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Dip again but gap narrows: 64.5% vote in phase 3, 66% in 2019

NEW DELHI: Voter turnout in the third phase of polling for 93 Lok Sabha seats on Tuesday touched 64.5%, compared with 66% in 2019, as voting for more than half the constituencies for the 543-member lower House was completed. Like the first two phases, the third round too recorded lower voting percentage compared to 2019 but the gap narrowed significantly. The numbers for 2019 do not include the data for four seats in Assam, where delimitation has been carried out. In this phase, Assam saw the highest turnout with 81.7%, according to data on the Election Commission's voter turnout app as of 11.45pm. The lowest was in 10 seats of Uttar Pradesh, where the turnout was 57.3%, as against 60% in 2019, followed by Bihar (58.2%) and Gujarat (59.2%). Polling was held for all the seats in Gujarat except Surat where the BJP candidate was elected unopposed. While the four seats in



West Bengal saw 75.8% turnout, it was much lower than the 81.7% clocked five years ago. Poll analysts said the voting percentage in UP and Bihar was the lowest in all three phases. "That's a matter of concern despite several efforts put by the EC," said a source. Chhattisgarh, Karnataka and Goa saw an increase in turnout in the third phase. With the conclusion of phase three, polling is now over in 283 parliamentary constituencies across 20 states and UTs. "Though polling was till 6pm, voters were seen in the queue at many polling stations. Voters participated enthusias-

tically to cast their vote at their polling stations, braving hot weather conditions in some areas," the EC said. It added the voting was smooth and peaceful. The three phases covered the entire north-east, LWE affected and vulnerable areas in Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. Starting with the third phase, the poll panel has commenced a system of SMS alerts, WhatsApp messages and voice calls from national and state icons, with support from major telecom service providers, to encourage voter participation.

Papers takes place one day after the polling day

EC said the data would be updated by field-level officers as polling parties keep returning and be available PC-wise live on VTR App. "As per the laid down procedure, scrutiny of election papers takes place one day after the polling day in the presence of candidates or their authorised polling agents. The decision to conduct repoll, if any, is also taken thereafter. Some polling parties return after polling day depending on the geographical/ logistical conditions," it said. The EC also said that after the scrutiny and depending on the number and schedule of repoll, it will publish the updated voter turnout along with gender-wise breakup by May 11.

Is EC trying to 'doctor' poll outcome, wonders Congress chief Kharge

NEW DELHI: Underlining the "inordinate" delay in the release of final voter turnout of first two phases and a jump of around 5.5% over the initial projection, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has raised an alarm with the INDIA allies by wondering if it is being done to "doctor" the outcome, since an autocratic BJP can "go to any extent" to retain power. He said the final figures were released after a delay of 20 days for the first phase and four days for the second phase, while in the past it was done within 24 hours. In an urgent letter to the allies detailing the "discrepancies", Kharge urged them to protest "collectively, unitedly and unequivocally", adding that the goings on have cast a dark shadow on the functioning of the Election Commission of India whose credibility is at a historic low, and that 2024 elections are a fight "to save democ-



Court convicts 5 for 'anti-India activities', links with an IS front

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court has handed down jail terms to a Kashmiri couple and three others found guilty under UAPA for engaging in anti-India activities and their affiliation with IS K P, an IS front. It sentenced main accused Jahanzaib Sami to 20 years for raising, receiving, & providing funds through cryptocurrency to propagate IS ideology. He had pleaded guilty. "For any organisation to survive, continue and act to achieve its objectives, availability and movement of funds is one of the most important factors. glaring mismanagement in basics in conducting the elections?" Kharge said turnout was 60% on the evening of voting for the first phase and 60.96% after the second, but was projected at 65.5% and 66.7% a day after.

answering for this racy and the Constitution". As he pointed to additional concerns that final registered voters list from third phase onwards has not been released yet, the veteran asked, "Will the ECI be made answerable for this

Toronto float targets PM Modi, gov. raises it with Canada

NEW DELHI: Following the use of a controversial float targeting PM Narendra Modi at a Khalsa Day parade in a Greater Toronto neighbourhood, India again called upon the Canadian govt to stop providing criminal and secessionist elements "a safe haven and political space in Canada". MEA said India continues to remain concerned about the security of its diplomatic representatives in Canada and expects local authorities to ensure that they are able to carry out their responsibilities without fear. "As you are aware, we have repeatedly raised our strong concerns regarding the violent imagery being used by extremist elements in Canada against our political leadership.

Mayawati removes nephew as heir 'till he gets maturity'

LUCKNOW: BSP chief Mayawati declared late Tuesday that she was divesting her London-educated MBA nephew Akash Anand of the twin responsibilities of being her designated political heir and the party's national coordinator "till he attains maturity", marking a fall as swift as his elevation last Dec. Mayawati made the announcement on her official X handle days after Akash, the son of her younger brother Anand Kumar, was charged by UP police with using "unparliamentary language" in poll speeches at Sitapur and Unnao on April 28. She wrote that her decision was "in the larger interest of the party and the (Bahujan) movement".

Akash stands accused of branding the BJP-led govt "aatankwadiyon ki sarkar", "tabahi ki sarkar" and "Taliban ki sarkar" in Sitapur and exhorting his supporters to assault BJP workers. Besides him, 39 others were named in the FIR. Mayawati said her sibling and Akash's father would continue to hold the position and responsibilities the party had given him. She said BSP was not just a party but a continuation of the movement initiated by BR Ambedkar, "and for which Manyavar Kanshiram ji and I devoted our entire lives". "The new generation is being prepared by the party to take this movement ahead, and it was in the same line that (I) made Akash Anand the national coordinator of the party and declared him my political successor," she wrote. "BSP will never back off from making sacrifices in the interest of the party and in taking the movement of Babasaheb ahead." This was Akash's first experience of campaigning in UP since being declared Mayawati's political successor. Starting his campaign at Nagina on April 6, he addressed 10 rallies in western UP and eight in Purvanchal. It was during the second leg of BSP's campaign in UP that he became overly aggressive. In Gorakhpur, he also slammed the BJP govt for "taking credit for the Ram temple".

Haryana CM loses majority as 3 independent MLAs pull out; government safe: BJP

ROHTAK/CHANDI GARH: Three out of five Independent MLAs, who were helping Nayab Singh Saini govt in Haryana retain its majority since JJP's exit from the coalition, withdrew support on Tuesday, giving Congress ammunition to demand its dismissal amid BJP's staunch defence of what it said was a "safe and stable" cabinet. BJP still has



the backing of two Independents-Nayan Pal Rawat and Rakesh Daulatabad and HLP legislator Gopal Kanda. With 43 MLAs on its side, the party requires two more to maintain its majority in the 90-member assembly, which has had an effective strength of 88 since former CM Manohar Lal Khattar and Independent MLA Ranjit Singh Chautala resigned. The trio was among the 48

MLAs who backed BJP-led govt in the March 12 trust vote. BJP currently has 40 MLAs, Congress 30, JJ, and INLD and HLP (Gopal Kanda) one each. There are six Independents. Saini said he was confident that the withdrawal of support by three Independents would have no bearing on govt's future. "The public understands the intentions of such people," he said.

