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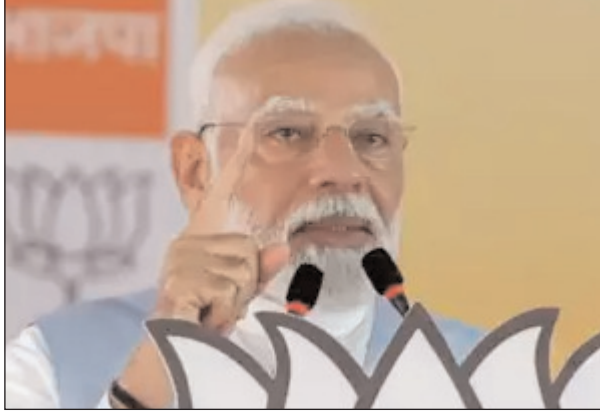
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UNIQUE GIFT OF KRIYAYOGA ASHRAM AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE TO GIVE IMPETUS TO WORLD BUILDING AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.

Opposition creating fake videos of Amit Shah, me to disrupt poll: PM

SOLAPUR/SATARA: Prime Minister Narendra Modi accused the opposition on Monday of conspiring to disrupt the peaceful electoral process so far by circulating fake videos of the BJP brass, including him and home minister Amit Shah.

"They have created fake videos of me, Amitbhai, (JP) Naddaji and some of our chief ministers. Using AI, they have put words in our mouth that we cannot even dream of uttering," Modi said while campaigning in Maharashtra, coinciding with the arrest of an alleged Congress "war room coordinator" in Assam for sharing such a video of Shah. "I am making this charge with all seriousness. I want to make a special request to the Commission of India to take stringent action," he said. The PM, who was campaigning in Satara for BJP candidate Udayanraje Bhonsle, urged the crowd not to commit the crime of sharing videos that appear doctored. "If



you get these videos on WhatsApp, please alert us. Do not circulate. Approach police." Congman 'linked' to fake Shah video held A 31-year-old man was arrested in Guwahati on Monday for allegedly sharing a "fake video" of Union home minister Amit Shah. Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced on X the arrest of Reetom Singh, who is associated with Assam Congress and functions as the party's "war room coordinator", according to his social media profile. Incidentally, BJP on Monday filed three complaints with EC. It accused Congress of circulating a "deep fake and morphed" video of

Shah to disrupt the electoral process. BJP also lodged a complaint against TMC, alleging that the party has resorted to violence as a tactic, and urged the poll panel to ensure a fair election in West Bengal. The third complaint is against Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete for "exploitation and misuse of innocent children for political gains, during the ongoing polls." A BJP delegation, comprising Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and national media cell in-charge Baluni, presented these complaints to EC. "Congress wants to derail the election process through a deep fake and morphed.

Reservation is 'atonement for our ancestors' sins': PM Modi

SOLAPUR: The responsibility of dispensing social justice to oppressed and backward sections is "atonement for the sins our ancestors may have committed", PM Modi said Monday in a retort to the opposition's allegation that BJP aims to do away with reservation over the long term. "Check my record over the last five years. I have the numbers (in Parliament) on my side. But I never wanted to walk that path (revoking reservation)," the PM said in western Maharashtra's reserved constituency of Solapur, where BJP's Ram Satpute is taking on Congress veteran and former Union minister Sushilkumar Shinde. "Forget me, even Babasaheb Ambedkar (had he been alive) wouldn't be able to scrap reservation in India.

AstraZeneca in court papers says Covid vaccine can have rare side effect

LONDON: AstraZeneca has said in court documents that its Covid vaccine can cause a rare side effect, the UK's Daily Telegraph newspaper reported. The statement by the pharmaceutical giant comes as it is being sued for over £100 million (a little over Rs 1,000 crore) in class action over claims its vaccine caused death and serious injury in 51 cases, according to court documents seen AstraZeneca is contesting the claims but has accepted, in a legal document submitted to the high court in February, that its Covid vaccine "can, in very rare cases, cause thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome", which causes people to have blood clots and a low blood platelet count. In India, the vaccine was sold under the brand name Covishield manufactured by the Serum Institute of India (SII) in Pune. When contacted, SII declined comment. One of the claimants is



Jamie Scott, a father of two, who was left with a permanent brain injury after developing a blood clot and a bleed on the brain that prevented him from working after he received the AstraZeneca vaccine in April 2021. The product information relating to the AstraZeneca-Oxford vaccine was updated in April 2021, with the approval of the UK regulator MHRA, to include the possibility that the AstraZeneca-Oxford vaccine is capable, in very rare cases, of being a trigger for thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS). AstraZeneca

points out this update was well documented and publicly available, the UK newspaper reported. The vaccine, developed with Oxford University, is no longer used in UK. Lawyers representing families suing the drugs company argue that the vaccine was not as safe as individuals were entitled to expect. They are suing the firm under the Consumer Protection Act of 1987, arguing the maximum £12,000 (more than Rs 12 lakh) payout they could get from the UK-govt-run vaccine compensation scheme is inadequate.

Plea to bar Modi from polls for 6 years devoid of merit: court

NEW DELHI: Terming it "thoroughly misconceived" Delhi high court Monday dismissed a petition that sought directions to disqualify PM Narendra Modi from contesting elections for six years for allegedly seeking votes in the name of deities. Justice Sachin Datta said the plea was "devoid of any merits" and pointed out that the petitioner had approached court while his plea before Election Commission is pending.

Nestle working on Cerelac with 'no added sugar'



NEW DELHI: Under attack for high sugar content in baby food Cerelac sold in the country, the Swiss FMCG major is planning to launch the popular infant formula with "no added sugar" in India. The company has already been on a journey to reduce it to a bare minimum, but this will gather momentum now, Nestle's chairman and managing director Suresh Narayanan said here Monday. "Hopefully we would like to see a product with no added sugar... the journey to make our products more efficacious continues, and the direction of the company is very clear. The company has reduced sugar by 30% in the last five years... the journey continues and what proportion gets dropped over a period of time, the efficiency of science and R&D will tell. But in the end position, we would like to look at a product at some time hopefully with no added sugar". Narayanan, who took charge of Nestle's Indian operations at the height of the Maggi controversy, claimed that Cerelac complies with local food norms, with the added sugar content in the baby food much lower than what India's food regulator permits, and in compliance with Codex, the international food standards body. The FSSAI prescribes a maximum permissible level of added sugar to 13.6 gm per 100 gm of serving for baby cereal.

HC: Delhi government has 'come to a standstill' due to CM's absence

NEW DELHI: Delhi govt has "come to a standstill" due to absence of chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, Delhi high court said on Monday, underlining that "national and public interest" demands a CM can't be absent for a long stretch of time or for an uncertain period. In a strongly-worded order flagging the failure of Delhi govt and MCD to provide textbooks, writing



material and uniforms to nearly two lakh MCD school students in a timely manner, HC said Kejriwal's absence should not deprive children of their fundamental rights. Brushing aside the

claim by govt that any financial power to the MCD commissioner above Rs 5 crore would make him unaccountable to the house, a bench of acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Manmeet PS Arora lifted that ceiling for the specific task of using funds for purchase of books, stationery, uniforms and other facilities that the MCD students are entitled to. HC: Delhi govt has 'come to a standstill' due to CM's absence HC said Delhi govt blaming other institutions for its inability to provide facilities to students amounted to "shedding of crocodile tears"

JD(S) will suspend MP Prajwal Revanna over scandal, says HD

SHIVAMOGGA/HASAN:

Former Karnataka CM HD Kumaraswamy of JD(S) said Monday his nephew and Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna will be suspended after Tuesday's core committee meeting of the party in Hubballi, amidst efforts to distance ex-PM HD Deve Gowda and himself from an alleged sex scandal involving the 33-year-old parliamentarian, who is seeking re-election in alliance



with BJP. The decision to take action against Prajwal for alleged transgressions was reportedly made by the JD(S) top brass, including party patriarch Gowda. Kumaraswamy told reporters in Shivamogga that the

matter was discussed Sunday with Gowda. The ex-CM acknowledged the Prajwal case had embarrassed party functionaries, but sought to shield alliance partner BJP from the controversy. He said BJP has no involvement in the issue. Asked about Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's poser to PM Narendra Modi on the issue, Kumaraswamy said: "Did Modi campaign for Prajwal?"

Can Succession Act be applied to 'non-believer Muslims'? SC to examine

NEW DELHI: Supreme Court on Monday agreed to examine a contentious issue — why provisions of the secular Indian Succession Act (ISA) do not apply to a non-believer Muslim who wants to divide his property equitably among his children by discarding Muslim Personal (Shariat) Application Act's succession provision that privileges sons. As a Muslim woman narrated the pitiable state she and her father, both non-believers in Islam, found themselves in regarding the division of property, a bench of CJI D Y Chandrachud changed tack from "we can't give a declaration that a non-believer Muslim would be governed



by ISA" and said the petition had raised an important issue for adjudication by the SC. "How can a secular law not apply to Muslims?" the bench asked and posted the matter for further hearing in the second week of July. The bench issued notice to the Union govt and requested attorney general R Venkataramani to depute a law officer to assist the court. Tough for even a non-believer Muslim to come under ISA The woman said she had a brother who was afflicted with Down Syndrome and she and her father, a widower, took care of him. She said as per Shariat, daughter gets just half the share of what sons are entitled to as successors of their father, which in this case meant the son would receive two-thirds of her father's

property and she would get one-third. Her counsel P a d m a n a b h a n argued that if "something happened to the son", then his share would not go to her or her daughter, but to some relative of her father. "There is no authority where my father can go and say that he is a non-believer Muslim and that he would like to give effect to an equitable succession through the secular ISA," he said. After reading Section 3 of the Shariat law, the bench said if the father does not make a declaration that he is a Muslim, he could escape the rigours of Muslim personal law. But the CJI-led bench then looked at Section 58 of the ISA.

