of the Outpatient Department (OPD) of the district hospitals show that there is a sudden spurt in the number of patients coming for treatment of heat-related diseases, including heat stroke. According to the doctors, around 30% increase in patients with heat related diseases has been reported in the past one week when mercury had crossed 40 degree Celsius mark.

The Met department also stated that the hot

winds (loo) have started blowing across the city which, though are not good for the people, but will add sweetness to the musk melons. The streets wore a deserted look on Thursday afternoon as most of the people preferred to stay indoors.

The people moving on roads had to bear the brunt of hot winds blowing at a speed of 3.2km/hr. Most of the people moving on roads were seen covered their faces to protect themselves from extreme heat. Col drinks and mango 'panna', ice-creams etc sold like hot

cakes on the hot sunny afternoon. The ice cream vendors also had a good time as people preferred eating ice creams to keep them cool. The shops selling ice golas, mango shakes, 'Bael ka sharbat' also witnessed rush of the working executives, medical representatives and others who were out in sun. The extreme weather condition even forced the stray cattle to look out for shades under trees. Meanwhile, in view of hot weather conditions, several people have arranged potable water outlets at various places in the city.

Ayushman gives new life to a young man

Varanasi. It is said that doctors are also gods on earth. The doctors of Highway Inn Hospital have proved this saying true. Senior orthopedic specialist Dr. AK Rai while talking to journalists on Saturday said that Shahid Jamal, 22 years old, resident of Mohalla Bhekhdampura, behind the station, is from Mau. He has been bedridden for the last 12 years because both his hips were jammed, both knees were jammed, both ankles were jammed, Jamal was always bedridden like a wooden stick. Mr. Rai told that Jamal longed to walk, the right knee was not jammed, the rest was jammed from its place to another place. His operation was a tough challenge even for the experts of the world's joints, all this happened after the injury. Mr. Rai told that this happens in a disease called arthritis and



ankylosing spondylosis, but not to this extent. Mr. Rai said that making this patient stand was no less than a Herculean effort, after 6 complex operations one after the other, the patient is able to stand after 12 years. Mr. Rai said that the patient said that 7 lakhs were spent there but he could not pay the amount but the patient could not get treatment due to Covid at that time.

In 2017, he went to BHU before AIIMS, in the meantime he could not get the operation done, the patient kept on taking medicines and remained on bed, the condition worsened day by day. Whereas the patient needed a complex operation. AK Rai said that the patient met us in PGI Azamgarh but this facility is not available in PGI Azamgarh and there is no arrangement to see the patient after treatment and operation and he needs a single room which is not available in Ayushman Bharat. Therefore, he got admitted in Highway Hospital, Amra, Chauraha, Chitaiapur, Chunar, Road, there is provision of Ayushman there. Mr. Rai said that on 27 April, the patient stood and walked 10 years after the operation, although he had suffered the injury 6 years ago. The patient was admitted under Ayushman Bharat on 20 February 2024. Mr. Rai said that the first operation of total hip replacement was done on 4 March 24, the second operation on 13 March, the third operation of total knee operation on 23 March, the fourth total knee operation on 6 April 24 and the fifth - B/L Ankle on 24 April.

Dy CM Brijesh Pathak welcomed at Varanasi Airport

Varanasi: Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Brijesh Pathak reached Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport in Babatpur on Saturday on his election tour. State government minister Dr. Dayashankar Mishra 'Dayalu', BJP leaders Shailesh Pandey, Pawan Singh, former MLA Ravindra Nath Tripathi etc. received the Deputy Chief Minister at the airport. The Deputy Chief Minister talked to the Minister of State and BJP leaders for some time. After this he left by road to attend the meeting organized in Bhadohi.

Librarian posts vacant in govt colleges for over a decade

Prayagraj: At a time when the state government is taking initiatives to improve the quality of teaching in higher education institutions, over 300 librarian positions have been lying vacant in government and government-aided degree and postgraduate colleges for over a decade.

In the absence of regular librarians, the duties are performed by either teachers or clerks. The hardest impacted are the state's 321 government-aided degree colleges, where over 200 librarian positions are currently vacant. Previously, managers of the colleges concerned used to select librarians at their level.

"According to the Supreme Court rulings, librarians have been provided the pay scale set by the

UGC from January 1, 1986, and college administrations are not permitted to make appointments to jobs receiving UGC pay scales. As a result, on May 13, 2009, the state government prohibited the appointments of librarians at the level of managers at these colleges," informed the principal of a government-aided degree college.

Following that, the duty for appointing librarians at government-aided degree colleges was delegated to the Prayagraj-based Uttar Pradesh Higher Education Services Commission (UPHESC) at a state cabinet meeting in November 2012.

"However, the Directorate of Higher Education has not requested requisition of empty librarian positions

from institutions since then, nor has the recruitment process kicked off," the principal claimed. Even state higher education department officials admit that, in addition to the 200 or so librarian positions that are empty at government-run degree schools, more than 100 librarian positions are vacant in 170 government degree colleges located around the state.

"At the moment, librarians work in just 36 of the 170 government-run degree colleges in Uttar Pradesh. Even librarian positions have not been created in almost two dozen colleges, and more than 110 colleges do not have regular librarians. The appointments in these cases would be made through the Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission

(UPPSC). However, after 2005 and 2008, the commission did not issue any advertising for the recruitment of librarians in these institutions," the authorities explained.

Secretary of UPHESC, stated that the recruitment process could not begin due to non-receipt of requisition regarding vacant posts of librarians from the UP Directorate of Higher Education.

Suresh Kumar Tripathi, former MLC stated, "On the one hand, we have competent librarians looking for jobs in UP, while on the other hand, we have institutions starving for librarians to run their libraries professionally. I request the state administration to quickly hire librarians to fill all vacant positions."

COLORS rib-tickling show 'Laughter Chfs Unlimited Entertainment'

Varanasi: A platter full of laughter garnished with cooking mishaps will be served to the audience, leaving them craving for more! COLORS announces its latest show, 'Laughter Chfs Unlimited Entertainment'. Guaranteeing

full-on entertainment, this new show reunites your favourite TV actors, who will spill the beans about their lives, serving their hilarious chemistry, antics, and quirks to viewers at dinner time. More than just a culinary journey of recipes, the offering is an entertainment feast for the family, where 13 popular stars will cook up the best stories, even if they may not be the best chefs. From kitchen newbies to cooking enthusiasts, these celebrities will lay out the unique flavours, stirring up the laughter. Leading the charge as the host is none other than the

queen of comedy herself, Bharti Singh. With her sharp wit and sense of humour, she'll ensure that the laughter never simmers, keeping the audience in stitches from start to finish. Joining the star-studded ensemble is Celebrity Chef

Coach - Harpal Singh Sokhi, who will lend his expertise through the kitchen chaos. This eccentric kitchen will be graced by fan-favourite celebrities such as Krushna Abhishek - Kashmera Shah, Vicky Jain - Ankita Lokhande, Rahul Vaidya - Aly Goni, Reem Sameer Shaikh - Jannat Zubair, Karan Kundrra - Arjun Bijlani, and Sudesh Lehri - Nia Sharma.

Brace yourselves as entertainment mein ubaal aane waala hai, TV par bawala aane waala hai. 'Laughter Chfs Unlimited Entertainment' will air soon on COLORS!



Fungal, bacterial skin allergy cases up

Prayagraj: With summer season at its peak, skin allergies including photo-dermatitis and fungal infections have started troubling city residents. Dermatologists in city hospitals say while there has been a jump of 10-15 times in photo-dermatitis cases, the number of fungal infection cases too has increased by about 10 times in the hospitals. Experts say whereas photo-dermatitis is caused due to prolonged exposure to ultra-violet rays of the sun, fungal allergies are caused by sweating in the hot weather.

"Since summer has already begun, there has been an increase in the number of patients seeking consultation for skin allergies at our clinic. Nearly, half a dozen patients come to our clinic on a daily basis, out of which several cases are that of photo-dermatitis (the number on routine days in other seasons is usually one or two only), whereas the number of fungal infection cases has risen to 10-12 a day against 0-2 cases on routine days in other seasons. In the case of fungal allergy, there is an itchy disorder due to sweat. It mostly is witnessed in the foot, groins and arms area, whereas photo-dermatitis is because of exposure of the face and outer area of forearms to direct sunlight. In this infection, the affected area becomes reddish and later turns white," says skin specialist Dr. Naveen Kumar Yadav.

Other doctors echoed his views and claimed that though skin infections are prevalent in all age groups, it is more common in the extreme age groups, like children and the elderly, while skin allergies have mostly been reported in the young and middle-age groups. The extreme age group people cannot bear the allergies, so they are less prone to it, but as their immunity is less, they are easy prey to infections. The young and middle-age groups are more prone to allergic reactions because of increased exposure to sunlight.

Thrilling traffic park kicks off

Prayagraj: The traffic park of Sangam city has become high tech. Your own traffic park has also changed with time. It is said that if you do not change with time, then the times change you. Similarly, the traffic park also



changes with the times. Prayagraj Development Authority has transformed the Traffic Park to thrill the citizens with exciting games. Many types of exciting games are being played in this park along with Formula One race. The new avatar of this park is being liked by the people.

