

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Title Code - UPENG04488

NATIONAL ENGLISH DAILY

MORNING EDITION PRAYAGRAJ

Tuesday 16 April, 2024

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

In hindsight, all will regret scrapping of electoral bonds: PM Modi

"Hitting out at opposition quarters which say a third straight mandate for him would mean significant changes in the constitution"



New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said people would regret the abolition of the electoral bond scheme, and ruled out changes in the Constitution should his govt get another term. In an interview to news agency ANI, PM said while there was scope for improvement in the electoral bonds scheme, it represented an honest attempt to improve transparency in campaign finance. "Everyone will regret it when there is honest reflection," he said, on scrapping of the scheme as he cautioned that the country has been "pushed towards black money". He said the positive feature of the EB scheme was that people

Investment's good but must create jobs, says PM ahead of Musk meet

NEW DELHI: Ahead of his meeting with Elon Musk, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said investment from across the globe is welcome but should generate employment for Indians.

"I want investment to come in India because in India, it doesn't matter who would have at least some idea about where parties were getting their funds from. "You are getting a trail of which company gave,

has invested money, (but) the sweat put into the work must be of our own people. The product should have the essence of our soil, so that our youth will get employment opportunities," Modi told ANI, while responding to a question on Tesla and Starlink's possible entry.

how it gave, where it gave." He attacked the opposition for spreading "lies" about the bonds. He also scotched the charge about the

Enforcement Directorate launching investigations to coerce businesspersons to make contributions to BJP, by saying that if that were the case then opposition would have got no money through bonds. "Will the ED raid and do the work of donating to the opposition? Will BJP do this?" Hitting out at opposition quarters which say a third straight mandate for him would mean significant changes in the Constitution, Modi said: "I don't take decisions to scare or run over anyone, I take decisions for the wholesome development.

Iran assures India access to its crew, calls for efforts to end war

NEW DELHI: Iranian foreign minister Hossein Amirabdollahian

assured his counterpart S Jaishankar in their phone conversation Sunday that Indian officials will be allowed access to 17 Indian crew members who were detained after Iran's Revolutionary Guards seized a cargo vessel for its links with Israel. Jaishankar had spoken to the Iranian minister to discuss the need for immediate de-escalation in the Iran-Israel conflict. He also sought an early release of the Indian crew members. "We are monitoring the situation concerning the seized ship, & arrangements will be made for representatives of Indian govt to meet with the crew members of the vessel in question," said the Iranian minister to Jaishankar, according to a readout released by Iran on Monday. "Took up the release of 17 Indian crew mem



bers of MSC Aries. Discussed the current situation in the region. Stressed the importance of avoiding escalation, exercising restraint and returning to diplomacy. Agreed to remain in touch," Jaishankar had said in a post on X. He had also spoken to his Israeli counterpart Israel Katz. According to Iran, Amirabdollahian conveyed to Jaishankar details of Iran's "legitimate defence and punitive measures against the Israeli regime", while urging India to play an active role in ending the war in Gaza.

"Amirabdollahian urged India to maintain its role through UNSC to halt the war in Gaza, which lies at the core of current crisis," said Iran. On Monday in Bengaluru, Jaishankar said he had asked his Israeli and Iranian counterparts to "calm down" and not escalate further. "A large part of our shipping passes through this region and also, oil comes from there. So we are concerned when there is this kind of escalation. Hence, our effort has been to tell both of them to calm down," the EAM said.

Army chief on 4-day Uzbekistan visit in bid to boost defence ties

NEW DELHI: Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande is on a four-day visit to Uzbekistan to bolster defence ties as well as explore new avenues for military collaboration, even as an Army-IAF contingent is also in the Central Asian country for a joint combat exercise. General Pande will hold talks with defence minister Lt-Gen and deputy defence minister Maj Gen Shukhrat Gayratjanovich.

Efforts on to 'undermine judiciary', say ex-judges, seek CJI

NEW DELHI: Four retired judges of Supreme Court and 17 ex-high court judges have written a joint letter to the Chief Justice of India bringing to his notice alleged "escalating attempts by certain factions to undermine the judiciary through calculated pressure, misinformation, and public disparagement" and sought his intervention to safeguard the judiciary. The retired judges wrote the letter just a fortnight after over 600 lawyers had on March 28 expressed similar concern to the CJI over "a vested interest group" trying to pressure the judiciary on the basis of "frivolous logic and stale political agenda" in politically sensitive cases. In their letter, the former judges, which include four retired SC judges - Deepak Verma, Krishna Murari, Dinesh Maheshwari and M R Shah - said, "It has come to our notice that these elements, motivated by narrow political interests and personal gains, are striving to erode the public's confidence in our judicial system". "Their methods are manifold and insidious, with clear attempts to sway judicial processes by casting aspersions on the integrity of our courts and the judges. Such actions not only disrespect the sanctity of our judiciary but also pose a direct challenge to the principles of fairness and impartiality that judges, as guardians of the law, have sworn to uphold," the letter stated. The signatories include retired judges from Gujarat, Delhi, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Jharkhand, Mumbai, Allahabad, Uttarakhand, Punjab and Haryana, and MP high courts. "The strategy employed by these groups is deeply troubling - ranging from the propagation of baseless theories intended to malign the judiciary's reputation to engaging in overt and covert attempts to influence judicial outcomes to their favour. This behaviour, we observe, is particularly pronounced in the cases and causes of social, economic and political significance, including the cases involving certain individuals, wherein the lines between advocacy and manoeuvring are blurred.

Disclose all loan fees upfront from Oct 1: RBI

MUMBAI: In a move to boost transparency, RBI has asked all banks and finance companies to provide borrowers with a key facts statement that includes data on all fees and the annual cost of credit from Oct 1 besides basic loan information. The statement should also provide details on the policy on recovery agents, contact details for grievances, and the likelihood of the loan being sold to others. "Regulated entities shall put in place the necessary systems and



processes to implement the above guidelines at the earliest. In any case, all new retail and MSME term loans sanctioned on or after Oct 1, 2024, including fresh loans to existing customers, shall comply with the above

guidelines in letter and spirit without any exception," RBI said in a circular. RBI said these changes would ensure that customers understand what they're getting when they take a loan. This helps to make things fairer and gives

borrowers the power to make smart choices about their money, it said. These new rules will apply to all types of loans for individuals and small businesses, no matter which bank or lender they are dealing with. A key information field that has been introduced for the first time is annual percentage rate. This is the annual cost of credit to the borrower, which includes the interest rate and other charges. "Charges recovered from borrowers by the regulated entities.

Monsoon likely to be 'above normal': IMD

NEW DELHI: India will likely experience 'above normal' monsoon (June-Sep) rainfall with fairly good distribution in most parts of the country, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Monday. If the forecast comes true, good rainfall is expected to positively impact agriculture, boosting farm operations and driving the economy with higher rural demand. Though in certain areas, including



Odisha, northeastern states and parts of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and southern West Bengal, monsoon may be below par, 'above normal' rainfall is likely in the monsoon core zone (large areas of

central India where agriculture in many areas depends on monsoons), Punjab and Haryana. "Quantitatively, the seasonal rainfall over the country as a whole is likely to be 106% of long period average (LPA) with a model error of +/-5%," said M Ravichandran, secretary in the ministry of earth sciences, while jointly releasing the monsoon forecast with IMD chief Mrutyunjay Mohapatra.

Ram Lalla 'Suryatilak' won't generate heat and warm up idol, say experts

AYODHYA/LUC KNOW:

The high-intensity 'Suryatilak' scheduled to last 3.5 minutes at Ayodhya's Ram Temple will not generate any extra heat and warm up the Ram Lalla idol. According to experts, the optomechanical system installed to facilitate the tilak has been made up of infrared filter, the heat-absorbing material used widely to block or reflect high-energy photons, which transfer the heat onto a surface. Aware of the extreme heat generated by concentrating sun rays through apparatus of lenses and mirrors at a single spot, the team of scientists from Roorkee-based Central Building Research Institute decided to place an



infrared filter at the aperture (opening on the first floor) itself through which sunlight would enter the 'garbhagriha' (sanctum sanctorum). This would protect the deity from exposure to unwanted heat and irritation. While the muhūrta to celebrate the birth of Ram Lalla has been fixed at 12pm and 40 seconds on April 17, the 'Suryatilak' would begin at 11.58am and is expected to last till 12.03pm.

On trials were conducted yet again at the Ram temple.

The size of the tilak on the forehead of the idol would be 58mm. Bengaluru-based Indian Institute of Astrophysics and private firm Optics and Allied Engineering (Optica) have collaborated on the project with the group of scientists from CBRI. The optomechanical system would provide the best results during the 'Suryatilak' for 3.5 minutes at the centre of the lord's forehead, after which concentrated light would start fading a little.

Pakistan claims Indian hand in killing of Sarabjit's murderer

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's interior minister Mohsin Naqvi said on Monday that law-enforcement agencies suspected "India's involvement" in the "targeted killing" of ISI henchman Amir Sarfaraz, aka Tamba, just over five years after his acquittal in the 2013 murder of Indian death-row prisoner Sarabjit Singh. Naqvi said at a presser in Lahore, where Sarfaraz lived, that the fatal attack on him by two motorbike-borne assailants conforms to "a pattern". "India is suspected to have been involved in four other murders (on Pakistan soil).

SUV hits biker, speeds with his body on roof for 18km

VIJAYAWADA: In a scene eerily similar to the 2023 New Year's-eve horror in Delhi, an allegedly drunk man drove nearly 18km in Andhra's Anantapur with the body of a biker perched on his Innova roof where the latter had been flung after being hit by the SUV. late Sunday. Locals alarmed by the grotesque sight on the highway near Y Kothapalli stopped the driver later, but he escaped leaving his Innova behind. The deceased was identified as Jinne Erra Swamy (35), a tractor mechanic and the sole breadwinner for his family. he leaves behind his wife and two kids.

'Please grant bail to help cast vote': Pleas flood Odisha courts

BHUBANESWAR: This election season, most bail applications moved in several lower courts in Odisha have a common, yet unusual prayer from undertrial prisoners - "My Lord, my client may kindly be considered for bail to enable him to cast his vote". Though the number of such petitions and whether bail was granted on the ground are not known, legal experts said they came across this trend for the first time. The state votes in simultaneous Lok Sabha and assembly polls in four phases from May 13 to June 1. According to human rights campaigner and lawyer Biswapriya Kanungo, there were some recent instances. of UTPs appealing to different courts. Under Section 62(5) of Representation of the People Act, 1951, peo

ple in police custody and those serving a sentence of imprisonment after conviction cannot vote. Undertrial prisoners too are prohibited from participating in elections even if their names are on the electoral rolls. Going by the rules, at least 17,500 prisoners, including 13,800 UTPs (78 per cent) could not cast their votes in 2019 elections. Currently, 18,565 prisoners, including 15,200 (82 per cent) UTPs, are lodged in 87 jails across Odisha. "If a convicted politician can contest elections after getting his or her conviction stayed by a court, why can't UTPs, who should not be called convicts until they are proven guilty, vote? A law should come to allow such prisoners to cast their votes," said Kanungo.