Lalu backs Muslim quota, PM says it exposes opposition's intent

INDORE/PATNA: PM Narendra Modi on Tuesday seized upon Bihar CM Lalu Prasad's statement supporting "full reservations" for Muslims, and said his charge that Congress and its partners had a hidden agenda to introduce faith-based quota was vindicated. "Congress is quiet but one of their big friends has given his stamp of approval to the INDIA alliance's intentions," the PM said at a rally in



MP's Dhar. Lalu had come out in support of Muslim quota while responding to reporters who had asked him about Modi's allegation that Congress and its partners had planned to bring Muslim quota by stealth. "He (Lalu)

says Muslims should get reservation, and not just reservation but 'full reservation'. This means all the reservation that SC, ST and OBC get will be snatched and given away entirely to Muslims.

SC stays HC order nixing 25,000 Bengal school appointments

NEW DELHI: In a relief to over 25,000 teachers and non-teaching staff recruited in West Bengal in 2019, Supreme Court on Tuesday stayed a Calcutta high court order annulling their appointments but warned that those recruited illegally would have to refund salaries to the state. A bench, after day-long proceedings, agreed to examine modalities by which tainted candidates could be segregated from non-tainted ones so as to enable the court to save the jobs of those who made it to the merit list honestly. SC permits CBI to continue probe into WB school jobs scam. Dictating the order in open court much after the end of business hours at 4pm,



the bench of CJI D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said, "The court cannot be unmindful of the impact of setting aside of a large complement of assistant teachers recruited for teaching Class 9-10 and 11-12 students, which would be the consequence if the impugned judgment of HC stands." It permitted CBI to carry on with its investigation subject to the condition that it would not arrest the tainted recruits or take any coercive action against them. It post-

ed the matter for final hearing on July 16. Also, SC continued its April 29 interim order barring CBI from interrogating ministers or state govt employees allegedly responsible for creation of supernumerary posts to appoint waitlisted candidates. It said the court's scrutiny would focus on the appointment of those who did not figure in the list of those selected, those appointed after expiry of the validity of the selection panel, those appointed through manipulation of

Sonia Gandhi says beat 'proponents of lies & hatred'

NEW DELHI: In a video appeal to voters, Sonia Gandhi urged people to reject "proponents of lies and hatred" and vote for Congress for a "more equal future for all". She said Congress and INDIA bloc is committed to defending the Constitution and democracy. Sonia alleged youth unemployment, crimes against women, and "terrible" discrimination against SC/ST and minorities have reached unprecedented levels, which stem from "niyat (intention)" and "niti (policy)" of PM Modi and the BJP, which reject inclusivity.

Jharkhand minister's secretary, aide in ED custody for 6 days

RANCHI: ED presented Jharkhand rural development minister Alamgir Alam's PA Sanjeev Lal and the latter's help Jehangir Alam before a special PMLA court in Ranchi in an alleged scam case on Tuesday. The court granted ED six days' custody of the duo, who were arrested in the alleged scam of commission for work contracts and money laundering in rural works department. The remand period of the arrested duo will start Wednesday. Jharkhand rural development minister Alamgir PA Lal was arrested at 12.40am, followed by latter's help Jehangir Alam at 2am on Tuesday after extensive searches. yielded over Rs 35 crore in cash and incriminating documents from various locations. ED revealed

that during the searches conducted on Monday, Rs 32.2 crore was found from Jehangir's premises in Garikahna, along with Rs 2.9 crore from another associate and Rs 10 lakh from Lal's home. Two vehicles, one registered in Jehangir's name but funded by Lal, were seized. ED alleged Jehangir's statement confirmed the existing nexus involved in commission collection and distribution. The agency continued its search at five more locations in Ranchi on Tuesday, seizing Rs 1.5 crore from the premises of middleman Rajiv Kumar Singh. According to ED sources, over Rs 10 crore was routed through Singh. "During the course of investigation, it was revealed that Veerendra Kumar Ram, arrested by ED on Feb 23, 2023...."

More than a hundred NBW against Meerut MLA, HC claims dangerous precedent set

SP LEADER FAILED TO APPEAR IN THE COURT

Prayagraj: Allahabad High Court has rejected the petition of Meerut MLA Rafiq Ansari, refusing to grant relief in the 1995 case. The NBW order was challenged in the petition. The court gave the said order after observing that the SP leader failed to appear in the court despite more than 100 non-bailable warrants (NBW) being issued between 1997 and 2015. Justice Sanjay Kumar Singh's bench said that the sitting MLA not executing the non-bailable warrant against him and allowing him to attend the Assembly session sets a dangerous and serious precedent. By allowing individuals facing serious criminal charges to

escape legal accountability, we risk perpetuating a culture of impunity and disrespect for the rule of law. The High Court made this comment while quashing petition of Ansari related to the criminal case under sections 147, 436 and 427 of the IPC pending in the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate MP MLA Court.

In this case an FIR was registered in September 1995 against 35-40 unknown persons for offenses under the above sections. After completion of the investigation, the first charge sheet was presented against 22 accused. Thereafter another supplementary charge sheet was presented against the applicant

Ansari, of which the concerned court took cognizance in August 1997. Ansari did not appear before the court, so NBW was issued on 12 December 1997. Later, despite repeated procedures under NBW (No. 101) and Section 82 CrPC, the applicant did not appear before the Court. Seeking quashing of the cases, Ansari moved the High Court, where his lawyer argued that 22 accused originally faced trial were acquitted vide judgment and order dated 15 May 1997. Therefore the proceedings against him should be cancelled. The court said that the evidence recorded in a criminal case against any accused is limited

only to the guilt of that accused. It has no effect on the co-accused. The Court observed that acquittal by the co-accused cannot be considered as a ground for exercising the power to quash the proceedings against those accused under the relevant circumstances and section 482 of CrPC, who did not face trial. Perusing the order sheet of the trial court, the court said that 13 NBW and 89 NBW and processes under sections 82 and 83 of CrPC were issued against him.