India emerges as world's services factory: Report

NEW DELHI: India's share in global services exports has more than doubled over the last 18 years and rise of global capability centres (GCCs) has played a crucial role in the expansion, a global report said on Monday. The proliferation of GCCs has given a boost to real estate, expanded services exports, added to economic growth, created jobs and led to rapid increase in revenues for these firms. GCCs are specialised offshore entities set up by companies operating across the world and these centres support a raft of business processes, including IT, human resources, finance, analytics, among others. Revenues of GCCs in India have grown nearly 4x at a CAGR of 11.4% over last 13 years to \$46 billion.

SC recalls order allowing MTP of 31-week pregnancy

NEW DELHI: In a rare instance, Supreme Court on Monday recalled its April 22 order, passed in exercise of its omnibus powers under Article 142 of the Constitution to do complete justice, allowing termination of a 14-year-old girl's 31-week pregnancy caused by alleged sexual assault. A bench headed by CJI D Y Chandrachud, on a petition filed by the minor's mother, had asked the dean of Municipal General Hospital and Medical College, Sion, to carry out the MTP after it perused a medical board's report suggesting that though termination of an advanced pregnancy was risky, carrying on with the pregnancy.

After the court passed the order setting the stage for MTP, the girl's mother vacillated between termination of a fully grown foetus or allowing her minor daughter to deliver a baby which would be put up for adoption. She wanted assurance that MTP would not harm her daughter in any manner. But doctors explained the complications involved in terminating an advanced pregnancy. Finding the petitioner indecisive, the doctors wrote back to the SC and additional solicitor general Aishwarya Bhati, specifically requested by the SC to assist in the matter by consulting everyone involved, explained the difficult situation faced by the doctors in terminating a pregnancy which had advanced to 32 weeks.

Voter awareness campaign organized by Madhyavendra Inter College

Prayagraj: Tehsil Karchana under Madhyavendra Inter College Barao Karchana Prayagraj Under the voter awareness campaign in the school auditorium under the chairmanship of Principal Ved Prakash Yadav and chief guest Ajit Kumar Singha Former Finance First of all, the election appeal sent by District Officer/District Election Officer Mr. Prayagraj and District School Inspector P N Singh was read out and voter oath was administered and awareness rally was held in Barao Bazaar with the help of children. Removed Secretary Santosh Kumar ap-

pealed to all the teachers present that you, through your subordinate children, should motivate their families to vote on 25th May. Your people will have a special contribution on the great festival of voting - 1 child and 5 people too. Will create awareness, will reach about 2000 people, your participation in this noble work will mean a lot. In today's event, Dr. Sanjay Mishra, Mohammad Haleem, Sandeep Kumar Soni, Dinesh Mishra, Virendra Gupta, Dilip Kumar Sharma, Shikha Singh, Subhash Chandra Vishwakarma, Prabhu Dayal Kesarwani Vijay



Pratap. Singh Rakesh Kesarwani Lalji Pankaj Gupta Titu Media in-charge Lalchand Prajapati and all police station committee members in-charge were present in large numbers. About 400 children and teachers of the school enthusiastically participated in the peace and security traffic arrangement. Sub Inspector of Police Station Karchana. Chandrashekhar, Sub Inspector Vandana ji, Sub Inspector Isha along with her companions were present in the entire program. The program was concluded and vote of thanks was given by the Principal.

Top institutions compete in UU's moot court contest

Prayagraj: The United University organised its first two-day Intra-City Moot Competition that concluded on Sunday and in which 12 teams from six top institutions of Prayagraj participated. The participating institutions included University of Allahabad, Chaudhary Madhav Prasad Degree College, Ishwar Sharan Degree College, SS Khanna Girls' Degree College, Nehru Gram Bharti University and Narayan Law College. The competition ran over three rounds which began with the inaugural session welcoming the participating teams with the preliminary round on Saturday.

The Moot-Court Room was judged by eminent practising advocates of Allahabad high court including Sushmita Mukherjee, Devesh Saxena and Prabhav Srivastava. The semi-finals and final round took place on Sunday, which was judged by renowned personalities of the law fraternity, including senior advocate Anoop Trivedi and advocate Abhishek Srivastava. The event concluded with a valedictory session in the presence of justice Ashutosh Srivastava, Allahabad high court, who graced the event and addressed the budding lawyers.

The competition was won by Team UU29-University of Allahabad, while Team UU24- CMP Degree College, was adjudged as runners-up. The Memorial Award was secured by Team UU22- Iswar Saran Degree College. Bushra Fatima from SS Khanna was awarded the Best Speaker, while Sreedhar Pandey from University of Allahabad was adjudged the Best Researcher. The event was graced by UU's pro-chancellor Jagdish Gulati, CEO Mona Gulati, vice-chancellor Prof AM Agarwal and dean (planning and development) Chetan Vyas. The vote of thanks was delivered by coordinator, department of law Roshni Shrivastava.

Nomination kicks off for parliamentary constituencies

Prayagraj: Nomination work started from Monday under Lok Sabha General Election-2024. On the first day of nomination, a total of 26 people took nomination papers for Parliamentary Constituency 51-Phulpur and a total of 19 people took nomination papers for Parliamentary Constituency 52-Allahabad. On the first day of nomination, nomination was made by Indian National Congress candidate Ujjwal Raman Singh for parliamentary constituency 52-Allahabad. No nomination was filed by any person for Parliamentary Constituency 51-Phulpur on Monday.

Indegene Limited IPO to open on May 6

Varanasi: Indegene Limited proposes to open its Initial Public Offering on Monday, May 06, 2024. The bid/offer closing date will be Wednesday, May 08, 2024. The anchor investor bid date is one working day prior to the bid/offer opening date, i.e., Friday, May 03, 2024. The price band of the offer has been fixed at Rs. 430 per equity share to Rs. 452 per equity share. Bids can be made for a minimum of 33 equity shares and in multiples of 33 equity shares thereafter.

The Offer comprises a fresh issue of up to 7,600 million equity shares and an offer for sale of up to 23,932,732 equity shares, comprising up to 1,118,596 equity shares by the selling holder Manish Gupta, up to 3,233,818 equity shares by Dr. Rajesh Bhaskaran Nair, up to 1,151,454 equity shares by Anita Nair, up to 3,600,000 equity shares by Vida Trustees Private Limited as a partner of Group Life Spring, up to 2,657,687 equity shares by BPC Genesis Fund I SPV Limited, up to 1,378,527 equity shares by BPC Genesis Fund IA SPV, Limited and up to 10,792,650 equity shares by CA Dawn Investments (collectively referred to as Vida Trustees Private Limited, BPC Genesis Fund I together with BPC Genesis Fund I SPV, Limited and BPC Genesis Fund I-A SPV, Limited, the "Investor Selling Shares"). Shareholders" and collectively the Individual Selling Shareholders and such Equity Shares are the "Offered Shares"). The Offer includes reservation of up to Rs 125 million number of Equity Shares for subscription by Eligible Employees. This Offer net of the Employee Reservation Portion is hereinafter referred to as the "Net Offer". Eligible Employees bidding in the Employee Reservation Portion are being offered a discount of Rs 30 per Equity Share.

Mayor handed over 20-point prog of booths to councilors

Prayagraj: After holding a meeting at Shishu Sangam, Kydganj, Umesh Chandra Ganesh Kesarwani handed over the 20-point program of the booths to the councilors. BJP media in-charge Gopal Ji Malviya said that chief guest Mayor Umesh Chandra Ganesh Kesarwani handed over the 20-point program of the booths to the councilors in a meeting in view of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. The Mayor said in his speech that this election is the election of all of us workers, the workers will have to participate in



the field with a big heart. The program was presided over by Dnyaneshwar Shukla Assembly Con-

Rajan Shukla District Minister, Grijesh Mishra District Vice President, Vivek Aggarwal District Vice President, Pramod Jaiswal (Modi) District Vice President, Senior BJP leader Manoj Mishra, Councilor Kiran Jaiswal, Councilor Sunita Chopra, Councilor Anup Pasi, Councilor Neeraj Gupta, Councilor Akash Sonkar, Shakeel Salmani, Divisional Minister, Councilor Mayank Yadav, Councilor Deepchandra, Councilor Neeraj Tandon, Councilor Ritesh Mishra, Councilor Rishi Nishad, etc. workers were included.

Scorpio collides with tree, one dead, six injured in Mirzapur

Scorpio went out of control and collided with a tree

Mirzapur: An uncontrolled Scorpio collided with a tree on Monday morning near BHU campus under Dehat Kotwali police station area. In the accident, the middle-aged man riding the Scorpio died and six people including the driver were seriously injured. Kajal, daughter of former village head husband Gopal Sonkar, resident of Majra Bandedya of Patewar village of Madihan police sta-

tion area, was married on 26 April. On April 28, the third day of the marriage, Gopal had gone to Jaunpur with the family to attend the banquet at his daughter's in-laws house. During the program, there was a clash with the daughter's in-laws over some issue, due to which everyone left for home in a Scorpio early on Monday morning. The Scorpio went out of control and collided with a tree on the roadside

near BHU campus located at Barkachha in Dehat Kotwali area. The collision was so strong that the Scorpio was blown to pieces. Scorpio rider: 53 year old Gopal Sonkar alias Duldul, 50 year old (wife) Sarvat Sonkar, 18 year old daughter Roopa Sonkar, 16 year old daughter Chandni, 17 year old son of brother Rajkumar Sonkar, 15 year old son of third brother Kamal Sonkar Aryan and driver Mahendra. (23)

were seriously injured. On receiving the information, the police sent all the injured by ambulance to the Trauma Center, where the doctors declared Gopal Sonkar alias Duldul dead. Seriously injured Sarbat Sonkar, Raj Sonkar and Mahendra were referred to Trauma Center Varanasi. The police started taking legal action by conducting Panchnama of the dead body and sending it for post-mortem.