COD Chheeki committed towards environment conversation

Takes up unique initiatives along with Forest Dept Prayagraj

PRAYAGRAJ: Forest department of Prayagraj awarded COD Chheeki for its praise worthy efforts towards conservation and preservation of flora and fauna in its 1200 acres land. COD Chheeki took a pledge of maintaining the delicate balance of earth's ecosystem in its 1200 acres of land because no human technology can fully replace "nature's technology" perfected over hundreds of millions of

years in delivering key services to sustain life.

Located at the outskirts of Prayagraj city with its rich flora and fauna, COD Chheeki has created rich biodiversity- the complex web of life made by various species plants, bacteria and fungi that provided us with fresh air we breathe in the city. The area with its rich & dense forest cover is habitat for various species of wildlife like Blue Bulls,

Deers, Foxes, Wild Boars, Porcupines, Mongoose, wild hares, various Reptiles, Peacocks and various kinds of Birds species which have become extinct in our cities.

The unit took upon itself to act as guardians of nature by preserving the rich green cover and further increasing it by planting more than 30,000 trees with collaboration of forest department. The plantation drive has further improved the green

cover and the effect of green cover is quite evident due to difference in temperature compared to city.

Moreover, various water bodies have been created which are being utilized for rain water harvesting and act as water source to various animals and birds. These water bodies have Gambia fish which thrives on mosquito larvae, which has reduced mosquito breeding and in turn has reduced

mosquito bite related ailments in natural way. To further the drive of "Self Reliant India" (Atamnirbhar Bharat), COD Chheeki has introduced drip irrigation on experimental basis and has spread the awareness in the villages nearby, of its huge potential in saving water and nutrients loss from soil. It has also built one wind mill cum solar energy panel from its own resources, which gives clean energy to the

Nursery School in its premises. COD Chheeki lead by Commandant Col Rahul Harchand, has set an example in conserving and preserving the nature. They have proven that with little effort, awareness and innovative techniques we can create a clean, green and pollution free environment. Informed Shailendra Pandey, Wing Commander, Public Relations Officer, Ministry of Defence, Prayagraj.

3-day solo painting exhibition based on Ramayana organized

Prayagraj: 3-day solo painting exhibition based on Ramayana was organized at the Mahatma Gandhi Art Gallery, organized by the North Central Region Cultural Centre, Prayagraj. The painting exhibition was inaugurated by Center Director Prof. Suresh Sharma and Dr. Savita Aggarwal (former member of Public Service Commission) garlanded the idol of Lord Ganesha and cut the ribbon. The main attraction of the exhibition was a series of paintings focusing on the major events of Ramayana created by Pratibha Pandey under the name Ram. At the beginning of the program, the Center Director honored Dr. Savita Aggarwal by presenting her a bunch of flowers. Chief guest Dr. Savita Aggarwal praised the North Central Region Cultural Centre for organizing this painting exhibition and congratulated Pratibha Pandey. In this three-day long exhibition, pictures of various events from the birth of Ram to the coronation have been displayed. In this, apart from Baal Leela, Tadka slaughter, Ahilya salvation, Sita Swayamvar, Ram Vivah, Ram's exodus, Kevat affair, Shabari salvation, Sita abduction, Jatayu slaughter, Lanka Dahan, Ravana slaughter and coronation, worship of Lord Rama by Shiva, ordeal of Mother Sita. Pictures based on the events of Hanuman Leela have been displayed.

Through 40 paintings, the journey of Lord Ram from his birth to his coronation has been depicted well and Ramchirat Manas has been scripted through 36 feet scroll paintings on the theme of Ram, in which the Dashavatar of Vishnu, the creator of the universe, along with Ramalala's presence in Ayodhya are depicted. Kanak Bhawan, Hanumangarhi etc. have been shown. Praising the efforts and hard work of Pratibha Pandey to make the Ram story come true by writing the name of Ram, the center director said that painting is actually a natural expression of the artist's soul which is created with the paintbrush. Takes shape on canvas. On this occasion, a large number of art lovers including officers and employees of the center were present.

IFFCO celebrated b'anniv of Dr. Ambedkar

Prayagraj: The 133rd birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar was celebrated at the community center of IFFCO Ghiyanagar Phulpur. Sanjay Vaish, General Manager (Technical) was the chief guest at the function. He threw light on the life of Baba Saheb and said that Baba Saheb always laid special emphasis on education. All other speakers highlighted Baba Saheb's basic mantra, be educated, organize and struggle and said that apart from education, no money is so useful as Education. Famous poet Makdood Phulpuri recited a poem on Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar and Rinku Bharti sang a song. On the occasion of Bhimrao Ambedkar Jayanti, an essay and painting competition was organized for children on his life, in which children participated with enthusiasm. Apart from this, a friendly volleyball match was held between IFFCO employees and SIS security guards, in which SIS security guards were winner. The program was conducted by Club Secretary D.K.Shukla. The winning children in the essay and painting

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During this, IFFCO Employees Union President Pankaj Pandey & General Secretary Vinay Kumar Yadav, IFFCO Officers Association General Secretary Swayam Prakash, IFFCO SC/ST Welfare Association President Rajbali Ram, General Secretary Harishankar Bharti, A.K. Dwivedi and a large number of people were present.

Necessary to stop the plans of the dictatorial government: Prof. Ali

Pratappur, Prayagraj: Samajwadi Party leader Professor Ali Khan, while addressing the people present at the residence of Mehtab Naqvi at Miyanpur Bazaar in Pratappur which comes under Bhadohi Lok Sabha constituency 78 said that justice to women in the country, justice to farmers, building the future of youth and People to save the Constitution It is very important to stop the dictatorial government's intentions by exercising one's right to vote with awareness. He said that the candidate of the alliance 78 Bhadohi Lok Sabha Laltesh Tripathi is young and has young thinking and the way in which the people of the society should be developed in every field is ingrained in his every thought because his entire family from grandfather to the whole family is engaged in the development of the society. Was dedicated to. In the program Legislative Council member Mansingh Yadav said that the way inflation and corruption are troubling



people at their peak today is a matter of concern. City President Prayagraj Syed Iftekhar Hussain said that surely in the coming time, the government of Delhi will be a people's government and in this government, the entire society will develop. In the coming time the politics of hatred against the country will end and mutual harmony and love will be promoted. High Court advocate Abid Ali Naqvi said that the coming time will be the era of youth and building their future. Former District President of Minority Congress Party Qamar Rizvi said that the minority community of Bhadohi Lok Sabha will be dedicated to Lalitesh Tripathi this time. On this occasion Sandeep Yadav, former block chief election, Akmal Imam District Panchayat member, Uttam Yadav, Mohammad Junaid Guddu, Danish Naqvi, Mohammad Shakeel, Mohammad Sanu etc. were present.

Couples prefer cool e-cards to invite guests to wedding

Prayagraj: Digital wedding invitation or wedding e-cards have become the latest buzz among citizens inviting limited guests in the marriage ceremonies during the ongoing pandemic. Having quirky sketches and fun illustrations, couples are preferring to ditch the traditional (paper) invites and sending digital invites.

Gone are the days when traditional paper invites were sent to guests to attend marriage with full details. With the changing times and the corona pandemic, city residents are preferring digital invitations with the help of illustrators to draw sketches and cool illustrations.

"Earlier, families who solemnized the weddings of their sons and daughters used to have one traditional paper card, mainly for relatives, friends and colleagues. But during second wave of corona pandemic, instead of tradi-

tional wedding cards, these customised digital wedding invites are preferred by everyone. In current scenario, wedding e-cards have become the only medium to invite guests in the city," said Varun Jaiswal, graphic designer and illustrator.

"We are also adding elements like holy symbols or creative illustrations on the e-cards for both families and the couples," he added.

The popularity of digital cards increased during last year and digital cards are now being illustrated on three formats. Majority of digital card seekers want to mention only names of bride and groom along with venue of marriage while some prefer to use the photograph of bride and groom.

Old city resident Pankaj said, "As we have invited limited number of guest for marriage of my brother, I preferred the wedding e-card to invite my few relatives and friends from city and Lucknow."

Youth who arrived from Surat to Varanasi, committed suicide in his cousin's room

He lived and worked in Surat, Gujarat

Varanasi: A 25-year-old youth committed suicide by hanging himself in Kashipuram Colony of Lanka police station area. On receiving information on Monday, the police reached the spot, took possession of the body and sent it for post-mortem. Golu Yadav (25), son of Chhote Yadav, resident of Balua village, Matiyar police station of Chandauli district, came to the rented room of his cousin brother Anoop Yadav in Kashipuram Colony. Anoop works in Zomato. In the morning, Golu committed suicide by hanging himself in Anoop's room. At around 5.30 in the morning, the police received information that a youth had locked the door in Kashipuram Colony and

committed suicide. On information, Inspector in-charge Lanka Shivakant Mishra reached the spot with the force. After interrogation, the police removed the youth's body from the noose and sent it for post-mortem after Panchnama etc. The deceased's cousin brother Anup told that Golu was unmarried and the younger of the two brothers. "He lived and worked in Surat, Gujarat. For the last four days he had arrived in Varanasi and was staying in my room," he added. On getting information about Golu's suicide, the family members also reached the spot. Even the family members could not tell why Golu took the suicidal step. Police has started investigating the matter.

Dr. Shikha Darbari imparted message of eradicating darkness via light of wisdom

Prayagraj: The Department of Sociology of C.M.P. Degree College, under the leadership of Dr. Anant Singh, under the joint aegis of the Department of Sociology and Hare Ram Seva Sansthan, organized a social and cultural program. The event was inaugurated

She encouraged all the children especially women power to improve their lives. Making the program more important, C.M.P. Former Principal of Degree College, Dr. Brijesh Kumar shared important thoughts of his cultural heritage. Dr. K.K. Singh, CISF AIG

ment. Sangh pracharak Rajyavardhan ji Bhaisaheb and Akash ji Bhaisaheb were also present during the program.