Subsequently 21 non-bailable warrants and processes were issued against him (between April 2022 and February 2024). Despite this he failed to appear

in court. Under the peculiar facts of the case, the court said that it cannot close its eyes and remain a mute spectator. The court said that there should not be selective behaviour among the public in implementing the law. The court said that not executing the non-bailable warrant against the sitting MLA and allowing him to participate in the assembly session sets a dangerous and serious precedent, which undermines the integrity of the state machinery and judicial system while eroding public confidence in elected representatives. It is imperative that elected officials maintain the highest standards of ethical conduct and account-

ability, lest they betray the essence of their mandate to serve the public good. In this background, the court rejected his petition and directed that a copy of its order be sent to the Principal Secretary of the UP Assembly for placing it before the Assembly Speaker for information. The court also directed the Director General of Police of UP to ensure execution of the non-bailable warrant already issued by the trial court against Ansari. If the same has not yet been served and compliance affidavit will be filed on the next date. The Court has directed to list the matter for July 22 for the limited purpose of filing the compliance affidavit.

'Modi Brigade' seeks support from Muslim women voters

Prayagraj: The 'Modi Brigade', a group of 50 Muslim women activists, are propagating the Centre's policies among Muslim women in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj. The Muslim women activists of Minority Morcha, led by Nighat Khan, are knocking on the doors to project Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a pro-Muslim leader in a bid to gain their support.

Nighat, who is also district secretary of BJP's minority morcha, said, "A group of 50 active women party workers are taking up campaign for party candidate Praveen Patel, contest-

ing from Phulpur parliamentary seat, in Muslim dominated pockets, including Chakia, Atala, Kasari Masarai, Gadda colony, Gaus Nagar and adjoining areas under the Allahabad West Assembly seat. The BJP minority morcha is going door-to-door to spread the word among Muslim women voters about PM Modi's policies favouring them. The teams highlight how PM envisioned their empowerment by advocating equal education opportunity for them apart from banning triple talaq."

Khan further added, "We are carrying out the campaign in Muslim-domi-

nated urban pockets in Allahabad North, Allahabad West and Allahabad South covering the Allahabad and Phulpur Lok Sabha constituencies." "The Muslim community has been backward since the Congress did not do anything for their upliftment. Now, the Prime Minister wants to bring them to the mainstream as he believes in 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas'," she said. In Allahabad and Phulpur seats, it is seen to be an important strategy aimed at gaining the support of Muslim voters as the party aims to get 370 additional votes at each polling booth.

Anupriya Patel & Rinki Kol to contest from Mirzapur and Robertsganj respectively

Mirzapur: Apna Dal Sonelal on Tuesday announced its candidates for two Lok Sabha seats for the Lok Sabha elections-2024. In this, Rinki Kol will contest from Robertsganj Lok Sabha seat and Anupriya Patel will contest from Mirzapur seat. The main political ally of the NDA alliance is Apna Dal Sonelal and it had got two seats in Uttar Pradesh according to seat sharing arrangement. BJP officials and workers including workers of Apna Dal Sonelal were waiting for the candidates declaration. There is an atmosphere of happiness among the workers of Robertsganj Lok Sabha of Sonbhadra district and Lok Sabha of Mirzapur district due to the announcement of candidates on both the seats.

Kamdhenu Ltd to re-strengthen market share of its Structural Steel segment

Varanasi: Kamdhenu Ltd., India's largest manufacturer and seller of branded TMT Bars in retail, announced its business strategy to enhance its market share of Structural steel segment in Chhattisgarh. As per the strategy, the company is planning to enhance its production capacity of its structural steel in the State from 55,000 MT to 96,000 MT in the next one year. Kamdhenu has made a name for itself as manufacturer and supplier of high-quality construction supplies at an affordable price point for the consumers.

Sunil Agarwal, Director, Kamdhenu Limited said, "Uttar Pradesh is an important market for the growth of Kamdhenu Limited which offers huge potential for the development of infrastructure and construction industry. Kamdhenu Structural Steel segment already has a strong presence in the country and with this expansion strategy, we are expecting to capture a sizeable market share in the State. This is aligned with our overall strategy to expand our market share in the Structural Steel segment". Apart from this, the company is also planning to make its dealer & distributor network stronger in the State by adding 150 more dealers & distributors in the next one year. Currently, the company has a network of around 250 dealer & distributors for its Structural Steel segment in the State.

Atharva reveals his success mantra in exam

Prayagraj: Atharva Pathak son of Jagdish Pathak Advocate in Class 10th Saint Joseph School & College Prayagraj, ICSE board obtained 95.60% in 2024 results and brought laurels to his family.



The news of his triumph sent a wave of joy through his family, friends, relatives, and well-wishers, who congratulated him wholeheartedly. "Are you truly committed to having a successful career? If so, I have some fantastic insights and suggestions to provide," he wrote in a letter to aspiring exam takers. "As an avid adventurer, I have always tried to find methods to fuel my desire. To be honest, I was looking for anything to invigorate my enthusiasm while also providing appropriate advice and assistance without draining my father's bank account. I really like taking on new tasks. And the finest decision I've ever made is to follow a hard study regimen," he said.

St. John's Co-Ed meritorious students shine in CISCE results

Prayagraj: St. John's Coed Nanny Prayagraj All the meritorious students who have passed with flying

colours in the results declared by the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations, all studied regularly and with full dedication. They never tried to find a shortcut or any other alternative route.

Utkarsh Yadav, Ashutosh Pal and Adiba Irfan, meritorious 10th class students of St. John's Coed Naini. Kanishk Shukla, Kanishk Singh, Ayush Shukla, meritorious class 10th student of the school. Principal Ryan Innes, Vice Principal B Mathews and teacher Ajay Naik, Rakesh Kumar, Anand Dwivedi, RS Kushwaha, Ratna Gupta, Nalini Shukla, M.B. Johary, B. Chakraborty, Maya Sharma etc. people congratulated the students.



Woman killed by father, uncle over affair

Prayagraj: The Lalapur police cracked the murder of a woman within 24 hours. The woman's bludgeoned body had been found at a deserted spot on Sunday. The woman's father and uncle have been arrested who confessed to have killed her as she was adamant to marry her boyfriend, police said. The body of a woman was found in Lalapur area on Sunday. Police found the mobile phone of the woman near the spot through which the body was later identified as that of Maya Devi, 20, of Jawai village of Kaushambi district.

Police received a call on Maya Devi's mobile from her boyfriend Gyanchand Saroj. During questioning, Gyanchand told the police that Maya and he were in an affair and wanted to marry each other. However, Maya's family members were against their marriage.

On suspicion, police rounded up Maya's father Mulchandra Saroj and his brother, Harishchandra Saroj. During interrogation, the duo confessed to having killed Maya Devi as she was adamant on marrying Gyanchand. They took Maya to a deserted spot and assaulted her with stones on her head and face. They dumped the body and fled. However, in a hurry, they failed to take Maya's mobile phone away from the crime scene. DCP (trans-Yamuna) Shradha Narendra Pandey said five stones used in the crime and the bike of the accused have been recovered following their confession.