UP Football Team Selection Trials for 3rd PEFI National U-17 kicking off on May 1

Prayagraj: The 3rd PEFI (Physical Education Foundation of India) Under-17 National Football Championship is going to be organized in Barddman, West Bengal in the coming month of June in which Uttar Pradesh state football team will also participate. Physical Education Foundation of India (PEFI) is a National Sports Promotion Organization certified by the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs, Government of India.



According to Nandini Rawat, Secretary of PEFI Uttar Pradesh Chapter, selection trials have been organized in four different districts of Uttar Pradesh namely Prayagraj on 1st and 2nd May, followed by Noida (4th & 5th May), Lucknow (8th & 9th May), Agra (11th & 12th May). Interested football players from any District of Uttar Pradesh whose date of birth is 01 January 2007 or above will be able to participate in selection trials. For the registration form to participate in the trials, one must contact Football Coach Indranil Ghosh on mobile number (9453231784). Players selected from all four districts in the first phase of selection trials will participate in the final trials.

'OPERATION NARCOSE' 3 accused arrested who smuggled 41.30 kg ganja worth Rs. 431k

Prayagraj: Inspector General cum Principal Chief Security Commissioner/Railway Protection Force/North Central Railway called Sub Inspector Ravindra Singh Rajawat, Railway Protection Force Post Gwalior, Jhansi to the Headquarters/North Central Railway and presented him a certificate of appreciation for the commendable work done by him. Amiya Nandan Sinha, Inspector General cum Principal Chief Security Commissioner/Railway Protection Force/North Central Railway, to Sub Inspector Ravindra Singh Rajawat, Railway Protection Force Post Gwalior, Jhansi for the commendable work done by him. He was called to Headquarters/North Central Railway and given a citation. In the month of March, under Operation Narcose, Sub Inspector Ravindra Singh Rajawat arrested 03 accused who smuggled a total of 41.30 kg of ganja worth Rs. 4,31,000/- and handed them over to the Civil Police. During the crime prevention duty under Operation



Passenger Security, a vicious habitual accused of theft of passenger luggage from train number 11058 was caught along with a stolen mobile phone with estimated value of Rs. 22,000/- and handed over to GRP/Gwalior. During the investigation of suspicious user ID, under Operation Available, a ticket broker was caught red-handed with 02 tickets for future journey worth Rs 5,820/- and 02 tickets for past journey worth Rs 1,075/- from the reservation counter of Railway Station Gwalior. He was caught and on the basis of his statement, Section 143 Railway Act was registered against the operator of Bombay Tour Travels for booking tickets illegally under FIR No. 334/2024. From time to time, citations/rewards are given by the Inspector General cum Principal Chief Security Commissioner/Railway Protection Force/North Central Railway to encourage the force members and boost their morale and such actions are also sent to the Railway Board.

Focus infuses fresh life into Pasmada movement: Engineer Farooq Naseer

Prayagraj Engineer Farooq Naseer a staunch advocate of "Ganga-Jamuni tehzeeb" (secularism) all his life is excited over the focus, which is infusing fresh life into Pasmada movement. "By targeting Muslims on the one hand and sympathising with Pasmada on the other, the BJP is playing on the tension between the religious and social identity among the Muslims highlighted by the Pasmada movement," he emphasized and argued that the religious identity of Muslims and the politics of Muslims/minorities have only prioritised the interests of the upper-caste Ashraf Muslims. He stressed that their social identity as Pasmada Muslims and demanded their recognition as such. "Although the social and political discourse of the Pasmada movement is absent from the discourse, this is the first election in which the Pasmada Muslims see being used as a political community," claimed Engineer Farooq Naseer.

"The BJP has been trying to reach out to Pasmada Muslims for their support. Though it doesn't have a separate slogan for Pasmada Muslims the party claims they too fall under the slogan of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas. Although the BJP has not announced any policy for Pasmada Muslims, they have exposed the opposition parties' neglect of a large section of one of their core voters, Muslims. For the uninitiated, Indian Muslims are stratified into three categories: ashraf, Ajlaf and Arzal. While the Ashraf category includes caste groups that claim foreign descent, such as Syed, Sheikh, Mughal and Pathan, the Ajlaf category includes occupational castes, like the Ansaris (weavers), Mansuris (cotton traders) or the Quraishi (butchers). Arzal consists of the former untouchables caste, also referred to as Dalit Muslims, who, along with Dalit Christians, are demanding to be included in the reservation for SCs," he ex-

plained. "Pasmada is the collective of the Ajlaf and Arzals. It broadly corresponds to the category of Bahujan, including Other Backward Castes and Scheduled Castes.



Pasmada is a Persian word that refers to the 'ones left behind' and is used to describe depressed classes among Muslims, estimated to make up 80-85% of India's Muslims. Pasmada Muslims have been historically marginalised. They have been treated as Razil and kamin (of low origin) and expected to only engage in traditional jobs, which were considered of low status by the elite (ashraf) Muslims. Islamic scholars have

legitimised these nomenclatures, from Ziauddin Barani to Ashraf Ali Thanwi and Ahmed Raza Khan Bareilwi. Due to limited opportunities outside their traditional occupations, Pasmada Muslims have been historically marginalised economically and were dependent on upper-caste zamindars for their survival," he informed.

"The Pasmada movement, which started in the 1990s in Bihar, sparked new discussions on the politicisation of caste. The Pasmada movement denounced the domination of Ashraf Muslims over Muslim representation and organisations. It suggested that Muslim politics does not promote the interests of most Muslims but only of a small proportion of dominant elites (Ashrafs). It focused on the internal division within Muslim society and challenged the notion of a monolithic Muslim identity and politics. Numerous articles refer to PM Modi's Hyderabad speech as the start of the

BJP's outreach to Pasmada Muslims. However, in 2021, even before the Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, the BJP had planned to reach out to Pasmada Muslims. The BJP leadership in Uttar Pradesh has asked its Muslim leaders to reach out to Pasmada Muslims. The same year, they appointed three Pasmada Muslims as Chairman of minority institutions, the Minority Commission, Madrasa Board, and Urdu Academy in Uttar Pradesh," he stressed.

He also claimed, "In 2022, the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh also appointed Danish Azad Ansari, a Pasmada Muslim, as the Minister of State by replacing Mohsin Raza, a Syed. They also appointed Tariq Mansoor, former Vice-Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University, as a Legislative Council member in Uttar Pradesh and National Vice President of the BJP in 2023. Tariq Mansoor was present in the Aligarh meeting when PM Modi made remarks about

Pasmada Muslims. During the 2023 Municipal elections in Uttar Pradesh, the BJP fielded 395 Muslim candidates for various posts. BJP leaders stressed that more than 90 percent of these candidates were Pasmada Muslims, highlighting the party's concern for Pasmada Muslims. BJP has initiated programs through its minority wing to bring Pasmada Muslims closer to the party. The BJP minority Morcha in Uttar Pradesh organised Pasmada Sammelan in parts of the state to connect with Pasmada Muslims. The Morcha has also used initiatives like 'Modi Mitra' to appoint Pasmada Muslims to these positions and brings them closer to the party. They have also organised 'Labharthi Sammelan' in Muslim-majority areas to target Pasmada Muslims, who are major 'beneficiaries' of these schemes." "The BJP's outreach has prompted the formation of new Pasmada organisations aligned with the BJP.

Meeting of Core Committee held under Rajendra Mishra

Prayagraj: The meeting of the Election Management Committee Core Committee of the 52nd Lok Sabha Assembly 263 City Southern of Allahabad Parliamentary Constituency was held at the Central Office City Southern Assembly located at Hewett Road, BJP media in-charge Gopal Ji Malviya said that it was held under the chairmanship of Rajendra Mishra at BJP's Hewett Road office. Mayor Umesh Chandra Ganesh Kesarwani as the chief guest, special guest Lok Sabha in-charge Manoj Jaiswal, Lok Sabha convener Shivdutt Patel,



Lok Sabha extension Prince Gupta were present. The upcoming Lok Sabha elections were discussed in the meeting. District Vice President Pramod Jaiswal (Modi), Metropolitan Vice President Vivek Aggarwal, Murari Lal Aggarwal, Rajan Shukla, Grijesh Mishra, District Vice President, Brijesh Mishra, Anil Kesarwani, presidents and in-charges of all the divisions were present in the meeting. The stage was conducted by Dnyaneshwar Shukla Assembly Convener. All the senior workers of the core committee were also present.

Accused of dowry murder arrested

Prayagraj: Wanted accused of dowry murder arrested by police station Kheri, registered in police station Kheri, FIR No. 68/24, section 498A/504/304B IPC and 3/4 DP ACT, wanted accused Akhilesh Shukla, son of Lalji Shukla, resident of Nibi Lediari police station Kheri district, Prayagraj, on Monday was arrested by Kheri police station from Lediari Mandi Tiraha police station area Kheri. Advance legal action was taken as per rules.



Accused arrested by police, 3 illegal country bombs recovered

Prayagraj: 1 accused arrested by police station Nawabganj police team, 03 illegal country bombs recovered from their possession by police station Nawabganj on Monday. Accused Gulzar son of Nawab Ali, resident of Mehdiyabagh Lalgopalganj police station Nababganj Commissionerate Prayagraj, near Kathowa bridge located in Lalgopalganj under police station Nawabganj area was arrested with 03 illegal country bombs. On the basis of the above arrest/seizure, FIR No. 142/24 Section 4/5 Explosive Substances Act was registered at Police Station Nawabganj and necessary legal action was taken as per rules.

Accused Dilip Kumar Shukla, when interrogated, told that I tried hard to get a government job but I did not get the job, so I got a fake identity card and uniform made for the post of Sub Inspector of Uttar Pradesh Police Department. I trick people by showing them my identity card and cheat them of money in the name of getting them a government job or getting other work done and earn my living from them. It may be noted that the above accused Dilip Kumar Shukla had earlier duped a woman resident of Devnagar under Jhansi police station area and had cheated Rs. 1,35,000/- from her in the name of getting an arms license and getting a gun, in connection with which an FIR has been lodged at the local police station. - 95/2024 Section- 419/420/406/506 IPC is registered. Again on 28.04.2024, the accused went to the house of victim and threatened to withdraw the case, in relation to which, on the basis of the complaint of plaintiff's husband, accused Dilip Kumar Shukla arrested under FIR No. 161/2024 Section 506 of IPC.