Night patrolling fails to instill fear among miscreants

Prayagraj: The active night patrolling by the police has failed to instill fear among the thieves who are now striking at will in the City. The police claims to be active in the streets during the night but without any positive results. Within the last few months the thieves had played havoc in the City especially in Dhoomanganj, Kotwali and Kareli areas but the police had not succeeded in tracing the thieves.

The continuous and regular thefts in the City, suggests that the thieves are now operating in a more organized manner. Earlier, the theft incidents used to take place once in a while but now the thefts are the order of the day. The thieves are now well equipped with modern tools and equipment and can break any security lock. The burglars are now also smart enough to cut the wires of CCTV cameras before they enter the shops or the houses. The thieves conduct reconnaissance of their targeted house and dig out information about the family routine before they carry out the theft. The involvement of old domestic helps of the families has also been found out in the thefts in some of the worked out cases which reveals that the thieves are now more organized and professional. They not only use modern tools of burglary but also derive information about the house.

The thieves are now also using big vehicles to carry their booty. The police teams patrol on the main roads but do not bother to enter the narrow streets and lanes which provide the burglars a golden chance to carry on their task without being noticed. Moreover, the police pick up the old thieves of their area in a bid to work out the thefts but leave the drug addicts, gamblers and other bad characters who may be involve in thefts in some or the other ways.

Nominated for Academic Council of Dr. Devesh Sagar University's ODL

Prayagraj: Dr. Devesh Ranjan Tripathi, Associate Professor working in the Department of Management Studies of Uttar Pradesh Rajarshi Tandon Open University, Prayagraj, was nominated as a member of the Academic Council constituted for the systematic operation of the Institute of Distance Education of Dr. Hari Singh Gaur Central Univer-

sity, Sagar. Has gone. On the approval of the President, Dr. Tripathi has been nominated by Professor Neelima Gupta, Vice Chancellor of the Central University. His tenure will be for 3 years. Dr. Anil Singh Bhadauria, co-in-charge of Distance Education Awareness Cell, expressed happiness over his achievement and said that this will further increase the popularity of



distance education. Dr. Tripathi has been working in the field of distance educa-

tion for almost 20 years. His 47 research papers have been published in national and international research papers and magazines. He has participated in 56 national and international symposia and seminars.

He has written five books related to management subjects. He has written textbooks on more than 50 subjects for commerce and man-

agement students studying in distance education, which have been published by the Open University. Under the direction of Dr. Tripathi, many students are doing research on important subjects. Along with this, Dr. Tripathi is also a member of various regulatory committees of Indra Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi, Kanpur University,

Agra University, Sagar University and Rajarshi Tandon Open University. It is noteworthy that Devesh Ranjan is the son of late Kaushal Kishore Tripathi, a renowned educationist of Prayagraj and former principal of Colonelganj Inter College. Dr. Devesh said that he will always be ready for the development of distance education.

Rally taken out under voter awareness campaign

Prayagraj: With the aim of increasing voter participation in Lok Sabha elections-2024, to spread awareness messages related to ethical voting and elections to the people, Bethany Convent School Naini Prayagraj was organized under the SVEEP program.

The main objective of the voter awareness campaign organized at Bethany Convent School was to make the youth there aware and to provide them with information related to the importance of voting, election system, Voter Helpline App, 1950, Suvidha App, C-



Vigil App and other information related to elections.

Along with this, efforts are also being made to make their parents aware through young voters. During this, competitions like voter pledge oath, painting competition, quiz competition, street play, poster making etc. were organized in the voter awareness program.

All the students participated enthusiastically and ensured their positive participation in the great festival of democracy. The chief guest of the program was Chief Development Officer

Shri Gaurav Kumar, he talked to the students and informed them about the importance of vote and election in democratic India and also administered the oath.

The program was presided over by District School Inspector Mr. P N Singh. Principal Sister Doctor Shamita expressed her gratitude. The program was conducted by Prabhakar Tripathi. Assistant DIOS LB Maurya and Dharmendra Singh, teachers Mohammad Sabir, Deepak Kumar, Preeti Mishra, Nazia Khan, Brijesh Srivastava, Hasbin Ahmed were present in the program.

Seminar held on moral values and principles of education

Prayagraj: A seminar on moral values and principles of education was organized in St. Joseph's College on Saturday. This event was organized by The event was organized under the able leadership of NB. Lawrence Chairman of the Commerce Department. with thunderous applause in the college's much-loved HOGAN Hall with the chief guest being Kevin Tressler, an alumnus of the college and a multi-talented personality who is known for his work on ITW Playworks Media and Entertainment. He was also the advisor of the Kitmake and



Inare company, he had done post graduation from Delhi University. He was welcomed by the college principal Thomas Kumar by presenting him a bunch of flowers. S. Simon of Commerce Department, Dr. Vishnu Deb were present in the welcome. The seminar was conducted by the students of class 12th. Joshua Benjamin did it, student leader Moses read the Bible and prayed for the welfare of the world, after that the chief guest in his energetic speech said that it is necessary to set goals for education, use your previous experience and self-confidence to achieve the biggest goal. According to him, teaching should be based on ethics, teaching policy should be dignified and discipline should have utmost importance in teaching policy. Apart from the Principal of the college, Administrator A Magavan, Chief Coordinator Jyoti Dubey and senior teachers of the college should be present in the program.

Growing clamour for green space with residences

Prayagraj: The growing clamour for green space within their residences is rapidly catching up among residents. The idea for developing green space within the house is to seek comfort and relief from scorching summer heat which makes life deplorable for citizens during power cuts. However, people adopting gardening as a hobby during summer season need to learn some basic rules, which will go a long way in keeping their green space alive.

"Over watering the plants or the lawn during summer is the most common mistake that people commit, as far as longevity of the plants is concerned. Each plant has different needs; one should water plants sensibly and in the evenings, so that it keeps the plants moist overnight. Classifying the plants is one of the elementary factors, if the plants are arranged according to the amount of sunlight they need, things can be lot easier for the caretaker of the garden" said Kailash Sharma.

Indoor plants, half shade plants and full shade plants are the three major classifications for household plantation. Half shade and full shade are two types of plants which need sunlight for their survival, although the difference between them is that half shade plants need only a definite amount of shade, and full shade may need an enclosure where only nominal amount of sunlight enters. "One should keep full shade plants inside a net shade in summer and should move half shade plants to the shaded parts of the garden, as summer heat may pose danger to them and over exposure to the sun may even destroy them. Organic manure is also the key to keep moisture stored for a long time," he explained.

Another nursery owner said "Watering should be done only when the sun's heat is not at its peak, that is before 9 am, or when it is fading that would be after 5 pm. One should completely avoid cutting plants or shaping them during the summer. As far as lawn cutting is concerned it should be done in the evening and the lawns should be watered immediately after it's mowed." He further added "chemical fertilizers are a complete no-no during summers and only old animal manure should be used during this season. Also, one should clean the lawn thoroughly after it's mowed, as the leftovers of the lawn may kill the living grass."

Salaried class beware: First week of every month lucrative for looters

PRAYAGRAJ: There is no doubt that the first week of the month has a big attraction for highway robbers on bikes. This is the time when people collect arrears or go to banks to get their pension money or withdraw money for monthly expenses. Employers also go to banks to withdraw salary funds for their staff. In short, bank transactions of the recurring nature are at their peak in the first week of every month. That could explain why roadside snatchings are so common round this time of the month. It would seem that the robbers keep an eye on who all are visiting a bank. They have an intricate grass root network of informers, who provides tip off, when a man moves out of the bank, with the presumption that he has withdrawn money. On mobile phones the crooks can inform each other about it and plan their move.

Several cases have occurred in the first week of last month when women reporting cases where a man zoomed past on a motorbike, hit them and snatched their purses, an officer said. He called it a "terrorising" crime for women. That sense of panic has been quelled to some extent, with habitual offenders wary of an arrest owing to the spate of arrests. However, a desperate citizen called up on phone and said: 'If all road crimes are being committed by criminals on bike, and if cops cannot catch them, should they not be put off the roads at least during the first week of every month?' He says, 'Can't the Government put a limit on the speed of the bikes at the manufacturing stage itself, fixing the limit at 40kmh?'

Kavita Tripathi's public relations in City South

Prayagraj: Kavita Tripathi did public relations in the city South in Chowk area of Prayagraj. BJP media in-charge Gopal Ji Malviya told that under the leadership of Mahila Morcha city president Shikha Rastogi and General Secretary Rita Singh and Mahila Morcha Mandal President,



52nd Lok Sabha Allahabad, wife of BJP candidate Mr. Neeraj Tripathi, Mahila Morcha State Minister Mrs. Kavita Tripathi and daughter. Public relations of Shivangi Tripathi ji appealed to vote for Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji in all the areas from Kotwali to Rani Mandi, Khushhal Parvat Gujarati Mohalla and Atarsuya and also requested to make Lok Sabha candidate Neeraj Tripathi victorious with huge votes. In the Jan Sampark Yatra, all the sisters of Mahila Morcha, Chowk Mandal President and former Mandal President Dinesh Vishwakarma ji, Councilor Sunita Chopra ji along with all the godlike workers were present. Everyone appealed loudly and enthusiastically to the people to vote for Modi ji. Preeti Sahay Chhaya Shukla Mona Bhatnagar Hemlata Verma Shashi Seth Sangeeta Kesari Kiran Kesari Meena Kesarwani Manju Gautam Mahila Morcha workers were present in large numbers.