Bodies of woman and girl found on banks of canal in Unnao, suspicion of murder

Unnao: Bodies of a woman and a girl were found on Tuesday along the service lane of the Agra-Lucknow Expressway. It is feared that after the murder, both the bodies were brought here and thrown. The bodies of a woman and a girl were found nearby on the side of the service lane of Agra-Lucknow Expressway near Tala Saroy village of Hasanganj Kotwali area. The age of the deceased is about 26 and the girl is five years old. When the people here first saw the body, they informed the police. After receiving the information, the police reached the spot, took possession of the dead bodies and tried to identify the woman and the girl, but could not succeed. Kotwali in-charge Chandrakant Mishra said that a forensic investigation of the incident site has been conducted. A scarf was tied around the woman's neck and the girl's body was lying nearby. Efforts were made for identification, but till now no information has been received about them. The villagers are speculating that it could be mother-daughter duo dead bodies. It is also discussed that after the incident took place in another district, the bodies were brought here and dumped. At present the matter is being investigated by sending the bodies for post-mortem.

On June 1, public will teach lesson to NDA: PDM alliance candidate

Mirzapur: The election temperature has also increased with the heat for the last phase of voting to elect the new government. Voting is to be held in the seventh phase in Mirzapur on June 1. In such a situation, PDM alliance's Apna Dal (Kameravadi) candidate Daulat Singh Patel enthusiastically filed his nomination for the Lok Sabha elections on Tuesday. Also, 32 candidates including independents

took nomination papers. Apna Dal is the first to file nomination papers. Apna Dal (Kemeravadi) candidate Daulat Singh Patel said that during its 10-year tenure, the Bharatiya Janata Party government of the NDA alliance has given the people of the country and the state problems like inflation, unemployment, women oppression. "They gave nothing except farmer oppression. Whenever elections come,

BJP leaders have only deceived the public by making new promises. Work has been done to spread enmity among people in the name of religion and caste. Now the time has come when the public will teach a lesson to the NDA alliance in the elections to be held on June 1," he said.

32 candidates took nomination papers on the first day: A total of 32 candidates took nomination papers on Tuesday, the

first day of nomination. These include Suresh Chandra, Daulatram, Jagdish, Vijay Kumar, Shyamu Kumar Bind Independent, Ashok Kumar Singh MNRGA Mazdoor Samaj Party, Jagdish, Mahatima Singh Independent, Anilkumar Vishwakarma Purvanchal Maha Panchayat Party, Satyadev Pandey Fundamental Rights Party, Hasan Khan, Arun Kumar Gupta Samaj, Vikas Kranti Party,

Rajababu, Bhuvakhal, Venkatraman, Ashish Kumar Pandey Independent, Venkatraman Bharatiya Jawan Kisan Party, Rajendra Shyamal Bind Samajwadi Party, Ashish Kumar Pandey, Ashish Kumar took nomination papers. Apart from this, Gulab, Pramila Bind, Brijlal, Jagnarayan, Ramesh Chandra, Dilip Kumar Independent, Ramsagar Bind Bharat Mata Party, Vishnu Prasad Singh Patel Garib

Saamna Party, Manish Kumar Tiwari Bahujan Samaj Party, Sandeep Kumar Azad Samaj Party, Kanshi Ram, Mahadev, Rajesh Kumar Prajapati, Ramsagar Pal Independent, Ramdhani Rashtriya Samaj Party, Pankaj Kumar Dwivedi Sanatan Sanskriti Raksha Dal, Bholanath, Manik Chandra Tiwari Independent Republic Party of India, Dr. Akhilesh Kumar Dwivedi, Sameer Singh All India Forward Bloc etc.

Every section is getting cheated in BJP govt: Akhilesh Yadav

Kanpur: The BJP government made a lot of promises to the people of the country and when there is accountability, they say that it was a jumla. One promise is not fulfilled and another promise starts being publicized. If every section has got something in this government, it is only betrayal. All their promises are proving to be hollow and the way they have played with the youth, the youth will show them the way out in this Lok Sabha election.

Samajwadi Party (SP) national president Akhilesh Yadav, who reached Kanpur on Tuesday, said these things during a public meeting in favour of party candidate Rajaram Pal in Ramaipur under Akbarpur Lok Sabha seat. Akhilesh took a jibe at the BJP

government and said that it is being propagated and believed that the Ganges of development is flowing under the double engine government, whereas the reality is far away. Be it farmers or youth, everyone has been cheated. In the name of Agniveer, the government has given a lollipop of four years to the youth, when the youth appear for the paper, that exam gets leaked. If this government continues then gradually government jobs will disappear.

Farmers are troubled by guarding the crops in the fields, while the promises of farmer loan waiver also turned out to be hollow. This time you have a chance to defeat the BJP candidate and take your voice to Delhi by voting for the alliance candidate Rajaram Pal. Along with this, Akhilesh

Yadav has tried to garner backward Dalit and cadre votes for candidate Rajaram Pal. At present, a large number of youth were present in Akhilesh Yadav's public meeting. Now it remains to be seen what effect Akhilesh Yadav's public meeting will have on the voting. The youth and workers remained standing in the scorching heat. In Akhilesh Yadav's public meeting, the temperature of the sun was 43 degrees. There was tremendous enthusiasm and excitement among the workers, due to which the flames of the sun could not affect them. As soon as Akhilesh Yadav's helicopter landed in the helipad, young supporters came out of the pandal to see him and started raising slogans of Akhilesh Bhaiya Zindabad.

People surrounded Cantt MLA Saurabh Srivastava, who went out for election campaign

Varanasi: Cantt BJP MLA Saurabh Srivastava, who was out to campaign for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was surrounded by people in Assi-Nagwan area on Tuesday. People in the locality protested against the MLA and alleged that their houses have been declared public property by fake means. "Our ancestors bought land and built houses, now we are being uprooted," the mob alleged. Citizens told the MLA that about 300 houses of Asi-Nagwa area have been fraudulently deleted by SDM Sadar and declared as public land. A few days ago, Commissioner Kaushal Raj Sharma, SDM came to Sadar area and also conducted a survey. People say that work is being done to uproot us in

the name of Jagannath Corridor. We have been living here for 70-80 years by purchasing land and building houses with our hard-earned money. Our own government, which we voted into power, is trying to destroy us. Jai Narayan Mishra, Raghavendra Pandey, Nanku, Kaushalendra Pandey, Golu Mishra, Ganesh Tiwari of the area said that our ancestors had bought land and had built a house. "Today efforts are being made to destroy us. Where is this justice? Since the survey work is going on in the area, the happiness and peace of the people of the locality has been snatched away," they claimed. Social worker Ramyash Mishra said that those words we should believe. "On one hand,

Varanasi Commissioner Kaushal Raj Sharma is coming to our house and saying that you people should go to the court, we are doing our work. At the same time, the public representative of our assembly constituency Saurabh Srivastava is assuring that your houses will not be demolished. After all, whom should we trust? Our name was removed from the house and it was declared public. Where is this justice?" he quipped. Seeing the opposition of the local people, MLA Saurabh Srivastava has given a written assurance on plain paper that your houses will not be demolished and whatever plan is being made will be cancelled. He also talked to the Commissioner and ADM City on phone.

