

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Title Code - UPENG04488

NATIONAL ENGLISH DAILY

MORNING EDITION PRAYAGRAJ

Friday 10 May, 2024

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

Share of Hindu population down by 7.82% in India: Highlights from EAC-PM report

NEW DELHI: The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) recently published a study that analyzed the shifts in religious demographics across various countries from 1950 to 2015. The study, named "Share of religious minorities: A cross-country analysis," shed light on change in demographics from 1950 to 2015. According to the findings, India's Hindu majority population experienced a decline of 7.81 per cent during the 65-year period. In contrast, the Muslim community in India witnessed a significant increase of 43.15 per cent within the same timeframe. The study aimed to provide a comprehensive understanding of how religious composition has evolved in different nations over the past several decades, offering valuable insights into this critical dimension of demographic transformation. According to the report, the global aver-



age for the share of the majority religious denomination in 1950 was 75%. By 2015, this figure had decreased by approximately 22%, indicating a global trend towards greater religious heterogeneity. The study highlights significant regional differences. For instance, more than half of the countries with the largest demographic shifts are located in Africa, where shifts from animist majorities to other religious denominations were most common. Countries like India and several OECD nations have also seen declines in their majority religious shares, signaling a diversification of reli-

gious demographics. In contrast, many Muslim-majority countries have seen an increase in the share of their dominant religious groups. South Asia The report reveals that India, like many other South Asian nations, has experienced a noticeable decrease in the share of its majority religious group. In 1950, the majority religious group in India comprised a larger share of the population compared to 2015, reflecting a trend towards greater religious diversity and pluralism. This change is attributed to various factors including demographic shifts.

7 crew, including 5 Indians, aboard seized MSC Aries released by Iran: Portugal

LISBON: Iran on Thursday freed seven of the 25 crew on a Portuguese-flagged ship seized in the Gulf on April 13, Portugal's foreign ministry said. Five Indians, a Filipino and an Estonian from the MSC Aries "have been freed today", the ministry said in a statement. Another Indian crew member had already been released. Portugal welcomed the action but demanded the "immediate release" of the remaining 17 crew and the MSC Aries, which was seized near the Strait of Hormuz amid mounting tensions between Iran and Israel. Iran said the container ship had Israeli links when it was taken. Iran accused the ship's owners of having links to Israel. "It is certain that this ship belongs to the Zionist regime."

No woman has come to us to file complaint against Prajwal Revanna: NCW

NEW DELHI: The National Commission for Women has refuted the claim that 700 women have come forward to submit complaints to it in the sexual abuse case against JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna. The commission has said that no victim has come to the commission to register a complaint against Revanna, and one woman complainant who reached out to the women's body alleged that she was forced to register a fake complaint against the JD(S) leader. The commission has disclosed that the action taken report sent by the authorities in Karnataka, in response to the letter of the NCW after it took cognisance of the matter, shows that two cases have been registered in the state based on complaints of sexual abuse by the survivors, alongside an additional complaint filed for abduction by a relative. However, no survivor has come forward to



Old Pawar vs Vikhe Patil feud at play in Ahmednagar's NCP

NASHIK: On the face, it looks like an NCP (SCP) versus BJP contest in Ahmednagar but it's actually a replay of the decades-old political rivalry between the Pawars and the Vikhe Patils, which has come down to the third generation. When they were with Congress, Sharad Pawar and Balasaheb Vikhe Patil, an eight-time MP from the region, were in a tussle over controlling sugarcane cooperative societies. As Pawar's stature grew within the party, he allegedly played a key role in denying Balasaheb the party ticket to contest the 1991 Lok Sabha polls. Karnataka Police officials and forcing her to give a false complaint in this case," NCW claimed. "She stated that she is being called by random phone numbers threatening her to complain. It has come to light that this complainant.

register a complaint with the commission in this case. "One woman complainant came to the commission to register a complaint against three individuals dressed in civil uniform, allegedly introducing themselves as

Indian student goes missing in Chicago, family seeks govt help

Telangana In another case of a student from Telangana going missing in the US, a 26-year-old has not been seen in Chicago since he stepped out of home there on May 2, India's mission in the US city said Thursday. Rupesh Chandra Chintakindi, pursuing Masters in business analytics from Concordia University, Wisconsin, had joined the varsity earlier this year. Rupesh's father Ch Sadanandam said he had last spoken to him on WhatsApp on May 2 afternoon. "He had said he was busy with some work. Later, I could not contact him and he has since been offline," he said. The family said they had spoken to Rupesh's roommates and they recalled Rupesh going out to meet someone.

President Putin warns of global clash as Russia marks Victory

NEW DELHI: Russian President Vladimir Putin cautioned against a potential global conflict and asserted Russia's determination to safeguard its status as the world's largest nuclear power in his address on Thursday. As Putin led the commemoration of the victory over Nazi Germany in World War Two, he criticized Western elites for disregarding the pivotal role played by the Soviet Union in defeating Nazi Germany and accused them of instigating conflicts worldwide. Speaking on Red Square amid a rare May blizzard, Putin highlighted Russia's commitment to prevent a global clash while maintaining the readiness of its strategic forces. "We know what the exorbitance of such ambitions leads to. Russia will do everything to prevent a global clash," Putin said on Red Square. He said that the current conflict with Ukraine is part of a broader struggle with the West, stemming from what he perceives as Russia's post-Cold War humiliation and encroachment on its sphere of influence. Putin's rhetoric echoes the narrative that Russia's actions in Ukraine are justified, portraying them as reclaiming territories historically linked to Russia. However, Ukraine and Western nations view Russia's actions as imperialistic and have pledged to resist its expansionist efforts. Putin criticized Western nations for purportedly attempting to downplay the lessons of the war, emphasizing the importance of honoring all allies involved in defeating fascism. The commemoration on May 9, known as Victory Day in Russia, marks the Soviet Union's triumph in what Russians refer to as the Great Patriotic War. Amid tensions with the West, the parade in Moscow showcased military hardware, including the Yars intercontinental strategic missile, symbolizing Russia's military capabilities. Notably absent from the event were leaders from Western nations, indicative of the strained relations between Russia and the West. Against the backdrop of escalating tensions.

Can Mahua Moitra sidestep 'royal' safety hurdle on her road to 'redemption'?

KRISHNANAGAR: At a time when issues like citizenship, religious intolerance, unemployment, corruption and women's safety are dominating Bengal politics, at Krishnanagar, alleged "illegal expulsion" and "royal legacy" are the leading poll pitches as former MP and TMC candidate Mahua Moitra takes on BJP's poll debutant Amrita Roy, a direct descendent of



Raja Krishna Chandra Roy. A CPM fief for 28 years since 1971, BJP was the first to dent it when the party had won the seat in 1999. CPM wrested it in 2004 before TMC's celebrity candidate, actor Tapas Paul, won from the seat twice in subsequent elections. TMC was victorious again in 2019 when Moitra won by 63,128 votes, pipping her BJP opponent Kalyan Choubey. Though the

margin wasn't huge, the victory was considered noteworthy as Paul had to be dropped following his arrest in the chit fund scam. But the situation has changed since then following Moitra's dramatic expulsion from the Lok Sabha late last year over the alleged cash-for-query scam. Although TMC and Mamata Banerjee stood firmly behind her.

Chidambaram counters PM Modi, says Congress didn't oppose Murmu

CHENNAI: Responding to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's allegation following the controversy sparked by former Indian Overseas Congress chairperson Sam Pitroda's comments, ex-finance minister P Chidambaram on Thursday clarified that in the last presidential election, Congress opposed Droupadi Murmu not because of the colour of her skin. Chidambaram said opposing Murmu



was a political decision. During his election campaign on Wednesday, Modi had said Congress didn't vote for Murmu in 2022 poll because of "the colour of her skin".

Terming Modi's comments "blatantly racist", Chidambaram said, "Support for a candidate was not based on the colour of the skin. Opposition to a candidate was also not based on the colour of the skin."

Wasn't raped, Sandeshkhali 'survivor' says in video

SANDESHKHALI: An older video of BJP's Basirhat candidate Rekha Patra purportedly suggesting that some of the Sandeshkhali "rape survivors" taken to Delhi to meet President Murmu may have been "paid to impersonate" Thursday added grist to Trinamool's allegations about the unrest in this Bengal pocket being engineered by the safety party. Patra's video, part of an interview she had given to a TV channel before her nomination, surfaced along with another clip showing one of the "survivors" telling a reporter that BJP members made her sign a blank sheet of paper without disclosing what it was for.



She denied facing sexual assault or visiting a police station to lodge a complaint, reports Sanjib Chakraborty. Capture Rekha Patra, who filed her nomination for the Basirhat seat Thursday — Sandeshkhali is part of the constituency — declined comment on the controversy. TMC's counter-attack started with two videos that emerged last week, one of them of a purported sting. The party presented this as "evidence" of BJP's Bengal brass, including Nandigram MLA Suwendu Adhikari, allegedly instigating or intimidating several women from Sandeshkhali into filing concocted rape complaints. TMC moved Election Commission, seeking custodial interrogation of everyone featuring and being named in the videos. The sting purports to show BJP's Sandeshkhali Block-II chief Gangadhar Koyal admitting that the "Sandeshkhali movement" was Adhikari's brainchild and that the rape

complainants did what they were told to. On Wednesday, the first of the "survivors" did an about-turn, saying she faced no such assault and that local BJP members forced her to sign a blank sheet of paper and approach police. She complained of threats and a social boycott because of her decision to withdraw the allegedly false charge of rape. The other "survivor" who came clean is seen in the video telling reporters a local BJP Mahila Morcha member identified as Piyali, aka Mampi Das, took her and some others to meet a team from National Commission for Women. In the oldest of the clips.