Amarnath Maurya filed nomination from Phulpur

Prayagraj: Amarnath Maurya, candidate of India Alliance from Phulpur parliamentary constituency, filed his nomination from Phulpur parliamentary constituency at 2.45 pm on Saturday. Maurya proponent reached the Collectorate along with Soraon MLA Geeta Pasi and Phulpur Assembly candidate Mujatba Siddiqui and other leaders and filed nominations in two sets. Before this, he left his residence in Pritam Nagar in a safari vehicle with huge supporters. People welcomed him everywhere. During this, he garlanded the statues of Ambedkar at



High Court intersection and Lohia at Civil Lines intersection and other great men. After the nomination, he reached the Georgetown SP office and said among the workers that this election is to save democracy and the Constitution. Former MLAs Anugrah Narayan Singh, Sai Iftikhar, Lallan Rai, Pradeep Anshuman, Kishore Varshney, Suresh Yadav, Ansar Ahmed, Fuzail Hashmi, Harikesh Tripathi, Dan Bahadur Madhur, Shivmurthy Yadav, Manoj Pandey, Parvez Siddiqui, Doodh Nath Patel etc. were present.

Why 2024 Is a Repeat of 2004, explains Shekhar Bahuguna

Prayagraj: Bahuguna scion, Shekhar Bahuguna accompanied India alliance candidate Amarnath Maurya during filing of nomination on Saturday. After the nomination process, Congress leader Shekhar Bahuguna briefly interacted with mediaperson and while retorting to a query predicted - 2024 Is a Repeat of 2004. He explained his assertions in 10 points, which are as follows.

1) The voter is fed up of lies, spin-doctoring and subpar propaganda. They trust no one. But after ten years in power, the trust-deficit with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is highest.

2) There is a huge fatigue factor with Narendra Modi; the standard accusations of dynasty, appeasement and corruption tag are not working at all, as people see the same in the BJP and probably worse. Strange as it may sound, he is both the BJP's asset and a liability.

3) The anti-Muslim/minorities polarisation of Modi is not working and has further damaged his credibility. The crude, vulgar and cheap potshots have angered the sensibilities of the common Indian or at least left them extremely dismayed.

4) Modi/BJP thought that the 2024 election was done and dusted after the consecration ceremony of the Ram Temple. But barring a few pockets in north-

ern India, the feel-good factor is having negligible impact as an electoral factor. India has moved on to bread-and-butter issues - the BJP's Achilles heel - unemployment and inflation etc.

5) The arrogance of power led to Modi announcing a sure-shot victory of 370 seats; this has led to a counterwave in support of the underdog,



the Congress/INDIA alliance. The voters don't like to be taken for granted, especially when the incumbent has actually underdelivered, and the alternative, despite its problems, seems more sincere.

6) Modi made a strategic blunder in throttling the Congress's bank accounts, arresting Arvind Kejriwal and threatening the opposition. That has since become the national narrative of the 2024 elections; fear and hate is being seen as Modi's legacy, two very powerful human emotions.

What started out as a funny description has now become the BJP's political brand: It is a washing machine. Every Indian knows and castigates the politics of vendetta. The ED/CBI/Income Tax trimurti abuse is the albatross around the BJP's neck. The electoral bonds scam drove a huge nail in the coffin.

7) The Congress manifesto has become the talk-

under the skin of Modi and the BJP. For long maligned and vilified through a misinformation/disinformation campaign by the BJP IT cell, his two successful Bharat Jodo/Nyay Yatras have transformed his image and confidence. Modi may still sound bombastic on a teleprompter but he comes across as a petty theatrical performer; Rahul, no matter what his critics say, is refreshingly authentic. People like him, they trust him. In 2014, every time the Congress attacked Modi, the latter gained. Now the more the BJP mocks him, the higher goes Rahul's graph. It is a dramatic reversal.

9) Have you noticed how little the BJP talks of the first-time voters? Because Gen Z is more tuned to political realities; they are deeper into issues like governance, inclusiveness, climate change, mental health, social media regulation, jobs etc. The youth are not getting conned by the TV hype or WhatsApp University forwards. The millennials have borne the brunt of many economic crises, political upheavals, globalisation backlash, fake news and authoritarian leaders, and allowed themselves to be seduced by the PR and publicity. They misconstrued leadership to be tough and hard even at the cost of freedom of expression. Gen Z has challenged that. And that will have a huge bearing in this election.

8) Rahul Gandhi has got

Two accused shot and arrested post-encounter Charged with kidnapping and killing of farmer

Prayagraj: Three accused of murder of farmer Lalmani Patel (32), who was kidnapped from a wedding ceremony in Tharwai, were arrested after an encounter on Friday late night. Two of them, Ajay Patel and Dilip Patel, were injured in the gun battle with the cops and have been

admitted to SRN Hospital.

Apart from the Etios car used in the incident, two pistols and cartridges have also been recovered from their possession. The police were busy interrogating the third accused arrested till late at night. DCP Ganganagar

Abhishek Bharti said that the police were engaged in checking near Malak culvert in Tharvai on Friday night when some people were seen coming in a car. When signalled to stop, they increased the speed of the car and started firing. When the police team intercepted the car and stopped it,

three youth in it got down and started running away. They also fired at the police team. In retaliatory firing, two miscreants were shot in the legs and fell on the ground. The accused during interrogation revealed his name as Vikas Pasi, resident of Ismailganj Tikri.

CDO kicks off voter awareness campaign with active participation of students

Prayagraj: With the objective of increasing voter participation in the Lok Sabha Elections-2024, spreading the message of ethical voting and election related awareness to the masses, a sweep program was organized at Bethany Convent School, Naini Prayagraj. Organized at Bethany Convent School The main objective of the voter awareness campaign was to make the youth there aware and to provide them information about the importance of voting, electoral system, Voter Help

Line App, 1950, Suvidha App, C-Vigil App and other election related information. Efforts have to be made to make their parents aware through this medium also. During this voter awareness programme, voter pledge, painting competition, quiz competition, street play, posters making etc. competitions were organised. All the students participated enthusiastically and ensured their positive participation in the great festival of democracy. The chief guest was Chief Development



Officer Gaurav Kumar. He spoke to the students and informed them about the importance of voting and elections in democratic India and also administered the oath. The program was presided over by District School Inspector P N Singh. Principal Sister Dr. Shamita expressed vote of thanks. Assistant DIOS LB Maurya and Dharmendra Singh, teachers Mohammad Sabir, Deepak Kumar, Preeti Mishra, Nazia Khan, Brijesh Srivastava, Hasbin Ahmed were present in the program.

Editorial

Composite reflection of the growth trajectories

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.



Election campaign has Sanatana Dharma

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. In addition, there is the Lokayata Charvaka school, which cogently argued the materialist school of thought, denied the existence of God, and considered the Vedas, regarded as Shruti or revealed texts by many Hindus, as devoid of all

sanctity. But the Charvakas were not ostracised, or worse, beheaded for blasphemy. Instead, they enriched the dialogic debate within Hinduism and were countered in a civilised manner by those opposed to them. In the 8th century CE, Adi Shankaracharya, who is considered the 'reviver' of Hinduism, could say without fear: na mantram na teertham na veda na yajnah: neither mantras, nor pilgrimages, nor the Vedas or yajna (rituals), matter. What matters is: Chidananda roopam, Shivo hum, Shivo hum: bliss and awareness, I am Shiva, I am Shiva. In many religions, the declaration of equating one-

self with God would be considered blasphemy. For instance, in Persia, a Sufi mystic, Al Hallaj (858-922 CE), almost contemporaneous with Shankaracharya, was put to death for having the temerity to say: 'Ana'l Haq: I am the Truth'. But not so in Sanatana Dharma. The basic point is Sanatana Dharma is eternal for the grandeur of its philosophical vision, and not only for its religious practice; it is eternal for the diversity it allows for in thought, and not necessarily its rituals. Therefore, narrowing the interpretation of Sanatana Dharma to exclude all differences of opinion is distorting its greatness and, indeed, the

very reason for survival. Unfortunately, this is precisely what we see happening today. Anybody and everybody is 'hurt' by anyone who does not blindly endorse everything that is deemed by the 'hurt' to be a part of Sanatana Dharma, including those ills that urgently need reform, such as the pernicious caste system and gender disparity. If this is the criteria, then Veer Savarkar, the icon of Hindutva, would be hounded today, because he wrote extensively and consistently about what is wrong in the Hindu faith and practice. He called these the 'seven fetters, including the misinformed religious sanction given to the system.

BJP does not want to win so many seats but wants to snatch them

This time, the first phase of voting for the Lok Sabha elections is to be held on April 19 and the entire BJP lobby including the Modi government at the Center is trying to win more than 400 seats. 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.