At the end of the program a prize distribution ceremony was also organized. Meenakshi and Vivek were declared Miss and Mr

as well as such cultural programs. However, it is very important for the youth to have proper guidance. Today's youth are becoming directionless due to stress, anxiety and excessive pressure, that is why such social and cultural programs are very necessary in today's era. With this unique initiative, we will try to promote social partnership through youth prosperity and support. Dr. Ramchiranjeev Pal, Dr. Manish Singh, Dr. Sapna Maurya and Mr. Alok Singh from Vitthal International Hotel were present during the program. Satyam, Anveksha, Abhilash and Neha played the role of stage management in

the program. Vivek Pandey, Atul Yadav, Nandini, Satyam Mishra, Hrithik Abhishek, Saubhagya, Prachi, Madhu, Aditi, Swati, Shreya, Pawan, Neha Abhilash, Ishant, Shradha, Sakshi, Shruti, Shivangi, Arpita played an important role in making the program successful. Played. To appreciate the hard work of all of them, Dr. Anant Singh on behalf of Hare Ram Seva Sansthan honored everyone by presenting them a special gift.

(Group Headquarters, Prayagraj), enriched the program with his inspirational address, especially conveying the message to the post-graduate students who have a vital role in shaping the future of the nation. The program aims only at There was not only academic awareness, but also provided practical approach for a successful and meaningful life. Director of Vitthal Hotel, Mr. Alok Kumar Singh shared his experiences in hotel manage-

Farewell while Satyam and Anveksha were declared Mr and Miss Freshers. Ritul and Yogesh received the Best Performance Award and Shruti Pandey was honored for her special performance. In the end, the chief organizer of the program, Mr. Anant Singh Zeliang, while addressing everyone present in the hall, said that there are many important aspects for the progress of the youth. Can include education, employment, entrepreneurship, social service,



Baal Bholenath trotting with begging bowl

Prayagraj: Two 'Baal Bholenath' (little Shiva) are not sitting and having their meal on the sandy banks of Sangam to help you achieve Moksha (salvation), instead, the alms that you offer him would help them have funds enough to get their sister married. Commencement of auspicious Shrawan month, for this 4 year old 'child god' Guddu, disguised as Baal Bholenath, is a golden opportunity to collect "sufficient" amount of money from the vast Sangam area and beg money from

If you refuse to give them money, these child gods start throwing tantrums. While one brother will start pulling on your trousers, the other will catch hold of your mobile phone. Somehow, they will manage to get money from you.

pilgrims and visitors. Early in the morning, when toddlers his age wake up to go to their nursery school, Guddu starts dressing up like lord Shiva. His mother, Meena, who hails from Vindhyachal, helps him paint his face blue, puts a wig and decorates it with artificial flowers and fake Rudrakash, before he ties a artificial cloth of imitation deer skin and puts on matching shoes. Once ready, he starts the day with his mother, roaming from one ghat to another begging pilgrims for alms.

"Two years back there was a stone in his kidney and we were forced to spend all that we had saved for his elder sister's weddings on his treatment. Now my daughter is to be married off and all my family has come here to collect money enough to make the marriage possible," says Meena. Guddu is not the only one disguised as a child god begging. Families have come from various villages of the Vindhyachal belt and belong to Dhaat community which lives off alms begging at various religious congregations. The children of the families move from one place to another wherever there is a fair or festival. Decked up in traditional costumes, shining small crowns on the foreheads and playing the role of 'baal-roop' or child incarnations of various Hindu gods and goddesses like Durga, Krishna, Shiva they even perform accordingly. There is a price for everything. You talk to them, pick them up in your lap or even click a picture with them for anything starting from Rs 10 or 20, though they ask for Rs 50 to 100. But the tiny toddlers are always watched closely by their parents who are never far away from them. "Although we have come here for collecting money which would be of help to us, our kids are more precious and we don't let them go far from our sight," said Kanahi.

DEO inaugurated human chain by cutting ribbon, flagged off bike and foot rally

TAKEN OUT TO GIVE MESSAGE OF VOTER AWARENESS

Prayagraj: District Election Officer/District Magistrate Mr. Navneet Singh Chahal, Chief Development Officer Mr. Gaurav Kumar and Additional District Magistrate Administration Smt. With Pooja Mishra on Monday in the Collectorate premises, more than 400 Anganwadi workers, assistants, child development and other departments to make more and more people aware about voting in the Lok Sabha General Elections 2024 in the district on 25th May. He inaugurated the human chain formed by the officers/employees in a queue by cutting the ribbon and himself joined the human chain along with other officers. Thereafter, the District Magistrate flagged off the bike voter awareness rally and the foot voter awareness rally of Anganwadi workers and assistants



taken out from the Collectorate premises to motivate people to exercise their right to vote as much as possible.

The bike rally started from the Collectorate complex via Katra, passing through various places in the city and ended at the Collectorate complex and the voter awareness rally on foot ended at Vikas Bhawan via Manmohan Park, Lakshmi Square. Along with this, voter awareness rangoli was also made in the collectorate premises. On this occasion, Deputy District Election Officer Mrs. Pooja Mishra, Project Director Mr. AK Maurya, District Development Officer Mr. Bholanath Kanojia, District Program Officer Mr. Dinesh Singh, District School Inspector Mr. P.N. Singh, Mr. Prabhakar Tripathi, Mr. B.S. Yadav, Child Development and Nutrition Officers/employees of the department and officials of other related departments were present.

Free sherbet distributed under voter awareness campaign

Prayagraj: Under the voter awareness campaign, free sherbet distribution was organized at Golden Height Apartment (near Mahila Gram Square) from 10 am. On this occa-

tion, social worker Ashok Raja said that voting is a festival of India's democracy, in which everyone should cast their votes. Should be used because voting is still a long time away but we have started a campaign that one thing is being said that people should do their work later, first vote on that day and



vote should be held on that day. This event was organized with this in mind Social worker associates Gan Ashok Raja, Sandeep Soni, Ajay Raghuvanshi, Rajendra Tripathi, Premchand, Rakesh Sharma Sharad Malviya Sponsor Malviya Studio Civil Lines etc. people participated.

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Drama basically art of acting: Dr. Nand Kishore Acharya

Prayagraj: Drama is basically the art of acting, it can be seen as an experience of reality. There is sensory art in every art. There is a deep connection between drama and language. Dr. Nandkishore Acharya said these things in Vimarsh-4, a new initiative, at the North Central North Central Region Cultural Centre. On Monday, Vimarsh-4, a new initiative was organized by North Central Zone Cultural Centre, Prayagraj (Ministry of Culture, Government of India) in the cultural center premises. On this occasion, Shalaka poet, thinker and playwright Dr. Nandkishore Acharya, who received the highest honor in the literary world, was invited. At the inauguration of the program, Center Director Prof. Suresh Sharma honored Dr. Nand Kishore Acharya by presenting him a flower bunch and a memento. As soon as he came on stage, the audience welcomed him with applause.

Bikaner-born Dr. Nand Kishore Acharya has directed twenty-one poetry collections, eight plays and also edited many books including Ahimsa Vishwakosh, Agyeya, Nirmal Verma. Dr. Nandkishore, who has given lectures in countries like England, China, Belgium, Nepal, Indonesia etc., is considered a pioneer in the literary world. He talked about the current conditions of society and literature and presented the poetry collections Kab Tak Chheelta Rahoon, Jal Hai Jhan, Aati Hai Jaisi Mrityu, Shabd Bhoole Hue and Chautha Saptak in detail before the audience. Discussed plays like Dehantar, Shoe, Bapu and Kisi Aur Ka Sapna. Center Director Prof. Expressing his gratitude in his address, Suresh Sharma said that Dr. Acharya's poems not only express the depths of life but also fill the readers with inspiration. He answered the questions asked from the audience with his simple and natural words. During the question-answer and discussion, the audience present discussed many aspects related to literature and drama. At the end of the program, the Center Director expressed gratitude to all the art lovers. On this occasion, a large number of dignitaries including officers and employees of the center were present. The program was conducted by Dr. Amitesh. A large number of audience including officers and employees of the center were present on this occasion.

Photo exhibition prog on voter awareness organized

Prayagraj: Under the voter awareness campaign, a photo exhibition program on voter awareness was organized at the Regional Archives Prayagraj office under the joint aegis of Regional Archives (Culture Department Prayagraj) and Sweep Team Prayagraj. In the photo exhibition, through the pictures on voter awareness released by the Government of India, all the citizens were shown the value of their vote and the slogans related to using their vote properly for building the country and future and must cast their vote were displayed. Went. On this occasion, Sweep City Incharge Prayagraj Mr. Anupam Parihar and the team shared information related to voter awareness and provided necessary sugges-



tions and information to increase voting and through a photo exhibition, meaningful steps were taken to achieve this objective. He administered the Voter's Oath to all the dignitaries present and made them pledge to vote. All the guests were wel-

comed and the program was coordinated by Mr. Rakesh Kumar Verma, Technical Assistant, Regional Archives, Prayagraj. On this occasion, Shri Rabindranath Correspondence Officer, Shri Sheshnath Singh Yamunapar Sweep Incharge, senior poet

Shri Ratnesh Dwivedi, Shri Shyam Bihari Gaur, Dr. Nuzhat Fatima, Sabiha Noori, Shri Harishchandra Dubey, Shri Shailendra Yadav, Shri Vikas Yadav, Shri Roshan Lal, Shri Dignitaries including Shubham Kumar were present.

Northern & Vishnu Bhagwan in final : "Goal" U19 Football Competition

Prayagraj: On the third day of the "Goal" football competition organized under the auspices of Northern Football Academy, today at the football field of Vishnu Bhagwan Public School, Jhalwa, Northern Football Academy and Vishnu Bhagwan School Boys Jhalwa match ended in a goalless draw & reached the finals of the competition.

In the final league match of the competition, Off Side FC defeated Bamrauli North



Campus Boys 4-0. The winning team was leading 2-0 at half-time. For the winning team, Vibhu Walia scored two goals, Ansh and Mayank scored one goal each. Coach Indranil Ghosh gave the Player of the Match award to Vibhu Walia. Vishnu Bhagwan and Northern Football Academy qualified for the finals with a total of five points after winning two of their three matches. The final match will be played on 16th April at 5pm onwards.



B'ANNIV CELEBRATIONS OF MARSHAL OF AIR FORCE ARJAN SINGH, DFC

Prayagraj: To commemorate the 105th birth anniversary of Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh DFC, Headquarters Central Air Command conducted a run of 5 Km on 15 April 2024. The event was flagged off by Air Marshal RGK Kapoor PVSM AVSM VM, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Central Air Command. All Air Warriors including their family members participated in the run

with fervour and enthusiasm. The event was followed by screening of a documentary on the Marshal and felicitation of widows of war veterans and octogenarians at the Command Auditorium. This was witnessed by all personnel which also included students of Air Force School Bamrauli. The celebrations ended with inspiring interaction with the veterans.