Paris shooting: Man shoots two officers in Paris police station

NEW DELHI: A man opened fire and seriously wounded two officers inside a police station in Paris on Thursday. The shooter managed to grab a weapon during a routine arrest procedure, leading to the harrowing incident, according to sources as reported by AFP. The unfortunate turn of events unfolded as officers had just arrested the man and initiated a search. In a swift and unexpected move, the suspect seized one of the officers' firearms and unleashed gunfire within the confines of the police station, causing serious injuries to two officers. The injured police officers were swiftly transported to a nearby hospital for urgent medical attention.

Why state Congress invited Gandhis to contest from Khammam?

HYDERABAD: Khammam, which was just another Telangana parliamentary constituency, became the most prestigious seat after the state Congress leadership passed resolutions urging Sonia Gandhi, later Rahul Gandhi and finally Priyanka Gandhi to contest from here. While none of the Gandhis accepted the proposal, the seat became the most sought after in Telangana with three strong ministers from the district seeking the ticket for their family members, and the Congress high command denying all three. Khammam when the 17 Lok Sabha seats in Telangana go to the polls on May 13. Congress has not won this seat in the past 15 years but has performed exceedingly well in the assembly elections.

The grand old party has fielded R Raghuram Reddy, BRS has nominated its sitting MP Nama Nageswara Rao and BJP, which is trying to expand its footprint here, has fielded Tandra Vinod Rao. The seat generated a lot of political heat with the three ministers, including deputy chief minister Bhatti Vikramarka, standing their ground firmly for a ticket to their family members. Even Telangana Congress president and chief minister A Revanth Reddy and other ministers in his cabinet went all out to request Sonia to field either Rahul or Priyanka as an escape route to avoid rubbing any of the three ministers the wrong way. Of these ministers, Bhatti belongs to the SC community, revenue minister Ponguleti Srinivas is a Reddy and agriculture.

Minister Nandi's service work continues despite election enthusiasm and campaigning

Grant from the Chief Minister Relief Fund given

Prayagraj: Not only in the country, but also in Uttar Pradesh, where political activity has increased in view of the Lok Sabha elections. The entire government and administration is engaged in completing the election processes. However, the work of serving the people is continuing under the able guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. On the initiative of Industrial Development Minister of Uttar Pradesh Government and Prayagraj City South MLA Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi, in the months of March and April, a grant from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund was given for the treatment of 50 victims i.e. people suffering from

serious diseases from Prayagraj as well as other districts and areas. Financial assistance of Rs 10,88,000 was provided. With the help of which many people got a lease of life. Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi, Industrial Development Minister of Uttar Pradesh Government, is currently leading the BJP among the businessmen community in the entire state. By holding business conferences in different districts, he is once again appealing to the businessmen to form the Modi government. Amidst the busyness of election campaign, he is not forgetting to serve the people suffering from serious diseases living in his Prayagraj city South Assembly constituency. The Chief Minister is

providing financial assistance to the people from the relief fund and assuring no holds-barred treatment.

On the initiative of Minister Nandi, every month financial assistance is being provided from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund to two to three dozen seriously ill people of Prayagraj city south assembly constituency as well as other assembly constituencies



and districts. The move goes a long way in ensuring that the economically weaker people can also get the best treatment and save their lives. Minister Nandi said that the happiness and sorrow of the people of the area is our happiness and sorrow. "Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath considers 24 crore people of the state as his family and stands with

the people in every difficult time. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has opened the government treasury so that people suffering from incurable and serious diseases and financially weak people do not have to wander or face trouble for treatment. The money received from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund is proving to be lifesaving for seriously ill people. There is no delay in providing assistance to the victims," he remarked.

Minister Nandi said that the process of providing financial help to people for the treatment of serious diseases like arthritis, heart disease, cancer, kidney, bone disease etc. is continuing in the year 2024. In March 2024, an amount of Rs 53,

46, 125 was provided to 29 people for treatment and in the month of April, an amount of Rs 57, 41, 875 was provided to 21 people as financial assistance, due to which the lives of many people could be saved due to better treatment. Patients from Akbarpur, Ahmedganj, GTB Nagar, Mutthiganj, North Malaka, Naini, Shahganj, Sadiyapur, Kanshiram Awas Naini, Himmatganj, Malviya Nagar, Khushhal Parvat, ADA Colony Naini, Pura Manohardas, North Malaka, Gaus Nagar GTB Nagar, Kareli, Daira Shah Ajmal, Katghar, Meerapur, Kidganj, Tulsipur, Kazipur-Naini, Daryabad, Ambedkar Nagar Naini as well as other assembly constituencies and districts are included.

Patients advised to avoid heatstroke in scorching heat: Dr. Mithilesh Singh

MANDA: In this scorching heat, people are hesitant to go out and the risk of heat stroke has increased due to the continuous rise in temperature. In such a situation, there is a need to be careful. The health department has issued an alert regarding this. Also, instructions are being given to the doctors of all the blocks regarding treatment and management. The elderly, pregnant and newborn babies are most at risk of getting affected by loo. Apart from this, other people are also at risk due to heat wave. Dr. Mithilesh Singh said that the only way to protect yourself from heat stroke is to cover your body with clothes and avoid going out in the sun. To create awareness about this, an alert is being issued in the district. Also, all health departments will be directed to tell people about measures to avoid heat wave. Spread awareness among people. A person becomes ill due to heatstroke. If he does not get timely treatment, he may even die. For this reason, people should not be careless and in case of such complaint, immediately contact the doctors of the local CHC. Constant fluctuations in temperature are directly affecting people's health. Due to this, the number of patients suffering from seasonal diseases and viral fever etc. is increasing. Patients coming to the hospital are also being advised to be careful about their eating habits in summer. The maximum temperature has dropped by 1 degree in 24 hours. However, there was no respite from the heat. Even on Thursday, people were troubled by the heat due to the strong sunlight. On Thursday, the maximum temperature dropped by 1 degree to 39.5 degrees Celsius. Whereas the minimum temperature increased by 1.4 degrees. The night temperature recorded on this day was 20.6 degrees Celsius.



A first: Vi achieves SOC 2 Type II Attestation

Varanasi: Leading telecom operator Vodafone Idea (Vi), today announced that it has achieved SOC2 Type II attestation. Currently, the only telecom operator in India to successfully complete the SOC 2 Type II attestation, this marks Vi's commitment to maintaining highest standards of data security and safeguarding sensitive client information and their privacy, while mitigating Distributed Denial-of-Service (DDoS) attacks. Commenting on this attestation, Mathan Kasilingam, CISO, Vi said, "Our customers trust us with their most sensitive and confidential data. This attestation reaffirms that our security measures meet best-in-class standards, thereby providing our customers with added confidence that their data is in safe hands." "SOC 2 compliance reflects our ongoing dedication to evolving our security practices alongside the ever-changing threat landscape. The support and commitment provided by the Vi team was remarkable and commendable." added Narendra Sahoo, Founder & Director of VISTA InfoSec.

Awarded after a stringent evaluation process conducted by AICPA (Association of International Certified Professional Accountants) registered independent CPA and VISTA InfoSec is based on the SOC 2 "Trust Service" for managing customer data on key parameters like security, availability, processing integrity, confidentiality, and privacy. The attestation demonstrates a company's ability to not only implement critical security policies but also prove compliance over an extended period. The SOC 2 Type II audit confirms that Vi's internal controls, policies and procedures conform to stringent security and operational standard. This implies that Vi has robust design and operating effectiveness of its security controls along with highest level of DDoS protection. It has a faster detection and response to any sort of security threat and thus is a reliable service provider for all the businesses.

Vi received SOC2 Type 1 attestation in 2022, which endorsed that the services provided by Vi to its customers are fully secure and compliant. Now with, SOC2 Type 2 attestation, it confirms that the company has been consistently adhering to the security processes and measures over a duration of 6 to 12 months. Vi remains steadfast in its mission to deliver innovative solutions while upholding the highest standards of integrity and security. With data security becoming increasingly critical in today's digital landscape, Vi consistently makes efforts to strengthen its security posture and validate its position as a trusted custodian of customer data.

SHUATS signs MoU for drone training

Students will eligible to fly commercial or agriculture drones

Prayagraj: Director Research of SHUATS Prof. (Dr.)Alok Milton Lal shared that SHUATS students in coming days will eligible to fly commercial or agriculture drones after completing a training to be provided by Drone Acharya Udaan LLP. Prof. Alok Milton said that representatives of Drone Acharya Udaan LLP, a Joint Venture of GATI-GAL and Shree Balaji Group (aDGCA approved Remote Pilot Training Organization) visited SHUATS, Prayagraj for Drone demonstration and sensitization drive among students and faculty members of university. A lecture was also organized at Jacob Institute of Biotechnology and Bioengineering, Conference Hall, SHUATS, where they held presentation on the modalities of the training and then they demonstrated the capabilities of the drone in the field.

Thereafter, they signed a MoU with SHUATS with which they aim to start training prospective drone pilots which will enable them to obtain Drone Pilot Certification leading to a license approved by Director General Civil Aviation, making them eligible to fly commercial or agriculture drones.

Drone Acharya Udaan LLP also plans to do joint research in the area of Drone with SHUATS in future for the betterment of

student and farming community. The MOU was signed by Prof (Dr.)Alok Milton Lal, Director Research in presence of Hon'ble Dean and Hon'ble VC and senior officials of the DAUL and it is expected to play crucial role in agri-sector as part of the vision



of Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision to make India as global hub for Drone by year 2030. Various govt schemes e.g. Kisaan Drone, Namo Drone Didi specifically for agri-sector aiming to revolutionize use of Drone in Agri-sector will only be achieved with Drone Pilot having the RPC as it is illegal to fly Drone without valid RPC in India. Drones can be used for multiple applications in Agri Sector. The MOU also enables willing students and associates of the University to do their research in the field of Drones for Agri Sectors.