Why China Blocks the Dalai Lama's Sri Lanka Visit

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. In 1912, the Qing emperor of China renounced his post, giving way to the establishment of the Republic of China. China also lost whatever suzerainty it had over Tibet, and the Dalai Lama reiterated that, "We are a small, religious, and independent nation." In 1914, Britain, Tibet, and China met in Shimla to negotiate the borders between British India and Tibet. In that treaty control of Qinghai was given to China, and the rest of Tibet was recognised as autonomous. Thereafter Tibet enjoyed a relatively peaceful three decades

until China invaded it again after the end of the Chinese civil war in 1950. The new People's Republic of China initially gave the 14th Dalai Lama (Tenzin Gyatso) complete authority over Tibet. However, widespread Chinese brutality on Tibetans continued which finally resulted in the Tibetan National Uprising of 1959. In March 1959, Chinese troops attacked the Potala Palace in order to arrest the Dalai Lama, but he managed to escape to India. Today plenty of evidence of Chinese high-handedness while dealing with the Tibetan Uprising are available online. Since then, the Dalai Lama has extended multiple proposals toward China for peaceful engagement, which has always

been ignored and subjected to blatant personal attacks by Chinese authorities. Since 1960, His Holiness the Dalai Lama has been heading or guiding the Tibetan government in exile from Dharamshala and is one of the most substantial hopes for the 7 million Tibetans living under the oppressive Chinese regime. The Dalai Lama has carved a niche for himself for not being just a religious head but also as a symbol of resistance, which is non-violent, supportive and talks about love and care among people. It gives the Dalai Lama a distinguished reputation worldwide. His teachings navigate through the ideas of joy and happiness and how to channel one's emotions for the better.

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 Gulf 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. For now,

Iran-Israel conflict will now be shaped by 3H

those fears seem to be abating for two reasons. First, Israel and Iran's responses following the tit-for-tat attacks, which some newspapers have described as "muted". Second, the relatively small scale of Israel's attack on Friday morning, which seems to have given some analysts hope that the policy of conventional deterrence has returned. A report by Reuters noted the absence of an official comment from the Israeli leadership on Friday's strike, while Iranian television reports "played down the attack" by not opting for the common term used to describe Israel—"Zionist entity". The Iranian state media also seems to have downplayed sounds of an explosion in Tabriz near an area called Vadi-e-Rahmat, which the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said is currently in a "peaceful situation". Further, no fatalities were recorded after Iran's attack on Sunday and Israel's attack on Friday and most importantly, no nuclear sites in either country were targeted. Experts like American political scientist and author Ian Bremmer have gone as far as to say that Israel's strike was "deescalatory". Could it be that Netanyahu's war cabinet eventually opted for a relatively smaller attack than Iran's barrage of 300 drones and missiles.

Rushil Decor Ltd. Board to Meet On May 09 to Consider Q4FY24 Financial Results and Dividend

Chandigarh: Rushil Decor Limited (BSE: 533470, NSE: RUSHIL), one of the leading suppliers of sustainable MDF and laminates, has announced that its board will meet on May 09, 2024 to consider, approve and take on record the audited Financial Results for the fourth quarter and year ended 31st March, 2024 and to Consider the proposal for recommendation of the dividend on the equity shares of the Company for the financial year ended 31st March, 2024. Earlier, the company said that it is poised to double its exports to INR 500 crores within the next 4 years, leveraging a synergistic strategy that encompasses the initiation of a laminates project and an augmentation of the proportion of value-added products in overseas markets.

The company had also mentioned earlier that "In the month of

December, the company's Chikmagalur plant in Karnataka not only achieved its highest-ever sales volume but also demonstrated exceptional operational efficiency, surpassing 120% in capacity utilization. Rushil Decor's Eco-Friendly MDF segment has achieved a noteworthy milestone with value-added products now constituting 52% in value terms. Looking ahead to Q4FY24, the company aims to further elevate this proportion to 55%. This targeted approach is anticipated to have a substantial positive impact on its overall realizations, reinforcing its dedication to product diversification and enhanced value creation." Founded in 1993, Rushil Décor Limited (BSE: 533470, NSE: RUSHIL), a globally leading company in modern interior infrastructure, and eco-friendly, composite wood panels are committed to shaping a better planet.

Leveraging modern technology, inspiring designs, next-generation innovations, and a people-first, purposeful approach, RUSHIL is passionate about setting new industry standards and superior experiences, ensuring high productivity. The company has five state-of-the-art manufacturing plants with an annual capacity of 3,30,000 CBM MDF and 3.49 million Laminates, which cater to its customers in more than 50 countries across the world. The Company achieved revenue of INR 838.4 crores in FY'23 with EBIDTA and PAT of INR 149.4 crores and INR 77.7 crores respectively. With a strong network of branches, distributors, thousands of dealers, and a rich talent pool of experts, RUSHIL is focused on redefining the future of wood. What makes RUSHIL special is its unmatched quality, design.

Ashok Gurjar is working hard day and night for Naveen Jindal's victory

Kaithal: BJP District President Ashok Gurjar Dhand is working hard day and night to appeal to people of every section including workers to vote in favor of BJP candidate Naveen Jindal from Kurukshetra Lok Sabha constituency. BJP Kaithal District President Ashok Gurjar Dhand said that under the able leadership of the country's successful Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the country has set a new direction and the name of our country is being celebrated all over the world. Modi government has created a new India. Modi-Nab government has been working well in public interest for the last 10 years. The development and beneficial policies of the BJP government have proved to be a boon for the upliftment and welfare of every section of the society. Ashok Gurjar was campaigning in Dhand and appealing for votes in



favor of BJP candidate Naveen Jindal from Kurukshetra Lok Sabha constituency. He said that BJP believes in doing rather than talking and every promise made in the BJP's manifesto will be implemented as soon as the BJP government is formed for the third time. Under the able leadership of Modi, India has created its own identity in the whole world and Modi has created history by doing many historic works for the country. These include abolition of Article 370, construction of Ram Mandir, CAA, Including implementation etc. He said that the BJP government has done so much work that today every

citizen of the state is happy and the government has set a new example of good governance. Today, voices are coming from all over Haryana that this time it has crossed 400, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has developed every section. The work that Modi government has done in empowering women has not been done by any government till date. The country has to be made a developed nation by 2047 and BJP will form the government for the third time with the blessings of the public with the slogan of 400 crosses and for the third time Narendra Modi will be crowned the Prime Minister.

CAPSULES

MP: Woman beaten up in Indore's village; four arrested

INDORE: Four women were arrested for allegedly beating up, stripping and parading a 30-year-old woman over a dispute at a village in Madhya Pradesh's Indore district on Wednesday. A video of the purported incident that occurred during the Holi also surfaced on social media. "four forcibly pulled the victim out of her house, beat her up and humiliated her by stripping her naked in public at Bachhora village of Gautampura police station area," Superintendent of Police (Rural) Sunil Mehta said. All four accused women were later arrested, he said. The victim, belonging to the Scheduled Caste (SC) category, was left traumatized and sought refuge at her parents' home. One of the accused suspected that the victim was instigating her mother-in-law against her. She also suspected that the victim had taken her mother-in-law to Mandsaur without informing her, the police official said. Eyewitnesses said the accused women dragged the victim out of her house and stripped her. They said that the victim woman kept pleading for mercy at the time of the incident, but the accused did not relent and they openly stripped her by tearing her clothes. They also took her to some distance on the common road of the village in the same condition. SP Mehta assured that those who filmed the incident will also face legal consequences. A police officer said that a case has been registered under Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 354-A (sexual harassment) and 452 (wrongfully restraining and assaulting).

TOP 3 FUTURISTIC SKILLS NOW A PART OF KLAY PRESCHOOL CURRICULUM

NEW DELHI: In the rapidly evolving landscape of education, early learning preschool plays a crucial role in shaping a child's foundational skills. As parents navigate through the range of available options, they look around with a certain set of expectations. Amidst this exploration, discover how KLAY preschool stands out as the natural choice, seamlessly meeting parental expectations with its innovative approach. The preschool offerings today include much more than



literacy and numeracy. There are a range of ideologies, pedagogies, and methodologies that each of them translates into their curriculum. On the other hand, we as par-

ents, are also better informed today and look beyond the childcare facilities. Parents seek immersive preschool environments that serve as nurturing hubs, fostering comprehensive development that lays the stepping stone to a child's learning journey. Rated as India's largest chain of preschools and daycare centres, Ms. Shruti Madhavan, spokesperson of KLAY, says, "Catering to children as young as 6 months old, we offer educational programs that are aligned with the National Curriculum Framework 2020 and draw inspiration from the Finnish Educare model and the theory of Multiple Intelligences.