Planting a change with pen & paper

PRAYAGRAJ: Even as we try to make peace with the summer of 2020, thanks to coronavirus, we are yet to erase the memories of a dry summer of 2019. While we were focusing on the problem, Shantanu Pratap Singh was creating a solution. In June last year, this Allahabad-based B.Tech student gave birth to The Sagez - eco-friendly seed papers. Singh found that if 10,000 seed papers are sold and 10 per cent of them were planted, it could impact the environment greatly. A students-run brand, their idea was simple. Use the seed paper and send it back to earth by planting it.

After the initial success and feedback, Singh and his team included pens and pencils in their product list. All the merchandise is made of recycled paper. While the pens and pencils have a

seed embedded at the far end, the paper is filled with seeds too and is used to make other stationery goodies. Initially, he used seven varieties of seeds like sunflower and chilli in the paper products. But now he has limited them to basil, wildflower, marigold and mix vegetable. "The seeds to be used depends on parameters like how much pressure they can bear when they are embedded on paper, their shelf life, and how they react in contact with moisture. Based on these, I rounded in on the four variants," explains Singh, 21, the CEO and founder of the firm. The pens and pencils have over 15 seed varieties including carrot, cucumber, chilli, tomato and onion. The germination is 70-80 per cent effective, he says.

The Sagez has also collaborated with companies abroad. "For a

company in Netherlands, we made seed paper ID cards. The seeds work well in all terrains and weather conditions," he shares. With their current manufacturing set-up in Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat, the bootstrapped company plans to have a base in Chennai or Bengaluru once the pandemic exits.

The lockdown has not been easy as their shipping has been impacted, and the team is subjected to the wrath of customers. "Shipping within India will begin soon. We have made our social media presence stronger and started taking pre-orders. We are also selling on Amazon," he says. Singh wants to promote the concept in schools, colleges and corporates. "We are motivating people through Instagram to post pictures of their plants," he says.

Editorial

West UP and caste elections

The whole country keeps an eye on Uttar Pradesh in the elections from Lok Sabha to Assembly, but the eyes of Uttar Pradesh remain on Western Uttar Pradesh. This is because the trend of elections in this belt of Uttar Pradesh is almost the same as that of the entire Uttar Pradesh. The spectacle of election riots in western Uttar Pradesh, famous as the green belt and sugar belt, is such that every leader is busy wooing the voters of this area. The people of this belt have not been able to rise above casteism and religion and vote till date. This time also it seems that people are not ready to rise above religion and vote. If we put it in, many Lok Sabha seats here seem to be entangled in the caste equation. In order to attract voters on the basis of caste, most of the parties have fielded people from the same caste at some places. Due to this, there are chances of a tough contest this time among almost all the major parties. Ground experts and local people of the politics of Western Uttar Pradesh say that from the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha elections to the 2017 and 2022 Assembly elections, BJP has won most of the seats in Western Uttar Pradesh. However, in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the SP-BSP alliance had won important seats like Bijnor, Nagina and Saharanpur. This time there is no alliance between these two and Jayant has made an alliance. But despite this, opposition parties are seen giving competition on many seats won by BJP last time, especially on the Lok Sabha seats of Muzaffarnagar, Bijnor and Meerut, there can be a tough contest between BJP, BSP and SP-Congress alliance. Actually, in the last elections BJP has won the elections by playing the Hindu card, but this time the SP-Congress alliance and BSP are also playing the Hindu card. Even the magic of construction of Ram temple does not seem to do much magic for BJP, but it seems that the card of casteism will work well. But the problem of BJP is that in front of many of the candidates fielded by it, SP and at some places BSP have also fielded candidates of the same caste as the BJP. On the other hand, Muslim voters are completely silent right now, and they are waiting for the voting date. Some political experts say that if Hindu voters get divided and Muslims go with SP or BSP, then it will be difficult for BJP to even save the seats it won last time, leave alone winning all the 80 seats in Uttar Pradesh. However, BJP has some big faces in its party to cater to all the castes except Muslims, on the basis of which it is thinking of winning. If we talk about castes in Western Uttar Pradesh, many Dalit castes including Jat, Muslim, Brahmin, Thakur, Prajapati and many backward castes reside here. BJP again has hopes from the Jat community. However, the antipathy towards the BJP has increased due to the violation of promises made to the Jats and the attempt to crush the voice of the farmers instead of accepting their demands. But to further reduce this resentment, BJP has made use of Jat leaders in Uttar Pradesh and Modi government and now it has made use of RLD of Western Uttar Pradesh as well. However, if we talk about Muzaffarnagar Lok Sabha seat, then BSP, trying to balance the Dalit and Prajapati vote bank, has fielded Dara Singh Prajapati from its side, which will help the BJP's Prajapati caste core. There is a possibility of a breach in the vote bank. There are a large number of Prajapati voters in this seat and a lot of Dalits too. SP has gone a step ahead of BSP and increased BJP's problems by fielding Harendra Malik against BJP's Jat leader and two-time MP and Union Minister Sanjeev Baliyan. If 20 percent Jat voters vote for SP i.e. Harendra Malik and some backward people as well as Yadavs and Muslims vote for SP, then it will be difficult for BJP to win. Similarly, on behalf of the RLD-BJP alliance, RLD has fielded Jat leader Dr. Rajkumar Sangwan for the Baghpat Lok Sabha seat.

Congress manifesto or election manifesto

Issuing a manifesto before the public before the elections has become like the birthright of the political parties in India, whether they adhere to it or not after coming to power, it is their choice. The reason for this is that neither the people who win the elections and send them to the government, neither pressurize these parties to fulfill their promises nor ask questions. Nor is the Election Commission able to muster the courage to ask the elected government why it does not fulfill the promises made by it to the people? It is said that now the leaders of these parties have started calling their announcements as guarantees in their election speeches, but the public still does not ask what happened to their previous guarantees? Recently, on April 5, Congress also released its manifesto, about which a lot of discussion is taking place from political circles to the public. On one hand, BJP leaders i.e. the ruling party allege that Congress had not done anything earlier, so why is it now misleading the public by making false promises. From Prime Minister Narendra Modi to all his big leaders and ministers, they are busy cornering Congress and apart from calling this manifesto of Congress a way to deceive the public, they



are also calling Congress as one that hurts the faith of Hindus. Although the election manifesto of any party is bound to lure the public into populist promises, now it is being seen that some parties not only have to make exaggerated promises in their manifestos, but also have to work hard to fulfill them. I am also forced to do so. Actually, it is expert in making election promises and fulfilling them but when the Aam Aadmi Party came into political existence, it fulfilled many promises and also sought votes from the public in the name of work. The Aam Aadmi Party government also distributed free raadi in such a way that other parties are also forced to not only make promises of distributing free raadi to the public, but also have to distribute free raadi to some extent. However, providing facilities to the public cannot be called freebies,

because that budget is for the benefit of the public, if any of the governments does not commit scams and provides facilities to the public with that money, then it would not be appropriate to call it freebies. Because no one in the country gets as much freebies as the politicians, not even a single bureaucrat. But during the campaign for the last Lok Sabha elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself had called the free facilities provided to the public as 'free rabri', but in his two terms of last 10 years, he has made dozens of promises not only to lick the free rabri, but have also made claims of giving free rewardis. Like giving 5 kg ration every month to 80 crore people, giving Kisan Samman Nidhi amount of Rs 500 per month to farmers, giving gas cylinders under Ujjwala scheme etc. However, like the previous

elections, the Congress Party has also released its manifesto for this time's Lok Sabha elections, which it has named as Haraya Nyaya Patra. On this day in 1868, the British and Indian Army defeated Tewodros II's army in Ethiopia. But there is a lot of discussion about this manifesto. Some political experts say that if Congress had done such things during its tenure as it has promised in the manifesto, then the public would have believed in it and people would definitely have believed that Congress is true to its promises. But earlier he did not work as much at the grassroots level as was expected from him and now he has to make election promises to return to power. At the same time, some political experts say that BJP has started considering it as its birthright on everything, hence it is not able to digest the promises made by Congress to the public in its 'Poshan Patra'.

It is obvious that the party wants to stop the leaders of the other party from even campaigning. How will he like the manifesto of another party made keeping in mind the public interest? Actually, Congress has named its manifesto as Nyay Patra. In this manifesto, the Congress Party has promised the public to give 5 justices and 25 guarantees if the government is formed. Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, former President Sonia Gandhi and leader Rahul Gandhi issued a manifesto at the Congress headquarters and organized public meetings in Jampur and Hyderabad the very next day. Gave. While releasing this manifesto, Manifesto Committee Chairman P Chidambaram had explained in detail what promises have been made by the Congress. He said that after coming to power, Congress will immediately restore the status of full state to Jammu and Kashmir. The First Schedule of the Constitution will be amended to include the tribal areas of Ladakh. Engagement with Pakistan fundamentally depends on its willingness and ability to end cross-border terrorism. Congress will scrap the Agneepath scheme and implement common recruitment procedures followed by the Army, Navy and Air Force. Also guaranteeing economic and social security to the soldiers. The Chinese intrusion in Lakh and Galyan Shahap in 2020 dealt the biggest blow to Indian national security in decades. On June 19, 2020, PM Narendra Modi gave a clean chit to China, due to which our negotiating position became quite weak. areas occupied by china

Arab ministers visiting Abu Dhabi temple should inspire Indian Muslims to fight conservatism

Arab ministers and Sheikhs visiting the newly-inaugurated BAPS Hindu temple in UAE during the holy month of Ramadan is a significant moment of religious harmony and cultural exchange. Their ending their fast at the temple, after the Omniyat Ramadan Cultural Evening, is a perfect example of how we can coexist with mutual respect. What catches my attention, as an advocate of secularism, is that, unlike some Muslim-majority nations, the UAE is able to respect Hinduism while upholding Islamic principles. This gives us hope, particularly in the context of India's Hindu-Muslim relationship. India, with its substantial Muslim population, can take inspiration. However, critics argue that the UAE's efforts to bring inter-

faith harmony and religious reforms are solely driven by financial motivations. But in Abu Dhabi, where 96 percent of the country's oil reserves are located, such initiatives go beyond economic interests. Abu Dhabi's commitment toward fostering religious acceptance and cultural inclusivity, as showcased by the BAPS Hindu temple event, seems like a genuine desire to promote harmony among different communities. Additionally, it offers an important lesson to Indian Muslims. The centuries-old traditions of interfaith harmony in India, for example, Holi celebrations at dargahs, have often faced criticism from conservative elements within the Muslim community. Taking inspiration from

nations such as the UAE, Indian Muslims can reinforce their position against traditionalist and conservative viewpoints. Embracing a narrative of coexistence not only empowers moderate Muslims but also challenges the rhetoric of Right-wing elements in both communities who propagate the notion of irreconcilable differences. The Hindu Right's notion that Muslims are incapable of respecting other religions gets challenged by the example set in Abu Dhabi, where Arab Muslims participated in the vegetarian iftar organised at the temple. Similarly, the assertion made by Muslim Right-wing individuals that their religion prohibits them from engaging with non-Muslims and respecting their faith is also debunked.

