

# AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Title Code - UPENG04488

NATIONAL ENGLISH DAILY

MORNING EDITION PRAYAGRAJ

Thursday 23 May, 2024

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

## 'Flop film of Do Shehzade' vs 'new film on June 4': Modi takes a dig

**NEW DELHI:** Election campaigning and movies may have little in common, but when arch political rivals are in the middle of a high-stakes contest, they often add Bollywood twist to attack their opponents. The campaigning for Lok Sabha elections in Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday saw one such interesting exchange between Prime Minister Modi and Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav. PM Modi took a dig at the alliance of Akhilesh Yadav and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and ridiculed their coming together for a second time. "I am surprised by the repeated release of 'Do Shehzade', a flop film of SP and Congress," PM Modi said at an election rally in Basti. Videos of the Prime Minister's reference was to the alliance of the two parties in 2017 Uttar Pradesh assembly elections. Akhilesh and Rahul had then joined hands and ran a spirited campaign



under the banner "UP ke ladke." However, the alliance failed and the BJP stormed to power in the state. The Samajwadi Party chief, who is known for his witty responses, reacted to PM's dig and said "a new film will be released on June 4." "The INDIA alliance is surging ahead with the passing of every round of voting. A new film will be released on June 4 which the country will see with enthusiasm," Akhilesh Yadav said at an election rally. The Samajwadi Party chief has exuded confidence about the results of ongoing Lok Sabha elections and has claimed that the

INDIA bloc will be winning 79 out of 80 seats in Uttar Pradesh. Prime Minister took a dig at Akhilesh Yadav's claims and said now he understands what daydreaming means. "Both the 'Shehzadas' of Congress and SP are spreading rumours that they will win 79 seats of UP. Earlier I used to hear that people used to daydream, but now I understand what it means to daydream. On June 4, the people of UP will wake them and then they will blame the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM)," PM Modi said countering the victory claims of Akhilesh and Rahul.

### 'Congress destroyed many generations...': PM Modi slams Rahul

**NEW DELHI:** Taking a swipe at Congress MP Rahul Gandhi over his recent statement that the "system aligned against the lower castes", Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday, said that the system of Congress has "destroyed many generations of SC-ST-OBC." Addressing an election rally in New Delhi's Dwarka, PM Modi said, "Sometimes while speaking lies, the truth comes out of the Shehzada's mouth. Today, Congress' Shehzada has confessed a big truth. He has admitted that the system that was formed during his grandmother's, his father's, and his mother's time, was severely against the Dalits, backwards and Adivasis." "This system of the Congress destroyed the generations of ST, SC and OBCs.

## Scratchy Royals end RCB's sensational run with four-wicket win in Eliminator

**NEW DELHI:** Rajasthan Royals managed to halt Royal Challengers Bengaluru's juggernaut in the Indian Premier League, securing a hard-fought four-wicket victory in the Eliminator in Ahmedabad on Wednesday. The RR bowlers produced an all-round effort, stopping RCB to 172 for 8. However, the their batters encountered difficulties during the middle overs in chase, allowing RCB to claw back in the match, which remained evenly poised for a significant portion of the second half. Despite the challenges, the inaugural IPL champions ultimately reached the target with an over to spare, finishing at 174 for 6, thanks to Rovman Powell's composed unbeaten 16, which provided the necessary impetus in a tense conclusion. As he has done several times before this season, Riyan Parag (36 off 26) showcased deep resolve in an adverse situation to help Rajasthan stay alive in the tournament. It was Royals' first win



### Farmers gather at Shambhu, Khanauri to mark 100 days of 'Delhi Chalo' protest

**AMBALA:** Farmers assembled in large numbers on Wednesday at Shambhu and other border points to mark the completion of 100 days of the ongoing protest to press the Centre to accept their demands, which includes a legal guarantee of MSP for crops. The farmers have camped at the Shambhu and Khanauri border points since February 13 when their 'Delhi Chalo' march was stopped by security forces. Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee leader Sarwan Singh Pandher after four losses and an abandoned game. 2008 winners Royals face Sunrisers Hyderabad in Chennai on Friday for a place in the IPL final. The returning Shimron Hetmyer also played his part to perfection, scoring a crucial 26 off 14 balls. In a contest where-

in fortunes swung from one side to another, RR remained ahead with impactful performances throughout even though Mohammed Siraj (2/33) raised late hopes for RCB with wickets of Parag and Hetmyer in the 18th over.

### 'Sent driver with son': Father of Pune crash accused on why he should get bail

**NEW DELHI:** The father of the minor accused in Pune Porsche car crash which killed two people was sent to two-day police custody on Wednesday. The father, Vishal Agarwal, argued in court that he had sent a driver with his 17-year-old son. The court, however, sent him to judicial custody. The Pune Police had sought 7-day custody of the father. Speaking about the hearing, advocate Asim Saraode, who was arguing on the behalf of the intervenor against giving bail to the father, told news agency ANI, "He tried to present an argument that he had sent a driver with his accused son. Then why was the driver not driving the car and the person with no licence was driving the car?"

### 'Situation in Bishkek normal', says Indian embassy



**NEW DELHI:** The Embassy of India in Kyrgyzstan on Wednesday reassured that all Indian students are safe as the situation in Bishkek remains normal after incidents of mob violence, mainly involving Pakistani students and locals, rocked the Kyrgyz capital on the night of May 17. "The Embassy has been working actively with the universities and senior government functionaries to address the concerns of the Indian students. Two helplines 0555710041 and 0555005538 have been functional 24x7 where students can continue to reach out to the Embassy for all kinds of assistance," the embassy said in a press note. "Every year a large number of Indian students join medical and other universities in the Kyrgyz Republic for further studies. At the moment, about 17,000 Indian students are in the Kyrgyz Republic spread across many cities but most of them are in Bishkek," it added. Meanwhile, the embassy has also urged the students and their families to not to pay attention to rumours being spread by some mischievous element. "Air connectivity between Bishkek and Delhi remains operational and flights to India can also be availed via Almaty, Dubai, Istanbul, Sharjah and Tashkent. The local transport to Manas International Airport in Bishkek remains accessible to Indian students," the embassy further said. On May 13, local students of Kyrgyzstan were involved in a skirmish with Egyptian and students from the Arab countries. In this incident a Kyrgyzstan student was reportedly injured. The situation got worse as on May 16, when foreign students were targeted and later attacked. Following this incident.

## Police to interrogate my old and sick parents: Kejriwal on Swati Maliwal assault case

**NEW DELHI:** Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday said that the Delhi Police will interrogate his parents on Thursday. It is suspected that the Delhi Police will be interrogating the Delhi CM's parents in connection to the Swati Maliwal assault case. "Tomorrow, Delhi Police will come to interrogate my old



and ill parents," the Delhi CM said in a post on X. Soon after Kejriwal's

Minister Narendra Modi for involving Kejriwal's parents in the case. "I want to ask PM Modi and BJP that 85 years old father of Arvind Kejriwal who cannot walk alone without support and the mother of Arvind Kejriwal who just returned home a few days ago after spending a long time in the hospital.

## BSF jawan roasts 'papad' on sand in Bikaner amid intense heatwave

**NEW DELHI:** Amidst the heatwave in North India, Border Security Force (BSF) jawan roasted a 'papad' in the sand in Rajasthan's Bikaner where the temperature has crossed 45 degrees Celsius. A video, shared by the PTI news agency on X, showed a jawan roasting papad to show the scorching heat in Rajasthan. "A Border Security Force (BSF)



jawan roasts 'papad' in the sand in #Bikaner, Rajasthan. Bikaner has been reeling under intense heatwave with temperatures touching 45 degrees Celsius," the agency said in a caption.

## 'As a first-time observer ... ': US ambassador on Lok Sabha elections in India

**NEW DELHI:** US Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti on Wednesday hailed India for executing the world's largest democratic election Lok Sabha polls 2024 with such vibrance. Calling the elections extraordinary and inspiring Garcetti said, "It's extraordinary to see the world's largest democracy execute the biggest election in the world and we've seen incredible, vibrant campaigning, we've seen parties, we've seen rallies, and it's something, just as a first-time observer, that is very inspiring to see." Garcetti called India a natural partner of the US. He further stated, "So, you know, I wish India and Indians luck... India is the fastest-growing economy in



the developing world. America is the fastest-growing economy in the developed world. We're natural partners and we're friends and if the US and India can continue expanding our economies together, we can not only do good things for our own countries, jobs, and economic prosperity, but we can help the world by diversifying supply chains, going to places like Africa, Southeast Asia, Pacific island countries..." Eric Garcetti's statement comes days after the White House

course." Although, earlier this month US President Joe Biden called India a "xenophobic" country. During an interview, Biden called out India, China, Japan and Russia for not welcoming immigrants which leads to an impact on their economies negatively. In the interview Biden criticised China and Russia, grouping them with adversaries, while discussing their economic situations and contrasting them with America's approach to immigration. He further highlighted the upcoming US election's focus on "freedom, America, and democracy," attributing the nation's thriving economy to its welcoming stance towards immigrants.

### Bangladeshi MP Anwarul Azim found dead in Kolkata

**NEW DELHI:** Bangladeshi MP Anwarul Azim, who had come to India on May 12 for medical treatment, was found dead in Kolkata on Wednesday. His body was recovered under mysterious circumstances from an apartment in a posh residential complex at New Town on the northern outskirts of Kolkata. In the morning, Azim, who was a member of ruling Awami League party, was missing for the last eight days. Bangladesh home minister Asaduzzaman Khan called the MP's killing a "planned murder" and said Bangladesh Police have arrested three people (all Bangladeshis) in this connection, news agency ANI reported quoting Bangladesh Newspaper Daily Star. Azim was last seen on the afternoon of May 13 when he went with friends to a home in Bidhannagar.

### UK general elections to be held on July 4, announces Rishi

**NEW DELHI:** British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on Wednesday announced that the general elections in the UK will be held on July 4. "Uncertain times call for clear plan and bold action," said Sunak. "This hard-earned economic stability was only ever meant to be the beginning. The question now is how and who do you trust to turn that foundation into a secure future for you, your family and our country," he added. The announcement comes following Sunak's meeting with his cabinet ministers at Downing Street. Foreign minister David Cameron abruptly ended his visit to Albania, while the defense minister postponed a foreign trip. to participate in a cabinet meeting with senior ministers. The poll will be the first time Rishi Sunak, who is 44 years old, will interact with the public in his capacity as the leader. He was appointed as the leader of the largest party in parliament through an internal Conservative vote in October 2022. The vote is the third one since the Brexit referendum in 2016. This vote comes as Sunak tries to take advantage of improved economic data to attract voters affected by cost-of-living increases. Earlier, when questioned about the rumors, Sunak reiterated that a national election is scheduled for the second half of 2024. "Spoiler alert: there is going to be a general election in the second half of this year," Sunak had told the parliament. The speculation was fueled by the possibility that the meeting might need to approve a decision to call for an election earlier.



# MP Pramod Tiwari & his MLA daughter steals the show

Lalganj, Pratapgarh: Scorching heat, rising temperature, the enthusiasm of Congress and SP workers was overpowering, political influence boomed in Rampur Khas in the road show of Pramod Tiwari and CLP leader Aradhana Mishra Mona. In the continuous road show of Pramod Tiwari and Aradhana Mishra Mona of about sixty to seventy kilometers in the assembly constituency, every market of the area was seen colored in Congress and SP scenes. The enthusiasm of the workers and supporters seemed even warmer than the rising rays of the sun. The political atmosphere was such that amid the crowd of road shows, under the leadership of Deputy Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Pramod Tiwari and Congress Legislature Party Leader Aradhana Mishra Mona, in support of SP candidate of India Alliance in the Lok

Sabha elections from Pratapgarh parliamentary constituency, Dr. SP Singh Patel. The road show on Wednesday seemed to have given the message of strength of India alliance in Rampurkhas. At around eleven o'clock, regional MLA and Congress Legislative Party leader Aradhana Mishra reaches Mona Rampur intersection. As the crowd of supporters moves towards MLA Aradhana Mishra Mona with enthusiasm, the security personnel accompanying the MLA are also seen drenched in sweat. A crowd of women was also seen carrying Aradhana Mishra Mona with the enthusiasm of the power of half the population. Within a span of ten minutes, Deputy Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Pramod Tiwari reaches Rampur intersection for the road show.