Nitin Narang, President - AICF, rolls out an INR 65 Cr budget to grow the Bharatiya Chess ecosystem

Chandigarh: Today, recently elected Nitin Narang - President All-India Chess Federation (AICF) rolled out a massive budget of INR 65 Cr to propel Bharatiya chess to unprecedented heights. Commenting on the momentous rollout of these initiatives, Nitin Narang said, "Players are at the heart of chess and many have to compromise on their passion due to the lack of funds, institutional support, and opportunities. I am committed to making every player's dream a reality through myriad initia-



tives rolled out today, in our INR 65 Cr budget. We are setting up a chess development fund to ensure that we empower the grassroots level players and bring them to a global level of excellence. My mission is to bring chess to every house-

hold, with the motto 'GharGhar Chess - Har Ghar Chess'. We are the first federation to directly support district associations. We will also support state associations for three years with aid up to Rs 15 lakhs, and initiate national-level player

contracts for 42 players with a budget outlay of 2 crores across age groups under AICF Pro while ushering in an India-specific player ranking system. The top 20 FIDE-rated players' would get annual contracts of Rs 25,00,000 and Rs 12,50,000 per annum with a total outlay of 4 crores. We want chess to be played in every household across generations, from the youth to senior citizens, with a big focus on including women. I aspire to see India emerge as a nation of grandmasters."

Remedium Lifecare Ltd. Board to Meet on May 10 to Consider Bonus Issue of Shares and Q4FY24 Results

Chandigarh: Remedium Lifecare Ltd. (BSE: 539561), a company engaged in trading API intermediates (KSMs and CRMs) and various other raw materials essential to API trading, has announced that its board will meet on May 10, 2024, to consider and approve the audited Financial Results for the quarter ended Financial Year 2024, and to consider recommendation and approval of the issue of Bonus Shares to the existing Equity shareholders of the company. Remedium Lifecare Ltd., a company engaged in trading API intermediates (KSMs and CRMs) and various other raw materials essential to API trading, has bolstered its performance and presence

within the pharmaceutical and healthcare domains by trading amino isophthalic acid, tellurium oxide, grignard reagent, iodine, selenium metal powder, trimethyl sulfoxonium iodide (TMSI). As a leading contract trader and brand owner of advanced intermediates and APIs, Remedium has shifted its paradigm into the trading of intermediates and APIs. Reflecting the ethos of its chairman, who believes in "working hard in silence and letting success make the noise", Remedium is dedicated to upholding uncompromising quality standards. Remedium has consistently raised the industry's benchmarks through its commitment to developing

intermediates (KSMs & CRMs) and APIs that deliver unique value to patients and societies worldwide. Adapting swiftly to evolving demands, the company has emerged as one of the fastest-growing organizations in the global pharmaceutical industry. "Quality is an ongoing process of building and sustaining relationships," is the firm belief at Remedium. Its unwavering commitment to quality products is backed by a highly qualified team of professionals, a cutting-edge infrastructure, and deep industry knowledge. Remedium strives to create mutually beneficial partnerships, adhering to high-quality standards as a matter of habit rather than chance.

Honda kickstarts its Women empowerment initiative "Stree Saarthi...steering her own path"

Karnal: Honda proudly announced the commencement of its "Stree Saarthi...steering her own path" women empowerment initiative and commemorated first training batch for female cab drivers at its Institute of Driving Training and Research, Karnal. This is in alignment with the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Honda's Institute of Driving Training & Research (IDTR) being the training partner, National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) being the nodal agency and Kedman Skilling Private Limited being the mobilization partner. In addition,



BluSmart Mobility has tied up with NSDC to further provide employment to these skilled female cab drivers. The "Stree Saarthi...steering her own path" initiative launched by Honda aims to empower women by providing them with opportunities for economic independence and creating avenues in the new domain, such as transportation. Through this initia-

tive, IDTR aims to upskill over 250 female participants, equipping them with the necessary knowledge and expertise to pursue their careers. The training program at IDTR includes diverse aspects such as Interactive theory sessions covering road safety rules and defensive driving techniques, Advanced Driving Simulators to hone skills and practice

in simulated environment, a dedicated driving lab equipped with advanced technology for skill development, On-track Driving training on a professionally designed driving track, focusing on precision manoeuvres, obstacle avoidance and real-world driving scenarios, and Automated Driving Testing Track to familiarize trainees with the latest testing procedures and equipment. The first batch of this innovative training program underwent intensive training to equip themselves with the knowledge and expertise to excel as cab drivers within the automotive domain.

High court confirms death to man who killed his son, & her family members

NAGPUR: The Nagpur bench of the Bombay high court on Thursday confirmed the death penalty for Vivek Palatkar, who was convicted of killing his son, sister, and three other family members. Palatkar's victims included his son Krishna, his sister Archana Pawankar (45), her husband Kamlakar (48), her mother-in-law Meerabai (73), and her daughter Vedanti (12). The sessions court had sentenced him to death after recording the testimonies of 29 witnesses. The accused also had other crimes registered against him. Additional government pleader Sanjay Doifide, who argued the case on behalf of the prosecution, drew the court's attention to statements from witnesses, including the accused's daughter and sister's daughter, who miraculously survived the bloody attack.

LKP Securities Ltd. Earnings for Q4FY24, PAT Jumps 249% QoQ

CHANDIGARH: LKP Securities Ltd. (BSE: 540192), a leading financial services provider, has reported stellar earnings for Q4FY24 and FY24. For the quarter ended 31 March, 2024 (consolidated), the revenue from operations was reported at Rs. 3278 Lakhs, an increase of 34.20% QoQ. EBITDA jumped 76.63% QoQ, from Rs. 1405 Lakhs (Q3FY24) to Rs. 1831 Lakhs (Q4FY24). PAT grew 249% QoQ, from Rs. 159.44 Lakhs (Q3FY24) to Rs. 556.57 Lakhs (Q4FY24). For the year ended 31 March, 2024 (consolidated), the revenue from operations was reported at Rs. 9735 Lakhs, an increase of 23.32% YoY. EBITDA jumped 37.17% YoY, from Rs. 3177 Lakhs (FY23) to Rs. 4358 Lakhs (FY24). PAT grew 155% YoY, from Rs. 372 Lakhs (FY23) to Rs. 950 Lakhs (FY24). LKP Securities, a distinguished financial services provider since

LKP Securities remains committed to pioneering advancements in the financial landscape. As the market evolves, the company continuously refines its services and offerings in order to remain competitive.

1948, stands firm on the belief that trust, investment, and growth are the cornerstone principles of successful wealth creation. Dedicated to the prosperity of its clients, it offers tailored investment solutions designed to advance clients toward their financial goals, whether novices or veterans. By integrating cutting-edge technologies and investing in ongoing research and development, LKP Securities remains committed to pioneering advancements in the financial landscape. As the market evolves, the company continuously refines its services and offerings in order to

remain competitive. LKP Securities' mission is to become the leading financial services provider you can trust and rely on. The firm aims to provide its clients with innovative investment solutions that are backed by exceptional customer service, state-of-the-art technology, and meticulous research. LKP Securities empowers its clients to achieve their financial aspirations through a culture of integrity, transparency, and collaboration. Dedicated to excellence, its team empowers clients and communities to achieve positive impact.

GRM Overseas Secures Maiden Government Order to Supply Premium Basmati Rice to Oman

CHANDIGARH: GRM Overseas Limited (GRM) has received its first order from the Ministry of Agricultural, Fisheries Wealth & Water Resources, Sultanate of Oman, to supply 4,500 MT of Premium basmati rice. The order is worth Indian Rupees 465 million. The Govt. entities in MENA region opens a significant target market for GRM Overseas with approx total size of 7,00,000 MT+ import of Basmati Rice. MENA region is the largest importer of Basmati Rice, having a lion's share ~78% of the total exports from India in FY23, while Europe contributes 6.9% and USA+ Canada contribute 6.6% (FY23). GRM Overseas has positioned itself strategically, as 95% of its export business is to the MENA region and has established itself as among the top 5 Basmati Rice exporters in MENA region. Managing Director Mr. Atul Garg further added, "We are thrilled to have received this maiden order from the Sultanate of Oman, one of the

largest consumers of Indian basmati rice. This signifies Oman's recognition of the quality of our basmati rice and its growing demand in the country. We see this order as a gateway to regular business opportunities in the Middle East, the largest consumer region of basmati rice. We look forward to further strengthening our presence in this region and diversifying our business." From humble inception in 1974 to redefining itself in the form of GRM, the Company has travelled a long way since then. Initially set up as a rice processing and trading house, it is growing to become a consumer staples organisation. During the initial years, GRM exported rice to the Middle East, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Gradually expanding its reach, GRM has developed a market for its rice in 42 countries, thereby achieving the title of the 3rd leading Rice Exporter in India. GRM has three rice processing units with an overall annual production

capacity of 4,40,800 MT-based out of Panipat (Haryana), Naultha (Haryana) and Gandhidham (Gujarat). Additionally, the Company has a warehousing facility of 1.75 Lakhs sq ft space adjacent to the Gandhidham plant facilitating speedy shipments from Kandla and Mundra ports. GRM sells products under its brands, namely "IOX", "Himalaya River" & "Tanoush," and also sells through private label arrangements under customers' brands. GRM has endeavoured to reach consumers directly with its brands and products in recent years. By placing its products on the shelves of several major retailers in India and abroad, GRM has ensured that the end consumer always has easy access to their high-quality products. The Company aims to deliver the best quality products to customers with stringent and proactive quality control procedures in place, according to international requirements.