Extensive public relation campaign conducted by Mayor

Prayagraj: Lok Sabha candidate Neeraj Tripathi and Mayor Umesh Chandra Ganesh Kesarwani did public relations in Nishad Bastion 7th May, public relations started by BJP candidate Neeraj Tripathi and Mayor Umesh Chandra Ganesh Kesarwani in Karela Bagh Nishad Raj Park and Naini ADA Colony, 52nd Lok Sabha, Allahabad BJP candidate Neeraj Tripathi and Mayor Umesh Chandra Ganesh Kesarwani, public relations program in the Southern Assembly under the leadership of Dnyaneshwar

Shukla Assembly Convener at 10 am before Naini ADA Colony Dr. K.V. Pandey started public relations from the residence of former Chairman Public Service Commission, then at 4 pm, at 4 pm, drinking water from Nishad Raj Park, Karela Bagh, at the residence of Councilor Radha Nishad ji from Four Season Guest House, Saadiapur Nishad Basti. Then via fish market to Pasiyana, refreshment and rest at the residence of former councilor Shri Giri Baba, from Kakraha Ghat, via Mata Lalita temple, from vegetable market Meerapur via the residence of councilor Shri Sahil Arora ji, to S. S. Khanna completed degree college. Mainly involved in public relations. Senior former councilor, former general secretary



Mahanagar Giri Shankar Prabhakar (Giri Baba), senior BJP leader Murari Lal Aggarwal, Ram Ji Kesarwani, Shailendra Mishra (Baba), Praveen Malviya, senior BJP leader Padum Jaiswal, District Vice President Grijesh Mishra, District Vice President Brijesh Mishra, District Vice President Pramod Jaiswal (Modi), senior BJP leader Manoj Mishra, Sadiyapur Regional Councilor Rishi Nishad, Mirpur Regional Councilor Sahil Arora, door-to-door public relations campaign was conducted. Mainly in the program, Mandal President Dilip Kesarwani, Naini Mandal President Mirpur Mandal President Ranvijay Singh., Mahila Morcha, Manjusha Singh, Mahila Morcha President Rekha Kanojia, Social

Media Head Madhumita Nath, Mandal Vice President Abhishek Thakur, Mandal Vice President Gyan Kushwaha, Ward President Subhash Tiwari, Ajay Agrahari, Bharat Kesari, Intezar Ahmed (Munna) Dinesh Vishwakarma, Sanjay Lama, A large number of workers including Arun Nishad Satyendra Sharma were present in the program. Divisional Minister Yogendra Kushwaha Divisional Minister Anil Pandey Divisional Treasurer Dinesh Kanojia Divisional Vice President Gyan Kushwaha Vijay Singh Abhishek Thakur Divisional General Secretary Gaya Prasad Nishad Kanchan Maurya, Taru Yadav, Smriti Srivastava Manjusha Singh Ankit A large number of workers including Bhola were present.

General Observer Lok Sabha visited Phulpur area

Prayagraj: General Observer of Phulpur Lok Sabha 51 Dr. B Maheshwari Election Observer General visited Phulpur Lok Sabha constituency. Phulpur SDM Tapan Mishra and Naib Tehsildar Dhananjay Yadav and all the staff engaged in election work provided the desired information to the observers. Got information about SST team and FST team, visited the election office and saw the arrangements of 51 Lok Sabha and also checked Prayagraj Pratapgarh, the last border of Phulpur. He took information about election system in Phulpur Lok Sabha. Overall, he received all the information related to the elections. Local officials were well informed about the arrangements.



Local officials were well informed about the arrangements.

All HC stays order passed by assistant registrar prayagraj

Rules order granted in violation of a status quo order passed in a 2015 Case involving The Allahabad High School Society

Prayagraj: The Allahabad High Court on Tuesday in a petition filed by Rev John Augustine stayed an order dated March 27, 2024 passed by the assistant registrar prayagraj, whereby he had registered the list of office bearers of the Allahabad high school society in favour of Morris Edgar Dan. It is to be noted that The Allahabad High School Society comprise of the Boys High School and Girls High School Prayagraj. The High Court refused to accept the order of the Assis-

tant Registrar declaring Morris Edgar Dan as the chairman of the society and



the Bishop of Lucknow appointed by the Church of North India. The bench of Justice Shekhar B. Saraf,

while hearing the writ petition filed by John Augustine was of the opinion that

quo order passed in a 2015 petition of the same society. Senior counsel Gajendra Pratap appeared for the petitioner John Augustine. Sankalp Narain along with BP Tiwari appeared for the principal, Boys' High school and college. Shailendra, senior advocate along with Prabhakar Awasthi appeared for Morris Edgar before the honourable High Court. Furthermore the order dated March 27, 2024 by the Assistant Registrar had also been challenged by Rev. Peter Baldev in a separate writ petition.

New issue of Kala Sangam, a huge hit among folk art lovers

Prayagraj: The new issue of Kala Sangam, a quarterly magazine of folk art and culture published by NCZCC, focuses on the diversity of painting. This is the third issue of the magazine published in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture. In the magazine, the origin of painting, figures carved on the walls of caves by primitive humans, frescoes, Mithila, Kumaon, Rajasthani, tribal and tattoo art are illustrated. According to Director of the center Prof. Suresh Sharma, through the magazine, the basis of Mithila painting is the figures made on the wall of the Kohbar house, the trees, plants and animals made by the Gond tribes. In the magazine, Brij Mohan Joshi has written in detail about the



painting master artist Yashoda Devi shows the hard work of art seekers. Art critic Prayag Shukla has written a concise article on painting and its form in today's time. The magazine is designed by Hemant Bhatnagar and Virendra Chauhan. According to the magazine's editor Amitabh Srivastava, folk art lovers will like this issue more.

Aipan art of Kumaon, Dr. Ashish Kumar Shringi on the Mandana marking of Rajasthan, Jai Prakash Chauhan has written in detail on the popular folk arts of Malwa along with the Mandana art there. Vandana Joshi has highlighted the tattoo art of Rajasthan. In this sequence, the critical article written by Dr. Dhananjay Chopra of AU on Mithila

Pawan Srivastava celebrates b'day of Dy CM in grand way

Prayagraj: Celebrated the 56th birthday of State Government's Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya with joy and happiness by worshipping Yogi Satyam Ji Maharaj in the temple at Samia in Katghar and performing Havan for his good health and Wishes were made for long life and at the same time the workers also took a pledge to gift all the three Lok Sabha seats of Prayagraj and Kaushambi by winning them. On the free occasion, Councilor Pawan Srivastava and Councilor Neeraj Gupta, in their statement, recalled the moments spent by Keshav ji without Bajrang Dal and the organization and also talked about the work done by them for Hindutva. The leader duo described him as a selfless person and apprised the workers about his feelings and said that he dedicated his body to the for-

est and dedicated his life and wants to give you something else from the land of the country. All the workers present presented him with a tilak on their forehead. While feeding sweets, performing Havan and Aarti, Prasad distributed. Many work-



ers including Councilor Pawan Srivastava, Councilor Neeraj Gupta, Gauri Shahuja, Rajiv Tandon, Vinod Sonkar, Sumit Srivastava, Kushagra Srivastava, Ankit Sonkar were present on the said occasion.