Now the supporters and workers, along with Aradhana Mishra and

Mona, proceed to welcome Pramod Tiwari and start showering flowers on both the leaders. Deputy Leader of Opposition Pramod Tiwari stood with MLA Mona on an open vehicle amid the crowd, and the enthusiasm of the workers



from all sides brought a wave of sloganeering in support. Smiling Pramod Tiwari MLA moves from Rampur towards Dharupur with daughter Mona. The organizers of the road show had made arrangements regarding the crowd in the markets, but when a crowd of women and villagers are

seen coming out on the road even from the villages along the highway, the organizers also start sweating. Women are seen standing towards MLA Mona and caressing her. The same situation is visible from Mothin Mode, Dharupur Bazaar, Purwara

roadsides was visible even from the balconies. Seeing the huge crowd of advocates at the square, Pramod Tiwari and Aradhana Mishra Mona looked elated. Meanwhile, former MLC Kanti Singh Patel, who had come out for election campaign in support of SP candidate Dr. SP Singh Patel in Rampur Khas, also reaches the square. Kanti Singh Patel's enthusiasm also seems to increase after seeing the amazing sight of the road show.

Rajya Sabha members Pramod Tiwari and Aradhana Mishra Mona garlanded the statue of Indira Gandhi here. After this the road show started from Lalganj towards Ghuisamath Sangipur area. The enthusiasm of the people was visible even at Amavaan intersection. Pramod Tiwari and Mona paid obeisance to their favorite Baba Ghuisamath ji. There was enthusiasm for

Mod, till Lalganj Chowk. The enthusiasm of the youth on two-wheelers with Congress and SP flags fluttering in the sky was palpable. When Pramod Tiwari and Aradhana Mishra reached Mona with the road show at Lalganj Indira Chowk, the enthusiasm of the women and traders standing on the

roadsides was visible even from the balconies. Seeing the huge crowd of advocates at the square, Pramod Tiwari and Aradhana Mishra Mona looked elated. Meanwhile, former MLC Kanti Singh Patel, who had come out for election campaign in support of SP candidate Dr. SP Singh Patel in Rampur Khas, also reaches the square. Kanti Singh Patel's enthusiasm also seems to increase after seeing the amazing sight of the road show.

Pramod Tiwari and Aradhana Mishra Mona in the road show from Sujakhar, Diwanganj, Sangipur Bazaar, Lakhara, Muraini, Dalapatti, Atheha, Udaipur, Mangapur, Rehua Lalganj, Rahatkar, Agai to Raniganj Kaithola Bazaar. Both the leaders also got immense support from the public. Looked engrossed in the confidence of support. During this, representative Bhagwati Prasad Tiwari, chief Amit Singh Pankaj, Sangipur chief Ashok Singh Bablu, KD Mishra, Drigpal Yadav, Lalji Yadav, Dr. Chandresh Singh, Ramkripal Pasi, Acharya Vindeshwari Patel, Chhote Lal Saroj, Maulana Rahmani Mian, etc. He was seen encouraging the enthusiasm of the workers and supporters in the road show. Due to the road show, the police of Lalganj, Sangipur and Udaipur were also seen worried about peace and order in the scorching heat.

## Free water distribution at Tundla Junction by Bharat Scouts and Guides

Prayagraj: Various efforts are being made by the Railway Administration to provide pure drinking water to the railway passengers in view of the summer season. In the same sequence, under the direction of Deputy Chief Traffic Manager Tundla, Amit Sudarshan, at Tundla Junction station of Prayagraj division, free water service was provided to the passengers by the students of Bharat Scouts and Guides Tundla and Christ the King Inter College in collaboration with Christ the King Alumni Association. Is going. More than 40 people are contributing to this water distribution at the station. Keeping in mind the scorching heat, the distribution of free water at Tundla Junction station is going on continuously from 06.05.2024 and this water distribution will continue till 30.06.2024. This facility is being provided to the passengers in all the trains passing through Tundla Junction during day time. A total of 7 water coolers are available on all the platforms at Tundla Junction station, these are also providing facilities to the passengers.

## Surprise inspection of the District Jail and Women's Protection Home was conducted by the Secretary, District Legal Services Authority

Prayagraj: A surprise inspection of District Jail Prayagraj and Women's Protection Home was conducted on Wednesday by Salsa member and Secretary District Legal Services Authority Dinesh Gautam. Besides, discussions were held with the prisoners detained in prison regarding their problems. During the inspection, the prison canteen was inspected mainly regarding the food provided to the prisoners. During the inspection, after inspecting the pulses in the food given to the prisoners, it was found that the quality of pulses being given to the prisoners was found to be lacking. In this regard, the Superintendent



Court, Prayagraj, a water cooler was arranged in the office with the grant of Bank of Baroda. This was done on Wednesday by Dinesh Gautam, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Prayagraj.

was instructed to ensure that the quality of food provided to the prisoners is as per the rules, so that the prisoners do not have to face inconvenience regarding food. In view of the inconvenience of drinking water in the Legal Aid Defense System office, a water cooler was arranged in the office. In view of the inconvenience of drinking water in the Legal Aid Defense System office established in the District and Sessions Court, Prayagraj, a water cooler was arranged in the office with the grant of Bank of Baroda. This was done on Wednesday by Dinesh Gautam, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Prayagraj.

# Vote for the nation of India, hand over the country in safe hands, come together and vote

Prayagraj: A massive voting awareness rally was taken out before the elections at Division Chowk under Civil Defence. In the rally, Deputy Controller Narendra Sharma, Additional Deputy Controller Rakesh Kumar Tiwari, who came from Civil Defense Headquarters, Chief Warden Anil Kumar Annu Bhaiya, Deputy Division Warden Mani Mehra, who came from Division Chowk, Voting Awareness In-charge ICO Mohd. Yakub, GICO Rashid Sagir, ICO Ashish Tandon, Staff Officer Dharmendra Nishadji, Staff Officer Praveen Aggarwal, Staff Officer

Rakesh Mehrotra, ICO Dilip Dhawan in the streets of South Malka, Laxman Market, Bahadur Ganj area, Hindi Sahitya Sammelan,



Chandralok Square, etc. areas, to the eminent citizens of Vanha, in the houses. By telling the people living in the area or the shopkeep-

ers about the importance of voting, through slogans, the instructions of the Election Commission, or the importance and usefulness of their right to vote, their duty, as well as the mandatory use of their vote on the 25th of the election day.

Do do so, so that the vote percentage of your Prayagraj is maximum. Despite the temperature of 45 degree, work was done to

make people aware on the roads.

To make the awareness rally successful, the posts from Division Chowk included Post Warden Nilesh Mishra, Reserve Post Warden Anurag Vaish, Deputy Post Warden Moh Mazhar, Parvez Ahmed Sector Warden Ravi Kumar Sahu, Asad Qureshi, Rajneesh Gupta, Amit Verma, Anand Tiwari, Yatarth. Wardens like Shivpuri, Pankaj Pandey, Shishir Srivastava, Amit Kumar, Ripisudan, Mohd. Arshad, Arvind Chaddha, Piyush Kesari, Mahima Mehrotra, Veena Saraswat, Sunita Sahu, etc. performed their primary responsibilities

in the scorching heat with full devotion and promptness. Concluding the voting awareness program, voting awareness in-charge Mohd. Yakub announced the end of the campaign, wishing maximum vote percentage in the elections. Heartily congratulating everyone at Division Chowk, all those working for the work being done in the public interest. Expresses gratitude to the respected wardens and media in-charge of Chowk Division, Ashad Qureshi Kasare, who has given his cooperation by participating in the program and deserves praise.

## Winners of High Court annual sports competition honoured

Prayagraj: The winners of the annual sports competitions held at the cricket ground of Allahabad High Court were honoured. The winning men's cricket team PS XI was presented the trophy by Honorable Senior Justice MK Gupta. Chief guest Senior Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta, while awarding the players, inspired them to participate in similar sports activities in future too. High Court Recreation Club President Justice Mahesh Chandra Tripathi, Justice Soumitra Dayal Singh, Justice Samit Gopal, Justice Gautam Chaudhary, Justice Arun Kumar Singh 'Deshwal' distributed prizes to the participants.

## Upstox forays into insurance distribution; aims to simplify wealth management in India

Prayagraj: Upstox, one of India's premier wealth management platforms, today announced its entry into the insurance distribution business. While Upstox has traditionally been recognized for its offerings in Stocks, F&O, and Mutual Funds, the introduction of Insurance marks a significant stride towards evolving into a comprehensive wealth-building platform. Today, Upstox is a one-stop-shop for a wide array of financial instruments including Stocks, IPOs, F&O, Commodities, Currencies, Fixed Deposits, P2P Lending, Government Bonds, T-Bills, NCDs, Gold, Insurance and much more.

our offerings on Upstox and foray into the insurance distribution segment. We have recognized that navigating the insurance landscape is a daunting task. Customers are inundated with so many questions - which is the right plan, what should be the correct criteria to select a plan, how much insurance cover will be enough. At Upstox, we understand these challenges, and we're dedicated to helping our customers get answers to all of these without overwhelming them. Our aim is to help customers cut through the noise and help Indians Invest Right. We are constantly working towards making our platform simple, secure, fast, and intuitive. With the launch of insurance on our platform, we will re-

main steadfast in our endeavour of helping our users manage their wealth effectively for a secure financial future. And to accomplish this, we're delighted to have HDFC Life as our first insurance partners."

Commenting on this collaboration, Suresh Badami, Deputy Managing Director, HDFC Life said, "We are pleased to announce our partnership with Upstox. This marks another stride towards realising India's goal of 'Insurance for All' by 2047. We aim to utilise our distribution and digital capabilities to extend our insurance solutions to their entire customer base and enhance the value of this partnership."

With this launch, the company aims to

revolutionise India's insurance landscape by offering its users a simplified, transparent and customised experience of purchasing insurance in line with their needs. Currently, Upstox is offering Term Life Insurance on its platform and is planning to roll out Health, Motor and Travel Insurance soon. HDFC Life is among the first insurers to partner with Upstox and feature their Term Insurance plans on the platform.

Currently, the insurance penetration in India stands at just 4.2% with a considerable portion of the population still being dependent on traditional and agent-driven models to purchase policies. Along with that, there is a lack of awareness, overload of choices, heavy paperwork and complex jar-

gon involved in the process of buying insurance. Through its research, Upstox recognized that often users succumb to a one-size-fits-all approach; and opt for a term insurance plan without proper assessment. Upstox has thus set out to solve the gross mis-selling of insurance products and embarked on a monumental task of streamlining Life, Health, Motor, Travel insurance for its customers. By leveraging advanced technology and industry expertise, Upstox aims to simplify the insurance process - from identifying the top plans in each category to purchasing insurance and finally making the claim process smooth.

Upstox is also trying to encourage younger Indians

to consider and start thinking about insurance earlier as that effectively helps them reduce their premium costs. To make its customers' journey more simple and intuitive, the company has done the heavy lifting for customers by tying up with the top insurance providers in the country and analysing various plans to provide their customers with the most suitable option.

By guiding customers through a set of targeted questions, Upstox then navigates them towards the most suitable plan. Additionally, the feature of the cover amount calculator empowers users to accurately assess their insurance requirements, enabling them to determine the optimal coverage amount.