Seminar on cyber crime and security organized in SJC

Prayagraj: A seminar on cyber crime and security was organized in SJC, Prayagraj. Cyber crime can be committed both offline and online. St. Joseph's College, Prayagraj, which is synonymous with student welfare, decided to organize a seminar on Cyber Security at the prestigious Hogan Hall on Monday. The chief guest, Jai Prakash Singh, was welcomed with thunderous applause in the presence of the Principal of the college, Rev. Father Thomas Kumar. Senior teacher, N.B. Lawrence and a delegation of students led by Aditya Mishra welcomed him with floral tributes. Subsequently, Jai Prakash Singh, Head of Cyber Cell Security, Prayagraj, provided an informative



PowerPoint presentation and an interactive session to help clear the doubts of the senior most students. People were made aware of the various methods used by cyber criminals to cheat them. Singh urged students to be very careful while using their Aadhar card and never share it with anyone who has their OTP or password, especially taking care to read messages that ask for OTP. College Principal Father Thomas Kumar along with Administrator A Magavan, Chief Coordinator Jyoti Dubey and all senior teachers were present.

Nomination begins for Alld, Phulpur seats; Ujjwal Raman files papers

Prayagraj: The nominations for Lok Sabha elections-2024 in Prayagraj for Allahabad and Phulpur seats started from Monday with the issue of local notifications. INDIA Bloc candidate Ujjwal Raman Singh contesting the polls on Congress symbol filed his papers on day 1. A total of 45 candidates bought nomination papers on the first day including 26 for Allahabad seat and 19 for Phulpur seat. For Phulpur parliamentary seat, nomination papers were purchased by BJP candidate Praveen Singh Patel and BSP candidate Jagannath Pal, while from Allahabad parliamentary seat, Congress's Ujjwal Raman Singh and BJP's Neeraj Tripathi purchased papers.

In the morning, Raman's supporters took three sets of nomination papers. In the afternoon Ujjwal Raman Singh arrived with his sup-

porters and deposited two sets in front of Returning Officer Gaurav Kumar. In one set, the proposer was SP MLA from Meja Sandeep Patel while in the other set, former SP MLA from Allahabad South Assembly seat Haji Parvez Ahmed was the proposer.



Congress and SP workers joined him in the poll office set up near Jahaz crossing and reaching the collectorate office.

As soon as the candidates came out after filing the nomination, the supporters raised slogans and then reached the Jahaz intersection in a procession.

Before filing papers, the Congress candidate went to Mankameswar temple and took blessings of Lord Shiva. MLC Man Singh, Congress leaders Shekhar Bahuguna, Sanjay Tiwari and Mukund Tiwari among others were present during the nomination process.

17 candidates buy nomination papers in Pratapgarh on day 1: The nomination process also kick-started for the Pratapgarh parliamentary seat on Monday. On the first day, 17 candidates bought 36 seats of nomination from the district collectorate. Those who bought the nomination pa-

pers included BL Verma of Samajwadi Party (4 sets), Dinesh Pandey of BSP (2 sets), Avadhesh Mani Tripathi of BSP (4 sets), Raghavendra Nath Mishra of BJP (4 sets) besides Sandeep Singh of National Jandal Party (1 set), Ram Siddh Yadav of Manavtawadi Samaj Party (2 sets), Socialist Unity Center of India (Communist) party's Ram Kumar Yadav (2 sets), Mahesh Kumar Prajapati of Samajdar Party (3 sets), Devi Prasad of Rashtriya Janashanti Party (1 set) and Jokhu of Siddhant Party (2 sets). The Independents who bought the nomination papers included Shivram Sharma (4 sets), Abhinav Mishra (2 sets), Lakshmi Devi (1 set), Subhash Chandra Singh (1 set), Dhyan Singh (1 set), Subhashchandra Yadav (1 set) and Vijayshankar Tiwari (1 set).

Departmental action against senior accountant of UPSRTC canceled on condition of joining HQ

Prayagraj: Allahabad High Court has directed the Transport Corporation Headquarters, Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow, that if Harsh Gautam, Senior Accountant, Aligarh, within a week, Section, if they join the Lucknow Transport Corporation Headquarters, then all departmental proceedings, charge sheets and suspension orders against them should be cancelled. This order has been passed by Justice Prakash Padia after hearing senior advocate Vijay Gautam on the petition of Harsh Gautam, Senior Accountant, Aligarh Region, Transport Corporation. The advocate said that the transfer of the petitioner and the subsequent departmental action was taken with malicious intent. The High Court has also ordered that the Transport Corporation Headquarters,

Lucknow, should pass appropriate orders within three weeks regarding giving allowances and other benefits for the period of suspension.

According to the case, petitioner Harsh Gautam is



the state general secretary of Central Regional Workshop Employees Union, Uttar Pradesh Transport Corporation recognized organization. He was transferred from Aligarh Zone to Car Section, Lucknow UPSRTC on 30 June 2023. The petitioner sent a repre-

sentation to the higher authorities on July 30, 2023, expressing objection that he is the state general secretary of a recognized organization. In the transfer policy dated 28 June 2019 issued by UPSRTC Lucknow, it is stated that the presidents and ministers of provincial/regional and depot recognized labor organizations of the Transport Corporation will not be transferred. Nevertheless the petitioner was relieved on 07 July 2023. The petitioner sent several representations to top officials. Due to the petitioner not joining the transfer place, Car Section, Lucknow, the petitioner was suspended by the Chief Principal Manager, Transport Corporation Headquarters. In the suspension order, it was alleged that the petitioner did not join the transfer place, Car

Section, Lucknow in compliance with the transfer order. Did not join, thereafter the petitioner was attached to the Chief Principal Manager (Provisional) Transport Corporation Headquarters, Lucknow on 18 September 2023 during the suspension period. In compliance with the said attachment order of 18 September 2023, the petitioner joined the attachment place Lucknow on 29 September 2023. have done. While sending a letter to the petitioner on 30 November 2023, it was ordered by the Transport Corporation Headquarters that a charge sheet has been previously issued to the petitioner dated 04 October 2023, the reply to which has not been filed by the petitioner. Therefore, make sure to provide the reply to the charge sheet so that departmental inquiry can be initiated.

Man to donate body posthumously

Prayagraj: To set a new record on the land of Prayagraj, Vinay Kumar Jaiswal, resident of 444 Nai Basti, Kidganj, son of Kalindi Prasad, age 69, after the consent of the family, had decided to donate his body after his death, completing the legal process today, at Motilal Nehru Medical College, Prayagraj. After going and seeing the affida-



vit to Assistant Professor Dr. Badal Singh that he completed his posthumous process, the medical college registered him for body donation and gave him the certificate. On this occasion, Vinay Kumar Jaiswal said that his body was deposited in the medical college at the time of his death. It is his wish to be useful to the students and move ahead by doing new experiments in the medical field.

OUTLAWS PREFER DESI 'KATTAS' FOR EXECUTING CRIMES

85% crimes like murder, snatching or robbery are committed with country-made weapons

PRAYAGRAJ: Law breakers have devised stylish models of country-made pistols, which are better in designs and similar fire power as compared to the factory made ones. The latest entrant to the illegal arms market is the Bihari katta (country made pistols of 0.315 bore and 0.12 bore being manufactured in Bihar and smuggled to eastern parts of UP) are in great demand among law breakers.

In fact, these startling revelations came to fore when men-in-khaki had ensured the arrest of a key

arms supplier in Kydganj area and seized a huge cache of cartridges and few pistols from his hide-outs. The arrested key operator claimed to have smuggled Bihar-made pistol and cartridges in the region including Allahabad and neighbouring districts on a profit sharing basis and had accumulated wealth.

Surprisingly, when police seized a huge cache of cartridges and few country made pistols, they could not believe it that these pistols are so fine-shaped and well designed,

which in fact have a better look as compared to the factory made ones.

A senior cop said, "You cannot differentiate between an original (factory made) and these seized country-made pistols at the first go, as manufacturers are expert in designing these country-made pistols similar to factory made ones."

Incidentally, specially designed pistols having good capacity are in demand and law breakers are ready to shell out some extra bucks. If the recent crime trends are anything

to go by, for an escalating number of murders, chain/purse snatching, and even robberies being executed in the region in last three years, country-made pistols, popularly known as 'kattas' has always been a favourite with the law breakers.

The range police claimed to have recovered over 800 country-made pistols in the region comprising Allahabad, Kaushambi, Fatehpur and Pratapgarh, which shows that an illegally thriving arms bazaar has surfaced, exposing the claims of the

law enforcement agencies that fresh strategy was needed to bust the modules.

Gone are the days when a simple desi 'katta' of Madhya Pradesh or Kolkata-made sophisticated desi pistol was in demand. Today, Bihari kattas are available for a price, sometimes on rent as well. Most outlaws more or less are preferring a stylish or designed katta, as it is easy to operate as well as easy to dispose off. Police records state that about 76 per cent crime are being executed by the country-

made weapons or its refined version.

An Additional Superintendent of Police requesting anonymity said, "Probes into recent unearthing of arms manufacturing units busted by the police candidly pointed out that 'country-made stylish and fine shaped kattas' manufacturing was a wide-scale and flourishing business and those involved in the trade earned hefty profits for the same."

Sparte of illegal arms factories either sprouting in remote corners of Bundelkhand or its

neighbouring states have been compounding the woes of the police. In eastern and central UP districts, producing a 'katta' is termed a trade and this has also taken a shape of an organised industry. Manufacturers are experts in producing good shaped butts, barrels and triggers and they even smuggle these to other states.

"Hardcore criminals eventually want to procure a factory-made sophisticated weapon," said a DSP-rank official adding that as these smuggled weapons were expensive

and had a select category of customers, more and more outlaws still preferred desi 'kattas' in executing crimes.