CAPSULES

Government is looking at rolling out a fresh multi-billion-dollar

NEW DELHI: Government is looking at rolling out a fresh multi-billion-dollar incentive package for semiconductor companies after nearly exhausting the Rs 76,000-crore plan that was launched in Dec 2021 for supporting investing companies, top sources told TOI. Preliminary work on the new package, which is "in all likelihood be much bigger than the previous one", has already begun, even though announcements in this regard will be made only once the new govt takes charge post the national elections, they said. "The new package would be one of the key agendas for the new govt and will be taken up on a priority basis," one of the sources said, pointing out that new proposals that are coming in for semiconductors necessitate a fresh package. "The matter would be tabled before the new Cabinet as some of the proposals are at an advanced stage and would require immediate assurances from the state in terms of incentives," the source said. Success of Dec 2021 package is prompting the govt to work out a new one, especially in view of the aggressive stance of countries such as the US and China, which have announced much bigger packages for companies that are investing in semiconductors. Under the current plan, govt extends fiscal support of up to 50% of a project's cost to eligible display and semiconductor fabricators. This has been almost exhausted after the spate of investments that came in. India, which had previously failed to get any credible proposals for semiconductor manufacturing after trying for decades, finally managed to score big after American Micron emerged.

JJP candidate Pala Ram Saini is getting public support from every section

Kaithal: As soon as JJP declared prominent social worker and senior JJP leader Pala Ram Saini as its candidate from Kurukshetra Lok Sabha constituency, the process of getting immense public support from people of 36 communities has started and a huge number of people are coming every day. People from every section are congratulating Pala Ram Saini on becoming the candidate and are also declaring their wholehearted support in the elections. It is important to mention here that



the impression of selfless service being done continuously by Pala Ram Saini for many years in the field of education, sports as well as social welfare is also ingrained in the hearts of the people and the public itself broke the record by supporting Pala Ram Saini. She is

appealing for votes to win the elections. While talking in his office today, JJP candidate Pala Ram Saini expressed gratitude to JJP National President Dr. Ajay Singh Chautala, former Deputy CM Dushyant Chautala, State Principal General Secretary Digvijay

Chautala for making him the candidate from Kurukshetra Lok Sabha constituency and said that by JJP With the record breaking development works done in public interest and the blessings of the public, we will win the elections with record breaking votes. The public interest is completely safe in JJP only. Pala Ram Saini said that he believes in doing rather than saying and his aim from the beginning has been to take everyone along and do joint development work.

High court upheld a single-judge bench's order dismissing a plea

INDORE: A division bench of Madhya Pradesh high court on Friday upheld a single-judge bench's order dismissing a plea by Congress' Moti Singh Patel for his candidature to be accepted as the party nominee for Lok Sabha elections after official candidate Akshay Kanti Bam pulled out of the poll race at the last minute. The Indore bench, comprising Justice SA Dharmadhikari and Justice Gajendra Singh, said Patel's application was "bereft of merit and substance".

Patel had approached the division bench after a single-judge bench of Justice Vivek Rusia on April 30 turned down his plea to overturn the rejection of his nomination by district election officer and to be allotted the Congress 'hand' symbol to contest polls. Indore votes in the fourth phase on May 13. Patel's candidature was rejected during scrutiny on April 25. Bam's papers were cleared as the 'approved Congress candidate', but he suddenly pulled out on April 29, the last day for

withdrawal of nominations. It left Congress without a candidate in Indore for the first time ever. Patel's counsel Vibhor Khandelwal contended before the division bench that the returning officer may have been right in rejecting Patel's nomination on April 26 since at that time he was not the approved Congress candidate and his form was not signed by 10 proposers. But in view of the proviso to subsection (5) of Section 36 of the Act, the returning officer ought to have given a day's time to Patel to get signatures of 10 proposers and examine the nomination form the next day, he said. Since Bam withdrew his candidature, Patel's form should be scrutinised and accepted so that he can contest the election, Khandelwal contended. Election Commission counsel Mini Ravindran submitted that the writ petition itself is not maintainable, arguing that Supreme Court had earlier held that any interference by high courts entertaining petitions.

CAs appraised with DRISHTI roadmap of their apex body ICAI

Chandigarh CA Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal, the newly elected National President of The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), a nationwide apex body of CAs, while outlining the objectives ICAI with the Govt of India's vision to achieve the status of a developed nation by the year 2027 announced its strategic roadmap - 'DRISHTI' for 2024-49. CA Agarwal, the 72nd national president after assuming charge reached Chandigarh for the first time along with his team was addressing the CA fraternity of Chandigarh tricity during a seminar organized at Hotel Hyatt Regency on Saturday. Nearly 200 CA members participated in this seminar hosted by ICAI Chandigarh Branch and appraised the



strategic aspects of the newly formed Central Council of ICAI.

Earlier, in his welcome address, CA Abhishek Singh Chauhan, Chairman, ICAI Chandigarh Branch expressed hope that the DRISHTI roadmap of the Central Council will prove beneficial not only in the national interest but also in establishing new dimensions in the CA profession. Chauhan laid demands to the National President for the interests of local CA members and students. At present, nearly 3500 CAs are

practicing under the aegis of Chandigarh branch, while about ten thousand CA students from Upper North students are being associated which are gradually increasing annually. To meet their demands, Chauhan put forth the demand for a Center of Excellence to which CA Agarwal assured that it would be discussed in detail. There had been no convocation for the Upper North students of ICAI Chandigarh since a long time and hence they have to approach Delhi for their degree.

Doctors say that parents should safeguard their children by following the proper immunisation

Gurgaon : This World Immunisation Week (24th-30th April) marks the 50th anniversary of the World Health Organization's Expanded Program on Immunisation (EPI). This milestone commemorates the legacy of global immunisation efforts and serves as a reminder of the countless lives saved and communities protected through vaccination over the past five decades. In India, the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) has been successful in expanding immunisation coverage to more than 90% children. Although coverage in the first year is high, drop-out rates after 1st birthday increase. A significant number of children in the country remain partially vaccinated. Vaccination plays a critical role in safeguarding children between the ages of 1-2 against multiple diseases. Vaccination averted 37 million childhood deaths in lower and middle-income countries between 2000 and 2019[i]. The Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP) recommends

But they need to understand the importance of completing the full immunization schedule. By staying informed and partnering with doctors, we can continue working towards ensuring every child receives the routine vaccination for a healthy

seven vaccinations* for children of this age group, first and second dose of varicella and hepatitis A, second dose of meningitis# and MMR, booster doses of PCV and DTP Hib IPV, and annual dose of flu. Dr Sanjay Wazir, Medical Director (Neonatology and Paediatrics) at Motherhood Hospital, Gurgaon says, "Parents today are well versed that vaccination is a protective shield for their child. But they need to understand the importance of completing the full immunization schedule. By staying informed and partnering with doctors, we can continue working towards ensuring every child receives the routine vaccination for a healthy and happy future. This

World Immunization Week, I urge parents to continue dialogue with their doctors to make informed decisions about their children's health." Dr Mahaveer Prasad Jain, Senior Pediatric Consultant, Vardhman Medicare Centre, Gurgaon says, "Protecting kids aged 1-5 through vaccination is fundamental to their health. Vaccinations saves lives and prevents needless suffering I encourage parents to discuss immunization with their doctor.

Don't skip any doses; each protects against serious illnesses and helps prevent outbreaks in the community. Let's ensure our children stay healthy with complete immunization."

Surprise over the last-minute withdrawal

Former LS speaker Sumitra Mahajan expressed surprise over the last-minute withdrawal of nomination by Congress candidate from Indore, Akshay Kanti Bam, calling it unfair and unethical. Voters had the right to decide in a democratic set-up, she asserted. Bam had pulled out of the poll race on April 29, the last date for withdrawal of nominations, and joined BJP within hours, leaving Congress stunned. "People are calling me and asking me, 'what has happened Tai?'," Mahajan told Saturday. "This should not have happened. There was no need for this, as BJP's victory in Indore was a foregone conclusion," Mahajan said, hinting that she believed BJP was behind Bam's move. Indore is a saffron stronghold and Mahajan, now 81, represented the constituency eight consecutive times since 1989.

Government, Ladakh delegation meet on issues of UT



NEW DELHI: The Centre is holding a meeting with a delegation from Ladakh here on Monday on their key demands, including statehood for the high-altitude region, two Lok Sabha seats and bringing the area under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. A 14-member delegation of the Apex Body Leh (ABL) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) is meeting the High Powered Committee (HPC) for Ladakh headed by Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai.