The demands, compiled by the United RWAs Joint Action (Urja) — an umbrella body of 2,500 RWAs — and released. A broader focus on sustainable growth, stronger laws against air pollution, the transparent use of public funds, increased public participation and a more proactive feedback process — these are among a raft of 24 demands that a conglomerate of Delhi's resident welfare associations (RWAs) have placed before political parties in the run-up to the general elections, to ensure a "breathable, liveable" Capital. The demands, compiled by the United RWAs Joint Action (Urja) — an umbrella body of 2,500 RWAs — and released on Monday were an open call for political parties to work towards improving the lives of Delhi's 20 million residents. The 24-point "citizens' manifesto" consists of four broad themes — nine "finance-linked obligations", seven "fundamental commitments", five "leadership commitments" and three "citizens' participation demands". The manifesto talks about radical changes in the city's governance structures and issue-specific authorities to fix accountability. The demands include the public release of annual reports, addressing drainage and sewage issues, bringing all RWAs under registration of a new act and establishing a robust public consultation mechanism at the ward level. The Urja

came up with the demands after consulting with several residents, environmentalists, urban planning experts, water and transport advisors. It also demands that Delhi be given "complete Union territory status", stripping the city of its statehood and introducing a mayor-in-council. "Protest by various groups in states against the central government shall be allowed in the respective state capitals only and a decentralised location be declared to hold such protest," the document added. Urja president Atul Goyal said, "The national capital is one of the most polluted cities in the country. We have outlined our 24 demands in sectors such as transport, forest, waste management with a goal towards a better liveable condition for all the citizens. Because Delhi has a multiplicity of agencies with a year-long blame game over several issues, we seek clearly outlined accountability." He added that Delhi's growth will be meaningless without community participation and that the charter lays out a separate category of demands to formalise citizens' involvement in the process. The Urja manifesto focuses on citizen empowerment and accountability, clean environment, easy commute for all modes of transport, adequate resource management, effective emission control mechanisms, improved policing and planned development to

meet various needs of Delhi's citizens. The fundamental commitment section speaks about developing local area plans tailored to the needs of each assembly ward to overcome state-level planning failures. "Implementing common duct policy, creating 'pedestrian and walkway authority', 'drainage and sewerage authority' and 'drinking water authority', 'wetland and water bodies authority' and 'public transport review authority' for better integration and management of resources have been included," it added. Under the finance-linked obligations, the RWA collective has demanded that adequate finances are ensured to support budgetary requirements for city development with each department to match the obligatory duties and to generate adequate tools. "We often see that policies and promises are made, but that the financial outline for their implementation is missing. Our financial obligations focus on meeting this gap," Goyal added. The residents have demanded an annual monitoring of each department under Urban Local Bodies to track progress towards goals and publicly declare the achieved status "Annual reports shall be published and be available in public domain without any interference of authorities or elected government," it added.

India must account for human costs of energy transition, prioritise social justice

At COP26, India set the ambitious goal of achieving net zero by 2070. This will require large investments in infrastructure and renewable energy. Decarbonisation is touted as a panacea that can benefit society in numerous ways beyond its primary goal of climate mitigation. This is because of the prioritisation of positive economic outcomes associated with decarbonisation: investments in new technologies, cheaper energy, maintenance and transport, and net increases in demand induced by consumption and employment.

However, such complex economy-wide shifts and societal changes inevitably create "winners" and "losers", amplifying pre-existing inequalities. A growing body of literature on energy justice states that it's the already marginalised who pay the steepest price in low-carbon transitions. Researchers must therefore take stock not only of the co-benefits but also the dis-benefits of such transitions. India needs to account for the human costs of decarbonisation policies through comprehensive research prioritising social justice in its net-zero transition.

Solar photovoltaics (PV) are an illuminating case study of the socioeconomic complexities around net-zero planning. PV is a frontrunner in India's low-carbon planning. India has increased its solar capacity from less than 10 MW in 2010 to 70.10 GW in 2023. We can expect this trend to continue, given the Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana scheme to install rooftop solar for one crore households. There is massive potential for solar energy given that India's land area receives approximately 5,000 trillion kWh/year of solar radi-

ation and that solar is one of the cheapest forms of energy. Capitalising on this potential, the Indian government has sanctioned 50 solar parks in 12 states since 2014. As India grows its solar energy capabilities, it is crucial to understand and address the associated challenges. The government's Development of Solar Parks and Ultra Mega Solar Power Projects scheme states, "a solar park is a large chunk of land developed with common infrastructure facilities like transmission infrastructure, road, water, drainage.

Indian CEO salaries are on 40% more than they were prior to COVID-19

Delhi:

According to a Deloitte report, the average CEO salary in India was Rs 13.8 crore, up 40% from pre-COVID-19 levels. Short- and long-term incentives account for more than half of the total compensation. The average CEO remuneration, according to the Deloitte India Executive Performance and Rewards Survey 2024, is Rs 13.8 crore, while the average compensation for CEOs who were also promoters or members of the promoter family is Rs 16.7 crore.

There are two main reasons why promoter CEO salary exceeds that of professional CEO compensation. Because promoter CEOs tend to have longer tenures overall, professional CEOs undergo changes in office more frequently than promoter CEOs. "However, it's also critical to recognize that promoter CEO compensation varies great-



ly, which has an impact on the higher averages," stated Anandrup Ghose, Partner and CHRO Program Leader at Deloitte India. Despite an increase in CEO salary, Deloitte reports that over 50% of target compensation is "pay-at-risk." Pay-at-risk for professional CEOs is 57%, a significantly greater percentage than for promoter CEOs (47%).

Twenty-five percent of the target remuneration for professional CEOs comes from long-term incentives, most of which are provided in the form of share-linked incentives. "The wide gap between median and average CEO com-

penetration (Rs 9.3 crore versus Rs 13.8 crore) indicates the wide range of compensation numbers and some outliers on the higher end," it stated. Most businesses utilize a comprehensive scorecard that combines financial and non-financial measures and targets to evaluate the performance of their CEOs and CXOs. CEO and CXO incentives, however, are still skewed toward financial company-level objectives in those scorecards. Boardroom discussions have also moved from discussing the necessity of share-based compensation to discussing how these incentive schemes benefit stakeholders."

India is currently the fourth-largest exporter of services offered online

Delhi:

With almost a fifth of global trade in services, India is now the world's fourth-largest exporter of digitally provided services. The World Trade Organization (WTO) recently released its Global Trade Outlook and Statistics report, which states that India's exports of digitally delivered services reached \$257 billion in 2023—a 17 percent rise from the year before. Compared to China and Germany, which both had growth of 4%, the nation's performance was far better. The World Trade Organization (WTO) projects that in 2023, global exports of digitally deliv-



ered services reached \$4.25 trillion, rising 9% YoY and making up 13.8 percent of global exports of goods and services. In contrast to the decline in global and regional commerce in products in 2023, exports of digitally provided services remained strong. The research also stated that exports increased by 11% and 9% in Europe and Asia, which account for 52.4 percent and 23.8

percent of world exports, respectively. 41.2 percent of global exports of digitally delivered services in 2023 were made up of business, professional, and technical services. These were followed by computer services (20.5%), financial services (16%), services related to intellectual property (10.9%), insurance and pension services (5.2%), telecommunications services (2.6%).

Irdai cuts pre-existing disease waiting time from 4 to 3 years

Delhi: After the three-year waiting period, health insurers cannot deny pre-existing condition coverage. Starting April 1, 2024, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI) has changed health insurance policy pre-existing conditions and moratorium period

(MP) criteria. PED coverage waiting periods have been decreased from four years to three years, while moratorium periods have been shortened from 96 to 60 months in health insurance policies. Insurance companies demand "no look back" during this time. "The previous definition used

the term "look back," which was ambiguous," stated Policy Ensure CEO and Co-founder Rahul M Mishra.

The amended policy specifies that policies can't be appealed for non-disclosure or misrepresentation after the MP unless fraud is demonstrated."

DGCA requests that airlines determine when to introduce new crew policies

Delhi: The action was taken after the Delhi High Court requested that, at its upcoming hearing, the DGCA provide a provisional date for the updated standards to go into effect. "You may kindly indicate the timeline required to prepare a roadmap for implementation of the revised FDTL (Flight Duty Time Limitation) norms and the timeline for subsequent implementation of the same, in light of the observations made by the Hon'ble Court during the aforementioned hearing." Crew members and industry experts were angry when the regulator, which



had said on January 8 that the updated FDTL rules would go into effect on June 1, decided to postpone them until March 26. At the time, officials with knowledge of the situation

stated that the move was made in response to criticism from The DGCA, which had earlier claimed that the updated regulations met international safety

requirements. The new regulations stipulated that pilots must now take a 48-hour vacation at the end of each week instead of the previous 36 hours, and that pilots doing night operations could only stay on the air for a maximum of 10 hours, as opposed to the previous 13 hours. Additionally, the definition of night duty was extended by one hour, to 6 am from midnight.

Airlines had worries, saying they would need 20% more pilots to implement the stricter guidelines, while pilots applauded the higher standards.

Lakshadweep's first private bank to open a branch is HDFC

Delhi: The sole private sector bank with a branch in the Union Territory is HDFC Bank, a private lender that recently established a branch at Kavaratti Island in Lakshadweep. By providing a broad variety of services with an emphasis on personal banking and digital banking — which includes customized digital solutions like QR-based transactions for retailers—this branch seeks to improve the banking infrastructure in the Union Territory. HDFC Bank maintains branch-



es in the chilly regions of Kashmir, the southernmost point of Kanyakumari, and, as of late, the popular tourist destination of island. "This demonstrates our dedication to providing our clients with exceptionally convenient service no matter where they are," stated S. Sampathkumar, Group Head of Retail

Branch Banking at HDFC Bank. "We look forward to serving the financial needs of individuals, businesses in Lakshadweep and becoming a trusted partner in their financial journey and contributing to the overall development of the island," stated S. Sampathkumar.