The RPTO is not only authorized to provide training to students but will also

be able to issue RPC (Remote Pilot Certificates) to students on successful completion of the course. Drone-Acharya RPTO also plans to launch industry specific Drone Training courses for various industries e.g. Agriculture, Survey, Mapping, Telecom,

and they can also experience the early morning flying at their choice. This makes Drone-Acharya impart the Industry specific training at odd hours with ease. Catalogue as attached can be referred for details. About GATI - GAL: Govt Aviation Training Institute, Orissa is being managed and run by GAL under PPP model in Orissa state. GAL is operating 6 small aircraft for training CPL (Commercial Pilot License) at Birasal Air Strip. It has hanger facility at Bhubaneswar Airport also. GAL is also running the ground classes and simulators training at its facility at Dwarka, Delhi. GATI-GAL is also operating its RPTO at Manesar since Feb'22 and has successfully trained hundreds of students so far. It is also authorized to run the TTT (Train the Trainer) programmes for Instructors course.

Shree Balaji Group: Shree Balaji Group having its HQ in Kolkata has multiple business vertical to its credit e.g. Air Hostess Training, Tally Training, Laboratory solution for Technical Institutes, Real Estate etc. It has its footprints in WB and Orissa serving clients on PAN India basis. It has team of Professionals for each business verticals.

Haryana's truckers explore the multi-pronged benefits of electric trucks

'Nayi Soch Ki Sawaari', a new electric mobility initiative

Lucknow: 53-year-old Somver is part of a large trucking community that powers India's road freight industry and a new mobility initiative. 'Nayi Soch Ki Sawaari' has encouraged him and his peers to think of the role they and their trucks play beyond delivering goods from one city to another. Within the transport sector in India, trucks are responsible for one-third of transport-related CO2 emissions (NITI Aayog, 2022) and more than half of the particulate matter pollution. To deal with this, Somver and his peers now know that they have a viable alternative to diesel trucks. Now, with a renewed outlook, Somver says, "I had no idea that the electrification of heavy-duty vehicles can help cut down air pollution. Electric trucks are so easy

and comfortable to drive, and while charging drivers get a break during long, exhausting routes."

Across Haryana, in locations including Panipat, Jhajjar, Bilaspur, Jharli, Rohtak, and Dharuhera, over 476 truckers like Somver have so far learned to look at transportation from a new perspective at the 'Nayi Soch Ki Sawaari' events. This has steered increased discussions among them about the health impacts of air pollution and its effects on family and community well-being which developed through interactive sessions like 'Chai Pe Charcha'. Relief from air pollution was cited as the most commonly acknowledged benefit of an electric truck during a life-sized game of snakes and ladders where snakes represent the challenges and lad-



ders represent the benefits. A close favourite was the ease of driving a clutch and gear-free truck. You can find

Somver's peers talking about these benefits on the YouTube channel, 'EV OK Please', which serves as a

content hub and offers deeper insights into electric mobility. Talking about the

overarching goal of these activities, Kritica Mahajan, Manager, Nayi Soch Ki Sawaari says, "With this initiative, we aim to make room for people to ask questions, share their perspectives with us as well as with each other. The charging time which is considered as a challenge by many is seen as a benefit by Somver. We hope to uncover many such different perspectives that help build large-scale solutions from the ground up."

About Nayi Soch Ki Sawaari: Nayi Soch Ki Sawaari is an initiative by Purpose to generate awareness about electric trucks amongst the trucking community. The trucking community of India is the thread that connects the country. Nayi Soch Ki Sawaari is taking this evolution beyond the decision-makers to the end user.

COLORS invite viewers with its new drama 'Khubsurra'

Varanasi: Attention everyone! COLORS is signalling the arrival of 'Khubsurra', a heart-warming tale that promises to take viewers on an inspirational journey through the gritty tracks of Mumbai's spirit. The channel is all set to welcome the audiences to board this saga of dreams that will have them rooting for an ordinary girl, Navya whose jeet ka jazbaa (passion) is as unstoppable as the pulse of the city she belongs to. Residing in a chawl, Navya stands tall with aspirations as high as the city's skyscrapers, wanting to make it big despite her father's rejection for being the only dark-skinned one in the family. Undeterred by the jibes that people around her make about her skin colour, Navya refuses to hit the brakes on her aspirations, while also running her household. Whether she's waiting tables, serenading wedding processions with her clarinet or delivering food, nothing can derail her from navigating life with her sunshine energy. With the challenges of societal norms towering above her, will her jazbaa arrive at the station of success? Talking about essaying the role of Navya, Yesha Harsora says, "Khubsurra marks my first project with COLORS, and I pray that it sets an incredible tone for our association. Stepping aboard this show is my way of encouraging the viewers to follow their dreams even if people disregard their potential. My character's relentless spirit mirrors the very essence of Mumbai's 'never say die' attitude."

Inspection prog of Expenditure Account Register spelled out

Prayagraj: Returning Officer 51-Phoolpur and 52-Allahabad has notified all the election candidates/authorized agents of 51-Phoolpur and 52-Allahabad Parliamentary Constituency that as per the instructions of the Election Commission, your status in the Lok Sabha General Election-2024 Three inspections at the level of the Honorable Expenditure Observer of the Expenditure Account Register/Register maintained by the Central Government are to be carried out compulsorily. 51-For Phulpur parliamentary constituency, the first inspection is to be done in the auditorium of Circuit House, Prayagraj on 11th May, second inspection on 17th May and third inspection on 22nd May, 2024. For this, Honorable Expenditure Observer Shri Santosh Kumar (Lok Sabha/Assembly Constituency 254-Phaphamau, 255-Soraon (SC) and 261-Allahabad West) and Shri Raj Kumar Prajapat (Assembly Constituency 256-Phulpur and 262-Allahabad North) were appointed. 52-For Allahabad Parliamentary Constituency, the first inspection is to be done in the auditorium of Circuit House, Prayagraj on 13th May, second inspection on 17th May and third inspection on 22nd May. For this, Honorable Expenditure Observer Mr. Ravi Kant Gupta (Lok Sabha/Assembly Constituency 259-Meja, 260-Karchna and 263-Allahabad South) and Mr. B. Naveen Kumar (Assembly Constituency 264-Bara (SC) and 265-Koraon (SC)) has been appointed. Returning Officers 51-Phulpur and 52-Allahabad have informed that the expenditure account register maintained in the manner specified under Section 77 of the Representation of the People Act-1951 will be inspected on the scheduled date from 10:00 am to 05:00 pm. Make sure to get it done through the concerned accounting team and assistant expenditure observer. In case of non-compliance of the above, adverse action can be taken by the Commission under Section 171 and other relevant provisions.

Hospital sealed, its registration suspended after patient dies during delivery

Prayagraj: Complaint of Lalji Bind, son of Shri Hublal Village-Dhiliya Babura, Manda Prayagraj states that his daughter Sonam, wife of Shri Rohit Kumar Bind was admitted to Lakshmi Hospital, Ramnagar on the night of 06.05.2024 for delivery, but due to the negligence of the doctor, it was wrong. The mother died due to treatment. On the demand of the complainant for action against the



said hospital, on-site inspection of Lakshmi Hospital located in Ramnagar was conducted by the team constituted by authorities. Before the inspection, Lakshmi Hospital, Ramnagar was sealed and the registration of the said hospital was suspended with immediate effect, after informing the Deputy District Magistrate Meja and the concerned outpost in-charge, Sirsa.



Control room and MCMC committee inspected

Prayagraj: The control room and MCMC committee set up in the Collectorate premises was inspected by General Observer Dr. (TMT) B. Maheshwari on

Thursday. While inspecting the registers, the Honorable Observer took information about the works and gave necessary guidelines. On this occasion,

District Election Officer Mr. Navneet Singh Chahal, Chief Revenue Officer Mr. Kunwar Pankaj, Deputy District Election Officer Mrs.

Pooja Mishra, Additional District Magistrate Finance and Revenue Mr. Vinay Kumar Singh and other concerned officers were present.

Observers meet with political entities held for quick info on poll related queries

Prayagraj: Meeting held for Lok Sabha General Election-2024 with party officials at Sangam Auditorium on Thursday in the presence of General Observer Dr. (TMT) B. Maheshwari, Dr. Manik G Gursal, Honorable Police Observer Mr. Mayur Patil and Honorable Expenditure Observer Mr. Santosh Kumar, Mr. Rajkumar Prajapat. The meeting was organized to be conducted in a fair and transparent manner. In the meeting, the honorable observers were asked to ensure 100% compliance with the guidelines of the Election Commission of India and also to completely follow the Model Code of Conduct. It was said by the honorable observers in the meeting that any election related publicity work should be done only after taking permission. It was said by the respected ex-

penditure observers that the election expenditure limit set by the candidates should be completely fol-

CVigil App. It was said by the honorable observers in the meeting that if they want to give any complaint

officials and agents. In the meeting, detailed information was given by District Election Officer Shri



lowed. He said that FST, SST team, video surveillance team, assistant expenditure observers and accounting teams are working for monitoring the expenditure. It was said by the Honorable General Observers that any complaint related to the Model Code of Conduct can be made on the

or suggestion related to the elections, they can provide it in written form.