"We are going to discuss our demands, including statehood for Ladakh and two Lok Sabha seats," Apex Body Leh member Chering Dorjay Lakrook told PTI. The demands of the delegation are statehood for Ladakh, two Lok Sabha seats (one for Kargil and one for Leh), job opportunities for the residents of the Union Territory and constitutional protection under the Sixth Schedule, sources said. Ladakh currently has one Lok Sabha constituency. Ladakh, which no longer has any MLA constituency,

was part of Jammu and Kashmir state. The erstwhile state was bifurcated on August 5, 2019, into two Union Territories -- Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. Article 370, which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir, was also abrogated on that day. As per the provision of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, Jammu and Kashmir has been made a UT with a legislative assembly and Ladakh has been made a UT without any assembly. There were four repre-

ex-Cong MP Kaypee from Jalandhar are SAD candidates

Delhi: The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) named five additional Punjab Lok Sabha candidates SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal stated that his wife and sitting MP Harsimrat Kaur Bada would be the Bathinda candidate during his visit to Jalandhar to induct former Congress MP Mohinder Singh Kaypee. In Ferozepur, Sukhbir's party nominated Nardev Singh Bobby Mann. Newcomer Kaypee will run in Dalit-dominated Jalandhar Lok Sabha, while Ranjit Singh Dhillon will run in Ludhiana. Sukhbir

nominated former cabinet minister Sohan Singh Thandal for Hoshiarpur, another Doaba reserved parliamentary constituency. Former Chandigarh deputy mayor Hardeep Singh Saini is running for the party. Our party is the only regional one battling divisive national parties. The SAD president said these parties want to divide communities and cause conflict. Former Congress MP Mohinder Singh Kaypee, 67, joined the SAD earlier in the day, jolting the party. Kaypee was welcomed

into the party by Sukhbir in the afternoon at his Jalandhar home. Sukhbir named Kaypee the Jalandhar reserved Lok Sabha candidate minutes after entering. Kaypee, a former PCC president and three-time MLA, had been in touch with Sukhbir for days and attended many closed-door meetings since the Congress denied him the ticket. He ran in this Dalit-dominated parliamentary segment, but the Congress chose former chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi.

Three electrocuted by live wire trap laid by poachers

BHOPAL: Three members of a family were electrocuted by a live wire trap laid by poachers to snare wild boar in Madhya Pradesh's Sidhi district late Saturday. The victims were identified as Prashant Kewat (22), Anil Kewat (32), and

Narmada Kewat (50), who lived in Devri village on the edge of Sanjay Gandhi National Park. They used to catch birds by covering entire trees with large nets tied to bamboo poles, Majhauri police station in-charge Deepak Singh Baghel.

Every evening, they would do a recce to locate the trees where the maximum birds were resting. Then, they would return to place their nets on those trees, Baghel said. "They left home around 3pm and went to the jungles.

CAPSULES

Maharashtra top cop orders anthem, tiranga drill at Red zone thanas

GADCHIROLI: Sixty-three police posts in Maoist-affected Gadchiroli, located in Dandakaranya in Red corridor, will soon start hoisting the tricolour every day, and sing national anthem twice a day, reports Soumitra Bose. The practice would start from two new frontier police posts-Wangeturi and Gardewara - at the gateway of Maoist headquarters Abujmarh, in a challenge to the guerrillas, who have indoctrinated tribals to spurn patriotism and rebel against the state. Earlier, Maoists in Gadchiroli would damage the tricolour on Independence Day and Republic Day, and not allow tribals to sing the national anthem. State director general of police Rashmi Shukla began practice of singing the anthem at Gardewara post, where tricolour was hoisted in her presence on Saturday. Sixty-three police posts in Gadchiroli, the Maharashtra Maoist-affected zone in the heart of Dandakaranya in the Red corridor, will soon start hoisting the tricolour every day and sing the national anthem twice a day. The move is a challenge to the guerrillas, who have over decades indoctrinated tribals in "liberated zones" to spurn patriotism and rebel against govt. The practice will start from two new frontier police posts - Wangeturi and Gardewara - at the gateway of Maoist headquarters Abujmarh. Earlier, Maoists in Gadchiroli would damage the tricolour on Independence Day and Republic Day, and not allow tribals to sing the national anthem. DGP Rashmi Shukla started the practice Saturday at Gardewara, where the tricolour was hoisted in her presence.

Agra is known as the 'Dalit capital of northern India'

Delhi: Politics, history, and tourism mix in Taj Mahal. The monument symbolizes the city's previous splendor, but Dalit influence shapes contemporary politics. Agra is known as the 'Dalit capital of northern India' due to its 25% SC population. BJP has ruled this region since 2009, with former Union minister Satya Pal Singh Baghel in charge. Party fielded him again. This strong-

hold illustrates the region's complex Dalit politics., BJP organized the 'Anusoochit Jaati Mahasammelan' to highlight Dalit politics' influence on Agra's politics. The convergence of Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav and Congress' Rahul Gandhi in Agra emphasizes Dalit voter outreach. Their united demonstration during the 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra' addressed

Dalit welfare concerns to get support. As part of the seat-sharing mechanism in India, SP fielded shoe baron Suresh Chandra Kardam, a former BSP worker. Since its 1984 founding, the Mayawati-led BSP has failed to win this SC seat. BSP nominating Pooja Amrohi as its Agra candidate shows a renewed push to challenge the political system. Pooja is the daughter of former UP Rajya Sabha

member Satya Behan, a Congressman. The city's footwear market supremacy, which employs Dalits and Jatavs, highlights economic undercurrents shaping political inclinations. Past assembly elections have reflected these changes. When Mayawati became CM in 2007, BSP won six of nine Agra assembly seats. Even without her, it won six of nine in 2012.

Protest march case: SC stays proceedings against Karnataka CM

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday stayed proceedings against Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and others in connection with a protest march held in the state in 2022. A bench of Justices Hrishikesh Roy and P K Mishra issued notice to the Karnataka government and the complainant in the case. The top court also stayed the high court order, which had imposed a fine of Rs 10,000 on him as well as Congress general



secretary and Karnataka in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala, state ministers M B Patil and Ramalinga Reddy, and directed him to appear before a special court on March 6. The case was registered against the Congress leaders after they took out a march to lay siege to the then chief minister Basavaraj Bommai's

residence in Bengaluru, demanding the resignation of K S Eshwarappa, who was then the rural development and panchayat raj minister in the southern state. The agitation was staged after a contractor, Santosh Patil, died by suicide accusing Eshwarappa of demanding 40 per cent commission for a public work in his village. According to police, the case pertained to blocking roads and causing trouble to commuters.

Met museum head talks art of repatriation and relevance

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



relevant in an age of sensory overload. What kind of collaborations do you foresee with the signing of the MoU with India's culture ministry It marks a continuation of our close collaboration on multiple levels and reflects our mutual willingness to further expand on that partnership. We've done a number of important exhibitions on Indian art. We've run fellowship programs in India for a decade to train the next generation of conservators. The MoU

signals our commitment to continue mounting important exhibitions at the Met, ideally ones that will have strong resonance in India and can also be exhibited in India. institutions. We want to foster collaborations between institutions, bring more staff together and develop more fellowship programs focused on educational and cultural exchange. The US government was reported to return over 1,400 artefacts to India last year.

MLA alleges Rs 138cr tender for uniforms favours Rajasthan, Gujarat cos

MUMBAI: Allegations of favouritism have surfaced in a Rs 138-crore tender to buy school uniforms by the state school education department. Samajwadi Party MLA Rais Shaikh alleged that to favour textile manufacturers from Gujarat and Rajasthan, tender conditions were drafted in such a way that the Maharashtra-based power loom cloth makers kept out and that there was no reservation for them in the tender. The Maharashtra Prathamik Shikshan Parishad (MPSP) unde



r the school education department recently floated a tender for 1.2 crore metres of cloth for their free school uniform scheme. In a letter to CM Eknath Shinde, Shaikh has demanded that the tender be scrapped and that the

Maharashtra State Powerloom Corporation (MSPC) be made the nodal agency for procurement. "Half of the country's looms, i.e., 13 lakh, are in Maharashtra. However, the school education department wants to buy

cloth from Rajasthan and Gujarat textile manufacturers," Shaikh said. A conspiracy was hatched in the tender to keep loom owners of Maharashtra out, he said. The textile manufacturers who wanted to participate in the bid for cloth procurement are required to have productivity of 1 lakh meters per day, a three-year turnover of more than Rs 55 lakh, and a one-time supply of at least Rs 60 lakh., Shaikh said. School education department officials said that they would look into Shaikh's allegation and check if there is any substance in it.

Demanding strict action against officials responsible

New Delhi: Health minister Saurabh Bharadwaj has written to lieutenant governor VK Saxena demanding strict action against officials responsible for the non-availability of medicines and consumables at Delhi govt health facilities. He also demanded a "time-bound inquiry" against them for misrepresenting facts and misleading govt on the issue. The letter was sent on Thursday in response to a story, 'Boy with broken arm turned away by hosps'. On April 1, an 8-year-old boy with a broken arm was turned away by two state-run hospitals, Dr Hedgewar Aarogya Sansthan and Chacha Nehru Bal Chikitsalaya, a dedicated paediatric facility. While one hospital claimed it did not have cotton, the other said it had no orthopaedic doctor at the time to treat the boy. The boy's father, a guard with a monthly salary of Rs 15,000, had to ultimately take him to a private hospital.