Senior cops admit that illegal weapons outnumber the legal ones by more than 15 times in the region and more than 85% crimes like murder, snatching or robbery are committed with the help of desi or country-made weapons. However, SSP has issued specific guidelines to his subordinates to tighten the noose around manufacturers and suppliers and also to ensure their arrest at the earliest.

Editorial

Russia has economically become more dependent than ever on China

Russia, meanwhile, has economically become more dependent than ever on China. It views China as indispensable in shaping a new global order. The recent visit by Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov to China underscored the strategic nature of the relationship. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi was blunt in stating that their ties were "irreplaceable in maintaining global strategic stability and promoting cooperation among emerging powers". Both men condemned the US for creating "closed military-political alliances [like NATO] with a limited set of members", and expressed willingness to create alternative institutions where China and Russia can shape norms in a way that suits their interests. Iran, too, has played a quid pro quo role in supporting Russia in its war against Ukraine, both diplomatically and militarily. In fact, as per a recent US Congress report, Iran not only maintains a steady supply of drones, air-to-ground munitions, and artillery ammunition to Russia, but it is also building a drone production factory inside Russian territory. Moreover, Russia, China and Iran are increasingly deepening cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. In March, they held the fourth edition of their annual trilateral naval exercises in the northern Indian Ocean. The cascade of conflicts obviously has a negative impact on India's external environment. A more volatile world makes pursuing development security all the more challenging. Within this context, the emergence of a strong partnership between China, Russia and Iran, founded on an anti-Western sentiment, has serious implications for India. For starters, efforts by the three countries to shape norms across the Global South and the Indo-Pacific, or at institutions such as the BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, could chip away at India's strategic space. This is particularly the case given India's democratic values, deepening ties with the US and Europe, and its strategic competition with China. Moreover, their closer military cooperation in the Indo-Pacific portends the emergence of a Cold War-style camp confrontation. This is detrimental to India's approach of multi-alignment and maintaining strategic autonomy. **The world today** appears to be on the verge of a cascade of conflicts. Over two years since it started, the Russia-Ukraine war does not seem to be heading towards an imminent settlement. Likewise, despite calls for a ceasefire, the Israel-Hamas conflict appears unlikely to abate anytime soon. And now, events over the past month involving Israel and Iran have demonstrated the potential for a wider regional conflict. While the wars in Eurasia and the Middle East may seem disjointed and seeped in their own historical and political contexts, they are also interconnected in a broader sense of the emerging great power competition for the future of the world order. What we are witnessing today is an era of great power competition in an increasingly multipolar world. The US and China are the chief protagonists in this new order, although each is constrained by its domestic politics and capacities. This creates a certain power vacuum, but also space for autonomy of action, balancing and bandwagoning, and even adventurism by middle powers. In this environment, while there are no distinct blocs that have emerged, there are certain alignments that are becoming more prominent. For instance, NATO seems to have found a fresh purpose following Russia's assault on Ukraine, but there are deep concerns related to American policy continuity. Likewise, there is the emergence of a Russia-Iran-China axis based on common interests and grievances with the West. But there are limits to the nature of support that each lends to the other. After years of mutual antagonism, Israel and Iran now appear to be on the brink of a new conflict.



What if I write only 'Hindu Indian'

My probing ended there, and I did not care to find out more. Being an Indian was all that mattered to me - and still does. But what if a government led by parties who promote a national caste survey actually conducts such a study? What if they knock at my door with a lengthy form asking my caste, insisting that I either declare my caste or face punishment? What if they do not accept 'Arora' as a caste or do not have it listed in their miles-long list of all castes, sub-castes and so on? What if I write only 'Hindu Indian' in response to my caste? I also wonder whether leaders from these parties, if voted to power, would make caste declaration mandatory for other public

services too: airport immigration counters, banking, etc. I wonder whether they ever discuss caste with their own children at the dining table. A caste survey at the national level might deliver some perceived dividends to some political parties, but at what cost? At the cost of dividing a population of over 750 million young Indians, especially those living in urban and semi-urban areas, into unfamiliar verticals, or even silos, and placing them in an atmosphere they would be extremely uncomfortable in. Why are some of our politicians so disconnected from the aspirations and dreams of young Indians? Yes, I know, caste is still a reality, unfortunately, in many parts of the

country. But why not go for scientific surveys, preferably digital, to render India free from ills like illiteracy, poverty, caste system, discrimination against women, etc, as envisaged in the Constitution? Such surveys can measure, for instance, why some parts of the country have been left behind economically and socially and what needs to be done as a nation to pull them into the national mainstream. We need studies to find out why not a majority of our colleges and universities are as good as, say, Delhi University or Jamia Millia Islamia. We need surveys to know why a large number of young people prefer government jobs over entrepreneurship in some states, why a

farmer's yield is still below international standards, and why there are still so few new-generation women entrepreneurs in the country. All that 1.4 billion Indians want today, after all, is a united and developed India. I was born in the Indian Railways township of Tundla, a major junction on the historic Delhi-Howrah trunk route, in the heartland of Uttar Pradesh. The town had a population of just 30,000 then, divided almost equally between the railwaymen and their dependents and 'the townwallahs', as the others - shopkeepers, traders, professionals and some farmers - living there were fondly called. Tundla was like a microcosm of India.

If voters do not vote, then how will governments be elected?

Voters are the basis of elections and if voters do not vote, then how will governments be elected? The fewer voters will vote, the easier it will be for the political parties to manipulate them in their favor and it will also be easier to win, because the mood of the voters is such that the angry voters do not vote or Those who vote for a particular party get burnt on NOTA, whereas those who vote only for a particular party come to vote in any circumstances and in this way, even if the voting percentage is low, that party can also win, due to which a large number of voters are attracted. The section should be angry. But this is not even 100% true. Because many times people come out in large numbers for anti-voting and those voters get angry, who are stuck with one party and are angry with that party for some reason. But they do not get angry and vote for other parties, rather they prefer to sit at home and protest against voting. If we want to see such examples, we will see that in the 2018 assembly elections in Rajasthan, the Rajputs there had opened a front against the BJP and the result was that the BJP had lost in Rajasthan. Despite being less in number than other castes, the opposition of Rajputs proved too much for BJP and after two five-year plans, BJP could return to power in



Rajasthan in the year 2023. This time, the way the resentment of Rajputs has come to the fore in the northern region of India after the Jats from Western Uttar Pradesh, anything can happen. In fact, for the last one year, BJP has been continuously trying to target every caste in the country except Muslims, which have good numerical strength. , for the Lok Sabha elections. But as elections approached, resentment towards BJP emerged among some big castes. In the first phase of voting of this Lok Sabha election, a large number of Jat voters were seen missing in Western UP, called Jatland. These communities have always resolved all small and big disputes in the villages through their Panchayats. Apart from this, the kindness among the farming communities, especially the big farmers, is so much that no one can go through their

doors without eating and drinking. About four years ago, when the Corona epidemic was spreading globally and there was chaos all around, people suffering from Corona were dying and villagers living in cities were returning to their homes on foot hungry and thirsty, then the farmers He had opened the stores of his house and helped such helpless travelers a lot. Not only this, almost all the works were closed at that time, but the farmers kept the country's GDP intact by working day and night in their fields. At that time, only one or two leaders would have come forward to help the people, the rest of the help was either done by the farmers, or by those who were sons of farmers and were in jobs. But the way farmers have been ignored in this country for the last few years and especially what has happened to them during the farmers' movement, it is

clear that the resentment of Jats, Rajputs and other big castes was bound to come to the fore. But it is not wise to stay away from voting and separate from each other. However, if we talk about reduction in voting, we will see that while 69.2 percent voting took place in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, this time only 55 to 66 percent voting took place at various booths. If the voting percentage remains the same in future, then it will be a big warning not only for the democracy of the country but also for the Election Commission about the dissatisfaction of the voters. Rajputs and Thakurs have also opened a front against the BJP governments in the entire northern region of India. Their Panchayats are being held and despite the persuasion of many big Rajput and Thakur leaders, their opposition is not calming down. In this way, the disappointment shown among the voters in Western Uttar Pradesh, known as Jat Land, on April 19 and the number of voters who came to vote at the booths till almost noon, has given rise to disappointment that whether this time Are voters so angry with the attitude of one party governments that they do not even want to exercise their voting rights? But what is this resentment that if people are angry with the governments

of one party, then they should not vote, this will only increase the problem. The way Jats are disappearing from the Panchayats, and the Rajput community and other castes also want to establish their dominance by doing Panchayats and want to show the ruling party that not only Jats, but also Rajputs and Thakurs live in the area. The government is feeling scared because of it, but the unity seen in the Panchayats of these three big castes will be affected in some way or the other. In such a situation, when these three castes have tried to create an opposing wave through Panchayats, then they need to remain united to get their demands met. In western Uttar Pradesh, there is evidence of unity of Ajjars i.e. Ahirs, Jats, Gurrjars and Rajputs. In a way, Thakur is also a caste of Rajputs, so it is counted in it. These four farmer communities are not only hardworking but also honest. And these four communities can tolerate everything, but do not tolerate fraud. Although I believe that all the farmer communities or should we say all the farming communities are honest and hardworking, the Jat and Rajput communities have always been at the forefront in taking decisions in the Panchayats, taking everyone along and history is witness to this.