## Jagadguru Rambhadracharya Divyang State University, Chitrakoot invites applications for admission to various undergraduate and postgraduate courses

Lucknow: Jagadguru Rambhadracharya Divyang State University, Chitrakoot has invited applications for admission to various undergraduate and postgraduate courses for the academic session 2024-25. This exclusive university has been established by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Government of Uttar Pradesh, which provides opportunities for higher education to persons with disabilities. The university has invited admission applications from candidates for various courses including B.A., BCA, BBA, BPA (Vocal/Tabla), BFA, M.A in Post Graduate (in various subjects), MCA, MBA, MFA, MPA (Vocal/Tabla), MSW, B.Ed in Teacher Training, B.Ed - Special Education (H.I./V.I.), M.Ed. and PG Diploma programs in addition to PGDCA, PGD. The university has reserved 50 percent seats for physically handicapped candidates, while the remaining seats are reserved for general candidates. Features include hostel facilities for students with disabilities, smart classrooms, barrier-free campus, quality education by experienced teachers, lush green environment, and rehabilitation and employment centres. Interested candidates can visit the university website [www.jrudu.ac.in](http://www.jrudu.ac.in) or online you can apply for admission form portal [www.jruduerp.in](http://www.jruduerp.in). The last date for submission of admission form is June 30, 2024.

## Minister Nandi gave instructions to take strictest action against those accused of murder of child

Prayagraj: Recently, after receiving information about the kidnapping and murder of ten year old son of MNNIT employee Shivmol. Ansh, resident of Old Lashkar Line of Kidganj police station area, Uttar Pradesh Government's Industrial Development Minister Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi today met the victim's family. He went to the house located at Old Lashkar Line and consoled the victim's family and expressed his condolences. After talking to the police officials, he gave instructions to arrest the absconding accused as soon as possible and take the strictest action against all the accused. Minister Nandi said that the incident of kidnapping and murder of an innocent child is very sad and painful. Is. Any accused who commits such an incident will not be spared. Strictest action will be taken against the accused.

## Make candidates of India Alliance win: Anil

Prayagraj: Former Union Minister Anil Shastri appealed to the respected voters of the district to vote for India Alliance's Congress candidate and former state government minister Ujwal Raman Singh from Allahabad parliamentary constituency and SP's Amar Nath Maurya from Phulpur parliamentary constituency for the progress and prosperity of the country. A poignant appeal has been made. Anil, son of the country's second Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, has issued separate videos requesting the voters of both the parliamentary constituencies to be unable to come here on the advice of doctors due to eye surgery. It may be remembered that Anil Shastri, former Union Minister of State for Finance, had contested elections as a Congress candidate from Allahabad parliamentary constituency in 1991. His father Lal Bahadur Shastri was an MP from here twice, while after his death in 1966, his elder brother Harikrishna Shastri represented this place in the Parliament and remained the Union Agriculture Minister till 1971. In 1988, his younger brother Sunil contested the elections from Congress against former Prime Minister V.P. Singh after Amitabh Bachchan's resignation.

## Public relations of BJP candidate Neeraj Tripathi in Muthiganj division

Prayagraj: 52nd Lok Sabha Allahabad BJP candidate Neeraj Tripathi's public relations took place in Muthiganj area. Public relations concluded at Masurian Mai Mandir, Keydganj, middle road, Arya Kanya Inter College, Muthiganj square, Bada square, Muthiganj. Public relations ended under the leadership of assembly coordinator Dnyaneshwar Shukla and Pramod Jaiswal, Grijesh Mishra, Keydganj divisional president Raghavendra Mishra, Muthiganj divisional president Kishori Lal Jaiswal. Happened. All the councilors of Ganth and Muthiganj mandal were present. All the officers and workers of the mandal were present. Mahila Morcha officials were also present. BJP media in-charge Rajesh Kesarwani and Gopal Ji Malviya said that in this public relations, Bharatiya Janata Party candidate Neeraj Tripathi was welcomed by the local people at many places.

## Opening win for Noida Tuskers and Prayagraj Avengers Voting Awareness Football Tournament 2024

Prayagraj: Noida Tuskers and Prayagraj Avengers won their respective matches on the first day today in the two-day Voter Awareness League football competition organized by Northern Football Academy on the football field of CAV Inter College Civil Line.

According to the head coach of the academy, Indranil Ghosh, in the two-day league competition of four teams, two matches were played on the first day in which Noida Tuskers defeated Lucknow Nawas 5-1, while Prayagraj Avengers defeated Agra Stars by 3-1. The objective of this two-day football competition is that everyone, whether old or young, should come together and cast their vote.





In order to conduct the voting in Commissionerate Prayagraj in the sixth phase of Lok Sabha General Election- 2024 in a fair and peaceful manner, the police forces/central security forces who came from different states were welcomed by the Deputy Commissioner of Police by garlanding/giving them flower bunches.

## BJP is a disciplined party which works in the interest of the country and the nation: Keshav Prasad Maurya

Prayagraj: BJP office in civil line under the leadership of Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya. Former BSP government minister Babul Banwar and SP's mayor candidate Ajay Srivastava joined the Bharatiya Janata Party on this occasion. Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya said that Bharatiya Janata Party is a disciplined party which works in the interest of the country and in the national interest, hence we all as a disciplined soldier of Bharatiya Janata Party will give our full strength on both the Lok Sabha seats of Prayagraj to be held on 25th May. We will have to show and bloom the lotus with a strong majority so that we

can further increase the strength of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. On this occasion, the Honorable Deputy Chief Minister congratulated all the leaders who



joined the Bharatiya Janata Party for coming into the BJP family and asked them to work for the interests of the party. On this occasion, Cabinet Minister Suresh Khanna, Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani,

Metropolitan President Rajendra Mishra, made all the leaders who joined the party wear Bharatiya Janata Party's Ang Vastram and fed them sweets. District spokesperson Rajesh Kesarwani said that on this occasion councillor Kusum Lata Gupta, and many heads participated, among those who congratulated were Phulpur Lok Sabha in-charge Balendu Mani Tripathi, MLA Guru Prasad Maurya, Awadhesh Chandra Gupta, Kavita Patel, Varun Kesarwani, Rajesh Kesarwani, Vivek Mishra, Sanjay Gupta, Prashant Shukla, Rakesh Bharti, Kuldeep Mishra, Deep Dwivedi, Anand Vaishya Sudarshan, etc. hundreds of workers congratulated.

# Modi government going to be formed for third time with huge majority: Nandi

Prayagraj: Uttar Pradesh Government's Industrial Development Minister and Prayagraj City South MLA Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi held a meeting with officials and workers of Naini and Kydganj divisions on Wednesday in support of BJP candidate from Allahabad Lok Sabha constituency, Neeraj Tripathi. In which he appealed to everyone with full force to make the BJP candidate victorious with huge votes. Minister Nandi held a meeting with

the officials and workers of Naini Mandal at Abhinandan Guest House Naini and Kidganj Mandal at Parinay Guest House Bairahna and appealed to the Center and State. Appealed to convey the achievements of the government to the people. Minister Nandi said that the BJP government, working with the basic mantra of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Prayas and Sabka Vishwas, has changed both the direction and condition of the coun-

try. The public's blessings and trust are with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. No matter what tactics the opposition adopts, the public is not going to be misled. Today the entire country is united and determined to make Prime Minister Narendra Modi the Prime Minister of the country for the third time. Before the year 2014, entrepreneurs in the state did not want to set up industries, but today the picture of the country and the state has changed. Before 2014, there was reign

of terror in the country. There used to be explosions in Delhi, Mumbai, Ayodhya, Banaras, now India's prestige is increasing even in foreign countries. Minister Nandi said that traders are completely safe under BJP rule. The opposition has no issue to present its point among the public in the Lok Sabha elections. Minister Nandi appealed to everyone to choose such a candidate who can play an important role in the development of the country. Minister Nandi said that during

the 10 years of the tenure of the Honorable Prime Minister, the light of development and the benefits of government schemes have reached the last village and the last person. This is the reason why today the common people are busy in realizing the resolution of crossing 400. The victory of the Bharatiya Janata Party under the leadership of the Honorable Prime Minister for the third consecutive time with a huge majority on 4th June is certain.

## Illegal firearm-making gang busted, two held

Prayagraj: Nawabganj police busted a gang involved in manufacturing and supplying illegal firearms on Wednesday. The police have also arrested two members of the gang, along with a large cache of country-made single-shot pistols (katta), ammunition, and tools used in their manufacturing. An FIR has also been registered against them under the Arms Act and other sections of the IPC, police officials said. DCP Trans-Ganga, Abhishek Bharti, stated that acting on a tip-off, Nawabganj police, under SHO Dharmendra Dubey, carried out a raid in a deserted building near an intermediate college in the Kuresar area on Wednesday morning. Two persons involved in making firearms were arrested from the spot. They were identified as Anuj Pandey, 31, of the Baghrai area of Pratapgarh, and Ajeet Mishra, 29, of the

Hathigawa area of Pratapgarh district. Fourteen country-made single-shot pistols of different calibers, 7 cartridges, six gun barrels, and tools including bolts, nails, blades, hammer, nuts, springs, etc., were recovered from them.

Questioning of the accused revealed that they had been involved in manufacturing illegal firearms for many years. They used to sell a single firearm for ₹4,000 to ₹10,000 depending on its quality. The manufactured firearms were to be supplied to criminals, anti-social elements, and youths. The duo is being further questioned to ascertain if the firearms were intended for causing trouble during polls. Police officials stated that Anuj Pandey has 12 criminal cases while Ajeet Mishra has 10 cases registered against them at different police stations in Pratapgarh and Prayagraj.

## Allahabad University signs MoU with NRDC for Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) protection and technology commercialization

Prayagraj: Allahabad University has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) for Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and commercialization of technology. National Research Development Corporation is an enterprise under the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India. The objective of this MoU is to commercialize technologies and intellectual properties developed at the University with partners in industry and other sectors. National Research Development Corporation will now evaluate the technologies and intellectual properties developed in the university in terms of commercial potential and provide services related to their

commercial use. On behalf of Allahabad University, Registrar Professor N.K. Shukla and CMD Commodore Amit Rastogi signed the UOA documents on behalf of NRDC. The MoA will be valid for a period of 10 years from May 2024.

Public Relations Officer of Allahabad University, Prof. Jaya Kapoor appreciated this initiative and said that this achievement has been achieved by our respected Vice Chancellor Prof. This has been possible due to the dedicated efforts of Sangeeta. His vision and commitment have been instrumental in making this UOA a success. Dean of Research (Research and Development) of Allahabad University, Prof. S.I. Rizvi stressed the importance of creating an environment conducive to

problem-solving research for industries in the university. He said that increasing industry-academia interaction will lead to quality research in educational institutions. Professor Rizvi said that despite the talent, students and researchers used to lack guidance in patenting and commercializing their products which will no longer be there. Meanwhile, Chairman of Allahabad University Patent Committee, Dr. Vishnu Prabhakar Srivastava said that efforts have been started to commercialize the innovations of the university for social benefit. The objective of this MoA is to promote, develop and commercialize technologies, know-how, inventions and patents emanating from the University.

## Owaisi denies vote splitting claims, blames BJP for betraying Dalits

Prayagraj: The All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief Asaduddin Owaisi on Wednesday said that the Modi government did not give justice to Dalits and OBCs and provided reservation of 10 per cent to a population that constitutes 20 per cent of the country, while giving only 28 per cent reservation to those who make up 80 per cent of the population.

Owaisi, who was in Mauaima to seek votes for PDM Nyay Morcha candidate from Phulpur, Mahima

Patel, also denied allegations that his party cut into the votes of Congress and Samajwadi Party.