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

Chandigarh : Mehr Chand Mahajan DAV College for Women, Chandigarh, marked the celebration of International Happiness Day in a befitting manner with the culmination of 'The Soul in Symphony: Journey of Happiness through Self Actualization and Self Realization'- a two-day multidisciplinary international conference. The valedictory of this enriching conference was graced by accomplished writer and poet Dr. Surjit Patar, Padma Shree Awardee, Dr. Jaspal Singh, Principal (Retd.), Dr. Sarabjit Sohal, Chairperson, Punjab Sahitya Academy, Dr. Gurdip Sharma, General Secretary, SD Pratinidhi Sabha, Dr. Vinod Sharma and Sh. Prem Vij. In his address interspersed with his poetic creations and verses from Gurbani, Dr. Patar impressed upon the therapeutic power of



poetry and showed how poetry teaches the way of living life. Terming true poetry as a sure shot way to self-realization, he asserted that the silences within a human come out as metaphors in the form of poetry, and poetry that is 'satyam', 'shivam', 'sundaram' brings true happiness. His soulful rendition of his poetry exemplified how creativity is a highly potent way to happiness. Categorizing happiness into two types, namely worldly happiness and spiritual happiness, Dr. Jaspal highlighted the fleeting nature of happiness and said that complete

surrender to the divine ensures happiness. Quoting extensively from Gurbani, Dr. Jaspal pointed out the similarities between the scientific and spiritual perspectives of soul as he talked about Darwin's Theory of Evolution and the Big Bang Theory, and how Gurbani makes a mention of these two. He concluded on the note that eternal happiness can be attained through God's name. Dr. Sohal said that self-realization occurs when we become conscious of our thoughts as these shape us into what we are.

Vi Introduces eSIM for its Prepaid Customers in New Delhi

GURUGRAM : Vi, a leading telecom provider, today announced the launch of eSIM services for its prepaid customers in New Delhi. This marks a significant step forward in providing seamless, faster, and eco-friendly connectivity for millions of Indians. eSIM on a compatible smartphone or smartwatch device will enable greater convenience and flexibility for Vi prepaid customers. eSIM supports multiple profiles on a single device, so one can conveniently use a second sim card without removing primary sim. Most impor-



tantly, eSIMs are a step towards sustainability and, overall, leads to faster connectivity and seamless adoption of new technologies. With this launch all Vi customers, both postpaid and prepaid, can now enjoy the eSIM feature on their handsets. Praveg Gupta- Cluster Business Head- Delhi and Rajasthan,

Vodafone Idea Limited, said "At Vi, we believe in introducing services and offerings that bring convenience and value for our customers. Embracing eSIM technology not only reflects our ongoing efforts to meet the evolving needs of our customers but also leverages advanced technologies towards a sustainable future."

Dissent within Mahayuti over likelihood of ticket for Mandlik

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

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

Kupekar was with the Shiv Sena (UBT) before joining BJP last year. Speaking to his supporters Kupekar said, "All the local politicians should dial our state leaders. Request them not to let the sitting MP get a ticket once again."

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

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



tive love for humanity, extending beyond personal relationships to include care for the environment, animals, and all aspects of life. Distinguished guests in attendance included Raghav

Chandra, Managing Director, Audi Delhi South, H.E Demeke Atnafu Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ethiopia to India, H.E Fleming Raul Duarte

Ramoss Ambassador of Paraguay, H.E Jason Hall, Ambassador of Jamaica to India Ambassador of Venezuela Mrs Capaya Rodriguez Gonzalez, H.E KL Ganju, Honorary Consul of Comoros, Dimitrius, Greek Embassy, Hissain Omar Saiddon Deputy Chad Embassy, Gokul Ji, Nepal Embassy, Dr. Sanjanaa Jon, Social Activist, Fashion Entrepreneur, Philanthropist, Filmmaker, Philanthropist, Animal Lover.

Tata AIA Life launches Tata AIA Rising India Fund

KARNAL / HISAR: Tata AIA Life Insurance (Tata AIA), one of India's leading life insurers, has launched the Tata AIA Rising India Fund, a Fund that opens a unique avenue for consumers to participate in India's growth story. The New Fund Offering (NFO) will remain open until March 31, 2024, with units being offered at an NAV of Rs. 10 per unit during the NFO period. The Rising India Fund will invest in key sectors and companies, that are driving the Atmanirbhar Bharat growth engine. On these include



We will continue to strive towards generating the alpha in our fund performance

infrastructure, manufacturing, banking, digital, defense, etc. The fund will invest in companies across market caps and would be sector agnostic, enabling the fund manager to harness diverse opportunities driving India's growth engine. On the NFO launch,

Harshad Patil, Executive Vice President, and Chief Investment Officer (CIO) of Tata AIA, said, "In the recent years, India has displayed its global influence by becoming the fastest growing major economy. Through this new fund, we would like to

offer our consumers an avenue to participate in and benefit from this incredible journey. Our consumers have always benefited from the long-term growth potential of the Indian equity market by investing in the ULIP funds that Tata AIA offers.

We will continue to strive towards generating the alpha in our fund performance. With a robust driven research process and a bottom-up stock selection approach, we are committed to providing lasting value and returns to our policyholders.

Current high interest rates make this the right time to invest in a pension product

Vatika Times Sonopat/Panipat: Several market experts are of the view that interest rates in India will decline over the next few months from the current levels of approx. 7% giving customers an opportunity to now lock-in their

investment in an annuity product at the current interest rate. The ICICI Pru Guaranteed Pension Plan Flexi stands out among annuity products as it helps customers build a retirement fund by making systematic investments. This ensures a sure and stable income after retirement, which is particularly beneficial in a market like India where interest rates are predicted to decline. Additionally, a variant of this plan offers a unique feature which provides a 100% refund of all premiums paid, making it the life insurance industry's first such product. So how does investing in an annuity product now benefit customers? Pension or annuity products which are only offered

by life insurance companies provide a guaranteed regular lifelong income. The rate of interest is locked-in at the time of purchase. Retirees prefer a steady income not affected by interest rate movements, annuity or pension products are the best option, which offer regular income enabling them to be financially independent. Since the interest rate is expected to fall going forward, customers buying an annuity product will be able to lock-in their investment at the current interest rate. Let's take the example of Mr. Prajapati, who initially invested his savings of Rs. 1 crore in deposits at 8% interest, earning him Rs. 67,000 monthly, which supported.

North India Bags Over 52% of Spots in Godrej L'Affaire Select Content Creator Hunt!

New Delhi : The inaugural edition of 'Godrej L'Affaire Select,' India's premier influencer hunt program, is finally here. Curated by Godrej L'Affaire, the luxury lifestyle owned media platform by the Godrej Industries Limited and Associate Companies, this program is set to felicitate the top 25 content creators at the sixth edition of Godrej L'Affaire on March 29, 2024. These individuals have outshone over 10,000 participants from 200 Indian cities, towns, and villages across India. Mentored by internet sensation Ranveer Allahbadia, known as Beer Biceps, the selected 25 creators will now be inducted into the exclusive Godrej L'Affaire Select creators' group. This platform empowers content creators and creative talent from across India, including tier 2 and tier 3 cities,



offering a valuable avenue for showcasing their skills and connecting with a wider audience. With the creator economy estimated to be worth USD 500 billion by 2027, India is poised to claim the title of the world's largest hub for social media content creators. Fueled by a youthful population, with a median age of 28.2, these creators will significantly contribute to propelling our economy, fostering growth, and influencing consumption trends. Recognizing this potential, Godrej L'Affaire initiated this commitment

last year, aligning itself with the country's vision of Vikshit Bharat, by focusing on nurturing emerging talent and skilling India's youth. The selection process benefitted from the expertise of a jury comprised of prominent figures across various fields, including lifestyle, travel, luxury, health, and parenting. "Godrej was among the first to embrace the Digital PR space, and we've had the privilege of witnessing countless creators embark on their journeys and evolve into the influential figures they are today. Through Godrej

L'Affaire Select, we leverage our experience and understanding of the evolving creator landscape to give back to the creator economy by empowering the next generation of talent. I am looking forward to meeting the top 25 budding content creators at L'Affaire 2024", said, Tanya Dubash, Executive Director & Chief Brand Officer, Godrej Industries Limited and Associate Companies. "As someone who is passionate about the creator community, I'm incredibly excited about Godrej L'Affaire Select. The program's commitment to discovering and nurturing raw talent from diverse backgrounds is truly inspiring. I believe these creators have the potential to become the next generation of content leaders, and I'm eager to see their journeys unfold.

Courts cannot direct states to implement particular schemes: SC

NEW DELHI: The scope of judicial review in examining policy matters of the government is very limited and the courts cannot direct the States to implement a particular policy or scheme on the grounds that a "better, fairer or wiser" option is available, the Supreme Court has said. The observation came while disposing of a PIL seeking formulation of a scheme on setting up of community kitchens to combat hunger and malnutrition. The top court refused to pass any direction in the matter observing that the National Food Security Act (NFSA) and other welfare schemes are being implemented by the Centre and states. A bench of Justices Bela M Trivedi and Pankaj Mithal said legality of the policy, and not the wisdom.