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

Two large lakes in the metropolis, Varthur and Bellandur, have been lying empty for the last four years due to desilting work. The delay in their rejuvenation is one of the major reasons for the groundwater crisis in Bengaluru. "Above-normal monsoon is good news for cities as both the local lakes will fill up and recharge the groundwater resources. The Cauvery basin will fill up, benefiting the south Indian states of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala," says S. Vishwanath, trustee of the Biome Environmental Trust, Vishwanath had been one of the first persons to launch a campaign for rainwater harvesting in the city, way back in the 1990s. "We have to take care of the catchment area of the

Cauvery basin, especially the forested areas of Wayanad, Coorg and Hassan, and make sure there is no felling of trees or conversion of land, no sand mining or discharge of industrial effluents into the river." The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), which has been facing severe criticism amid the water shortage in the city, has now come up with a strategy to conserve water through supply cuts to big customers. The authority hopes this will help it save around 60 million litres of water per day (MLD). "A 10-20% cut is manageable if large commercial establishments, apartment complexes and industries adopt simple water conservation methods, such as installing aera-

tors to limit tap water flow, which can save up to 30% of water usage," says BWSSB Chairman Ram Prasath Manohar. "Many large establishments already have sewage treatment plants and we have advised them to utilise treated water for various purposes, including flushing and gardening. The BWSSB plans to make treated water available to households through pipes to save and reuse water in the long run," he adds. It's not just Bengaluru, most major metropolises in India have been grappling with water shortages too. Mumbai, India's financial capital, is on the verge of one. The water stocks in the seven lakes that supply water to Mumbai have dipped to 37.9%, the lowest in the last three years.

Following that, the ECI decided to introduce VVPATs in a phased manner, and in the 2019 General Elections, all EVMs were used with VVPAT machines. Let me point out two things. Firstly, it was precisely to remove doubts regarding the EVMs that VVPAT machines were introduced - to provide voters with a means to verify that their vote was cast correctly and for the audit of stored electronic results. Using these machines, voters can review a physical ballot to confirm their electronic vote. Secondly, it was the VVPAT machines that malfunctioned in the recent by-polls, and not the EVMs," writes former Chief Election Commissioner S.Y. Quraishi in the book India's Experiment.

With Democracy: The Life of a Nation Through Its Elections. The chronology of events - from the seed of an idea to its development to the widespread use of EVMs - shows that the process progressed through several Union governments. Yet, the same leaders who may have raised objections over polling through EVMs have been content while in office. Quraishi has observed in his book, "The issue of 'tamperability' of EVMs has been doing the rounds ever since they were first introduced. Every time a political party loses an election, it blames the machine. However, none of them has been able to prove their allegations against

the credibility of EVMs, and neither do they apologise when they win the elections where the same EVMs have been used." Strong words indeed. Doubts, then aspersions, were directed at EVMs - over their accuracy and security - since these were used experimentally. In fact, there was a time when Rangarajan took to writing in defence of his creation in terms of the machines being secure and tamper-proof. He had even been quoted saying that EVM was one invention that made him as proud as did his writings. Yet, just a year after his demise, EVMs were back in the news, again for the wrong reasons. Former CEC Navin Chawla, in his book Every Vote Counts: The Story of India's Elections, remembers from his own experience, "The EVM continues to be buffeted in stormy seas. A concerted attack emerged in 2009..." And the next year, Hari Prasad, an engineer, in collaboration with American computer scientist J. Alex Halderman and Dutch hacker Rop Gonggrijp, claimed to have shown ways of tampering with EVMs. However, Prasad was unable to justify how he was able to acquire a real EVM. He was subsequently arrested on charges of theft of the machine allegedly from a customs house in Mumbai, where it was stored. Incidentally, about two dozen countries have EVMs or a similar system of voting

today. The ECI has its views on "EVM detractors", posted on its website: "Self-appointed technical experts and certain social media personnel have repeatedly failed to realise that the EVMs cannot be compared to a computer, which runs on an operating system. The micro-controllers of EVMs and VVPATs run on a specific program designed to faithfully record the voters' choice. That the EVM is a truthful machine has been proved over decades of usage through changes in several governments at the state and central level, whenever the public wanted to. In fact, the EVM has made elections safe and virtually eradicated booth capturing by limiting the rate of vote casting to four votes a minute and thus significantly increasing the time required for stuffing false votes." Another election, another round of suspicion and allegations on the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). The voting machine has always been mired in controversies, with debates heating up around the time of elections. The Election Commission of India (ECI) has repeatedly defended EVMs as non-tamperable, citing technological measures and strict administrative and security measures taken by the poll body. Unfortunately, S. Rangarajan, the man who designed the EVM, is no longer here to defend the device.

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.

CAPSULES

Bungle in Banswara: Why Congress is opposing its own man

BANSWARA: Known as Rajasthan's tribal heartland, Banswara likely stands out as the only constituency nationwide where Congress is campaigning against its party nominee, and in favour of a fledgling Bharat Adivasi Party (BAP). Internal conflicts within the grand old party, lack of coordination between its state and central units, and high command's hesitance compelled it to tie up with the five-month old BAP on the latter's terms. Congress' own candidate, Arvind Damor, remains in the fray as well. A similar scenario is unfolding in the bypolls to the Bagidora seat, an assembly constituency under Banswara LS segment. Here, Congress workers are engaged in door-to-door campaigning for BAP candidate Jaikrishn Patel, opposing their own nominee Kapur Singh. Both seats go to polls on April 26. After defeat in the 2023 assembly elections, Congress initiated talks to form an alliance with BAP, a party that secured three seats in the tribal region. The talks hit a roadblock as BAP insisted on three LS seats — Udaipur, Banswara and Chittorgarh — for its candidates in exchange for backing Congress candidates in the remaining 22 parliamentary seats. Former CM Ashok Gehlot, state president Govind Singh Datasra, Sachin Pilot and local office-bearers, sources said, were wary of a tie up with BAP, with a section labelling the tribal party as "ambitious". Congress decided to bet on four-term MLA and former cabinet minister Mahendrajeet Singh Malviya as its LS nominee from Banswara.

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-

spiring 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 integrating 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.

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 rider 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) levels. 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.

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 avail-



able 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 different 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.

Congress is running nine Lok Sabha seats in Haryana but has not yet chosen a Gurgaon candidate



Delhi: The Congress's list of eight Haryana Lok Sabha candidates revealed included at least seven allies and supporters of former chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda. The Congress is running nine Lok Sabha seats in Haryana but has not yet chosen a Gurgaon candidate. The opposition INDIA bloc's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has declared Sushil Gupta as their Kurukshetra candidate per the seat agreement. Hooda's son and Rajya Sabha MP Deepender Singh Hooda will again run

from Rohtak, while Kumari Selja will run from Sirsa. Selja faces former Haryana Congress president and BJP candidate Ashok Tanwar in Sirsa. Deepender will challenge BJP MP Arvind Kumar Sharma. Sharma narrowly defeated Deepender by 7,500 votes in the 2019 Lok Sabha election. The Congress unexpectedly nominated youth leader Divyanshu Budhiraja to challenge former chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar in Karnal Lok Sabha. Budhiraja is Punjabi like Khattar.

The Congress replaced Shrutika Choudhry (granddaughter of previous CM Bansi Lal) with Rao Dan Singh in Bhiwani - Mahendragarh Lok Sabha. Rao is Hooda-friendly. The Bansi Lal family has traditionally lived in Bhiwani. However, the party appears to have revised its tactics by standing an OBC candidate against Jat-majority BJP MP Dharambir Singh. Despite public expectation, the Congress did not field Brijendra Singh from Hisar.

NCBC calls Karnataka top babu on Muslim quota

NEW DELHI: National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) chairperson Hansraj Ahir has summoned Karnataka's chief secretary to explain the basis on which the entire Muslim community was included in the OBC category in the state even as BJP sharpened its charge of Muslim appeasement against Congress. While PM Narendra Modi accused Congress of trying to "snatch" the reservation rights of OBCs and give it to their "vote banks", Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath said it was very unfortunate and an attempt at "Islamisation

of India". "This is a part of despicable attempts at Islamisation of India and pushing it towards divisions. When the UPA govt came to power, it made such attempts at that time too. BJP had carried out a massive agitation. So, be it Justice Verma committee report or the Sachar committee report, they were all attempts by Congress to loot the reservation of OBCs, SCs and STs," Adityanath said. NCBC has summoned the Karnataka chief secretary and sought a detailed report on what basis the Muslim community as a whole was

being treated as educationally and socially backward for the purpose of 4% reservation in education and appointments under category 2B. Moreover, the state govt is providing reservation to 17 socially and educationally backward Muslim castes under category 1 and 19 backward Muslim castes under category 2A. The commission has sought survey reports from the state to understand the basis for giving reservation to the Muslim community as a whole under category 2B. Ahir said replies received from the state were "not satisfactory" and the commission.

Centre removes 5-month onion export restriction

Delhi: To relieve onion producers, especially in Maharashtra, the Centre permitted the shipment of nearly one lakh tonnes of the kitchen staple to six neighboring countries: Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Bahrain, Mauritius, and the UAE. The Centre has also

allowed the export of 2,000 tonnes of white onions grown for Middle Eastern and European markets. For onion exports to these nations, National Exports Ltd. (NCEL) sourced domestic produce through an e-platform at L1 (lowest quoted) rates, according

to the ministry of consumer affairs. NCEL is given to the destination country's government-nominated agencies at the stipulated rate on a 100% advance payment basis. In 2023-24, kharif and rabi crops were expected to be lower and foreign demand.

CAPSULES

What ED said in SC while opposing Kejriwal's plea against arrest

NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has informed the Supreme Court that Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal played a central role in the excise policy case, acting as the "kingpin and key conspirator." The probe agency asserted that arresting an individual based on evidence of an offense does not undermine the principles of free and fair elections. According to the ED, Kejriwal allegedly collaborated with his ministers and AAP leaders, and was involved in "demanding kickbacks" from liquor businessmen in return for favors granted through the policy. The agency filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court in response to Kejriwal's plea challenging his arrest, stating that he failed to cooperate with the ED despite being summoned multiple times in connection with the excise policy case. On April 15, the top court had sought a response from the ED by April 24 on Kejriwal's plea challenging his arrest in the case. "The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is the major beneficiary of the proceeds of crime generated in the Delhi liquor scam. Part of the proceeds of crime to the tune of cash of Rs 45 cr approx. has been utilised in the election campaign of AAP in Goa Assembly elections 2022," it said. "AAP has committed the offence of money laundering through Arvind Kejriwal and the offences thus are covered by section 70, PMLA 2002. He is also involved in demand of kickbacks which have inter-alia generated further proceeds of crime," it said. "A total of approximately 170 mobile phones were changed/destroyed by 36 persons (accused and other persons involved) during the period."

Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Unveils Privé - A One-of-a-Kind Program that Provides Unparalleled Coverage and Service Excellence

GURUGRAM: Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, one of the leading private general insurers in India, today announced the launch of Privé, an exclusive customer experience program offering access to elevated and unmatched customer service excellence. Traditionally, in India, the thrive to increase insurance penetration over the last few years has largely been focused on tapping the customer base across the tier 2/tier 3 loca-



tions and rural markets, predominantly covering middle, upper middle class, and rural customers. Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, in addition to its strong focus on

increasing insurance penetration across all the above-mentioned customer segments, will now also cater to a special segment of customers typically requiring insurance

solutions with enhanced coverage limits. Recognizing the multifaceted requirements and comprehensive protection that align with such discerning customers' financial and lifestyle preferences, Privé goes beyond the traditional insurance offerings. By being part of Privé, the customers gain access to an array of exclusive and prioritized insurance services, ensuring their requirements are met with precision.

Kalyan Jewellers solidifies its presence in Haryana with all-new showroom at Kurukshetra

Kurukshetra: Kalyan Jewellers, one of India's most-trusted and largest jewellery companies, today launched its brand new showroom in Kurukshetra. The new and luxurious showroom aims to strengthen company's market presence in Haryana, which features an extensive range of designs from various collections. This is the company's 8th showroom in the state of Haryana. Patrons can expect state-of-the-art facilities with world-class ambiance, providing an unparalleled



shopping experience. Talking about the new showroom, Mr. Ramesh Kalyanaraman, Executive Director of Kalyan Jewellers, said, "As a company, we have achieved huge milestones and taken major strides towards creat-

ing a holistic ecosystem to enhance the customer shopping experience. As we embark on this next phase of our growth journey, we are delighted to announce the launch of our new showroom in Kurukshetra. With this launch, we aim to con-

sistently expand our geographical footprint in the state of Haryana and are committed to continue offering best-in-class shopping experience to our customers while staying true to the company's core values of trust and transparency. "This season, customers can avail flat 25% off on making charges on all jewellery purchases*. To streamline the Akshaya Tritiya shopping experience, the jewellery brand has introduced its advance booking facility. As part of this pre-booking program,

Toyota Kirloskar Motor Introduces New Grade of the Toyota Rumion

GURGAON/ROHTAK: Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM), today, officially announced the opening of bookings and the price of New Grade G-AT of the Toyota Rumion along with reopening of E-CNG bookings. The newly launched G-AT variant is expected to further boost the market acceptance of the Rumion with its unmatched space and comfort, excellent fuel efficiency, stylish and premium exterior design. The latest offering by TKM will be available at an attractive ex-showroom price of Rs. 13,00,000 with deliveries expected to commence from 5th May onwards. Customers can book the vehicle at any of the authorized dealerships or online with a booking fee of Rs 11,000/-. Toyota Rumion G-AT variant is



powered by the 1.5-litre K series petrol engine with 6-speed Automatic Transmission, featuring the Neo Drive (ISG) technology ensuring responsive performance. While the petrol grade has a power output of 75.8 kw @6000 rpm and torque of 136.8 Nm @4400 rpm for, the CNG grade boosts of 64.6 kw output @5500 rpm and torque of 121.5 Nm @4200 rpm. The Toyota Rumion is now available in seven variants of Neo drive MT: S, G and V grade. Neo Drive AT: S, G and V

grade. E-CNG: S grade offering a wide range of options for customers. The G-AT variant is enhanced with advanced technology including a 17.78 cm Smartplay Cast Touchscreen audio system with wireless Android Auto and Apple CarPlay. Equipped with Toyota i-Connect, it offers remote control for climate, lock/unlock, hazard lights and many more connected features. The Toyota Rumion also prioritizes safety for its owners with advanced safety features.

#VoteKarneKoTaiyaar Social Media campaign to Encourage Gen Z to 'Register to Vote'

GURUGRAM : Tata AIA Life Insurance Co. Ltd. (Tata AIA), Tata AIA, a leading life insurance company in India, has recently introduced an innovative social media campaign titled #VoteKarneKoTaiyaar. The campaign encourages young Indians, particularly first-time voters, to immediately register themselves to vote and then go ahead & vote on the election day, in their respective location. The campaign aims to instill a sense of national responsibility and duty among the youth, leveraging their growing consciousness towards societal issues. In a time where Gen Z is increasingly demonstrating a heightened awareness towards matters like sustainability, road safety,



and cyber awareness, Tata AIA recognizes the pivotal role they play in shaping the future of the nation. The #VoteKarneKoTaiyaar campaign taps into the digital savvy youth, who are avid consumers of online content and active on social media plat-

forms. Recognizing that over 90% of them utilize the internet and social media frequently, Tata AIA endeavors to channel this digital engagement towards fostering a culture of civic participation, starting with registering to vote. Designed to resonate

with the ethos of this generation, the campaign employs engaging content and leveraging social media channels to amplify its reach. By employing the hashtag #VoteKarneKoTaiyaar, Tata AIA aims to instill a widespread conversation amongst the youth on their active role as young citizens of India. By integrating the concept of 'taiyaari' (readiness) from Tata AIA's overarching brand theme, "Har Waqt Ke Liye Taiyaar," the campaign extends the narrative of being prepared by registering themselves to cast their important vote. It further encourages them to vote on the day of election and participate in securing their and the future of the nation.

Stretched resources for his tuition, says farmer whose son topped JEE

NAGPUR: Nilkrishna Gajare, who secured the all India rank 1 in JEE (Mains) exam Thursday, said studying computer science at IIT Bombay was his dream. The 18-year-old prepared for the exam at a coaching institute in Nagpur with a 75% scholarship. Maintaining a balance between studies and personal well-being, Nilkrishna said he exercises and meditates in his free time and stays away from social media. "I only had WhatsApp to communicate with teachers. I would wake up at 5am and hit the bed by 10pm. Apart from attending tuition classes, I would study for seven hours," he said. Supporting him every step of the way is his father Nilkumar Gajare, who had to drop out after class 12. Despite relying on farming for a livelihood, Nilkumar.

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

Mehr Chand Mahajan DAV College for Women, Chandigarh, marked the celebration of International Happiness Day in a befitting manner with the culmination of 'The Soul in Symphony: Journey of Happiness through Self



Actualization and Self Realization'- a two-day multidisciplinary international conference. The valedictory of this enriching conference was graced by accomplished writer and poet Dr. Surjit Patar, Padma Shree Awardee, Dr. Jaspal Singh, Principal (Retd.), Dr. Sarabjit Sohal, Chairperson, Punjab Sahitya Academy, Dr. Gurdip Sharma, General Secretary, SD Pratinidhi Sabha, Dr. Vinod Sharma and Sh. Prem Vij. In his address interspersed with his poetic creations and verses from Gurbani, Dr. Patar impressed upon the therapeutic power of poetry and

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

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

Vi Introduces eSIM for its Prepaid Customers in New Delhi

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



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

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

Dissent within Mahayuti over likelihood of ticket for Mandlik

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

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

Kupekar was with the Shiv Sena (UBT) before joining BJP last year. 9wSpeaking to his supporters Kupekar said, "All the local politicians should dial our state leaders. Request them not to let the sitting MP get a ticket once again."

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

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



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

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

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

Tata AIA Life launches Tata AIA Rising India Fund

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Sonopat/Panipat:

Several market experts are of the view that interest rates in India will decline over the next few months from the current levels of approx. 7% giving customers an opportunity to now lock-in their investment in an annuity product at the current interest rate. The ICICI Pru Guaranteed Pension Plan Flexi stands out among annuity products as it helps customers build a retirement fund by making systematic investments. This ensures a sure and stable income after retirement, which is particularly beneficial in a market like India where interest rates are predicted to decline. Additionally, a variant of this plan offers a unique feature which provides a 100%

refund of all premiums paid, making it the life insurance industry's first such product. So how does investing in an annuity product now benefit customers? Pension or annuity products which are only offered by life insurance companies provide a guaranteed regular lifelong income. The rate of interest is locked-in at the time of purchase. Retirees prefer a steady income not affected by interest rate movements, annuity or pension products are the best option, which offer regular income enabling them to be financially independent. Since the interest rate is expected to fall going forward, customers buying an annuity product will be able to lock-in their

investment at the current interest rate. Let's take the example of Mr. Prajapati, who initially invested his savings of Rs. 1 crore in deposits at 8% interest, earning him Rs. 67,000 monthly, which supported a comfortable lifestyle. However, when he tried to renew his deposits after a few years the interest rate dropped to 6%, his monthly income reduced to Rs. 50,000, affecting his standard of living. Let's see what would have happened if Mr. Prajapati had invested his money in an annuity product. Assuming the interest rate of 7%, he will receive approx. Rs. 58,000 per month for the rest of his life. This will remain constant irrespective of the any movement in interest rates.