Slamming the BJP on the paper leak issue, Owaisi asked the Prime Minister why question papers were being leaked. "Whose spirit is getting the question papers leaked?" Owaisi asked. The AIMIM chief also blamed the BJP for not fulfilling the promise of protecting farmers' crops from stray cattle. Small and medium enterprises shut down due to demonetisation, while the

lockdown finished many other industries. The government did nothing while people were trapped during the lockdown and even died on railway tracks.

"The BJP speaks about crossing 400 seats, but instead, petrol prices have crossed Rs. 100. The government has been talking about taking POK for the past ten years, but it is only a political stunt," said Owaisi.

Regarding the incident of chaos and a stampede-like situation at an INDIA bloc's public meeting at

Padila, Owaisi questioned how they could contest polls when they are not able to organise meetings.

Addressing a public meeting at Khampur in Mauaima in Prayagraj, AIMIM chief said that Prime Minister Modi has removed Muslims from politics.

Owaisi blamed the BJP government for the murder of former MP Atiq Ahmad in police custody and claimed that former MLA Mukhtar Ansari was given slow poison.

Hitting out at the

Samajwadi Party, Owaisi said that Akhilesh Yadav takes votes from Muslims by scaring them about the BJP. "Where was Akhilesh when bulldozers were demolishing the homes of Muslims?" he added. While in Pratapgarh, Owaisi reiterated his allegations that PM Modi has pushed Muslims out of the country's politics since his government came to power. He said that if Muslims want to ensure their place in politics, they should have their own political leadership.

## Lime causes blindness among children

PRAYAGRAJ: The improper packaging of lime used in betel and tobacco often becomes the cause of blindness among children. Some recent cases of blindness caused by lime, especially among children, have become a cause of concern. According to Dr Sunil, eight cases of children with lime infiltration into the eyes came in last one month. These children had lost their sight due to severe damage to the cornea.

Most of the residents of Allahabad are addicted to betel, so they generally keep the ingredients of betel including lime at home. Lime is generally packed in thin polythene packets which burst open easily. These lime packets are easily available at all betel shops.

These lime packets, if kept in reach

of children, can cause damage to their eyes. "The lime affect is so vigorous, as it get absorbed by the cells and starts to form alkali which liquefies the cornea of the eye and also damages other cells of eye. One should consult doctor within 24 hours, as if left untreated it can cause blindness," said Dr Sunil.

According to him, the injury caused by lime is similar to acid injury. The treatment of corneal damage can be done by 'stem cell harvesting and culture'. If the case is more serious and could not be rectified by stem cell harvesting and culture process then cornea is transplanted. Some other reasons which may cause corneal damage like diarrhoea, dysentery, deficiency of Vitamin-A, and eyes ulcer.

## Development of Industry with Modi in Naini area across Yamuna of Alld parliamentary constituency

Prayagraj: Our correspondents from corporate sector All Stom, Baidhnath, BPCL, ITI, Days Medical Remond, Saraswati Hitech, Allahabad Steel Authority of India, Future Plastic, United, Allahabad Agro., Nature Food, Shirdi Sai Electrical, Mahakaushal Agri Shop, Shri Bhavani Paper Mills, Sherwani Industries Ltd., I.P.S., Agricultural Pvt. Ltd. and talked to the people regarding the elections, and tried to know their views regarding the elections. While giving their views, they told that in the last 10 years, the BJP government has given every opportunity to the corporate sector to move forward, to carry forward their business with ease.

The government has been supporting us throughout the years, especially in the form of economic support. Such an environment has never been available to the corporate sector before, today in India, every small and big business is flourishing, moving on the path of development, which had ended or was happening in the units or other governments, also The BJP government and Prime Minister Modi have made life dynamic and thousands of houses have recovered from unemployment. We all the people of the corporate sector are very excited that the BJP government will be formed again for the third time, and Narendra Modi as the Prime Minister of the

country for the third time. Yes, take the oath. To move the corporate sector forward, to fulfill the resolve of making the country the third economy of the world, we all the people of the corporate sector are with BJP, and want to see Modi ji as the Prime Minister, Prime Minister Modi ji. We are all with the candidate of Allahabad Parliamentary Constituency for the resolution, stable government, all our votes will be in favor of BJP. Only when the corporate sector becomes strong will the nation remain developing and Prime Minister Modi's vision of 2047 developed India will be fulfilled. For this, vote in large numbers in favor of BJP to achieve this goal.

## Fake documents predominant in land grabbing cases

PRAYAGRAJ: Fake documents, coupled with muscle or money power, have played a dominant role in land grabbing offences reported across the district. In a majority of cases, police found that bogus documents were used to register property or create an encumbrance in revenue records. In a similar incident of property related fraud, which may also involve some tehsil employees and lekhpal, some persons managed to remove the names of the original claimant and get their names registered in the documents by allegedly procuring forged documents.

Addressing mediapersons, a distraught house owner, Syed Rashid Ali claimed that 167.29 square metre land bearing Arazi No. 550/1, Tehsil and Pargana Sadar, Allahabad was purchased by him from Masood Ahmad S/o Late

Ashfaq Ahmad, resident of village Pansaur, district Kaushambi through a registered deed on 27.10.2010. After verification of the land, Rashid constructed a new house on the purchased plot and informed the Nagar Nigam, which allotted house no. 18H/34B Karamat Ki Chowki, Allahabad. He deposited house tax for the year 2016-17 at Nagar Nigam Khuldabad zonal office and got computerised receipt. He owns the right and possession on this house since then till date. In 2016, the flood fury in Kareli, Karamat Ki Chowki, Islam Nagar and other adjoining areas damaged his house and boundary walls.

When the water receded, Rashid went to repair the damaged portion of his house. The land grabber Shamshad Ahmad S/o Hameed Khan R/o 84/2, Naya Pura, Kareli and

Shujaat Khan alias Tipu S/o Iqbal Khan R/o K 42, JK Ashiyana, Kareli appeared on the scene. They abused Rashid and threatened him for dire consequences. They asked Rashid to stop the repair and maintenance



work. Through a fake registered deed dated 09.06.2016, they pronounced that the house in question is theirs. Rashid informed SO Kareli who responded and chased away Shamshad and Tipu ordering them not to intervene in this matter. "The wheel turned in March 2017, when new UP Government was formed, bulk transfers were done and high hand-

edness, brutality, excesses and abuses of the above mafia began once again," alleged Rashid.

Since, then Rashid has given several applications attaching papers of his ownership to higher au-

thorities including SO Kareli, CO Shahganj, SP City, SSP, DM, Divisional Commissioner, Revenue and Stamp Minister, UP and CM UP etc. but of no avail. These culprits are roaming freely. No FIR against them means danger to Rashid's life and property. Rashid had met personally too, with several district and administrative officers. Most of them are saying - "Wait, the enquiry is in progress". How long this enquiry last? When will Rashid get the Justice? Will the culprits be booked? "The above criminals have several FIR's against their names in various thanas of this city," he alleged. Rashid has demanded the concerned authorities to lodge an FIR against the mafia and rowdy elements as per complaint given in his application and arrest them without fail. The sufferer has also demanded an impartial enquiry through SDM Sadar as the area Lekhpal has favoured the culprits in his earlier report. "If any untoward incident happens against Rashid or his family members, the law broker Shamshad and Tipu will be responsible," he warned. The authorities are requested to intervene into the matter immediately so that justice may not be delayed.



## Editorial

### Clumsy and ill-informed analogy gone wrong

President George W Bush was famous for his quite often hilarious gaffes, but he has been receiving steady competition from the 81-year-old President Joe Biden. The latest Biden pronouncement may be more by way of a clumsy and ill-informed analogy gone wrong. Luckily for him, his presidential election rival, the almost 78-year-old Donald Trump, makes quite a few bloopers too.

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



## Tibet and Myanmar is a geostrategic milestone

West Siang, Upper Siang, Dibang Valley, Lower Dibang Valley, Anjaw, and Changlang in Arunachal Pradesh adjoining Tibet and Myanmar is a geostrategic milestone. It was conceived in 2016 and is expected to be completed in 2027. Work in this direction has started at a quick pace. This shows the urgency and importance India gives to its territorial integrity. The infrastructural development that China has brought along the McMahon Line is quite extensive. The frontier highway is a precise and direct response to this and to curb China's irrationality. The highway will become an all-weather road to handle any geopolitical and geostrategic pres-

sure likely to emanate from the other side of the border. From Tawang to Vijayanagar, which covers the entire border space in Arunachal Pradesh, the frontier highway is a milestone in India's robust preparedness in the eastern Himalayas. The dragon finds a fitting competitor. The scale with which China develops its infrastructural might, both at the border and in the hinterland, the frontier highway is a geostrategic imperative. The risk these complex infrastructures present leaves no scope for a second thought but to act urgently to protect the territorial integrity of India. The frontier highway manifests India's right intent and seriousness in addressing the pos-

sible dangers that the enemy constantly poses. The frontier highway will present the required checkmate to Chinese bullying attitudes in the region. Beijing's reaction to these infrastructural initiatives is not new. It always does this to keep itself relevant in the thick of things. However, it has no business in making any comment as Arunachal Pradesh is an integral part of the sovereign India. China uses this drama to keep the issue alive and effectively uses its propaganda machinery to develop some geopolitical weight in the region. It presents no hesitation in developing the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) through Pakistan-occupied

Kashmir (PoK). It knows the disputed character of PoK and exercises no restraint. Instead, it tutors India on what it does in its sovereign territory. India understands China's cunning and exercises patience and quietness, making necessary preparations to check the latter's possible misadventures. However, the work-in-progress frontier highway will significantly strengthen India's border infrastructure and seamless connectivity. It will present a significant impetus for encouraging economic engagement in the region. Infrastructure and connectivity have always played a pivotal role in modernising the economy and opening the scope for economic.

# Global strategic oil storage: China is stockpiling, India must boost reserves

Petroleum products continue to be strategic assets that are still the drivers of all transportation, significant electricity production, and many industrial processes. Petroleum and gas reserves are nature's blessing to only a few select regions of the world. Most large economies in Europe, China, Japan, and India, among others, are major importers of petroleum products. Global strategic petroleum reserves refer to crude oil inventories (or stockpiles) held by the government of a particular country, as well as private industry, to safeguard the economy and help maintain national security during an energy crisis. Strategic reserves are intended to be used to cover short-term supply disruptions. The Ukraine war once again emphasised the need for logistic supply chain management and how disruptions can upset any country's strategic and tactical intentions. They also impact the day-to-day lives of the citizens. The disruption of electric power, petrol, and gas in winter 2022 in Europe and Ukraine was severe. American sanctions on Iranian and Russian oil have greatly upset demand and supply dynamics. The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) often operates as a cartel to control production and thus



influence prices. There is thus a need for all importing nations to not only broaden the basket of sourcing countries but also to build their own strategic storage capacities.

**Global Petroleum Reserves**  
The world consumes roughly 100 million barrels of crude oil per day. This translates to 36.5 billion barrels per year. The proven global oil reserves currently are nearly 1,650 billion barrels, and that will last nearly 45 years. For the last one decade there has been no addition to known oil reserves. Major countries with percentages of reserves are Venezuela (18.2 per cent), Saudi Arabia (16.2 per cent), Canada (10.4 per cent), Iran (9.5 per cent), Iraq (8.7 per cent), Kuwait (6.1 per cent), UAE (5.9 per cent), Russia (4.8 per cent), Libya (2.9 per cent), United States (2.1 per cent), China (1.5 per cent), and Pakistan (0.021

per cent), among many others.