Former SpiceJet COO Kashyap starts a company for aircraft chartering

Delhi: Arun Kashyap founded Sirius India Airlines, an aircraft charter business, a few days after leaving his position as COO at SpiceJet. The company and the Dubai-based Transworld Group have partnered to introduce Airavat Aviation, the latter's upscale private aviation brand, to the Indian market. Asia, Europe, Africa, and the Middle East are already home to Airavat Aviation. The JV intends to offer fractional ownership and charters in India and beyond, according to Sirius India Airlines. Arun Kashyap departed SpiceJet to form Sirius India Airlines in partnership with Transworld Group, introducing the premium Airavat Aviation brand to the Indian market. Plans are for operating a Hawker 4000, expanding to three planes, and



"They also recommend trash management plans, decentralization of protest sites, leadership commitment, budgetary obligations, and mayor in council"

offering charter and fractional ownership options. Parties are required by Urja's Citizens Charter to take action regarding trash management, traffic, pollution, safety, green cover, and digitization.

They also recommend trash management plans, decentralization of protest sites, leadership commit-

ment, budgetary obligations, and mayor in council. Air India, SpiceJet, Akasa Air, and Indigo flight cancellation fees are compared, with a focus on the significance of refund procedures, time-dependent fees, and variances based on price classes and booking dates.

Hindujas will purchase a 60% share in Invesco's India mutual fund division

Delhi: The Hinduja Group is entering the mutual fund business in India by purchasing a 60% share in the American asset manager Invesco, just as the Jio Financial Services-BlackRock joint venture is preparing to upend the market. The acquisition of Reliance Capital and its subsidiaries—which include businesses engaged in asset reconstruction, research and securities broking, life, health, and general insurance—and its court clearance mark the next step for the bank-to-automobile behemoth. Having bought a stake in Reliance Asset Management in 2012, Invesco became the sixth largest foreign operator in the nation's mutual fund market. It oversees property valued at Rs



85,393 crore. For roughly Rs 460 crore, it had acquired 49% of Religare, and four years later, it had acquired the remaining 51%. Via its subsidiary IndusInd International Holdings (IIHL), domiciled in Mauritius, the Hinduja Group has dominated the transaction. Owing IndusInd Bank and Reliance Capital in India, Sterling Bank & Trust in the Bahamas, Afrinex Exchange in Mauritius, and Beryllus Capital in the UK, Switzerland, and Singapore, IIHL is a company with around 600 stockholders. At that time, Hinduja had

stated that a plan to conduct IIHL's initial public offering in a foreign jurisdiction was being considered by numerous stockholders who wished to quit the company. Hinduja stated: "This is another step in our journey of value creation for our shareholders" after signing the agreement with Invesco. Our goal was to make IIHL a dominant force in BFSI. Because it desired a domestic partner with a robust distribution network, Invesco is giving up most of its control over the mutual fund business in India.

Go First Has An Additional 60 Days To Finish The Insolvency Procedure



Delhi: The deadline for finishing the Go First airline's grounded resolution procedure has been extended by the NCLT insolvency tribunal by an additional sixty days. The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has granted Go First three extensions, this time from April 4 to June 3. The resolution professional (RP) of Go First requested an extension of the timeframe to finish the corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP), and the Delhi-based NCLT granted the plea with a two-member bench. The deadline for finishing CIRP was extended by the NCLT from February 13 to April 4. This came about following the tribunal's November 23rd, 2018, 90-day extension that expired on February 4th. The Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code (IBC) stipulates that CIRP must be completed in 330 days, including the period required for legal proceedings. In accordance with the Code's Section 12(1), CIRP must be finished in 180 days. However, a corporate debtor is sent for liquidation if CIRP is not completed within the maximum time of 330 days, including any extensions or litigation periods.

IPL 2024 breaks viewership records



Delhi: Disney Star's live broadcast of the first 18 IPL 2024 matches attracted over 40 crore views, a record. The broadcaster has 12,380 crore minutes of watch time, up 15% from 2023. Television Viewership Rating rose 17% year-over-year. This increase in viewership showed fans' unwavering support for IPL on TV. Star Sports will celebrate supporters with a special week starting April 15 to acknowledge their enthusiasm. Emphasizing the 'Ajab fandom of IPL,' this project highlights fans' unique ways of engaging with their favorite sports and teams. Indian Sign Language Feed and AI technology in TATA IPL 2024 broadcasts have also been well appreciated, attracting a wider audience and making the viewing experience more accessible. IPL coverage has been enhanced by shows like "Cheeky Singles," starring Carry Minati, which offer new viewpoints and diverse

"The 17th edition of the tournament's marketing campaign, "AJAB IPL KE GAJAB RANG," emphasizes that a fan's true colors are exposed via their team's journey in the competition"

information. Disney Star airs TATA IPL 2024 on 14 channels in 10 languages, including an Indian Sign Language feed for Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing, and Visually Impaired fans. The 17th edition of the tournament's marketing campaign, "AJAB IPL KE GAJAB RANG," emphasizes that a fan's true colors are exposed via their team's journey in the

competition, with each spectator experiencing each IPL moment differently.

PhD admissions will be based on NET results

Delhi: The National Eligibility Test (NET) results will be accepted for PhD admission starting in 2024-2025, according to a University Grants Commission announcement, doing away with the necessity for separate entrance tests. The expert committee's suggestions served as the basis for the decision. The NET scores of candidates

DU instructors want NBT to reopen the bookstore at the metro station next to IU

Delhi: The National Book Trust (NBT) bookstore at the Vishwavidyalaya metro station, which has long been a favorite among DU academics, researchers, and instructors, has been closed for the last two to three months. In an effort to reopen the bookstore renowned for its extensive collection of high-quality books across disciplines, lecturers at Delhi University have now written to NBT. The academic community and other metro passengers would be saddened by this, as NBT has been a significant national publishing house. To better



serve readers and the Delhi University community, we, the university community, kindly ask that you reopen this bookstore." "It will be very regrettable to lose another bookstore, especially one that is so handy for commuters, teachers, and students." "It is indeed ironic that at a time when govt has constantly trumpeted

its commitment towards the Indian languages and native literature in higher education through New Education Policy, The shop opened on August 19, 2015, and stocks books published by the Akademi in English and several Indian languages, including Manipuri, Sindhi, Bodo, Dogri, Santhali, and even Sanskrit.

This year, CBSE will pilot NCrF in classes 6, 9, and 11

Delhi: The CBSE will trial the National Credit Framework (NCrF) for classes 6, 9, and 11 in 2024-25. The NCrF will allow students to earn credits through classroom instruction, laboratory work, projects, sports, performing arts, NCC, social work, voca-

tional education, experiential learning, and relevant professional experience. Students' Academic Bank of Credit (ABC) will be linked to their APAAR ID and DigiLocker in the future. To implement the framework, the board drafted guide-

lines. The CBSE has invited all affiliated schools to discuss the proposed rules. The board wrote, "The CBSE drafted NCrF implementation guidelines, debated them in workshops, and gained Union Ministry of Education approval.

IP initiates the foreign student admissions procedure

Delhi: The international student admissions procedure for 2024-25 at Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University has begun. Vice-chancellor Mahesh Verma declared, "The university is also planning to allot a separate hostel for the international students on its East campus from the academic year 2024-2025," during a gathering held on the Dwarka campus to release the admission brochure for international students. Mustapha Jawara, the



Republic of Gambia's high commissioner, was also present at the function.

The Dwarka campus now has over 150 international students from 26 different nations. The majority

of them come from the Gulf, Africa, and Nepal/Bhutan. The university website offers a download for the application form. Similar to last year, this year top 25% of the seats in various programs may be

filled on a supernumerary basis. Candidates applying through the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) scholarship will be given priority.

Other overseas candidates will be considered for the remaining seats based on their merit and performance on the qualifying exams. The Swami A t m a n a n d Government Excellent Schools in Chhattisgarh are getting ready to admit students for the 2024-25 school year.

For 12 disciplines with over 100k registrations, offline CUET-UG is likely

Delhi: A top official said the Common University Entrance Test for Undergraduate Admissions (CUET-UG) may be performed offline in at least 12 subjects with over 100,000 registrations. English, physics, chemistry, and general examinations may alter depending on applicant numbers. National Testing Agency exams will be offered in hybrid mode for the first time between May 15 and 31. Computers will be used for other disciplines. Official



data revealed around 1.35 million CUET-UG applicants this year. They include 717,000 men, 630,000 women, and seven who identify as third gender. Candidates can take six topics.

English has the most candidates with over a

million, followed by general test (830,000), chemistry (700,000), physics (680,000), mathematics (490,000), biology (390,000), economics (214,000), Hindi (200,000), business studies (190,000), accountancy (180,000),

political science (161,000), and history (137,000). Data is being analyzed, according to UGC exam chair M Jagadesh Kumar. "But generally, papers with large registrations such as general test, English, Hindi, physics, chemistry, maths, biology, economics and such similar papers are expected to be in OMR mode," he said. "But the final list of papers, which will be conducted in OMR mode, will be announced by NTA at an appropriate time."

India Women Return to Red-Ball Cricket After Six Years



Delhi: India's women cricketers returned to red-ball cricket after six years to play a multi-day competition to improve their abilities and prepare for domestic cricket. Reintroducing red-ball cricket is part of BCCI's ambition to expand the women's international calendar, allowing more four-day matches. The event saw Deepti Sharma, Minnu Mani, and Radha Yadav bowl long spells and face hundreds of balls, which was encouraging. Younger players faced

a baptism of fire, while seasoned professionals like Smriti Mandhana changed her batting position to help others adjust. Players said the switch to red-ball cricket was unique, stressing the need for patience and shot selection. New players learned how to handle the swinging red ball from experienced players. Young cricketers learned about leads and draws at the tournament. Given India's decade-long absence from Test cricket, the return to red-ball cricket is noteworthy. T20

cricket and white-ball formats have changed red-ball cricket, but the competition stressed the value of bowling variations and long innings. The event stressed the importance of fitness and endurance for players. While central contracts and competitions like the Women's Premier League have changed women's cricket, red-ball cricket's rebirth marks a new era. Women's cricket is improving as players learn power-hitting and game strategy.

EWS pupils, disadvantaged groups wait longer for school due to the admission process



Delhi: With new school bags and uniforms, hundreds of youngsters in the capital began school in private and government institutions in the first week of April. However, many more are still waiting for the much-delayed EWS and DG admittance process. The delay is far beyond prior years; most city schools started the new academic year on April 1. Private schools reserve 22% of entry-level places for EWS and DG students and 3% for differently abled students. 2,001 recognized private schools offered 35,000

spaces last year. Nearly 6,000 remained unoccupied despite several lot draws. The High Court's March judgment to raise the EWS household income threshold from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 2.5 lakh delayed the procedure, sources said. The Delhi government did not reply. An interim ruling from the High Court in December fixed the maximum at Rs 5 lakh per year. Government appealed for a decrease, which was granted. A department is working to start the procedure soon. An official stated the process must start with

the income cap hike and admission schedule announcement. The Directorate of Education issues a circular with admission guidelines and a schedule for Nursery, Kindergarten, and Class I. Over a decade ago, parents complained that they were turned away from school without application paperwork, so the procedure was centralized. Seats are assigned by computer lottery. The admission calendar is normally announced in February, and the initial intake is finished by March.