Ex-SP MLA booked in UP for breach of trust, criminal intimidation

Prayagraj: A former Samajwadi Party (SP) MLA Pervez Ahmed a.k.a. Pervez Tanki has been booked for breach of trust by police in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj. He was booked under sections 406 (breach of trust), 504 (disrupting peace) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of IPC by the Prayagraj police. The FIR was registered on Sunday evening on a complaint by Attarsuiya resident Mohammad Abbas at the Karela police station against Pervez Ahmed and two of his accomplices.

him as payment for a plot, which had not been transferred to the buyer even after six months of the transaction, Tanki allegedly refused to refund and even issued threats to the complainant.

Abbas added that when about 20 days back he was going towards the Karamat Ki Chowki area, he met the former MLA who was accompanied by two of his friends. "When I asked him to return my money, Tanki and his friends threatened me with dire consequences. I was frightened and could not muster the courage to complain the matter to the police, but later decided to get the FIR lodged," said the complainant. Police said they have initiated an investigation into the matter.

India's border became safer under leadership of Narendra Modi: Sanjay Bhatia

Prayagraj: Senior BJP leader Karnal, Haryana MP Sanjay Bhatia, who reached Prayagraj to hold a meeting with the Phulpur Lok Sabha Election Core Committee and Management Committee, said that India's borders have been secured under the leadership of Narendra Modi. Now in retaliation from India, shells are fired instead of bullets. He gave many tips to the workers related to the election campaign. On Tuesday, in the meeting called by George Town Club, Central Election Office, Phulpur Lok Sabha, State Co-In-charge Sanjay Bhatia brainstormed with the Management Committee Core Committee on a total of 37 points related to election management. Emphasizing on making the information system very strong, he said that today is the time of social hi-tech and there is a need to pay special attention to how the policies of the party and the government reach the young voters

as much as possible. Addressing the workers, Sanjay Bhatia said that the change is visible today in these 10 years under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has really strengthened the country. During the UPA government, when Pakistan used to open fire, our country's soldiers only used to defend, because at that time the hands of our country's soldiers were tied by the UPA government. But today, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the country's soldiers are responding to every bullet of Pakistan with shells and are entering inside Pakistan and killing. Our farmers were not able to do farming in the border areas of Kashmir. But today the border farmer is doing farming with full courage. Now, on any action of Pakistan, shells are fired from India's side.

Attacking SP, he said that miscreant goons used to get protection in the SP government. As soon as Yogi arrived, the criminal goons hid in the holes. Citing a report, he said that today the country's ammunition stores are full. If there is a joint war with Pakistan and China, India can fight them for three years, because now ammunition is being manufactured in our country. Whereas earlier they were imported from outside for commission. Earlier, grains used to rot in warehouses and were not available to the poor and needy. But Modi government changed the system and today 80 crore people are getting ration.

Conference at Assembly and Power Center level: BJP media in-charge Vivek Mishra said that in the meeting, an outline of the plan for the conference at Assembly and Power Center level was made. Panna Pramukh Sammelan will be organized from May 8 at a total of 416 Shakti Kendras of Phulpur Lok Sabha. In the 5 assem-

ment. As soon as Yogi arrived, the criminal goons hid in the holes. Citing a report, he said that today the country's ammunition stores are full. If there is a joint war with Pakistan and China, India can fight them for three years, because now ammunition is being manufactured in our country. Whereas earlier they were imported from outside for commission. Earlier, grains used to rot in warehouses and were not available to the poor and needy. But Modi government changed the system and today 80 crore people are getting ration.

14-day Summer Theatre Workshop kicks off

Prayagraj: Eminent theatre group of the city, Vinod Rastogi Smriti Sansthan commenced a 14-day Summer Theatre Workshop from May 6 at Maharashtra Lok Sewa Mandal, Alopibagh from 8.00 am to 11.00 am. It will be quite beneficial for the young theatre artistes because the workshop will cover almost all aspects of Indian and western theatre.

Resource persons at this workshop will be Dr Mukesh Upadhyay Asst Prof Performing Arts, Haryana Central University Mahendragarh, and Arun Srivastava, research scholar in Theatre Arts, Rajasthan University, Jaipur. Besides academic lectures the workshop will include theatre related exercises and games to make it interesting. No fee is being charged in a bid to make theatre popular among the younger generation.

Inauguration of Naini office under City South held

Prayagraj: The inauguration of Naini office under City South was completed in Allahabad 52 Lok Sabha. Metropolitan Congress Committee President Shri Pradeep Kumar Mishra Anshuman ji inaugurated the office by cutting the ribbon. In which India Alliance candidate Ujjwal Raman Singh ji was present. After the inauguration, while addressing the meeting, Shri Pradeep Kumar Mishra Anshuman ji said that this election is an election to save democracy, this election is an



election of people versus Modi. Sectarian forces have become dominant in the country, which has to be uprooted this time in the 2024 elections. In this inauguration ceremony, many women took membership of the Indian National Congress and marched in the procession and did public relations. In this public relations campaign, prominent people like Roop Nayan Kushwaha, Vivek Pandey, Lallan Patel, Anjum Naz, Abha Gupta, Pradeep Verma, Shiv Shankar Mishra, Virendra Sharma, Shatrughan Bharatiya, Ashok Soni, Brijendra Nishad, Usha Gaur, Munna Jaffrey, Urmila Adivasi, Nagesh Bharatiya etc. were present.

THE SECRET IS OUT!

Prayagraj: Every passionate and adventurous person loves to reveal the secret of his success. And I Saubhagya Tiwari, who passed class 10 ICSE Board exam with 84% batch from Prayagraj - stands no exception. The news of his success brought a wave of happiness among his family members, friends, relatives and well wishers, who extended their heartiest

congratulation to Saubhagya Tiwari. "Are you really passionate about great career? If yes, then I have some great tips and suggestions to reveal," he said in a message to budding exam aspirants. "As an ardent adventurous person, I always wanted a career to seek ways by

which I can enhance my passion. Frankly speaking, being an adventurous enthusiast is my hobby. I was in search of something to spice up my passion and get the right guidance and support without burning a hole in my father's pocket. Keep on reading! I just need a good listener. I love to accept new challenges. And the best thing that I have ever opted to advance my adventurous spirit and passion is certainly the decision to opt for a rigorous study schedule," he concluded.