### Global Strategic Petroleum Reserves

The International Energy Agency (IEA), a group of 31 countries, requires members to hold strategic reserves equal to 90 days of the previous year's net imports, though commercial stockpiles can be included in that total. Only net-exporter members of the IEA are exempt from this requirement. The forward commercial storage agreements allow oil-exporting countries increased flexibility in commercial storage and allow petroleum to be stored within an oil-importing country. Such reserves remain technically under the control of the oil-exporting country. In 2022, approximately 4.1 billion barrels of oil were held in strategic reserves by IEA member states, of which 1.4 billion were government-controlled and the remain-

der were held by private industry. The US, China (non-IEA member), and Japan are leading crude oil consumers and maintain the largest SPR. Many other non-IEA countries have started working on their own SPR.

### China's Strategic Petroleum Reserves

China has the second largest storage, at 511 million barrels. China's daily consumption is around 12 million barrels of crude. Thus, their SPR is equivalent to between 40 and 50 days of imports. China eventually wants to raise the figure to 90 days of reserve. Russia has been the major supplier to China of late, contributing as much as 2.14 million barrels per day, overtaking Saudi Arabia. Russian oil was substantially discounted due to Western sanctions. Stockpiling partly insulates Beijing from the supply chain and pricing dynamics. Also, larger stocks will be required for a possible Taiwan Strait conflict that could result in a military blockade or economic or trade sanctions. China has also secured supply chains through pipelines from Russia, the trans-Myanmar oil and gas pipeline, and from central Asia, predominantly Turkmenistan. Simultaneously, China is rapidly shifting to electric vehicles and is not only building lithium stocks for batteries but has also acquired pro-

cessing facilities and mines, including overseas. Investment bank UBS estimates that China might control a third of all global lithium supplies by 2025. The US SPR is the world's largest, with an authorised maximum capacity of 727 million barrels. The reserves are kept in salt caverns located at different locations along the Texas and Louisiana Gulf Coasts. The US consumed an average of about 20.01 million barrels of petroleum per day. It was a net petroleum exporter of 1.64 million barrels per day in 2023. It thus has the capacity to play around with the SPR. The US government has historically tapped into its SPR following man-made accidents, economic crises, and natural disasters, though it has also sold and loaned crude oil from the SPR to other nations at times. Japan held SPR equivalent to 133 days of crude oil imports in early 2022. That amounts to 332 million barrels based on the country's average monthly imports in 2021. Commercial stocks amounted to 86 days of imports. Japanese SPR storage is spread across nearly a dozen facilities. South Africa has an SPR storage capacity of 45 million barrels, managed by PetroSA. Singapore has sophisticated oil refineries and storage terminals, is one of the world's major oil refining centres.

## Rafah offensive and war in Gaza

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

the Mediterranean Sea, with estimates of over 34,500 deaths, including 13,000 children, and over 77,500 injured and maimed for life. Medical aid, food, and water have been severely restricted, and most international aid agencies, including UNRWA as well as WCK (World Central Kitchen), have been targeted and prevented from delivering lifesaving aid. Despite a UN Security Council resolution of March 25 calling for an immediate ceasefire and the unconditional release of hostages, neither of the warring parties has been able to come to a common understanding.

In the midst of it, there was a period of dangerous escalation when an Israeli strike on April 1 targeted the Iranian Consulate building in Damascus, Syria, resulting in the

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

The prosecutors see this as a criminal act, especially as it led to tax evasion and suppression of information, preventing the American voter from making an informed judgement. Numerous legal experts are not convinced and opine that the case is weak. The Trump legal team tried hard to delay the trial until after the elections or have it shifted to another city. They have been successful in most of the cases, including three prospective criminal trials involving unlawful possession of classified documents by Trump even after demitting office and an attempted insurrection on January 6, 2021, to overturn the people's mandate. His lawyers took the stand that their client could not get justice in the Manhattan Court in New York, a bastion of the Democratic Party. They further alleged that Judge Merchan's daughter had a business relationship with the Biden administration, and hence there was a conflict of interest. They demanded that the judge must recuse himself.

Next, they asked that the hearing be deferred until the Supreme Court's decision on Trump's claim of absolute presidential immunity from all public or private actions. They tried to delay the jury selection. None of these worked, prompting intemperate rants from the defendant, despite numerous gag orders by the courts. Earlier this week, Judge Merchan finally cracked the whip, holding

Trump in contempt for nine violations. He imposed a \$1000 fine for each violation, the maximum permitted under the law, while recognising that it may not mean anything to the defendant but ominously cautioning that further violations could even result in his incarceration. Trump is putting up a brave front, but the legal troubles are taking their toll. He is short of funds; his campaign has lost some momentum, as he is obliged to be present in court for eight hours or more, four days a week. It may possibly have even begun to sow doubts in the minds of some supporters. In any event, his family members are conspicuously absent at the trials. Some of his former friends and associates, including former Vice President Mike Pence, have gone cold or even turned hostile. That is not to say that his grip over the party has weakened. Very few in the Republican Party dare to cross swords with him. He continues to be ahead of President Biden in opinion polls by 4 to 6 percentage points. That brings us back to the question about the timing of the court cases. The 'hush-money' case dates back eight years, and the other criminal cases date back at least three years. The civilian cases also go back in time. What were the prosecutors doing all these years? Even if he had immunity from prosecution as president, it has been over three years since he relinquished office. Is it a mere hap-

penstance that a flurry of court cases has come up for hearing bang in the middle of the presidential campaign? If they have coalesced organically at this juncture, it is indeed too much of a coincidence! Given the stakes involved, it is prudent not to take things at face value. The Biden administration naturally maintains that the Department of Justice and courts are independent and that it has no role to play. True, division of power is enshrined in the Constitution, but is it so watertight? Trump and his followers blame the White House for master-minding his legal troubles. He has been calling President Biden 'crooked' besides deploying even more colourful language. He describes the trials as an "assault on America". Be that as it may, it is a no-loss proposition for the ruling Democrats. If Trump is disqualified, the Republican campaign could be thrown into disarray. At the very least, the renewed spotlight on Trump's character-flaws and misdemeanours is bound to dent his standing with the independents and moderate Republicans voters. And yet the greatest irony is that, come November, Trump could very well succeed in reclaiming the high office. All court cases could then instantly vanish in thin air, and everything could be forgiven if not forgotten. Would therefore one be wrong to surmise that when it comes to the rich and powerful, the wheels of justice.



## Conservationists launch 'Save River Source' campaign to safeguard Western Ghats rivers

**BENGALURU:** Demanding protection and conservation of multiple rivers' source points along the Western Ghats of Karnataka, hundreds of conservation activists on Wednesday kickstarted a year-long campaign and awareness programmes coinciding with the celebrations of International Biodiversity Day. Collaborating with the Karnataka State Biodiversity Board and the Karnataka Forest Department, the conservationists, farmers' outfits, local organisations and youngsters led by the Vruksha Laksha Movement in Uttara Kannada vowed to safeguard sources of prominent rivers in the Western Ghats areas. Visiting the sources of Rivers including Bedthi, Sharavathi, Aghanashini, Shalmala, Varada and Kumudvathi, the conservationists drove home the message of importance of conserving these river sources. "The world over, citizens are facing severe shortage of potable water as climate change has impacted the water availability in rivers. Over the years, we have been watching the degradation of the fragile landscape of Western Ghats which is the source point of several West and East flowing rivers. These rapacious projects will imperil the Western Ghats ecosystem affecting the flow of water from the catchment into these rivers. Hence, we are duty



bound to protect these river sources for the progeny," appealed Ananth Hegde Ashisara, former Chairperson of Karnataka State Biodiversity Board and Chairperson of Vruksha Laksha movement. Recalling the efforts of the State Biodiversity Board in safeguarding the sources of about 22 rivers in Western Ghats, Ashisara pointed out that the momentum should continue. "The forest of Western Ghats is everything for these rivers that ensures water security downstream along with multiple commercial activities. Also, this riverine ecosystem along the ghats is dotted with several unique and endemic tree species including the tree species of 'Bili Matti' (Terminalia tormentosa) and Dhoopa tree (Vateria indica). If we want to retain these vegetation for our future generation, we all must act now and safeguard these river sources," he explained. Forest officials from Yellapura division and Biodiversity Board officials were also present during the event.

## People saving Rs 18,000 per month since AAP formed govt in Delhi: Raghav



**NEW DELHI:** AAP Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha on Wednesday claimed people have been saving Rs 18,000 per month on electricity, water, medicines, and school fees since his party came to power in Delhi and soon women would receive Rs 1,000 each from the Kejriwal government. Campaigning for the AAP's East Delhi candidate Kuldeep Kumar, he said that his party was committed to elevating people from humble beginnings to MLAs, MPs, and ministers. "The AAP has always made people from ordinary families MLAs, MPs, and ministers. Kuldeep Kumar and I are exam-

ples of this," he said and highlighted the importance of electing educated and honest representatives who are dedicated to serving the people. "The AAP government has worked to reduce costs and in return, the party is asking for just three things: people's blessings, love, and vote," Chadha said. "Since the AAP came into power, the people of Delhi have saved around Rs 18,000 per month on electricity, medicines, water, and school fees. Women also save on bus travel costs," he said, adding that soon women will receive Rs 1,000 each under the Kejriwal government. Seeking votes for Kumar, the AAP Rajya

Sabha MP said, "Kuldeep Kumar is one of you. He will not go anywhere. If the work is not done, we will hold him by his ears and get the work done." "My throat is sore from shouting in Parliament. I need another colleague there. Elect my younger brother Kuldeep Kumar and make the voice of the common people louder," he said. Appealing collective support from the AAP and Congress workers, Chadha said, "When Rahul Gandhi votes in the Lok Sabha elections, he will press the 'jhadu' (broom) button. Similarly, when Arvind Kejriwal votes, he will press the 'hand' button. This is the INDIA bloc."

## CAPSULES

### ED arrests one more in TDS refund fraud case

**MUMBAI:** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) arrested another accused, Purshottam Chavan, in a money laundering case connected to a Rs 263 crore Income Tax Refund fraud on Monday, following the arrest of his accomplice Rajesh Batreja last week. This case involves the former Income Tax (I-T) inspector, Tanaji Adhikari, who gained the confidence of his seniors while working in the Income Tax department and cleared fraudulent TDS refund claims into the account of his accomplices. The ED said Chavan was involved in possessing part of the Proceeds of Crime (POC) and he was in regular contact with Batreja for the diversion of cheated money through hawala transactions. Chavan and Batreja had shared incriminating messages, which are part of the ED's findings. The ED mentioned that Chavan attempted to hamper the investigation by destroying evidence and during the search of his premises, they found many property documents and foreign currency. Earlier, the ED had arrested former income tax inspector Tanaji Adhikari, and businessmen Bhushan Patil and Rajesh Shetty in the case, who are currently in jail custody. The ED alleged that Batreja assisted Tanaji Adhikari in diverting POC of Rs. 55.50 Crore into three shell companies to convert the same into cash for sending it outside India via the hawala channel. Afterward, he brings part of the money to India as an investment in two companies. Until now, the ED has seized or attached properties worth Rs 168 crore in the case and last year had already filed a chargesheet against Tanaji Adhikari and 10 others in the case. Adhikari, who was the senior I-T tax assistant at the Income Tax office handling the refund of tax deducted at source.