Ex-chief of a wrestling group receives an EC notice for a tour event

Delhi: Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, the former president of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) and BJP MP from Kaiserganj, has received a warning from the Election Commission for violating the model code of conduct by planning a large-scale road show in Gonda, Uttar Pradesh. Singh, a six-time MP, has also been the target of formal complaints because he organized the road show without official administration approval. The road show included a fleet of 25-30 SUVs and four-wheelers and went through the Gonda districts of Karnailganj, Khargupur, and Parasrampur, which are part of the Kaiserganj constituency.

DoE instructs NE district schools to resolve desk issues by next week

Delhi: In response to the Delhi High Court's criticism of the government schools in Northeast district, the Directorate of Education (DoE) has sent out a circular instructing all institute heads to make sure that there is a sufficient supply of desks for students. The April 12 circular addressed the issue of some schools still lacking multiple desks in spite of prior attempts. It has requested that, by April 20, school leaders identify desks that may be repaired and get them fixed. The education zonal deputy directors (DDEs) have been directed to locate extra, functional desks in schools and make arrangements for their transfer to the schools that are experiencing a scarcity. By April 17, the relevant head will send a demand request with the necessary explanation to the DDE in question if the schools still need more desks.

MVA secures Maharashtra Lok Sabha seats with 21-17-10 formula



Delhi: For weeks, Sangli, Mumbai South Central, and Bhiwandi seat talks stalled. A key deal in Maharashtra's electorally critical Lok Sabha elections was declared by the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) with the Shiv Sena (UBT) contesting 21 seats, the Congress 17 and the Sharad Pawar faction of the Nationalist Congress Party 10.

At Shivalaya, Sena's south Mumbai office, former chief ministers Sharad Pawar and Uddhav Thackeray and state Congress chief Nana Patole announced the seat-sharing arrangement. The Congress claimed

all three Sangli, Mumbai South Central, and Bhiwandi seats, while the Sena (UBT) declared its candidates for the first two and the Pawar faction for the third, stalling seat talks for weeks. Congress eventually gave up the seats. "We took a step back, we did not surrender," Patole told reporters. For the National Democratic Alliance, which hopes to win 400 Lok Sabha seats, and INDIA, which hopes to perform well in one province with strong regional leaders, Maharashtra is crucial. The unified Shiv Sena contested 23 Lok

Sabha seats alongside the BJP, which contested 25. The Congress contested 26 seats and the NCP 22. Sena-BJP won 41 of 48 seats, a landslide victory. The NCP won four, Congress one. Seven NCP-SP and 13 Congress candidates have been announced. The MVA will declare candidates for 13 seats—Madha, Satara, Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg, Raver, Jalna, Dhule, Nashik, Palghar, Thane, Mumbai North, North West, North Central, and South—over the next two days and present a manifesto focused on Maharashtra issues.

Netas feel superior after this class 5 passout

Delhi: Giridhari Barik (69), who has made bespoke garments for Odisha politicians for 40 years, said Biju Babu was a sharp dresser. CMs like Biju Patnaik of Janata Dal or JB Patnaik of Congress, Giridhar Gamang, Hemananda Biswal, Communist party veterans Lokanath Choudhary and Sivaji Patnaik, and today's young Turks trust Barik with their measurements. Before the 2024 LS polls, Barik, the 'Master', is inundated with requests to stitch kurta-pyjamas for lawmakers from all parties. "You may think that I am bragging but my first client was none



other than Biju Patnaik," he remarked. "On October 2, 1983, Biju Babu inaugurated Khadi Niketan in Ashok Nagar, Bhubaneswar, where I had a tailoring shop. Kailash Sahu, the store owner, suggested I sew Biju Babu a kurta.

Biju Babu grudgingly said all his kurtas are made in Delhi, but if he

loved the fit, he would let me stitch them forever. His great height, long hands, and broad shoulders made it difficult. Barik stated I have stitched all his kurtas since then. Barik measured over 150 Odisha leaders, including CM Naveen Patnaik, for whom he stitched kurta-pyjama.

The manifesto of the SP also proposes a Caste Census

Delhi: A caste census by 2025, the abolition of the Center's Agniveer policy for Army recruiting, and an NREGA-inspired urban employment creation program. These are a few of the main pledges made by the Samajwadi Party (SP) in its manifesto, which was made public

on Wednesday, for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. A resolution titled "People's Movement for the Rights of the Communities Under the 'PDA' — Pichde (Backward), Dalit (Minorities), and Aadhi Aabadi (women) — opens the 20-page manifesto.

This election season, the group has been a major component of the SP's platform. According to the manifesto, the resolution would give these populations equal chances and prioritize "inclusive development for the weak and poor in society."

CAPSULES

1 in 4 Congress, 1 in 5 BJP from political families

Delhi: Given the political churn, not all political family candidates are running for the same party as their elders. Multigenerational politics is seen in the fact that one in four Congress candidates in the Lok Sabha elections are from political families, compared to one in five (of the 424 announced) Bharatiya Janata Party candidates. Thus far, 87 of the 424 BJP candidates are from political families, compared to 65 of 250 Congress candidates. For this analysis, a political family has a grandparent, parent, or elder sibling who is an elected or nominated member of Parliament or a state assembly or a key political party position. Analysts expect the BJP's list to include many political families for two reasons. First, the party has always prioritized winnability. Two, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated in Parliament that candidates who follow their elders are fine. The BJP's Andhra Pradesh candidate is D Purandeshwari, daughter of Telugu Desam Party founder NT Rama Rao. She and BJP candidate Kiran Kumar Reddy (former CM) were Congress members. His Congressman father was connected to Indira Gandhi and PV Narasimha Rao. BJP candidates come from anti-Congress political families. Its Bihar candidate is the son of former Bettiah MP Madan Kumar Jaiswal. Newada candidate Vivek Thakur is the son of former Union minister CP Thakur. In Gujarat, the BJP nominated Poonamben Madam, daughter of six-term MLA and former mayor Hemantibhai Madam. Bharatsinh Dabhi, son of two-term MLA Shankarji Okhaji Thakor, is another seasoned state candidate. BJP candidates from political families include Bansuri Swaraj, daughter of late Sushma Swaraj in New Delhi, BY Raghavendra, son of BS Yedyurappa (the sitting MP from Shimoga who was re-elected), and former chief minister Basavaraj Bommai, son of SR Bommai.

Raj Cong treasurer joins BJP

Delhi: Sitaram Agarwal, Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee treasurer, joined the BJP after losing the 2023 State Assembly election to Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari. Over 300 people from all backgrounds joined the BJP at its State headquarters alongside Mr. Agarwal. Congress candidate Mr. Agarwal lost against BJP's Ms. Kumari in Vidyadhar Nagar, Jaipur. Former Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot knew him. His BJP membership was witnessed by Ms. Kumari and senior party officials Narayan Lal Panchariya and Onkar Singh Lakhawat.



Jannayak Janata Party leader Raghuveer Singh Tanwar, who ran in the 2023 Assembly elections, All-India Reserve Bank Employees' Union former national secretary G.N. Pareek, Vishwakarma Industries Association president

Jagdish Somani, Macheda Hanuman temple priest Sudarshan Maharaj, and Municipal Councillors Kesharmal Sharma, Dhapa Devi, and Mahesh Agarwal joined the BJP.

Misa and Rohini, Lalu Prasad's daughters, are listed

Delhi: Misa Bharti and Rohini Acharya, the daughters of Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) president Lalu Prasad, are two of the party's 22 announced candidates for the Bihar Lok Sabha, the latter of whom is running for office for the first time. From Saran (formerly Chhapra), Rohini has been fielded, and her older sister Misa is from Patliputra.

Congress picks Vikramaditya, Tewari

Delhi: The party announced 16 candidates for the Lok Sabha elections in three states and one Union Territory, including former Union minister Manish Tewari from Chandigarh and Himachal Pradesh minister Vikramaditya Singh from Mandi. After a lengthy meeting of the party's Central Election Committee (CEC), the Congress named two Himachal Pradesh candidates, four Gujarat candidates, and nine Odisha candidates, along with Tewari in Chandigarh. Tewari, the Anantpur Sahib MP and one of the party's most vocal



Lok Sabha lawmakers, will challenge Sanjay Tandon. Singh faces Kangana Ranaut in Mandi. Former Gujarat Opposition leader Paresch Dhanani will face Union minister Parshottam Rupala in Rajkot. Former railways minister Pawan Bansal and Chandigarh unit president Harmohinder Singh Lucky also ran for the coveted Chandigarh

seat. Tewari is an MP, while Bansal lost in 2019 and 2014. CEC top members said it was possibly the key. Tewari was one of Punjab's eight Congress MPs in 2019. According to a second senior leader, who requested anonymity, he wanted to run in Chandigarh, where his family hails from. The Congress was receptive to it.

'Unconditional support' is declared by Raj Thackeray for Mahayuti and Modi

Delhi: Raj Thackeray, the leader of the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS), announced that he will "unconditionally support" the Mahayuti, led by the BJP and comprising the Shiv Sena of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and the NCP of Ajit Pawar, in the Lok Sabha elections, "solely for Narendra Modi" and "for the growth of the nation." This LS poll, he said, would determine whether India was "achieving growth or moving towards its downfall."

Ajit Pawar and Eknath Shinde are no longer the BJP's top campaigners

Delhi: Following a letter from the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) in Maharashtra stating that star campaigners could only be members of their own party and leaders of other parties could not be included on that list, the BJP withdrew Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and Chief Minister Eknath Shinde from their list of endorsers for the state's Lok Sabha elections. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and Ajit Pawar were prominent campaigners on the Shiv Sena list. Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, and Union Minister of State Ramdas



Arun Singh, the National General Secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Party, provided the Election Commission with a roster of forty prominent leaders

Athawale were on the state BJP list. The BJP's action was taken a few days after the NCP (SP) lodged a complaint with the Election Commission over the Shiv Sena (Shinde faction) and the BJP's list of campaigners. According to the lawsuit, Section 77 of the Representation of the People Act was violated when names of supporters of other politi-

cal parties were included on the list of prominent figures. Arun Singh, the National General Secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Party, provided the Election Commission with a roster of forty prominent leaders who would be the party's star campaigners for the Maharashtra Lok Sabha elections on March 26, 2024.