In the meeting, Chief Treasurer Shri Pratyush Kumar gave detailed information about various provisions related to expenditure, forms and the process of filling them through a presentation to the party

Navneet Singh Chahal about the preparations related to Lok Sabha General Elections-2024. Apart from the party officials, Chief Development Officer Shri Gaurav Kumar, Chief Revenue Officer Shri Kunwar Pankaj and other concerned officials were present on this occasion.

Curtains draw over HTS's Annual Prize Day with mesmerizing address by Academic Supervisor CB Luke

Prayagraj: Boys' High School and College Annexe, Holy Trinity School celebrated its Annual Prize Day with great fervour and enthusiasm on Thursday. The event was a testament to the hard work, dedication, and achievements of the conscientious students. Academic Supervisor C. B. Luke, the Headmistress R. Mandal, the Assistant Headmistress S. Bennett, Dr. A. Mukhopadhyay, Incharge of College Section and A. Jaiswal, Incharge of Classes 9th and 10th at Boys' High School and College, Prayagraj, who graced the occasion with their presence. The programme began with a melodious song

rendered by the school choir. It was followed by the prize distribution for the Junior School and then continued for the students of the Middle School.

The highlight of the event was the awarding of prizes to outstanding students across various disciplines, including academics and sports. Each recipient's name was met with thunderous applause, acknowledging their remarkable contributions and achievements throughout the year.

St. Patrick's House was the overall champion for the session 2023-24 and bagged the Cock House Trophy. The Principal's Trophy was awarded to



Sherlyn Zyna Mandal of St. George's House. Agastya of St. Patrick's House was declared the Best Athlete. Kunal Kumar of Class 3 was declared Best in Academics

in the Junior School while Tejinder Singh of Class 8 was declared Best in Academics from the Middle School section scoring 97% marks each. The atmo-

sphere was charged with pride and admiration as students received their well-deserved accolades, inspiring others to strive for excellence.

The ceremony concluded with a heart warming speech by the Academic Supervisor C. B. Luke. She admired the beautiful smiles on the faces of the proud parents, students and teachers and also emphasized upon the all-round development of the body, mind and soul of the students. She drew attention towards healthy eating habits of the students. She highlighted the importance of the impression of Parents and Teachers upon the

character building of children.

The vote of thanks was proposed by the Headmistress Mrs. R. Mandal who appreciated the active involvement of the parents in the children's journey of growth. She took pride in announcing the 100% results of ICSE and ISC of Boys' High School & College. She thanked the Principal Mr. D. A. Luke for the strong, bold and unwavering support. The day concluded with the National Anthem and a sense of unity and pride within the school community, making this Prize Day a memorable and inspiring event for all.

Class IV employees allegedly asked to loosen strings of their purses for principal's b'day celebration

Prayagraj: Parul Solomon, the alleged illegally appointed principal of Bishop Johnson Girls School and College, Mission Road, is now burning a deep hole in pockets of class IV employees to celebrate her birthday and has handed over the responsibility of this to one of her colleague teachers. School employees say that despite such low salary, pressure is being created on the employees to pay Rs 200. Whereas till now no PF has been deposited nor ESI (Employees Insurance Card) has been made for Class IV employees.

The situation is such that the employee is not able to take advantage of his hard-earned money and has to wander even for treatment. The employees have termed the forced collection of Rs 200 as illegal. Teachers have also accused Parul Solomon of irregularities. Teachers said that Parul Solomon goes on long leave for many days without any order from any higher authority and her salary is not deducted, whereas if teachers are even a little late, their salary is deducted by questioning them. The teachers alleged that the appointment of Parul Solomon is illegal and the teachers will soon submit a petition in the High Court.

Saints opposed preparation and demolition of Leta Hanuman Corridor

Prayagraj: Preparations for construction of Hanuman Corridor have started in Sangam city Prayagraj and work has been started by PDA, whereas now the demolition of the Ashram coming in the way of the corridor has been started by PDA, which was done by Srinivasnand



Saraswati. They have protested. They said that our ancestors Gurus have been residing here for centuries and the corridor can be built even without demolishing the ashram. They have made many serious allegations against the PDA. They said that they have not even received any notice of demolition action. It has not been given and it is being said that the ashram will be demolished. Today, a bulldozer has also been used in the adjacent parts of the ashram.

Miffed over poor civic conditions, voters warn of poll boycott

Prayagraj: Voters will exercise their right to franchise on May 25. But not all eligible voters are keen to participate in this festival of democracy, especially those who feel that their pleas for resolving civic problems in their respective localities have fallen on deaf ears. 'Road nahi to vote nahi' reads the slogan found written on the wall by the locals at Atarsuiya village in Bara on Wednesday. Locals claimed that the roads are in a very poor state and despite repeated demand, no action was taken by the authorities concerned.

Similarly, locals at Band Gali locality in Rani Mandi have put up a banner warning to boycott polls if lanes in their area are not repaired soon. Locals alleged that their locality has been neglected for past many years.

The locals of Band Gali under ward 100 have been facing problems since past many years. They claim that they are forced to put up the poster as despite repeated reminders, no action was taken by concerned persons and authorities. A local Niraj Kasera said there are no sewer pipes in their locality and drains are damaged. Moreover, the locality is also suffering from water shortage. Another local Ramu Gupta said people of the locality are also paying water tax and house tax but are not receiving the facilities accordingly. The lane is in a dilapidated state and causing problems to commuters.

The locals have put up a banner boycotting the polls as a protest. No one will vote until all problems are resolved, says Ritu Kesarwani. Local corporator Parwez Akhtar Ansari said a proposal for development works has been sent. Repair works will start soon, he added.

4 held for duping people via 'digital arrest'

Prayagraj: Cyber police station cops, on Wednesday, arrested four members of a gang involved in extorting money by forcing bank customers in 'digital house arrest' by posing as police officials. The kingpin of the gang operates from Thailand and Bangkok, police said. 'Digital House Arrest' is a new term coined to describe a situation where cyber criminals pretending to be police officers, CBI or customs officials scare people and keep them hostage at home before proceedings to empty the their bank accounts. Subsequent investiga-

tions led to arrest of four members of the gang from different cities of U.P. and Delhi on Wednesday. The accused were identified as Nitlesh Kumar, 22, of Shahjahanpur, Rajesh Kumar Mandal, 51, of Noida, Rama aka Chetan Kumar 42 and Nishant Roy of New Delhi. Nishant's father and kingpin of the gang Dev Roy aka Rana Roy who operates from Bangkok has fled to Nepal, police said.

The arrests happened after an FIR of 'digital house arrest' was registered under IT Act and other relevant sections of

IPC at the Cyber Police Station on April 26. This FIR was registered by a woman Kakoli Dasgupta from Prayagraj who said she had been duped of Rs.1.48 crores.

Kakoli told the cops that on April 23, an unidentified caller rang her up and introduced himself as staff of an International Courier Company. Kakoli said the caller informed her about a parcel she had sent to Taiwan and in which 200 grams of drugs, 5 laptops and 3 credit cards had been found. Subsequently, Kakoli was told that the case had been transferred to the

Mumbai Crime Branch. After this, Kakoli said she received a video call in which a man in police uniform introduced himself as DCP Crime Branch. He subsequently threatened her and checked all her bank accounts over three days during which Kakoli was under 'digital arrest' and confined to her room. She said that she was ultimately forced to transfer Rs. 1.48 crore in different bank accounts in lieu of her name being cleared from the 'drug' case.

Later, upon realising that she had been duped, Kakoli approached the

police and got the FIR registered after which arrests were made.

Inspector Tiwari said that the gang operates through agents who take access to bank accounts from people on the pretext of providing them commission. The kingpin of the gang then uses these bank accounts of gullible to transfer cash to an account and from which this cash withdrawn by their agents in return for a 2% commission. "The cash is then converted into crypto currency and bitcoin and turned into white money," police said.

UMESH PAL MURDER CASE Atiq Ahmed's son Umar quizzed

Prayagraj: Dhumanganj police recorded the statement of slain mafia-politician Atiq Ahmed's eldest son, Umar, on Wednesday in connection with the murder of lawyer Umesh Pal and his two police guards on February 24 last year. Umar is presently lodged at Lucknow Jail after surrendering before the CBI court in connection with the abduction and assault on a Lucknow-based realtor, Mohit Agarwal. Earlier, police recorded the statement of Atiq's second son, Ali, who is lodged at Naini Central Jail in the same case. It is believed that police may soon file a supplementary chargesheet in court against the duo in Umesh Pal's murder case.

Police obtained a B warrant from the court to question Umar at Lucknow Jail. On Wednesday, police officials questioned Umar regarding his role in planning the sensational murders. They asked him about

the assailants and others involved in planning and committing the murders. Police officials said that Umar confessed to his involvement in the conspiracy to kill Umesh Pal. Umar informed the police that his younger brother, Asad, met him after returning from Bareilly Jail with other assailants, following a meeting with his uncle Ashraf, where they finalized the plan to kill Umesh Pal. Asad informed Umar about the plan and the assailants who would commit the murder of Umesh Pal on the instructions of their father, Atiq, and uncle Ashraf.

Police officials stated that the evidence collected earlier, statements of the arrested accused, along with the questioning of Umar and Ali, indicate that they were involved in the conspiracy to murder Umesh Pal. It is worth mentioning that the police filed the first chargesheet in the case in May 2023 against the accused Sadaqat Khan.

Editorial

Voter turnout during Phase 4?

Temperatures are rising and it is amid this unpleasant weather that India is heading to the second phase of its general elections. The Lok Sabha polls are being held in seven phases, with the counting of votes on 4 June. Extreme heat is being blamed for the low voter turnout in the first phase of polling on 19 April when 102 Lok Sabha seats spread across 21 states and Union Territories voted. A dip of 4.4 per cent was recorded in these seats, as the voter turnout stood at 65.5 per cent this year from 69.9 per cent in the 2019 general elections. As 13 states and Union Territories go to polls on 26 April in the second phase, will the heatwave impact the voter turnout?