## Chhattisgarh has high number of stateless individuals

**RAIPUR:** Chhattisgarh is the second state with the maximum estimated number of 62,890 stateless, refugee persons. In India, there are a total of 2,89,394 as per the last public statistics released in the year 2014. In the state capital Raipur, authorities have received a total of 52 applications for citizenship from January one to April 30 this year of which 23 have been forwarded to the district magistrate's office while 29 applications are under process in the police stations for fur-



ther verification, Rapur senior superintendent of police Santosh Singh said. Between the formation of the state and December 31, 2023, 841 citizens were granted citizenship in the state

capital district. This year, from the first of Jan to April 30, a total of 56 stateless people have been granted citizenship. Most of the citizenship applications are from Pakistanis while a

single applicant is from Nepal. In Bilaspur, within the last 10 years only a single applicant has been granted the naturalization certificate, said an official from administration. Raj Kumar Khetwani is a 39-year-old individual who along with a family consisting of wife, two girls children and an elderly mother for the first time applied for Indian citizenship in the year 2021. Khetwani told, it was the year 2012 when on a tourist visa my family had the privilege to

visit India to my relative's place and while on the grounds of ill-treatment in the then home country Pakistan, the family finally decided to stay back in India. "When we came here, my children were 10 and 12 years old and somehow were admitted to a school. Since then, I have been striving to obtain citizenship," he said. All this while, I've been surviving on dependency. It's been 10 years but still, I live in a rented house and survive on a rented shop, which is now my sour-

## Urbanization led to overall 60% enhancement in warming in Indian cities: IIT study

**BHUBANESWAR:** Urbanization alone has led to an overall 60 percent enhancement in warming in Indian cities, with eastern tier-II cities leading the way. It was revealed through a study conducted by the researchers from IIT Bhubaneswar. This research provides a science based quantitative ranking of urbanization for Indian cities. The study titled 'Urbanization and regional climate change-linked warming of Indian Cities' published in the journal



'Nature Cities' provides insight by carefully separating regional climate change and urbanization in multiple cities. Sethi\_Vinoj\_NatCities2024 (1) (1) (1) The researchers investigated the contributions of local-scale urbanization and regional climate change to the warming in 141 major Indian cities over the

past two decades. They took 18 years of high-resolution land surface temperature data from NASA's Aqua satellite for the period between 2003 and 2020. They also compared urban and rural warming trends. The study found that Tier II cities in eastern India showed stronger urbanization-driven warming compared to larger metro cities like New Delhi and Mumbai. "This disparity underscores the importance of targeted urban planning.

## Healthcare, illegal betting ads most violative, says ASCI

**NEW DELHI:** Healthcare emerged as the most violative sector in India with respect to advertising rules in 2023-24, with the majority of overall violations on account of misleading claims, an annual analysis of Advertising Standards Council of India says. Among the violators, healthcare ads contribute 19% of cases, followed by illegal offshore betting (17%), personal care (13%), conventional education (12%), food and beverage (10%), and realty (7%). Baby care emerged as a new contender in the top violators category, with influencer promotions contributing to 81% of baby care cases. In 2023-24, the analysis studied 10,093 complaints and 8299 advertising campaigns. Nearly half of the advertisements picked up by ASCI were not contested by the

advertisers, it adds. The majority of violations were on account of misleading claims at 81%, followed by ads that promoted harmful situations or products at 34% (the same ad can be processed for multiple objections). Manisha Kapoor, CEO & Secretary General of ASCI, said, "2023-24 has been a truly challenging year, and ASCI stepped up to this by focusing our efforts on digital. About 3200 advertisements were shared with various regulators, such as MIB, Ayush, and MahaRera, for direct violations of the law. We see this as a continuing area of focus. With the highest number of violative ads seen online, advertisers and platforms must work more closely with regulators and self-regulators to keep consumers protected". Further, digital media remained the primary

source of violations, accounting for 85% of ads processed, and had a lower compliance rate of 75%, compared to 97% for print and TV. This raises serious questions about the online safety of consumers, a point highlighted last year as well, the report notes. In 2023-24, the number of complaints regarding misleading and violative ads was 12.75% higher over 2022-23. Saugata Gupta, ASCI chairman said, "As digital emerges as a dominant media in which advertisements thrive, ASCI has geared up to the challenges through constant investment in technology". Significantly, celebrities continued to appear in ads that were in violation of the ASCI code. ASCI processed complaints against 101 ads featuring celebrities, 91% of

## Pant Varsity develops way to use pine leaves to boost rural economy, reduce forest fires

**RUDRAPUR:** Researchers at GB Pant Agriculture and Technology University in Pantnagar, Udham Singh Nagar, have discovered a method to convert pine leaves (pirul), the primary cause of forest fires, into valuable bio-grease and bio-resin. The research promises to prevent forest fires and enhance the local economy. Tarannum Jahan, under the mentorship of Prof T K Bhattacharya and Prof A K Verma from the biochemistry department of the College of Sciences and Humanities, led the research.

"The bio-grease we developed reduces friction in ball bearings and prevents rust, while the bio-resin is highly effective for glueing plywood," said Verma.



The technology, developed under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)- All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP)- Energy in Agriculture & Agro-based Industries (EAAI) project, has been patented and sold to Green Molecules, a Gujarat-based company. "This initiative will not only increase the value of pine leaves but also provide villagers with a new source of income, thereby mitigating forest fires," said A S Nain,

director of research. Nain added, "Uttarakhand generates approximately 2 million tonnes of pirul annually. The increase in its market value due to this research will significantly benefit local villagers financially. The methods involve producing bio-resin by mixing pyrolysis oil with phenyl, formaldehyde, and caustic soda at specific temperatures. Bio-grease is created by combining caustic soda and animal fat with pyrolysis oil.

## Land for job PMLA case: Court dismisses bail plea of businessman Amit Katyal

**NEW DELHI:** The Rouse Avenue Court on Wednesday dismissed the regular bail application of businessman Amit Katyal. He is charge-sheeted accused in the Land for Job money laundering case. On April 30, the Court had declined to extend his interim bail.

He was granted interim bail in February this year. The court had asked him to surrender before the jail authorities on May 1. Special CBI Judge Vishal Gogne on Wednesday dismissed the bail application of Amit Katyal. The bail order is yet to be uploaded. Bihar's former CM Rabri Devi and her two daughters have been charge-sheeted along with others by the Directorate of Enforcement (ED). Earlier, the court had disposed of the plea seeking an extension of interim bail with direction to

accused Amit Katyal to surrender before the Superintendent, Central Jail by 5.00 pm on May 1, 2024.

While disposing of the plea, the court had questioned the conduct of the ED recording statements of treating doctors of private hospital. The court said, "If there are any lessons to be learned from history, it would be observed that 'strong' leaders, laws and agencies generally come back to bite the very citizens they vow to protect." The court had remarked, "The use of section 50 by the ED against the law-abiding doctors of private hospitals is a contemporary contribution to this perception. Such negation of the intended purpose of strict legislation is required to be avoided by the investigation agencies and consciously monitored by the courts."



## IIT-Delhi launches high school girl STEM mentorship program

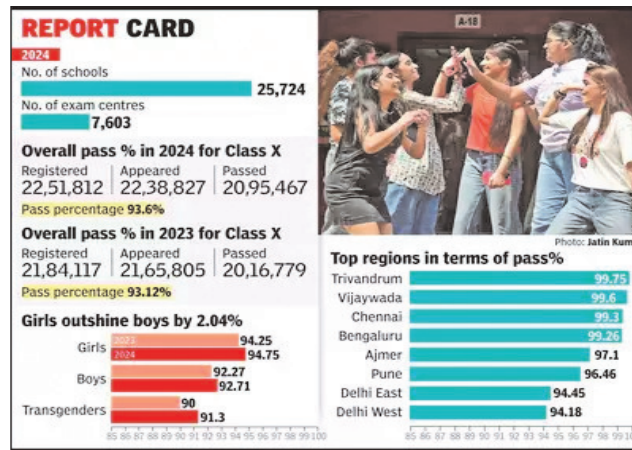
**Delhi:** Indian Institute of Technology (IIT-Delhi) launched its third STEM mentorship program for Class 9 and 11 high school girls. Over 200 nominations were received from Delhi government, Kendriya Vidyalaya (Delhi-NCR), and private schools this year. The third batch had 100 candidates. Three sections will comprise the STEM Mentorship Program. A 9-day program will be held from May 14 to 24 during the "summer phase". Expert lectures, laboratory demonstrations, and hands-on problem-solving will immerse learners in STEM. In addition, IIT Delhi's Maker Space program will give students DIY project experience. Between July and November 2024, participants will attend the monthly Saturday Sci-Tech Spins lecture series in the "At the school" phase. Interactions with IIT Delhi students will enhance learning. A "winter phase" in January 2025 will include STEM leadership lectures, entrepreneurship, and interactions with accom-



plished IIT Delhi alumni. First batch of 10 girls launched in December 2021, followed by "successful completion" of second batch of 32 schoolgirls in June 2023 under IIT Delhi's Office of Academic Outreach and New Initiatives. The mentorship program, led by Prof. Rangan Banerjee, Director of IIT Delhi, inaugurated its third phase to inspire and encourage young people to pursue STEM careers in a supportive atmosphere. "We want gender balance in our institute. IIT Delhi Prof. Rangan Banerjee said this program allows women students to explore STEM careers and make informed decisions based on their interests and passion.

## Southern regions retain their Class X lead with over 2L pupils scoring 90%

**Delhi:** Success rates for the Central Board of Secondary Education's Class X exams rose from 93.1% in 2023 to 93.6% this year. CBSE reported that 47,983 Class X students, 2.1% of the total, scored above 95% and 2.1 lakh, 9.5%, got over 90%. Over 95% and 90% were achieved by 44,297 and 1.1 lakh students last year. Girls pass Class X examinations at 94.8%, while boys pass at 92.7%. Thiruvananthapuram had the highest success rate at 99.8%, followed by Vijayawada (99.6%), Chennai (99.3%), Bengaluru (99.3%), Ajmer (97.1%), and Pune (96.5%). Guwahati had the lowest pass rate at 77.9%. Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti had the highest pass rate at 99.1%, while government-aided schools had the lowest at 83.9%. The compartment had 1,32,337 students, 5.9% of the total and down from 6.2% in 2023. This year, CBSE didn't disclose the toppers' list to avoid "unhealthy competition". However, the board will award merit certificates to the top



## Girls succeed again in CBSE 12th, 91.5% to boys' 85%

**Delhi:** The Central Board of Secondary Education Class XII exams, 2024, finished with an 87.9% success percentage, up from 87.3% last year. A total of 24,068 pupils scored above 95%. The number of candidates who got over 90% in aggregate increased from 1.12 lakh to 1.16 lakh, or 8% of the total, despite fewer candidates. Girls had 91.5% success compared to

85.1% for boys. The highest girl pass rates were in Panchkula (93.9%), Patna (89.1%), Noida (87.1%), and Dehradun (88.4%). Thiruvananthapuram led the 17 CBSE regions with 99.9% pass rates, followed by the newly founded Vijayawada, Chennai, and Bengaluru. The capital, separated into Delhi West and Delhi East, enjoyed 95.6% success.

0.1% of examinees for their high marks. Students who seek a photocopy of their graded answer book can re-evaluate or challenge

their marks for Rs 500 per question. Applications are only accepted for theory papers. image.png

## Jasmine to retake 57kg quota after Hooda suspension

**Delhi:** The International Testing Agency (ITA) sanctioned 57kg boxer Parveen Hooda for 22 months after her three whereabouts failures between April 2022 and May 2023. BFI verified in an official release that Parveen's ban is 14 months starting May 17, 2024, due to the eight-month backdate. Her punishment ends on July 16, 2025, therefore she will miss the Paris Olympics.

We did our hardest to get the greatest result, but unfortunately, Parveen's lawyer, Vidushpat Singhania, said they saved 10 months of her career despite the maximum penalty of 24 months. Players in WADA's Registered Testing Pool



(RTP) must report their locations periodically. As per WADA, "any combination of three whereabouts failures

(filing failure and/or missed test) within a period of 12 months constitute an anti-doping rule violation, for which the applicable sanction is 2 years' ineligibility subject to a reduction to a minimum of 1 year depending on your degree of fault." "Ms. Hooda failed to accurately and consistently input her whereabouts information because she lacked the skills and technical know-how to operate the Anti-Doping Administration & Management System (ADAMS) platform. In this case, Ms. Hooda failed to comply due to her lack of ADAMS platform knowledge and technical comprehension," Singhania added.