Power dept launches drive to check power pilferage

Prayagraj: The power department has launched a drive in the district to identify such consumers, both domestic and commercial, who are using more electricity than their approved load. In this connection, in the month of April, the department identified 29 such consumers and now process is underway to enhance the load of their connection and also take appropriate action against them. An investigation by the power department has revealed that some commercial consumers were using electricity equal to 30 to 35 kilowatts while taking connection of mere 5 to 7 kilowatts. The power theft on such a large scale is not only causing revenue loss to the department but is also creating trouble for other consumers.

Power department officials said that in April, 29 such commercial consumers were identified who were using four to five times electricity more than their approved load. The department has increased the load on their connection and has sent a demand of Rs. 1,000 per kilowatt. Chief Engineer PK Singh said load of identified consumers is being increased after identification.

To mention, the power department launched a survey in many localities. The MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) of electricity meters was carried out by the departmental officials and concerned agencies which revealed that some persons who have taken connections for their homes or shops were using electricity more than the approved load.

The use of electricity more than the approved load is causing low voltage problems for other consumers who have taken normal connections. Moreover, high use of power is also affecting the electricity equipment. The power department is now increasing the load up to 3,000 kilowatts every month on an average.

Editorial

Trudeau's anti-Indianism is guided by sheer political opportunism

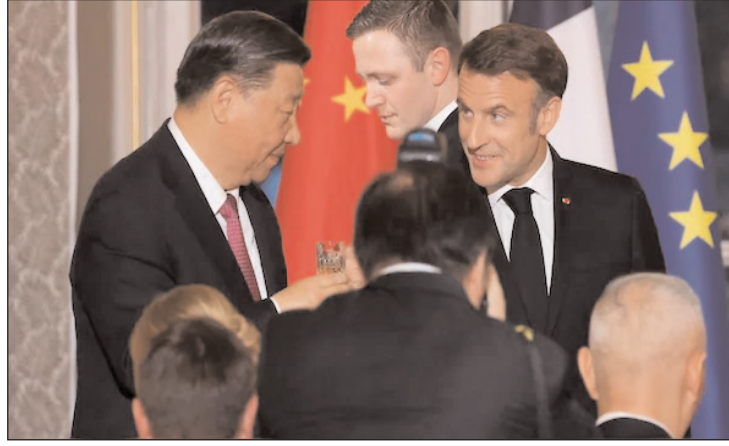
Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is again up in political arms against India. While speaking at an event to celebrate the Khalsa Day, he witnessed and perhaps was happy to hear pro-Khalistan slogans. Trudeau remarked, "Our job is not to crack down on political protest." Of course, it depends on what kind of protests he and his Western allies would crack down or bless. It also depends whether an event is just a political protest or part of an exercise to promote separatism, spread hatred and parade propaganda materials. If it were a protest in Canada that aims at creation of a separate state in India by people who generally vote for Trudeau's party, naturally he would refrain from cracking down and may, in fact, bless it with indirect support. This statement of his may actually politically cost him, because all Sikh population in Canada are not votaries of separatism. But his main target is India and the Indian government, which is reflected in his statement on the sidelines of the event that he cannot ignore the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar in June last year that his government believes was engineered by the Indian government agents. The Khalistanis in Canada are certainly aware that Trudeau cannot materially assist their demand, but they are taking advantage of his anti-Indianism. Trudeau also knows that a new state of Khalistan is not going to emerge in India, yet he is using it as a political toll with a belief that his party or coalition partners may get Sikh votes. What Trudeau is unable to realise is the fact that his political ambitions are threatening to severely disrupt friendly, cooperative and constructive ties between two resilient democracies—India and Canada. The reaction of the Ministry of External Affairs to Trudeau's remarks amply amplifies this: "PM Trudeau has made such remarks earlier as well. His remarks illustrate once again the political space that has been given in Canada to separatism, extremism, and violence." In addition, arrest of three Indian nationals suspected of involvement in the Nijjar killing could have been an internal law and order operation by the Canadian government, but the way it was reported and the manner in which the Canadian Prime Minister used it to score a political point also indicates the anti-Indian sentiment and actions by him. Trudeau said that this arrest was important because "Canada is a rule-of-law country" and it is committed to "protecting all its citizens." Trudeau repeatedly views a declared terrorist Nijjar as nothing but a Canadian citizen. Trudeau believes separatist speeches are freedom of expression and individuals, who are declared as terrorists by India, cannot be considered terrorists until his government says so. Had it not been for his anti-Indianism, the arrests of these nationals would not have been timed to be announced during national elections in India and a Prime Minister of the country would not be making a comment on an issue which is part of internal law and order proceedings. No wonder, Canadian police are yet to share the detailed information of the arrests with their Indian counterparts. This is not an example of cooperation between law enforcement agencies of the two countries; rather it showcases Trudeau's determination to score political brownie points for domestic political purposes! In the meantime, the Trudeau government released an interim intelligence report alleging Indian interference in Canadian elections. The timing of the release of this report is also part of the political strategy of Prime Minister Trudeau. This report interestingly accuses Pakistan and China along with India of seeking to influence Canadian elections. It concludes by saying that China is the "main perpetrator of foreign interference against Canada."

Xi's Europe tour: Implications on time-tested India-France ties, lessons for the US

On his first visit to Europe since 2019, Xi Jinping met French President Emmanuel Macron on Monday. He heads next to Serbia and Hungary, both of whom have maintained close ties with Russia despite its continued war in Ukraine. Xi lauded China's ties with France as a model for the international community amid threats of a trade war over Chinese electric cars and French cognac. On the very first day, Xi also met the European Commission president, Ursula von der Leyen. She urged him to reduce trade imbalances and use his influence with Russia over the war in Ukraine. Xi is likely to exploit the 'blow-hot-blow-cold' differences within the EU about how to deal with China. Will the European countries, especially France, get persuaded to be less reliant on the US and reduce the dominant cross-Atlantic influence? Interestingly, Xi was greeted by demonstrations for supporting Russia and enabling it to fight Ukraine.