Which states are going to poll?

The 4th phase of polling will cover 89 constituencies in 12 states and one Union Territory. Kerala's all 20 Lok Sabha seats, 14 in Karnataka, 13 in Rajasthan, eight seats each in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, seven in Madhya Pradesh, five each in Assam and Bihar, three each in West Bengal and Chhattisgarh and one each in Tripura, Manipur and Jammu and Kashmir.

Are there heatwave predictions?

There is a heatwave warning for parts of four states – West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka – going to polls in the second phase. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast, hot and humid weather is expected in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Konkan, Goa, Coastal Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe. "Heatwave to severe heatwave conditions likely to prevail in some pockets over Gangetic West Bengal and in isolated pockets over Odisha; heatwave conditions in isolated pockets over Uttar Pradesh, sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar, Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam, Rayalaseema, Telangana and interior Karnataka," as per the IMD. Speaking to NDTV, Dr Naresh Kumar, senior scientist at the IMD, said that the weather agency has issued a red alert for West Bengal for the next three days.

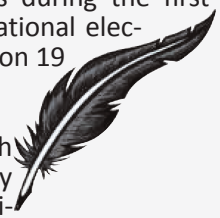
"Temperatures in Bihar will exceed 40 degrees Celsius. A heatwave is expected in eastern Uttar Pradesh after 24 hours and in western Uttar Pradesh after two days. The temperature will remain hot and humid in Kerala too," he said. The IMD previously warned that heatwaves lasting 10 to 20 days, unlike the normal four to eight days, are expected between April and June. Heatwaves lasting 10 to 20 days, unlike the normal four to eight days, are expected between April and June. AP File Photo Gujarat, central Maharashtra and north Karnataka are most vulnerable to heatwaves, followed by Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, north Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, as per the IMD.

What is the EC doing?

A day back, the IMD Director General, Mrutunjay Mohapatra, assured the Election Commission of India (ECI) that heatwave is not a major concern for the second phase of elections. The ECI Monday (22 April) formed a task force consisting of officials from the IMD, the poll body, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to assess the impact of heatwave and humidity five days before each phase of polling. This came after the election commission held a meeting with the IMD and representatives of the Union Health Ministry to comprehend the developing weather situation and discuss mitigation measures. India general elections People crowd a polling booth to vote just before the polling ends during the first round of polling of India's national election in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, on 19 April 2024.

AP File Photo

The EC has asked the health ministry to issue "necessary instructions to health authorities in states to prepare for and extend assistance.



The remarkable rise of Biharis in Delhi: From cheap labour to influential vote-bank

The emergence of the Purvanchalis/Biharis as the most influential electoral community is a story of a long journey of struggle and perseverance. During the watershed Assembly election in Delhi in 2013, the then Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit was looking forward to a fourth term. The confidence emanated from the development overhaul she carried out during the 2010 Commonwealth Games.

Though the Congress government at the Centre was mired in allegations of corruption, Dikshit felt assured of steering clear of it. However, then Congress member of Lok Sabha from West Delhi, Mahabal Mishra, had warned Dikshit about an impending defeat and had suggested to her that she could gamble by giving a large chunk of tickets to the party workers from Purvanchal (migrants from east UP and Bihar). Dikshit, who was never comfortable with Mishra, saw it as a ruse on the part of the Purvanchali leader to create a claim for himself as a rival to her. As the results came out, she was dismayed that her development drive was drowned in the cacophony let loose by the Anna Hazare movement, whose product is the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). The arrival of Arvind Kejriwal and the AAP marked the beginning of a new



genre of politics. During the past three decades, Delhi has undergone a deep demographic change. The migrants arriving in the city, which is North India's El Dorado, have given a new character to its social and cultural life. From being poor tenants in the unauthorised colonies, they are now proud holders of plots but have been fighting with successive governments for the assertion of their civic rights. Their struggle has not been limited to the recognition of their housing plots. They eke out a living fighting various forces of corruption aka government. The Congress and the BJP all those years instead of holding their hand depended on poll malpractices, exploiting their poverty to get their mandate. The migrants from the eastern districts of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and some districts of Madhya Pradesh bordering these areas for

long looked for a role in the politics of the national capital. When Kejriwal, during the campaign in 2015, said to accept liquor and money from the Congress and the BJP but vote for him, he showed that he had his ear to the ground. In that poll, the AAP had put up Purvanchali candidates in 15 out of 70 seats and they all romped home. Today, Mahabal Mishra is AAP's candidate from West Delhi. His son Vinay is an AAP MLA from their traditional Dwarka seat. For the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, for which voting is scheduled in Delhi on May 26, the BJP has fielded one Bihar candidate Manoj Tiwari, the sitting MP from the North East Delhi seat. AAP-Congress has fielded three Biharis – Kanhaiya Kumar from North East Delhi, Somnath Bharti from the New Delhi seat and the veteran Mahabal Mishra from the West Delhi seat.

While Kanhaiya Kumar and Manoj Tiwari are imports into the capital's politics, Mahabal Mishra and Somnath Bharti have grown politically in the national capital. One may recall that Mahabal Mishra was the first Bihar to win an electoral battle, winning a seat as a corporator from Nasirpur in Outer Delhi in 1996.

Though before him, a Purvanchali, Lal Bahari Tiwari had won Assembly polls from the East Delhi seat of Ghonda and become a minister in the state BJP government. Later, Tiwari won three consecutive Lok Sabha polls in 1997 (bypoll), 1998 and 1999. However, there is a marked difference in the politics of Tiwari and the present-day Bihar politicians in the capital – from meek submission to that of aggressive assertion. According to the data released by the Election Commission, Delhi has a total of 1,47,42,145 voters – 79,98,652 male, 67,42,330 female and 1163 from the third gender. This is up by about 6.5 per cent from 1,38,46,482 in 2019. According to estimates, 33.5 per cent of the total 1.48 crore voters across the seven Lok Sabha constituencies are Purvanchalis. Their presence varies from 24 per cent in Chandni Chowk to 41 per cent in East Delhi. On the

North East Delhi seat, they constitute 40 per cent of the votes, while they account for 37 per cent of votes in New Delhi, 34 per cent in West Delhi, 31 per cent in North West Delhi and 27 per cent in South Delhi. Today, there isn't a constituency in Delhi where the 'Chhath' festival of Bihar is not celebrated.

But will the Biharis vote as a bloc or would have ideological preferences depending on their allegiance in the home state? This is something which the political parties, especially the BJP, would be accountable for. There are two other crucial seats – New Delhi and West Delhi, where the BJP needs to crack the Bihar pot to sail through.

The selection of Bihar candidates for the Lok Sabha polls from Delhi by both the major formations – Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Aam Aadmi Party-Congress alliance clearly indicate that Purvanchalis, rather Biharis, have become a major political entity in the national capital. Today, they are not just at par but more influential than other major electoral blocks like that of Punjabis, Vaishyas, Gujjars, Jats and minorities. Numerically, the two formations together have fielded two Vaishyas, two Gujjars, two Punjabis, one Jat, three Scheduled Caste (two from reserved seats).

Why Iran, Israel avoided crossing red lines

Rewriting the rules of engagement is challenging, but undoubtedly both Iran and Israel have made a symbolic statement and managed the escalation cycle wherein they have played to the gallery as far as their domestic audience is concerned. On April 14, Iran launched its first direct military offensive against Israel. The attack consisted of over 300 Shahed drones, cruise missiles, and ballistic missiles. The launch was detected immediately, and the Israeli forces on high alert had approximately two hours of response time before the drones reached Israeli airspace.

The strike was then taken apart as it moved across the Middle East by members of the US-led Middle East Air Defence Alliance, which included jets from the RAF, the Jordanian Air

Forces, and the US Air Force. Most of the surviving munitions were then intercepted by Israel's Air Defence Systems, which include the Iron Dome, David's Sling, and Arrow 2 and 3. At least five penetrated through these defences and struck targets in and around an Nevatim Air Base in the Negev Desert. These five hits resulted in no casualties and caused only structural damage.

The world was on edge, and there was danger that a threatened Israeli retaliation would result in a regional, if not wider, conflict. Crude prices spiked, markets dropped across the globe, and gold reached new heights. For India, one of the major dangers of escalation was the blocking of the Straits of Hormuz, as it would result in disruption of both crude and

natural gas. The Israeli reaction took place within the week. On April 19, they struck a military airbase near the city of Isfahan, and Iranian officials also claimed to have shot down small drones near the northern city of Tabriz, but this was downplayed. Isfahan Province, in the centre of Iran, is home to significant Iranian military infrastructure, including a large air base, a major missile production complex, and nuclear facilities. As per reports in the Jerusalem Post, the Israelis were targeting an air defence radar site near Isfahan that's part of the protection of the Natanz nuclear facility. The choreography of missile strikes once again ensured that there were no casualties and, moreover, no targeting of Iranian nuclear facilities.

'Mind your own democracy'

When prejudiced opinion posts masquerade as journalism, it violates one of the four foundational pillars of democracy. As mainstream media is pivotal in shaping popular perceptions and helps the voter make informed choices in an election year, much of the Western observers' anti-India blitzkrieg must be discounted by the discerning voter due to its inherent bias and colonial mindset. A free, fair and thriving multiparty democracy is at work at the scale of 970 million, as Indians ready to exercise their franchise in the general elections. Stunningly ignoramus and half-informed foreign scribes that write for global media outlets, West's India watchers, activists and NGOs are on overdrive to undermine the integrity of the Indian democratic process.