## Class 12 pass rate in Delhi govt institutions rises to 96.9%.

**Delhi:** Delhi government schools had a 96.99 pass rate in the Class 12 CBSE exams, faring higher than the national average of 87.98%, according to results. Delhi government schools had a Class 10 pass rate of 94.2, up 8.36 percentage points from the previous year and better than the national average of 86.7%. Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal praised the kids and education workers for their performance.

He said on X: "Delhi government schools scored 96.99% in Class 12 CBSE exams. This beats our previous year's performance and the CBSE national average. Congratulations to students, teachers, parents, and the education department on this amazing performance..." This year, 151,429 Delhi government school students took Class 12 board exams. The exam was passed by 146,885.

The pass rate rose 5.4 points to 96.99% from 91.59% previous year. This exceeds Capital private schools' 94.18% pass rate. Delhi government authorities claimed 307 Delhi Government schools scored 100% in the Class 12 board exams this year, more than two-and-a-half times more than previous year's 118. Officials said 863 schools scored over 90% this year, up from 647 last year.

## For PhD admissions, DU will take UGC-NET scores into account

**Delhi:** Delhi University will begin using the results of the National Eligibility Test (NET) for associate professor and junior research fellowship for admitting students to its PhD programs in the academic year 2024-2025. The University Grants Commission has produced a circular in accordance with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which the university confirmed its adoption of. This move is allegedly being taken in order to eliminate the several entrance tests that are administered by different universities throughout the nation for PhD programs. The UGC circular states that the test results of NET-qualified candidates will be given 70%

weighting in the admissions process under this new structure, with the interview component receiving the remaining 30% of the weight. Three types of UGC-NET qualified candidates would be available for PhD admissions under the amended guideline. Maya John, an assistant professor at DU and member of the academic council, stated, "It is highly objectionable that the university has adopted this measure, especially without deliberating on its myriad implications in the University's statutory bodies like the Academic Council." The National Testing Agency (NTA) will close the UGC NET June 2024 application window. To apply for the University Grants

Commission National Eligibility Test 2024, candidates need to go to [ugcnet.nta.ac.in](http://ugcnet.nta.ac.in). Exam fees must be paid by May 16, 2024, at the latest. For the UGC NET June 2024 exam, the National Testing Agency (NTA) is ending the application registration window today. Until May 10, qualified applicants may submit their applications on the official website. The notification contains information about the exam's eligibility requirements, application procedure, syllabus, and other topics. The exam is scheduled for June 18, 2024. Candidates can now apply online on the official website as the National Testing Agency (NTA) has extended the registration deadline for UGC NET

## Interview dates for Schengen visas are hard to come by this summer

**Delhi:** Schengen nations had the third-highest absolute demand for visas in India last year, with 9.7 lakh applications—44% more than 6.7 lakh in 2022—than Indian citizens. According to the European Commission, India witnessed the second-highest growth in applications among the top five nations in percentage terms, following China. India was followed by Morocco and Turkey in this order. Despite the increase, many Indian travelers' plans were derailed by the lack of available visa interview dates. China and Russia share a history of varying for-

tunes. In contrast, China, whose borders were only opened to foreign travel last year due to a massive backlog of demand, shot to the top of the table in 2022 from number 22. The largest rise was observed in 2023, with 1,104% more applications than in 2022—ten times more than in 2022. Refer to the box. In contrast, Russia dropped from second place in 2022 to fifth place in 2023, mostly as a result of the sanctions that followed its conflict with Ukraine. Over these two years, there was a 25% decrease in Russian applications for Schengen visas. Travel experts feel

that the real demand for India is considerably larger than the official statistics. But many Indians who wished to travel were unable to apply for Schengen visas due to the lack of available slots for visa interviews. There are just not enough appointments available with most Schengen nations. July is the earliest available date if you would like to visit Germany and Italy during the summer. For travelers, this is making things very tough. By law, applicants must submit an application to the consulate of the nation that would serve as their main European destination.

## Delhi CUET UG 2024 postponed to May 29

The NTA informed that the Delhi CUET-UG, scheduled on May 15, will be moved to May 29. All 258 capital city testing centers are affected by this change. Candidates affected by this modification will receive amended NTA admission cards. Unavoidable circumstances specifically for the Delhi locations prompted the postponement, according to NTA Senior Director Sadhna Parashar. Chemistry (306), Biology (304), English (101), and the General Test (501) were postponed. The exam will continue on May 15 in Gurugram, Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Noida, and other Indian and international cities. May 16, 17, and 18 exams, including Delhi ones, will go on as planned. The CUET-UG, which admits undergraduates to 261 central, state, deemed, and private universities in India, is in its third year. The exam's importance in education is shown by its 13.4 lakh registrations. The 2024 CUET-UG will be completed in seven days in a single shift, unlike its 2022 predecessor, which had technical issues and required score normalization owing to numerous shifts. The remaining 48 subjects will be assessed using computers, while 15 will be tested using pen-and-paper.

## UP schools promise extra credit, money to encourage voting

**Delhi:** Lucknow schools have devised creative awards for children whose parents get tattoos on May 21, the election day, taking incentives to a whole new level. Staff members who participate in the election process will receive an additional day's remuneration from St. Joseph's College in Lucknow, in addition to 10 bonus marks for students whose parents exercise their right to vote.



## Shah dismisses Kejriwal's retirement comment

Delhi: Union home minister Amit Shah dismissed Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal's claim that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will retire from politics next year after he turns 75. The senior BJP leader stated the Opposition should not celebrate Modi's 75th birthday. "Arvind Kejriwal, company, and the INDI Alliance should not be thrilled when Modi reaches 75. Modi will serve until 2029. He said the BJP is clear. The home minister's comments came hours after Kejriwal, who was put on interim bail by the Supreme Court in the excise policy case. Modi was courting Shah's support because he would retire next year. Defence minister Rajnath Singh also criticized Kejriwal and stated the Opposition was worried by their probable Lok Sabha loss. Defence minister Rajnath Singh also criticized Kejriwal and stated the Opposition was worried by their probable Lok Sabha loss.



### File ITR or risk scrutiny

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

## AIIMS to open emergency cath lab



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

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

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

## Free bike rides home for voters

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

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

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

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

## CAPSULES

### Close fire-violating coaching centers: HC



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

## AAP-Kanhaiya campaign: Must walk together to save country'

Delhi: The Congress and Aam Aadmi Party held a combined campaign in Yamuna Vihar in North East Delhi, where party leaders discussed how to transfer votes in the partnership. Congressman Subhash Chopra, state president Devender Yadav, AAP MLAs Sanjeev Jha and Haji Yunus, and councillors and former MLAs from both parties joined candidate Kanhaiya Kumar. I have movement and jail experience, but not Delhi election experience. Everyone is more experienced than me.



You're political physicians, but I have a PhD. Saving the country and Constitution is more important than winning a seat, Kumar told INDIA alliance party workers.

He informed party workers that smaller

elections are harder during the ground-level campaign. He claimed a corporate election is harder than a Lok Sabha poll because hostility lasts. "If this election is about saving the country, then we will have to make our

hearts bigger and try to walk together," stated. He told the audience that BJP disseminated lies against him because they thought people don't comprehend. "But others are asking how he fought elections twice if he railed against the country. He said they call me "tukde tukde" but bulldoze Burari homes, shattering people's dreams. North East Delhi has a high Purvanchali and Muslim population, making it one of the densest regions.

## Influencers and celebrities will be accountable for deceptive ads: SC

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

### What SC Said

Advertisers, celebs and influencers to take responsibility for the accuracy of ads

Ensure consumers' trust not abused or exploited due to sheer lack of knowledge or experience

Govt should set up a specific procedure which will encourage the consumer to lodge a complaint

Seeks fresh affidavit on actions taken against false or misleading ads, particularly in the food and health sectors

Directs removal from online platforms of Patanjali products whose licenses have been canceled by state authorities



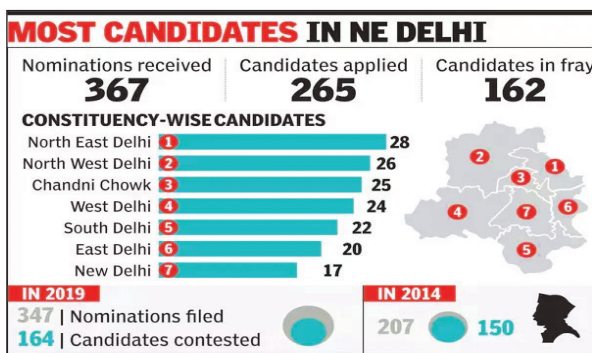
celebrities, etc., go a long way in promoting a product, and it is imperative for them to act with responsibility when endorsing any product in advertisements," Justices Hima Kohli and Ahsanuddin Amanullah said. It

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

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

## 162 candidates are running in the May 25 elections in Delhi

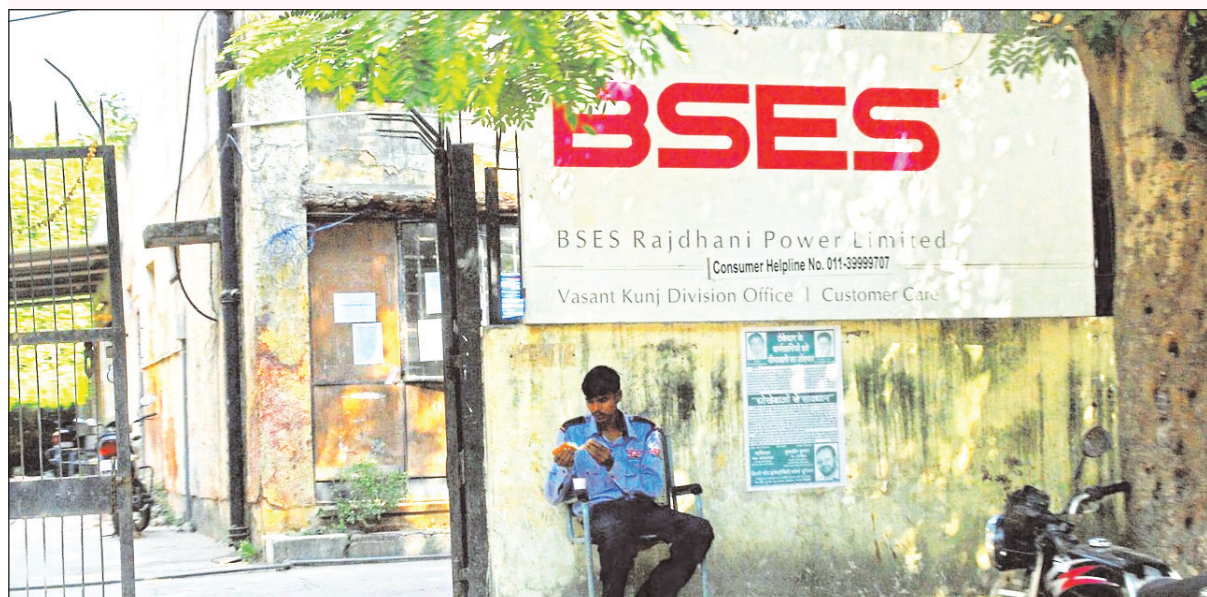
Delhi: 162 contestants are vying for seven seats in the capital's Lok Sabha elections. North East Delhi is the district with the most candidates, fielding 28 people. However, with just 17 candidates, the New Delhi seat has the fewest number of competitors. There are 26 candidates running from North West Delhi, 25 from Chandni Chowk, 24 from West Delhi, 22 from South Delhi, and 20 from East Delhi. The deadline for withdrawing from consideration was May 9, even though the applicants' nominations were examined on May 7. Delhi will hold its sixth phase of voting on May 25 and tally results on June 4. Voting for seven MPs in Delhi will be open to more than 1.52 crore electors. When it comes to electors, West Delhi has the most, while New Delhi has the fewest. While a



number of candidates from independent and registered unrecognized political parties (RUPP) have entered the race, the main contestants will be the BJP, which secured all seven seats in the previous two elections, and the coalition of the Aam Aadmi Party and Congress. The two parties are members of the INDIA group of the opposition. AAP has fielded candidates in four seats and Congress from three under a seat-sharing pact. Another national political group that has put forth candidates for

each of the seven seats is the Bahujan Samaj group. North East Delhi, where Congressman Kanhaiya Kumar, a former student leader, has put up a strong challenge against Manoj Tiwari, the BJP's two-term sitting MP. and Bhojpuri musician turned politician. AAP's Somnath Bharti, a three-term Malviya Nagar MLA, is up against Bansuri Swaraj of the BJP for the New Delhi seat. Raaj Kumar Anand, a minister in Delhi who quit from both the AAP and his position last month.