SAD Releases First List Of Seven Names For Anandpur Sahib,

Delhi: The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) unveiled its initial slate of candidates for seven Lok Sabha seats in Punjab on Baisakhi. On the list are Gurdaspur's Dr. Daljit Singh Cheema, Anandpur Sahib's Prem Singh Chandu Majra, Patiala's N K Sharma, Amritsar's Anil Joshi, Fatehgarh Sahib's Vikramjit Singh Khalsa, Faridkot's Rajwinder Singh, and Sangrur's Iqbal Singh Jhunda. prominent Shiromani Akali Dal leader Daljit Singh Cheema wrote on X, "S Sukhbir Singh Badal made a list of seven prominent leaders of the party as candidates for the 2024 Parliamentary Elections. selecting 'Khalsa Sirjana Divas,' a historic and



holy event, as the ideal day to sound the poll bugle.

With the announcement on March 26 that the BJP would stand independently for all 13 Punjabi parliamentary seats, all hopes of forming an alliance with the SAD for the next Lok Sabha elections were abruptly dashed. Among the BJP's oldest allies was the SAD. The

SAD and BJP, in spite of their alliance, did not have the expected success in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. In spite of the pro-BJP trend observed in other regions of northern and central India, the Congress managed to capture eight seats. The Aam Aadmi Party won one seat, the SAD won two, and the BJP took home two seats.

For the LS polls campaign, AAP leader Atishi will travel to Assam

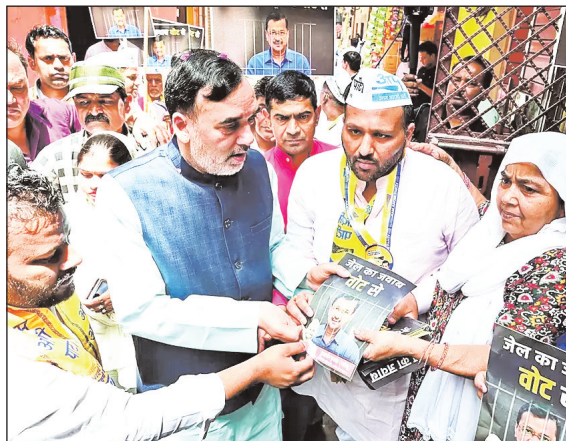
Delhi: According to party sources, AAP leader and Delhi Minister Atishi would spend three days in Assam the next week in order to promote the first phase of the Lok Sabha elections, which is scheduled for April 19. Atishi will participate in election rallies and roadshows.

For the LS elections in Tamil Nadu, AIMIM will back the AIADMK

Delhi: In anticipation of the April 19 Lok Sabha elections in Tamil Nadu, the AIMIM declared its backing for the AIADMK, which is led by Edappadi K. Palaniswami. Asaduddin Owaisi, the president of AIMIM, stated on "X" that the "alliance would also continue for the Assembly elections in Tamil Nadu," presumably alluding to the state elections in 2026. "The AIADMK has vowed never to form an alliance with the BJP again and has declined to form one now. Additionally, it has promised to oppose NPR, CAA, and NRC. As a result, AIMIM offers AIADMK its support for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. For the Assembly elections, our coalition will likewise persist," Owaisi declared. Interestingly, AIMIM fought three seats in the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections.

Voting is the only way to respond, the AAP claims as it knocks on doors

Delhi: The Aam Aadmi Party launched the 'Jail Ka Jawab Vote Se' campaign in the Vishwas Nagar region of East Delhi parliamentary seat in an effort to mobilize popular opposition to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's incarceration and turn that opposition into votes for the Lok Sabha polls. Gopal Rai, the environment minister and Delhi state chairman for the AAP, along with Kuldeep Kumar, the party's candidate for East Delhi, went door-to-door and handed out flyers. A bunch of party employees wore a picture of Kejriwal imprisoned around their necks, adorned in white caps and blue-and-yellow stoles. AAP officials have stepped up their campaigning in states where they have filed candidates, either running alone or in tandem with



partners in the INDIA bloc, in anticipation of the multi-phased elections that will soon take place. Rai talked about the AAP government's free water, electricity, and bus trips for women, free water for the elderly to travel around the capital, and improved health and education systems, all while claiming that India's democracy was being undermined. "Additionally, he included a clause in the budget that will provide women above the age of 18 with Rs 1,000 each

month. "If the people of Delhi want a working CM released from jail, the only way is to respond to jail with votes, to respond to jail with the 'jhadu'," Rai stated. The convener of the AAP in Delhi announced that party volunteers will henceforth go door-to-door. "In this election, Kejriwal will be supported by those he previously worked for.

People are curious about why Kejriwal was jailed everywhere we go because they feel an emotional bond with him.

EC publishes a "rate list" for enticing competitions

Delhi: you can get a buffet or a packed lunch that includes two curries, rice, achaar, roti, and sweets for Rs 80. You can also get a mini meal of chhole bhature or poori aalu for Rs 37. You can also get a small cup of tea or coffee for Rs 6. These prices do not include the cost of a roadside eatery or canteen. Every cup of tea or coffee, packed lunch, or small meal provided to a political worker conducting a campaign during the capital election will be tracked and contributed to the candidate's overall poll expenditure. Not only will food costs be important, but so will the price of the



chairs and tables that will be used at candidate polling places or during election gatherings. The candidates' election expenses also include the cost of renting vehicles for campaigning, posting posters, banners, and hoardings, hiring a man to beat a drum, hiring horses and elephants for a road show, and hiring videographers, photographers, and drones to record the events.

Every penny spent by the candidates is tracked from the time of nomination filing to the casting of ballots, with the total amount not to exceed the Rs 75 lakh cap on election expenses set by the Election Commission of India. The tariff list of services and materials utilized by the candidates is prepared by each returning official, according to the officials.

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

Delhi: 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 (NCPCR) 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 (NCPCR), 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.

2.3 lakh trees planted this year to reduce dust

Delhi: To reduce dust pollution and increase green cover, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi plans to plant 2.3 lakh trees and 3.8 lakh bushes in parks, schools, open spaces, and roadsides this year. In 2023-24, the city planted two lakh trees and 3.25 lakh plants. The horticulture department requested zonal office requirements to complete the assignment. "We will plant when the details are acquired. An officer stated schools, hospitals, parks, and below flyovers are used for this. He stated that the



government will continue roadside tree planting in some colonies at homeowners' request. MCD plans to carpet or repair 50 km of interior roadways by Oct. to

reduce dust. Between April 2023 and February 2024, 139 km of roads were resurfaced or repaired. A civic council wants to resurface 180km of roads by Oct. Road

maintenance and resurfacing are ongoing. After winter, we started dense carpet work on damaged areas. Work is being done with MLA or Mukhyamantri Sadak Punarnirman Yojna non-plan head funding "said the official. Our 52 mechanical road sweepers are for PWD roads. He added that 195 water sprinklers, jet machines, and 30 mobile anti-smog guns are reducing dust pollution on roadways. PWD gave MCD 60 anti-smog weapons to reduce dust near construction sites.

One-year DDA flat maintenance with RWAs

Delhi: Delhi Development Authority would give residents' welfare societies maintenance work within a year of creation to ensure flat maintenance. This will also apply to Diwali Special Housing Scheme 2023 units. This conclusion followed Real Estate Regulatory Authority criteria. A maintenance fee is normally collected by DDA during allotment. It has maintained flats for 10-20 years, depending on the scheme. A DDA official stated that applicants must join the registered



agency or RWA to maintain common services. Per pocket, one RWA will be registered. All new DDA plans require upfront monthly costs for one year, depending on flat type. "DDA shall do daily maintenance from maintenance charges for one year or until

RWA is formed, whichever comes first. An RWA will get the balance maintenance fund if it is founded before one year. If a RWA is not created within a year, it will be done on actuals "said the official. "For subsequent years, the necessary arrangement will be communicated

to the residents," he said. Residents expect standard changes to speed up DDA flat maintenance, which had been delayed for a long period. The authority defined maintenance as green space maintenance, campus, colony, and housing pocket cleaning, light fitting replacement in common areas, lift maintenance and operation, and common area electrical bill payment. "After transfer, the urban authority will be responsible for common areas in many housing pockets.

DPCC issues SOP to seize, dispose of plastic

Delhi: The Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) has a regular operating system for seizing and disposing of unlawful plastic items sold or used in the city. According to the amended plastic waste management laws, illegal plastic will be defined and DPCC staff will investigate various



locations. It said that only a waste-to-energy plant would dispose of seized plastic products including polyethylene, earphones, silverware, etc. The DPCC seizure procedure requires a team of authorities to take samples of plastic carry bags and sheets from the unit during inspection of all producers, importers, and brand owners and include them in the report. Teams must seize, transport, and store non-authorized

plastic objects at the DPCC lab until disposal. "The unit owner/occupier must pay for seizure, loading/unloading, transportation, storage, waste-to-energy plant disposal, etc. A recent DPCC portal document indicated that the team would take geotagged photos and video of the seized samples and the full seizure procedure of banned/non-permissible stuff. It said that "all the seized non-permissible.

MCD to select Tehkhand landfill operator

Delhi: A month after opening its first engineered landfill in Tehkhand, Municipal Corporation of Delhi assigned its operation and maintenance to an experienced agency. The civic authority noted that managing the leachate treatment facility, maintaining the green space, and most significantly, leveling ash from two waste-to-energy plants—Okhla and Tehkhand—requires competence. The site can hold 10 lakh tonnes of ash, and 12,000 tonnes have been dumped. "While the horticulture department has planted a 30-meter strip around the designed landfill, the weighing bridge, roads, and drains need a dedicated system for maintenance. Leachate treatment plant operation will



also be monitored by the agency "official. Three approach roads allow trucks to easily transfer rubbish to the landfill site. The peripheral boundary wall is 3.5 meters high. MCD will submit a maintenance plan for approval after the model code of conduct is lifted. MCD constructed a 7.5m-deep trench over 15.5 acres and covered it with 500 mm of soil and five

layers of geosynthetic material before dumping ash to prevent leachate percolation and groundwater contamination at the designated landfill. "We're dumping ash garbage in a corner and preventing vehicles from entering the pit. To prevent stacking damage, automobiles are driven carefully. Once a corner is filled, we gently scatter and layer ash "Source: official. The

landfill's operating and maintenance terms require MCD to deploy a liner every time ash is added to reduce dust pollution. "An constructed landfill cost Rs 42.3 crore and was inaugurated last month. The urban local body contributes 53.3%, the Centre 35%, and the state 11.7% to this budget. MCD gets Rs 300 per tonne for ash dumping. Here, 400 tonnes of ash are deposited everyday.

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.