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

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



avenue for showcasing their skills and connecting with a wider audience. With the creator economy estimated to be worth USD 500 billion by 2027, [1] India is poised to claim the title of the world's largest hub for social media content creators. Fuelled by a youthful population, with a median age of 28.2, these creators will significantly contribute to propelling our economy, fostering growth, and influencing consumption trends. Recognizing this potential, Godrej L'Affaire initiated this commitment last year, aligning itself with the country's

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

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

Courts cannot direct states to implement particular schemes: SC

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

The curtains have fallen on the Forever Global Rally 2024



New Delhi: The curtains have fallen on the Forever Global Rally 2024, culminating in a dazzling display of achievement for Forever Living Products. Spanning from April 9th to 13th, this grand event unfolded amidst the vibrant energy of New Delhi, promising an unparalleled experience meticulously crafted by Forever. The event took place at Indira Gandhi National Stadium. Gathering delegates from over 160 nations, the rally showcased the expansive reach and influence of Forever across the globe. With its captivating ambiance and comprehensive itinerary, the event captured every essence, offering transformative training sessions, interactive workshops, and heartfelt recognition for unwavering dedication. As India graciously hosted this year's rally, it not only provided a platform for business but also lent a significant boost to tourism,

benefiting thousands engaged in the hospitality and tourism sectors. The event witnessed an impressive turnout of over 30,000 attendees from all corners of the country. Aidan O'Hare, President of Forever Living Products, emphasized the significance of navigating global challenges and seizing opportunities, making FGR 2024 a melting pot of innovative ideas and boundless inspiration. Gregg Maughan, CEO of Forever Living Products, expressed his heartfelt gratitude to all the Forever Business Owners worldwide, particularly acknowledging the exceptional audience

in India. He elaborated on the compelling reasons to join the Forever family, followed by a remarkable ceremony honouring outstanding achievements. Mr. Harish Singla, CSM FLP India, remarked, "The week-long extravaganza featured a diverse lineup of master classes, recognitions, inspiring testimonials, and lots of entertainment ensuring attendees returned home with cherished memories and invaluable insights. Forever Business Owners from over 160 countries converged to explore new products, exchange strategies, and celebrate collective triumphs.

Smriti Irani files papers from Amethi



AMETHI: Union minister and BJP MP Smriti Irani, who wrested the Amethi Lok Sabha seat from Rahul Gandhi in 2019, filed her nomination papers on Monday, seeking a second straight term from the constituency that was earlier a pocket borough of the Nehru-Gandhi

family. Speaking to reporters after filing her nomination, Irani said, "With the blessings of PM Narendra Modi, I got the opportunity to serve Amethi five years ago. I could achieve in five years what was not possible in 50 years." Attacking Rahul, who

represented the constituency from 2004 to 2019, Irani said, "There was a time when, due to the missing MP, farmers of Amethi had to face lathis for 15 years for fertiliser. The prime minister freed the farmers from this serious problem by building a fertiliser centre here."

Bournvita and Other Drinks Will No Longer Be Listed as "Health Drinks"

Delhi Divya: The Central Government ordered all e-commerce sites to remove all so-called drinks and beverages, including the well-known milk supplement Bournvita, from the 'healthy drinks' category, dealing a severe blow to fitness drink businesses. The National Commission

for Protection of Child Rights (NCPDR) undertook an investigation and came to the conclusion that the FSS Act of 2006 did not specify a health drink, thus the Ministry of Commerce and Industry issued the order. "National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPDR), a

statutory body constituted under Section (3) of the Commission of Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005 after its inquiry under Section 14 of CRPC Act 2005 concluded that there is no 'health drink' defined under FSS Act 2006, rules and regulations submitted by FSSAI.

CAPSULES

Delhi industries department approves 21-acre e-waste facility

Delhi: Senior officials said the industries department has finalized the plan for a 21-acre facility in northwest Delhi's Holambi Kalan to house a recycling center and training facility for e-waste handling and processing. The Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (DSIIDC) has invited private applicants to set up the complex, which will have an integrated ecosystem for e-waste management supply chain, on a public-private partnership (PPP) basis by April 15.

According to the project report, the integrated complex will be placed at the Urban Extension-2 road and have six primary sections: disinfection, dismantling, refurbishing manufacturing and recycling, testing, and training. "We will give the private operator 21 acres to create buildings, utilities, roads, and machinery.

The operator can sell recycled items, recovered components, and training courses, among other revenue sources. Computers, mobile phones, electronics, household appliances, and medical equipment are common e-waste items. Delhi is a major e-waste hub, producing 2.3 lakh tonnes, or 9.5% of the national total.

City relies on its few registered e-waste collection centers in Mandoli, Okhla, Peeragarhi, Patparganj, and Badarpur to disassemble and recycle collected material. A lot of e-waste winds up in landfills or with waste pickers, where it is dismantled and reprocessed in violation of environmental safety standards.

Char Dham: 15 lakh online bookings in a fortnight

DHRADUN: While there were speculations that Char Dham yatra will witness a dip in tourist numbers following the opening of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, the advance booking exceeded the 15 lakh mark in a fortnight, officials said. This year, the Char Dham yatra will commence with the opening of portals of Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri on May 10 and Badrinath on May 12. Registration process started on April 15 and in a span of 14 days, it witnessed a steep rise, officials



added. Taking into account the high number of bookings, authorities have limited the number of registration to 9,000 at Yamunotri, 11,000 at Gangotri, 18,000 at

Kedarnath and 20,000 at Badrinath. Chairperson of Badri Kedar Temple Committee Ajendra Ajay said, "We're making all required arrangements. Pickets

would be set up to check that only people with booking are allowed to move ahead." Unlike previous years, Kedarnath took over Badrinath Dham as per the number of pilgrims visiting there in 2023. Kedarnath had a pilgrim footfall of 19.6 lakh, followed by 18.3 lakh at Badrinath, 9 lakh at Gangotri and 7.3 lakh at Yamunotri, taking the total number to 54.2 lakh. During the pilgrimage season in 2022, a devotee turnout of 44.2 lakh was witnessed. There were 17.6 lakh visitors to Badrinath.

PM Modi's third term will ensure UCC, says Shah

PATNA: Union home minister Amit Shah on Monday said PM Narendra Modi's third term will ensure uniform civil code (UCC) in the country.

Addressing election rallies in Jhunjharpur and Begusarai, Shah said the Opposition would not be able to come to power and hence their claims like bringing back Article 370 and triple talaq would never fructify. Shah recalled how Rahul Gandhi had opposed the abrogation of Article 370 in J&K and said the Congress and its allies



were against the Ram temple construction at Ayodhya and abolition of triple talaq. He said both Congress and RJD chief Lalu Prasad have always acted against backward and extremely backward castes to promote dynastic rule and blamed them for ignoring former Bihar

CM Karpoori Thakur, who was honoured with the Bharat Ratna by NDA govt. Targeting the Congress, Shah said had the party not opposed the Mandal Commission report in 1990, members of the backward class would have got reservation in 1957 itself. "The grand

old party shelved the Kaka Kelkar Committee report because of which the backwards suffered," he alleged. Shah asked people whether they want a 'majboor' (compulsive) or a 'majboot' (strong) govt, which only Modi can provide. "The opposition alliance doesn't even know its PM face and wants to run the country in turns on a yearly basis. While Lalu wants to make his son Tejashwi the Bihar CM, Sonia Gandhi is only interested in ensuring her son Rahul as the country's PM," Shah

Baba Ramdev crossed red line with false claims of curing Covid

NEW DELHI: Baba Ramdev crossed a red line when he claimed he could cure Covid-19, said Indian Medical Association (IMA) president Dr R V Asokan. Criticizing yoga guru, the IMA chief also said Ramdev maligned modern medicine by calling it a "stupid and bankrupt science".



Dr Asokan highlighted the potential consequences of such statements, particularly their adverse impact on public trust and healthcare practices. "He crossed a red line. We have been tolerating mediocrity in this country for too long. Our profession also has been tolerating this and we never wanted to prove anything to anyone. He crossed a line when he advertised about Coronil (a Patanjali tablet) and said WHO has approved it which

was a wrong statement," Dr Asokan was quoted as saying. Dr Asokan addressed the issue amidst ongoing legal proceedings involving Ramdev and his multibillion-dollar consumer goods empire Patanjali Ayurved. This also comes a day before the top court is scheduled to hear the matter next. Dr Asokan said Ramdev went against the medical profession by saying "modern medicine is a stupid and bankrupt science".

Heavy rainfall disrupts daily life in J&K; water levels rise

NEW DELHI: Jammu and Kashmir have been grappling with continuous rainfall that has wreaked havoc in several regions including higher reaches. Torrential rains in the valley have triggered flash floods in parts of Kupwara in northern Kashmir causing damages to buildings and roads. Moreover, the Sarbal area of Sonamarg in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district bore the brunt of an avalanche that hit on Monday. Natural calamities compelled authorities to carry out rescue operations in affected areas. Schools in Kupwara were ordered closure amid heavy rains. Here are the top developments of the day: Officials carry out rescue operations As heavy rain triggered a flood-like sit-



uation in areas of North Kashmir's Kupwara district, Jammu and Kashmir Police carried out rescue operations in flood-affected areas. Landslides block Jammu-Srinagar national highway The officials reported that the Jammu-Srinagar national highway, which is the sole all-weather route connecting Kashmir with the rest of India, was shut down on Monday due to sever-

al landslides caused by heavy rainfall that affected large areas of Jammu and Kashmir during the night. The highway was blocked by landslides at Mehar, Gangroo, Mom Passi and Kishtwari Pather in Ramban district. The ongoing rainfall is hindering the efforts to clear the debris and restore the highway, according to the officials. They advised travelers to refrain from using the high-

way until the debris is completely removed. Furthermore, the Mughal road, which serves as an alternative route connecting the Poonch and Rajouri districts in Jammu with the Shopian district in south Kashmir, has been closed for the past three days due to snowfall in Peer Ki Gali and the surrounding areas, as reported by the officials.

Currency circulation increases despite 2k note ban

Delhi: Despite the elimination of Rs 2,000 banknotes, the currency in circulation increased by Rs 1.3 lakh crore in FY24 from Rs 33.5 lakh crore at the end of March 2023 to Rs 34.8 lakh crore. Growth has slowed the most since 2018. In FY24, currency in circulation as a proportion of GDP fell since 4% is slower than GDP growth. CIC grew 7% last year and over 10% the year before due to a pandemic cash rush. Currency in circulation grew 0.5% to Rs 35.3 lakh crore in the week ended April 5. RBI data shows that the increased issue of Rs 500 notes has more than offset the withdrawal of Rs 2,000 notes. ON May 19, 2023, RBI announced their withdrawal. In March 2024, Rs 2,000 notes were worth Rs 8,202 crore, down from Rs 3.6 lakh crore a year earlier. The value of Rs 500 notes rose to Rs 30.1 lakh crore from 25.8 lakh crore a year before.