The woke brigade of journo who anoint themselves as upholders of liberal democracy are completely disconnected from the vox populi of the voting nation. Their feedback loops are through proxy, based on what they hear and perceive, and not by touring the expansive electoral terrain. The voter-on-the ground, primarily comprising rural and urban middle classes, neither read the likes of The Economist, New York Times, UK Guardian, Chatham House, Le Monde France, La Croix International Catholic News etc., nor hear the views on BBC, CNN or Bloomberg. Besides, in a country with 80 per cent of the population comprising Hindus, the resurgence of Hindu nationalism renders the opinions of the elitist Western collective as redundant and powerless to influence or impact India's electoral outcomes. For too long, international institutions of the West have held sway in determining the pecking order of 170 nations, whether it is in determining their sovereign credit ratings or democratic credentials. In proportion to India's growing heft, and being the

largest democracy, it is a step in the right direction that India has set in motion the process of redefining the codes for an alternative 'Global Standard for Elections', and creating its own metrics of gauging the democracy ratings index in collaboration with the Observer Research Foundation. Much has transformed during Modi's decadal tenure. India has indeed emerged as the nation of the decade, and a critical player in just about every issue pivotal to playing peacemaker on geo-political tensions, or issues facing the planet. India's inclusive economic growth under Modi and its expanding global ascendance has made it a formidable global power. It is therefore no surprise that Modi as the front runner is poised for a successive third term, and is expected to return in a stronger avatar in 2024. Should that happen, the pace of economic reforms and saturation of flagship schemes is expected to accelerate. An industrial prime minister helming the fifth largest economy is an intimidating prospect for the US and Western nations, as the more the axis of economic power steadily shifts towards India, one expects negative news blitzes from foreign soil to further intensify.

Why West fears a stronger India This is exactly what the Western mainstream media in cahoots with India's opposition parties, and external lobbyists are striking at. They would prefer an electoral outcome that throws up a rag-tag coalition with a weakened prime minister, one who would be subservient to their business and political interests in preference to a strong, assertive and nationalist PM who would pursue nation-first interests, undaunted by the US or the Western powers. We are living through a period of tumultuous change, as the global order crumbles, and the writ of multilateral institutions is ineffective in controlling geopolitical tensions.

Planting trees is a simple solution to counter air pollution

Planners and designers are reimagining cityscapes with verdant green corridors and tree-lined boulevards, weaving greenery seamlessly into the urban fabric. Image: Wikimedia Commons

As Delhi grapples with yet another harrowing bout of air pollution caused by Ghazipur landfill fires, the city, especially its eastern part, finds itself ensnared in a blanket of toxic smog, pushing its air quality index to alarming levels again. With readings skyrocketing to several times the World Health Organization's recommended limit, the severity of the situation has prompted drastic measures, including school closures and restric-

tions on construction activities. This onslaught of pollution not only poses immediate health risks but also casts a long shadow over the residents' quality of life, with projections suggesting a staggering reduction of 10 years in life expectancy. Health experts equate breathing this hazardous smog to smoking a staggering 14 cigarettes every day. Laden with nanoparticles capable of infiltrating the lungs and bloodstream, this lethal smog poses a grave threat, fueling respiratory ailments and health complications. In the face of this crisis, the urgent need for effective solutions to combat air pollution has never been more evi-

dent. It is no news that the scourge of pollution has seeped into every facet of our lives - the water we drink, the soil we rely on for sustenance, and the very air we breathe. This dire reality confronts millions in bustling metropolises across the globe, where densely packed populations are disproportionately exposed to harmful contaminants. As these pollutants infiltrate our environment, they accumulate, magnifying in intensity as they ascend the food chain. With urbanisation advancing at breakneck speed and our demands on natural resources escalating, we stand close to tainting the very essence of our existence.

Clean air to fill our lungs, uncontaminated food to nourish our bodies—these are not luxuries, but fundamental necessities for our survival. Can we, in good conscience, stand idly by as our cities succumb to this relentless march of degradation? The time for action is now.

What is pollution?

Before we unpack why pollution occurs or how to mitigate it, it is vital to ask, what do we exactly mean by pollution in our cities. Pollution occurs when high concentrations of substances persist in the environment due to human activities or natural events, which have harmful effects to the environment.

With the blessings of the public, Dr. Sushil Gupta will be crowned with victory: Ma. Satbir Goyat



Kaithal: Aam Aadmi Party Education Wing State Vice President Master Satbir Goyat said that BJP leaders should answer the questions of the public instead of running away from them. During its 10 year tenure, BJP has done nothing except making false statements and misleading the public. He said that the public is asking the same questions which the BJP had made to the public in the last elections, but in the intoxication of power, instead of fulfilling the promises, the BJP government has left no stone unturned in sabotaging the interests of the public. mother. Satbir Goyat is continuously campaigning day and night in various villages of Kurukshetra Lok Sabha constituency in favor of India Alliance candidate Dr. Sushil Gupta from Kurukshetra Lok Sabha constituency and appealing to people of every section with folded hands to vote in

favor of Dr. Sushil Gupta. Is. AAP leader Goyat said that Dr. Sushil Gupta, rich in positive thinking and down to earth, has settled in the hearts of the people due to his honest, clean, friendly and friendly image and people of every section of the society are openly supporting Dr. Sushil Gupta. Cooperation is being done. With the blessings of the public, Dr. Sushil Gupta will be crowned victorious in the elections. He alleged that the BJP, which came to power on the basis of false promises, has not fulfilled them, so with what right is it asking

for votes from the public in the Lok Sabha elections. The public will no longer fall under any false illusion of BJP. He said that the candidates of India Alliance will show the way home to BJP by winning the elections with the blessings of the public on all the 10 Lok Sabha seats of Haryana including Kurukshetra. Under the BJP government, farmers, employees, s a r p a n c h e s , Anganwadi workers, Asha workers, laborers and every section of the society demonstrated with their demands and tried to raise their voice, but at the behest.

AI inside most apps you use

AI is being used by nine in 10 internet users in India, thanks to the enormous computing capabilities on their phones, connectivity, and cloud infrastructure, finds a study by marketing data and analytics firm Kantar. The current AI user base of the country stands at 724 million and is poised to grow at 6% on a year-on-year basis. These are users who have used any of the AI features like image filters, personalised recommendations, and smart devices. Social media and fitness apps are taking the lead in terms of driving AI adoption, with the highest number of AI-led features embedded in

related applications. Entertainment apps are a close second. AI is also touching digital commerce and pharmacy apps. Kantar anticipates that many more digital commerce and entertainment apps will adopt AI features to enhance the quality of customer experience and stay in line with emerging trends. Adoption remains slow in BFSI, job search and short video apps segments, the study showed. Usage of AI tech is expectedly higher among the youth (19-24 years). But those who are 45 and above are also keeping up, with usage for the cohort at about 81%.

Even as consumers embrace AI, the technology's usage is not as rampant among marketers due to privacy and safety concerns, Deepender Rana, executive MD (insights), South Asia and Puneet Avasthi, senior ED (insights), South Asia, at Kantar told TOI in an interaction. About 60% of the organisations surveyed by the firm said that they rarely or never use AI. "There's a lot of data but consumers don't want to use AI in a manipulative manner and companies are still discovering what are the boundaries of privacy," Rana said. Besides, marketers also need to make sure biases don't creep.

Masala row: Govt inspects facilities of spice makers, regulator says

NEW DELHI: Following the suspension of sales of certain products by spice makers MDH and Everest in Hong Kong and Singapore due to alleged high levels of a cancer-causing pesticide, the government has now initiated inspections of their facilities to

ensure compliance with quality standards. The spices export regulator has confirmed that inspections are underway at the facilities of MDH and Everest to verify adherence to regulatory standards. The move comes as a response to concerns

raised regarding the quality of spices produced by these companies. In a statement, the spices export regulator said that they are collaborating with the companies to identify the root cause of the issue and propose corrective measures.

Conspiracy against PM amounts to treason: Delhi high court

NEW DELHI: Conspiracy against the Prime Minister amounted to treason and a person cannot be accused of such a serious offence irresponsibly without any cogent material, the Delhi high court Wednesday said. The court was hearing a lawsuit filed by BJD MP Pinaki Misra against lawyer Jai Anant Dehadrai, seeking to restrain him from making "false and defamatory" tweets and statements. Dehadrai had alleged that Misra, along with expelled TMC MP Mahua Moitra, had conspired



against the Prime Minister. Pulling up Dehadrai, Justice Jasmeet Singh orally observed: "When you say conspiracy against the Prime Minister, it is troublesome. You can't be trigger happy... Conspiracy against the Prime Minister is an

offence against the state, (it is) treason... It has serious repercussions on the general public." The court said that Dehadrai should await the outcome of his complaint to the authorities before he makes such allegations. "The allegation of con-

spiracy against the prime minister cannot be made irresponsibly and needs to be based on cogent and substantive reasons," the court further said. Following Justice Singh's remarks, Dehadrai and his counsel assured the court that he would not make further statements in relation to Misra "conspiring" against the Prime Minister till the next date of hearing. The court said CBI was already looking into the allegations, and the dispute between Dehadrai and Moitra was also pending before the HC. Taking the statement.