## Replace aging ACs with efficient ones under BSES' new strategy



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

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

central Delhi will offer the plan for all ACs, including next-generation inverter types. Around 40 "first cum, first served" window and split variants of prominent brands are available.

BSES said domestic consumers can exchange up to three air conditioners per contract account num-

ber. BSES spokesperson: "We empower sustainable technologies like LED lighting, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and rooftop solar net metering.

The AC plan will cut annual and monthly electricity expenditures and help us work toward a greener future.

## Retailers to hire in tier 2, 3 cities in 2024

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



## BELSTAR MICROFINANCE LIMITED FILES DRHP WITH SEBI TO RAISE UP TO 1,300 CRORE

**GURUGRAM** : shares aggregating up to 10,000 million [1,000 crore] ("Fresh Issue") and (ii) offer for sale of equity shares aggregating up to 3,000 million [300 crore] ("Offer for Sale"). The Company proposes to utilize the net proceeds of the fresh issue to meet future capital requirements towards onward lending estimated to be 7,600 million [760 crore] in FY 2025 and the balance amount towards general corporate purposes. ("The Objects of the Offer")

The Offer for Sale comprises of Equity Shares aggregating up to 1,750 million [175 crore] by MAJ Invest Financial Inclusion Fund II K/S; upto 970 million [97 crore] by Arum Holdings Limited and upto 280 million [28 crore] by Augusta Investments Zero Pte Ltd ("Investor Selling Shareholder"). (Combined the "Selling Shareholders")

ICICI Securities Limited, Axis Capital Ltd, HDFC Bank Limited and SBI Capital Markets Limited are the Book Running Lead Managers of the IPO issue.

BML aims to be a socially responsible microfinance institution, driving financial inclusion across the country by furthering entrepreneurship and economic empowerment of women through the provision of loans in rural and semi-urban regions.

## ICICI Bank enables NRI customers to use international mobile number to make UPI payments in India

**GURUGRAM** : ICICI Bank today announced that it has enabled NRI customers to use their international mobile number to make UPI payments instantly in India, thereby significantly enhancing their convenience of making everyday payments. With this facility, the NRI customers of the Bank can make payments for their utility bills, merchant and e-commerce transactions with their international mobile number registered with their NRE / NRO bank account held with ICICI Bank in India. The Bank has made this service available through its mobile banking app, iMobile Pay. Earlier, NRIs had to register an Indian mobile number with their banks to

make UPI payments.

To bring forth this facility, ICICI Bank has leveraged on the international infrastructure laid down by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) for convenient usage of UPI across countries. The Bank offers this facility across 10 countries namely USA, UK, UAE, Canada, Singapore, Australia, Hong Kong, Oman, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

NRI customers of the Bank can make UPI payments by scanning any Indian QR code, sending money to a UPI ID or any Indian mobile number or Indian bank account. Speaking on the initiative, Mr. Sidhartha Mishra, Head – Digital Channels and Partnerships, ICICI Bank said, "We are delighted to

partner with NPCI to launch the UPI facility on international mobile number through iMobile Pay. With this facility, our NRI customers residing in 10 countries do not need to switch to an Indian mobile number to pay using UPI. This launch reinforces our commitment to provide our NRI customers with innovative solutions, for them to have a safe, secure and hassle-free payment experience. We are witnessing a positive response from our NRI customers who have started using this facility. With this initiative, we intend to leverage on NPCI's UPI Infrastructure in strengthening and transforming the digital payments ecosystem globally".

## CAPSULES

### Rahul Baba is running from one place to another to contest elections: Amit Shah

**Jammu**

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation and senior BJP leader Amit Shah addressed a massive public meeting organised in Daman and Diu during the third phase of the Lok Sabha elections, targeting the Congress, especially Rahul Gandhi. Considered a school of politics in himself, Amit Shah clearly stated that, 'Rahul Baba is running from one place to another to contest elections. There is no problem with the seat, the problem lies with Rahul, wherever he goes, he will lose.'

Amethi and Rae Bareilly have traditionally been strongholds for the Congress. The current state of the Congress is such that after losing in Amethi, Rahul Gandhi is attempting to contest from Wayanad, and now in 2024, he is going to contest from Rae Bareilly.

Those with a basic understanding of politics believe that Rahul Gandhi has been attempting to be launched for almost 20 years, but every time his launch has been unsuccessful. The Chanakya of Indian politics, Amit Shah, has even claimed that in the 21st attempt, Rahul's launch will fail. After Independence, Congress ruled the country for decades. During the Congress era, terrorism, Naxalism, and extremism were at their peak.

In the last 10 years, under the leadership of PM Modi and skilled guidance of Amit Shah, terrorism and Naxalism have been eradicated from across the country. The BJP government has proven that development work can also be done while preserving the symbols of faith.

## My real strength is the cooperation, support and blessings of people from 36 communities: Pala Ram Saini

**Kaithal:** Jananayak Janata Party's candidate from Kurukshetra Lok Sabha constituency, social worker Pala Ram Saini, during his election campaign, visited various villages, cities and shops of the Lok Sabha constituency and asked people of every section to vote in his favor. Appealed to. During this, people welcomed Pala Ram Saini with garlands of flowers and announced their support in the elections. Addressing the people, JJP candidate Pala Ram

Saini said that in every village and city of the Lok Sabha constituency, people of 36 communities are continuously getting full support, cooperation and blessings and with the blessings of the public, they will hoist the flag of victory in the elections. The public has come to know that their interests are safe only in JJP. Pala Ram Saini said that the huge support, cooperation and blessings of the people of the parliamentary constituency is my real strength, which

inspires me to move forward.

Along with hoisting the flag of victory in the elections, I will serve day and night for the all-round development of Kurukshetra parliamentary constituency and it will be made the number one area in the race for development. His victory will be a victory for the people of Kurukshetra. He alleged that BJP and Congress are two sides of the same coin, whose only objective from the

beginning is to gain power and fulfill their selfish interests by exploiting the people. In this Lok Sabha election, the aware public will not fall prey to the false promises of BJP and Congress and will wipe out both the parties at the cost of votes and give victory to JJP. The JJP candidate said that he believes in working rather than talking and it is my duty to serve the public selflessly throughout my life and I will continue to do so.

## Sarveshwar Foods Ltd Launches Free certified Sona Masuri Paddy Seeds Distribution Initiative

**Chandigarh:**

Sarveshwar Foods Ltd. has announced a pioneering initiative aimed at supporting farmers in the Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory through free distribution of certified Sona Masuri paddy seeds, known for their high quality and yield potential, to farmers across the region. Sarveshwar aims to empower the farming community by providing the seeds of export-oriented rice varieties. Free distribution of certified seed of Sona Masuri paddy will be

done at Sarveshwar procurement facilitation center under this program.

This initiative reflects Sarveshwar Foods' dedication to empowering local farming communities and promoting agricultural development in the area. In light of the economic challenges confronting farmers in Jammu & Kashmir, Mr. Rohit Gupta, Chairman of Sarveshwar Foods Ltd, has announced a compassionate initiative. Under the supervision of the Agriculture Specialist team,

Sarveshwar has resolved to distribute paddy seeds free of cost. This distribution will specifically target non-basmati growing areas of Jammu. The primary aim of this program is to extend support to the farmers, prioritizing their welfare and interests in the state. Sona Masuri Rice is a variety of medium-grain rice mainly grown in Southern India. One of the unique features of Sona Masuri rice is its ability to absorb flavors and spices easily, making it an ideal ingredient for prepar-

ing a variety of Indian dishes. Additionally, it has a lower glycemic index compared to other varieties of rice, making it a healthier choice for people with diabetes. Sona Masuri Rice, due to its increasing popularity, is also finding its position in the international market, mostly exported to countries with a large Indian diaspora. The distribution will benefit around 1000 farmers across various regions, including Paragwal, Mirpur, Garkhal, Akhnoor East, Panjtoot.

## The Foundation and India Impact Sherpas Release a first-of-its-kind report on Systems Change in the Indian context



**GURUGRAM:** The Convergence Foundation, in collaboration with India

Impact Sherpas, released their seminal report titled, 'Systemic Impact Exemplars: Unique Approaches Towards Solving India's Development Challenges.' This report aims to identify and learn from organizations that have achieved significant impact by adopting the systems change approach. These organizations—System Support Organisations (SSOs)—work in close collaboration with governments at the Centre as well as State levels, to create

impact at a large-scale. In addition to working with the governments and aiming for impact at population scale, systems change involves solving the problem at the root cause; no quick fixes or band-aid solutions. The report profiles 20 of India's leading SSOs, shedding light on their innovative strategies and impactful initiatives. By showcasing real-world examples, the report seeks to inspire and inform other non-profits, providing valuable insights into what works in the Indian context.

## Cong to review 'anti-people laws', says Ramesh, mum on CAA repeal

**NEW DELHI:**

Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh on Friday said the party's position on Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) was clearly stated in its manifesto where it promised to "review and change all anti-people laws" brought by BJP govt. However, he refused to explicitly say whether the contentious law would be repealed. Senior Congress politician P Chidambaram had said last month that CAA would be scrapped once the INDIA bloc was voted to office. Notably, CAA did not find a mention in the party's mani-



fest, which was drafted under Chidambaram's chairmanship. Asked whether the party would repeal CAA, Ramesh told, "I am not commenting on what Chidambaram said. What he said is his personal view. I am going by the manifesto approved by him as chairman of the committee and approved by Congress prez and

the party's working committee. I am stating the party position. The word CAA does not figure in the manifesto." He, however, said Congress believed that making religion the basis of reservation and citizenship was unconstitutional. "We opposed CAA in Parliament on the ground that it gives citizenship on the basis of reli-

gion. Our Constitution doesn't provide for reservation or citizenship on the basis of religion," Ramesh added. Congress manifesto said, "We promise that all anti-people laws passed by the BJP-NDA without proper parliamentary scrutiny and debate, especially those relating to workers, farmers, criminal.

## 1.3 crore mutual fund accounts on hold owing to insufficient KYC

**Delhi:** KYC registration entities report 1.3 crore mutual accounts 'in hold' due to incomplete KYC. This is because people gave non-Aadhaar and non-OVDs during KYC registration. From April 1, 2024, SEBI will prohibit mutual fund transactions for investors having 'on hold' KYC status. This involves buying or redeeming mutual fund units. "After many investors' KYCs were still unupdated with PAN and Aadhar and the linkages were missing, KYCs had to be reclassified. Several of these KYCs used utility bills (electricity, telephone), bank account statements, etc., which Sebi no longer accepts." The report added, "7.9 crore investors (73%), have valid KYC. About 1.6 crore registered investors have limited investment access, and 12% can't manage their demat accounts and MF folios." KYC-verified status:.