Fortis Healthcare: Expanding Horizons in Mental Wellness

GURUGRAM : Fortis Healthcare today achieved a significant milestone in India's mental healthcare landscape with the launch of 'Adayu Mindfulness', a dedicated vertical for comprehensive Mental Healthcare along with an exclusive collaboration of United We Care and Adayu - AI Powered Holistic Mental Health Solution with World's most Advanced Virtual Psychological First Aid. This collaboration will leverage the power of artificial intelligence to enhance mental well-

being and accessibility of care for individuals everywhere, powering it further by Adayu's trained team of mental health experts to provide holistic care. This visionary initiative reaffirms Fortis Healthcare's commitment to transformative healthcare solutions and underscores its role as a trailblazer in revolutionizing mental healthcare services across India. Dr. Ashutosh Raghuvanshi, MD & CEO, Fortis Healthcare, said "Fortis Healthcare is uniquely committed to integrat-

ing mental health into mainstream healthcare, a vision we have been cultivating for over a decade. Today, we take a significant step forward with the launch of our dedicated mental health vertical, 'Adayu Mindfulness'. This new initiative not only emphasises our commitment to addressing the pervasive challenge of mental health but also showcases our innovative approach by integrating AI technology through our partnership with 'United We Care'. This collaboration is set

to transform the accessibility of mental health services, making comprehensive care available at the touch of a button. This is more than an advancement in healthcare technology; it is a movement towards destigmatising mental health issues and enhancing the availability of care for those in need across India. Through such pioneering efforts, we continue to lead the way in transforming healthcare delivery and improving patient outcomes."

2024 Jawa Perak Unveiled: Elevating the Bobber Experience with Enhanced Performance and Unmatched Comfort

GURUGRAM : The recently launched 2024 Jawa Perak showcases significant enhancements to its spirited 334cc, liquid-cooled engine. These advancements aim to elevate the overall riding experience, highlighting Jawa Yezdi Motorcycles' commitment to customer-driven learnings, innovation and excellence in research and development. Noteworthy improvements include the implementation of micro geometry modifications to the gear tooth, resulting in superior meshing quality for reduced noise, vibration, and harshness (NVH) lev-

els. Additionally, the new gearbox covers contribute to a refined sound emission from the gearbox, further enhancing NVH characteristics and overall ride comfort. The 2024 Jawa Perak also boasts a new crankshaft that delivers a significant reduction on engine stress levels resulting in a and sophisticated ride. Complemented by an Assist & Slipper (A&S) clutch for effortless shifting and seamless transitions, the new Perak delivers an authentic bobber experience. Furthermore, riders can expect enhanced versatility with improved gear ratios

and throttle mapping, catering to diverse usage scenarios from urban commuting to spirited highway cruising. Other notable features include an updated piston skirt profile and the cast iron liner in the cylinder block for improved NVH and reduced friction, sportier suspension for agile handling, a robust chassis for spirited riding, class-leading braking capabilities. a larger throttle body diameter of 38mm, and a patented breather canopy that minimizes oil consumption and emissions, reinforcing the Perak's status.

Radio City, a trailblazer in vibrant music is thrilled to announce its debut on JioTV

KARNAL : Radio City, a trailblazer in vibrant music and engaging content, is thrilled to announce its debut on JioTV. This pioneering fusion marks a significant milestone as Radio City becomes the first-ever radio station in the country to introduce a 24x7 video channel under the banner of RC Studio. This launch on JioTV not only extends the reach of Radio City but also provides advertisers with limitless opportunities to engage with a nationwide audience. Through this association, Radio City will be able to reach out to JioTV's massive audience base across the country. The JioTV mobile app - which

has over 1,000 channels in more than 16 languages and 12 genres from over 200 broadcasters is available to all the Jio subscribers across the country. Through this launch, Radio City will touch the nerves of the younger, digitally savvy generation, leveraging their attraction to screens to reignite their interest in radio. By embracing the new digital platform, Radio City will deliver phenomenal content that echoes with the Gen Z. RC Studio will also be available on connected TVs through JioTV+ which comes as a part of JioFiber and AirFiber. This initiative will be pivotal in bridging the gap between differ-

ent audience segments and expanding Radio City's reach to a larger demographic, creating a more inclusive and vibrant entertainment approach. The launch of RC Studio propels Radio City into the digital era by enriching the entertainment experience for its audience with the JioTV app which is now also available on MyJio app and JioBharat phones. Ashit Kukian, CEO of Radio City, expressed his excitement: "In this exciting juncture of innovation and expansion, I am thrilled to announce the launch of our pioneering channel, RC

Studio, on JioTV and JioTV+." The launch marks a historic point in our journey, reflecting our brand's evolution and commitment to 'Radigitalization'. Our RC Studio's tagline, 'Mast Raho', encapsulates our dedication to crafting a comprehensive digital experience that caters to our existing and new audiences. Radio City has always been a frontrunner when it comes to innovative concepts, and with this launch on JioTV, we are forging the future of entertainment by providing a platform that ignites excitement and engages viewers and brands alike in ways like never before!"

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

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

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



GURUGRAM : Belstar Microfinance Limited ("The Company" or "BML") has filed its Draft Red Herring Prospectus ("DRHP") with market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI"). The Company offers a wide range of loan products, such as micro enterprise, small enterprise, consumer goods, festival, education and emergency loans.

The Company plans to raise fund through Initial Public Offering of Equity Shares (Face Value 10 each) aggregating up to 13,000 million [1,300 crore]. ("Total Offer Size") The total offer size comprises of - (i) fresh issue of equity 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 in UT of Jammu & Kashmir

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 preparing 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, Khour, Jourian, Bakour, Hamirpur in Akhnoor West, and Paharpur, Maharajpur, Haripur, Chadwal, Hariachak in the Kathua Sector. By targeting these areas, Sarveshwar Foods Ltd aims to maximize the outreach of its initiative and ensure that farmers in need receive essential.

The Convergence 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. At the launch event, Vini Mahajan, Secretary, Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, commended the work and contributions of the 20 organizations profiled in the report. "Nonprofit organizations that have adopted the system change approach by implementing scalable pilots and working meaningfully with governments can contribute to large-scale change," she said.

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:.

Indian warship helps Pakistani crew onboard Iranian fishing vessel in Arabian Sea

NEW DELHI: The Indian Navy responded promptly to a distress call and provided critical medical aid to a Pakistani crew member aboard an Iranian fishing vessel, Al Rahmani, said an Indian Navy spokesperson. The warship, INS Sumedha, deployed for anti-piracy operations in the Arabian Sea, intercepted the fishing vessel on April 30, as per the Indian Navy's statement. A team from the ship, along with medical specialists, boarded the fishing vessel and administered medical assistance to the crew mem-

ber. "In a swift response to a distress call, #INSSumedha, mission deployed for #antipiracy ops in the #ArabianSea provided critical medical assistance to an Iranian FV (with 20 Pakistani crew), for a near drowning case of one of its crew member," the spokesperson conveyed. The statement added, "Responding swiftly to the distress call, INS Sumedha intercepted FV Al Rahmani in early hours of #30Apr 24. Ship's boarding team & medical specialists boarded the FV &

rendered medical assistance to the crew member, who was experiencing laboured breathing with active seizures." Following medical intervention, the crew member regained consciousness and showed clinical improvement, as per the spokesperson. "Post medical management, the patient was oriented, conscious and relieved clinically. Relentless efforts by mission deployed units of #IndianNavy symbolises its steadfast commitment towards safeguarding and assisting seafarers operating in the region.

55% Covidshield recipients had mild side effects: AMCH study

GUWAHATI: A study conducted by physician-scientists from Assam Medical College Hospital (Dibrugarh), supported by ICMR-recognised multidisciplinary research laboratory, has revealed that 55% of Covidshield vaccine recipients experienced only minor side effects like fever and headache. These symptoms occurred within a week of getting inoculated with the first dose. Researchers confirmed no long-term adverse effects after a year. "In our study, we found that 55% experienced minor adverse events such as fever, headache, body ache and pain at the injection site. The remaining 45% of the recipients had no adverse events at all. After the second dose, only 6.8% showed minor adverse events following immunisation (AEFI). Most importantly, no participant showed any major adverse events during the entire one year period of study," said



associate professor of pathology at AMCH, Gayatri Gogoi, the principal investigator of the study done in Assam's Dibrugarh district. The major (serious and severe) adverse events were defined as disabling, rare life-threatening conditions that may lead to long-term problems.

'India is open & welcoming': EAM rebuts Biden's 'xenophobic' remark

NEW DELHI: External affairs minister S Jaishankar has rejected recent remarks by US Prez Joe Biden describing India as "xenophobic" and emphasised that the country has been open and welcoming to people from diverse societies. Jaishankar also refuted

the allegation that the Indian economy was faltering. Union minister said that the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) introduced by PM Narendra Modi-led govt showcases India's welcoming approach. On April 2, Biden had said the "xenophobic" nature of India, China,

Japan and Russia is responsible for their economic troubles and argued that America's economy is growing because it welcomes immigrants to its soil. He made the statement while campaigning for his re-election at Washington fundraising event.

Man tears holy book, beaten to death in Punjab

Ferozepur: A youth was lynched by a mob after he was accused of tearing the Guru Granth Sahib at a gurdwara in Bandala village, Ferozepur district, Saturday. The mob allegedly beat Lakhwinder Singh to death on the spot. Apart from people visiting the gurdwara, locals also thrashed the youth. Lakhwinder was in his early 20s and lived in Talli Ghulam village. An FIR was registered at Arif Ke police station. Lakhwinder's father, Bakshish Singh, claimed his son was mentally upset and had received treatment in Delhi. After being beaten till he was unconscious, Lakhwinder was taken to hospital where he was declared brought dead.

Nalsa verdict: '10 years later, why are trans people still at red lights?'

Shreegauri Sawant's petition led to the transformative Nalsa judgment, but a decade later, challenges persist in implementing transgender rights, including social welfare inclusion, reservations, and ID card struggles, hindering the community's progress. When Shreegauri Sawant petitioned the Supreme Court to recognise the rights of transgender people a decade ago, she did not have much hope. To her surprise, the Nalsa (National Legal Services Authority) judgment became the bedrock of her community's civil liberties in India — recognising the sex-gender distinction, creating a legal third gender category and issuing directives to state and central governments.

SIT takes JD(S) MLA HD Revanna into custody

NEW DELHI: Janata Dal (Secular) party leader HD Revanna has been taken into custody by Special Investigation Team (SIT) officials in Karnataka on Sunday. The arrest is related to a kidnapping case filed against him at the KR Nagar police station in Bengaluru. The action was taken based on a complaint lodged by the son of a woman who was allegedly "abducted and sexually abused." In his complaint filed, the man said his mother worked as a housemaid at HD Revanna's home for six years before returning to her village, where she worked as a daily wage labourer. The man later discovered a video allegedly depicting



the sexual abuse of his mother by incumbent MP and Hassan Lok Sabha candidate Prajwal Revanna. He said that soon after the video was revealed, his mother went missing. He then filed a kidnapping complaint against HD Revanna and Babanna on Thursday night. The Holenarsipura MLA and

his associate were booked under Sections 364A (kidnapping for ransom), 365 (kidnapping with intent to cause harm), and 34 (common intention) of the IPC. The FIR, registered by KR Nagar police, also lists HD Revanna as accused number one and another man, identified as Babanna, as accused number two. Earlier in the day, the special court refused to grant interim anticipatory bail to the leader. Special Judge Santhosh Gajanan Bhat, who heard the matter for about two hours, rejected the interlocutory application (IA) filed in this regard along with the anticipatory bail petition filed by HD Revanna. (Details awaited)

'No shortage of ...': Jaishankar rejects Khan's claim of India's role in Pak killings

NEW DELHI: External affairs minister S Jaishankar on Saturday dismissed former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's accusation of India carrying out killings in their country. In a column published in a UK daily, the imprisoned Pakistani politician claimed, "India has already admitted to undertaking assassinations inside of Pakistan and the international border with Afghanistan remains volatile..". Jaishankar, in response to Khan's article, stated that Pakistan has an

abundance of terrorists and individuals involved in criminal activities. He pointed out that reports suggest some individuals with a background in terrorism have died under unusual circumstances, and it is a matter that Pakistan needs to investigate. "What is happening in Pakistan, there is no shortage of terrorists and people involved in crimes out there. Now, from what we can see there are reports that some people who have a background in terrorism, some of them died in pretty unusual circumstances. That is something they need to investigate," he said in Bhubaneswar. The Union minister emphasized that Pakistan should first address the question of why there are so many terrorists within their borders and why the country is so protective of them. "First, they need to answer why there are so many terrorists in Pakistan. Terrorists are not very nice people. They could be doing things to each other. I am not entirely aware of the Khan article."

SC: Can't carry Raj-era bias to tag castes, tribes 'history'

NEW DELHI: Supreme Court has ruled that police cannot carry colonial era biases against persons belonging to certain tribes and scheduled castes to mechanically brand them in their records as 'bad characters' or 'history-sheeters' and said such archaic mindset violated individuals' right to dignity guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution. After nudging the Delhi Police to amend the format for history-sheeters, which was copied from 90-year-old Punjab Police Rules of 1934, to exclude the minor children and wife of a person from getting included with him as a bad character, a bench of Justices Surya Kant and K V

Vishwanathan on Tuesday asked all states to revisit their rules within six months regarding inclusion of a person in police's 'history-sheeter/bad character' record and weed out colonial era biases from relevant provisions. After deciding the case from Delhi, the bench resorted to its suo motu jurisdiction and examined the desirability of ensuring that no mechanical entries in 'history sheet' are made of innocent individuals, simply because they hail from socially, economically and educationally disadvantaged backgrounds, along with those belonging to backward communities, SCs and STs. Referring to certain studies on this aspect and with-

WB governor to show CCTV clip to 100 people, not Didi or cops

KOLKATA: West Bengal governor CV Ananda Bose, facing molestation charges from a former employee of Raj Bhavan, announced Wednesday that he would present Raj Bhavan's CCTV footage to 100 private citizens of Bengal, excluding "Mamata Banerjee and her police". "Under the Sach Ke Samne programme, anyone who wants to see the CCTV footage can send an email to adcrajbhavankolkata@gmail.com or call the Raj Bhavan to register their names at 033-22001641. The first hundred would be allowed to see the

innocent person. But here he is playing with the dignity of women, so he wants to shield it from police and is even unwilling to show it to the CM. Why can't the CM see it, if there is no foul play?" CM Banerjee and Trinamool have been going after the governor since the former Raj Bhavan employee filed a police complaint against Bose last Thursday. "He is now trying to show it (footage) to his own henchmen and get a certificate from them. When our state has 11 crore people, why show it to 100 people only in private?" she asked.

Jaleel to contest from Aurangabad, says Owaisi

Jaleel to contest from Aurangabad, says Owaisi Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar: Putting an end to speculations of Aurangabad MP Imtiaz Jaleel contesting the Lok Sabha polls from Mumbai, All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) president Asaduddin Owaisi on Monday announced Jaleel's candidature from Aurangabad again. Owaisi took to X and announced that his party's Bihar president Akhtarul Iman would be the party's candidate from Kishanganj (Bihar) and Imtiaz Jaleel would contest from Aurangabad. Owaisi himself will contest from Hyderabad. During a media interaction in Hyderabad, Owaisi said: "In addition to these three candidates, party's state presidents in Maharashtra, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are working on finalising the number of seats to be contested. We will make an official announcement." When contacted, Jaleel said: "I thank the people of my constituency for letting me represent them in Parliament for five years. I did my best to raise the voice of the common people and fought hard against the wrong govt policies. Now, I will again approach people and if they feel I have done good work, then they would definitely stand with me. My initial two years as MP were lost because of Covid. Hope people will give me an opportunity to continue serving them." Jaleel, after winning the MLA elections in 2014, contested and won the LS elections against Shiv Sena's Chandrakant Khaire with a narrow margin in 2019 elections. He had openly expressed desire to contest the upcoming Lok Sabha polls from Mumbai. (North Central). Jaleel had cited communal violence on Thane's Mira Road during the Ram temple consecration, followed by civic body's action of demolishing several encroachments.

Paytm shares start flat on bourses after declining 3.74% on Thursday

NEW DELHI:

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

Earlier, shares of Paytm dropped by 3.74% to settle at 380.45 on Thursday, after hitting upper-circuit for four consecutive sessions.

The stock prices, on Wednesday rose to Rs 395.25 and Rs 395.05 on the BSE and NSE, respectively, defying broader market trends.

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

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



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

focusing on digital customer identification practices. In response, the RBI has increased inspections and meetings with fintech companies, aiming to tighten compliance and ensure the integrity of the financial ecosystem.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

CAPSULES

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

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

Indians extremely demanding, but unwilling to pay: Uber CEO

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



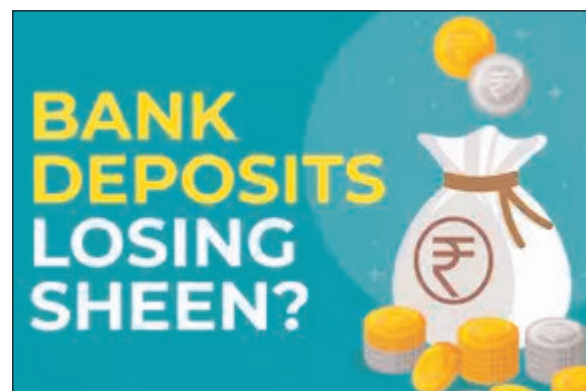
and three-wheelers in India. The company will be getting into bus services in some of the geographies. "It is also an extraordinary opportunity for us to expand our services to a wider population. We don't just want to be an upper-middle-class product. We want to be available to everybody."

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

NEW DELHI: Franco-Italian regional aircraft major ATR sees India emerge as its biggest market in the next five years. And as that happens, the turboprop-maker says "it will be foolish not to increase our footprint here" in terms of sourcing of components, pilot



training and others. "India currently has 65 ATRs - 45 with IndiGo and 20 with Alliance Air. IndiGo is to get five more. Startup carrier Fly91 (which is being launched by aviation industry veteran Manoj Chacko) will get its first leased ATR anytime now and the second in a week or so," Jean-Pierre Clercin, ATR's head of commercial for Asia Pacific, said. "Indonesia has about 100 ATRs and is currently our biggest market. India and Brazil come after that. But the way Indian econo-

my and air travel in the country is booming, within five years India will have the maximum ATRs given the government's focus on regional air transport through udesh ka aam naagrik (UDAN) scheme," Clercin said. ATR feels India will need 50-150 such planes in the next decade. "That is the official estimation. But given the way India is developing, the actual number could be even higher. Much higher," he said. The turboprop major is in talks with several Indian airlines for more orders.

Foreigners pursue every avenue to access hot India bond trade

Overseas investors are showing such keen interest in India assets that they are taking proxy exposure to the country even if they don't have the license or physical presence to trade there. Foreign funds lacking direct access to India's \$1 trillion government debt market are increasing their exposure via instruments such as supranational bonds and swaps ahead of the nation's upcoming inclusion in global bond indexes. There's an "increased engagement from global investors, with momentum picking up this year," said Siddharth Bachawat, head for markets at Barclays Bank India. "In addition to interest from index-tracking managers ahead of the inclusion, discretionary activity from a



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

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

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

Attach bank accounts of ex-promoters of DHFL: Sebi



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