China-EU Relations Complexities

China has three times the population and two times the area of the European Union (EU). The EU and China are among each other's largest trading partners. Yet, since March 2019, the European Union has referred to China as a "systemic rival". In December 2020, the two sides



proposed to pursue an investment deal that was first launched in 2013, referred to as the Comprehensive Agreement on Investment (CAI). But there was no consensus, and in May 2021, the European Commission announced plans to reduce dependence on China in strategic areas of the economy. The EU has put an arms embargo and numerous anti-dumping measures against China in place. Many European countries still see China essentially as a "market of opportunities" while it "exports massively" to Europe. In 2023, China was the third largest destination for EU exports of goods (8.8 per cent) and Chinese goods were the EU's 20.5 per cent imports. Among EU Member States, the Netherlands was the largest importer of goods from China, and Germany was the largest exporter of goods to China. Only Germany, Finland, Ireland, and

Luxembourg had trade surpluses with China; the other 23 EU members had trade deficits. The largest deficit was held by the Netherlands (€95 billion). Between 2013 and 2023, the EU's trade in goods deficit with China varied between €104 billion in 2013 and €397 billion in 2022. In 2023, the EU trade in goods deficit with China stood at €291 billion, which was €106 billion lower when compared with 2022 (-27 per cent). The most imported products from China were telecommunications equipment, electrical machinery and apparatus, and automatic data processing machines. Motor cars and motor vehicles registered the highest increase in imports in 2022. As China now has excess capacity in many areas, it undercuts and exports massively to Europe. In September 2023, the EU launched an investigation into

whether to impose punitive tariffs to protect EU producers against cheaper Chinese electric vehicle (EV) imports. During her meeting with Xi, Von der Leyen signalled the EU's continued discontent with China, which she said was "currently manufacturing with massive subsidies". This could lead to deindustrialisation in Europe and the loss of jobs, particularly in the German car industry. The EU also suspects that sanctions on exports to Russia are being circumvented by Chinese companies. In February 2024, the EU proposed sanctions that would target Chinese companies aiding Russia's war effort in Ukraine. Meanwhile, Xi maintained that Beijing was not "a party to or a participant in the Ukraine conflict, and that China was striving for a peaceful settlement of the crisis". The European Commission, the EU's authority on trade issues, has opened more than 20 competition probes targeting China in recent months, including into the supply of cars, wind turbines, and medical devices. The EU arms embargo since China's suppression of the Tiananmen Square protests of 1989 remains a major impediment to developing stronger EU-China cooperation on foreign policy and security matters. The EU has been repeatedly raising human rights issues related to Uighurs. France was the first Western

country to formally recognise the People's Republic of China on January 27, 1964. Beijing and Paris are thus marking 60 years of diplomatic relations. France maintains the One China policy and Beijing as the sole legitimate government of "China", but maintains unofficial relations with Taipei. The Chinese-French relationship was raised to the level of "global strategic partnership" in 2004. During an April 2023 visit to China, French President Macron called for Europe to reduce its dependence on the US and avoid being drawn into a confrontation between the US and China over Taiwan. Macron emphasised his view of strategic autonomy, suggesting that Europe could become a "third superpower." According to Macron, Europe should focus on boosting its own defence industries and reducing dependence on the US dollar. Xi sensed an opportunity in this, and thus chose France as the sole major European power to visit. Xi acknowledges the French leader's stature as an EU powerbroker. Xi, on his arrival, said that ties between China and France were "a model for the international community of peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation between countries with different social systems". "It is in our interest to get China to weigh in on the stability of the international order," said Macron.

How the nuclear threat is greater than ever since Cold War

The shadow of 'Armageddon' is creeping back as Russia and the US abandon critical nuclear treaties amid growing Chinese belligerence. Image: AFP In response to "threats" from Western officials to deploy NATO troops to Ukraine, Russian President Vladimir Putin has ordered nuclear weapons drills near Ukraine, as stated by Moscow on Monday. It's as if the world has donned a blindfold and is walking, unseeing, towards the cliff's edge. Thermonuclear war—the greatest existential threat to humanity—looms, and yet many governments and their citizens appear largely indifferent to the danger. The prospect of nuclear annihilation, once an ever-present fear during the Cold War, has faded into the

background, replaced by a sense of complacency. Yet, the shadow of 'Armageddon' is creeping back as Russia and the US abandon critical nuclear treaties. At the same time, growing regional tensions led by Chinese belligerence and turbocharged by a loss of faith in security guarantees created by America's isolationist stance are creating a chain reaction that massively increases hydrogen bombs and the inevitable rise of new nuclear powers. The INF treaty that denied the US and Russia nuclear and conventional ground-launched ballistic and cruise missiles with ranges of 500 to 5,500 kilometres was abrogated by Moscow in 2019 and the US soon afterward. This puts Europe on a hair trigger with

such short-range missiles, armed with nuclear weapons at each other, and with the war in Ukraine still very much on the margin for annihilation, which has been drastically reduced. This is just the beginning. Last year, Russia suspended the last nuclear arms control treaty between Moscow and Washington, New START, which was signed in 2010. Now both countries are free to have many more hydrogen bombs and delivery platforms. Thus, the superpowers have no effective arms control agreement between them. The Dominos are falling very fast. The core emotion of A One important factor is the American unwillingness to be the global policeman. Serious questions are being raised in Seoul and Tokyo.

End of EVM debate

Doubts over the integrity of EVMs are influenced by results. The BJP developed doubts over EVMs after losing two successive Lok Sabha elections in 2004 and 2009. GVL Narsimha Rao, Psephologist turned politician, wrote a book titled Democracy at Risk! Can We Trust Our Electronic Voting Machine (2010) that was prefaced by LK Advani. However, they overcame the moral crisis after a resounding victory in 2014. The Aam Aadmi Party ungrudgingly accepted massive victories through EVM in the Delhi elections in 2015 and 2020, but tried to prove that the results of the elections in five states in 2017 were rigged. In Chhattisgarh, the Congress felt its victory in the 2019 assembly elections was due to the support of the voters, but its loss in 2023 was due to manipulation in the EVM. Last year, the Congress blamed its losses in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh on EVM but attributed its triumph in neighbouring Telangana to its positive campaign. Can things get more ridiculous? The diversity of results in the EVM era has actually been greater than in the pre-EVM era, not due to technology but political dynamics. Whatever the people might say of the 'scientific rigging', it was not the introduction of the EVM but a

popular movement spearheaded by Mamata Banerjee that unseated the Left Front in West Bengal after 34 years. Assembly elections in West Bengal were conducted on EVMs both in 2001 and 2006, but it was only in 2011 that the Left Front was unseated. The BJP has been continuously in power in Gujarat since 1995 (pre-EVM days). This includes the period from 2004 to 2014, when a Congress-led UPA was in the Centre. Power keeps alternating between the Congress and the BJP in Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh, regardless of the introduction of the EVM or the ruling party in the Centre. Thus, no formula could be set that might validate a conspiracy theory. The days of paper ballots were not without their share of controversy. In March 1971, the discovery of surplus ballot papers found in Chandigarh created political furore. On March 25, 1971, shortly after the conclusion of the Fifth Lok Sabha elections, a delegation of Members of Parliament, including Digvijay Narain, M S Gurupadaswamy and L K Advani met the then Chief Election Commissioner, S P Sen Varma, at his residence and produced him a bunch of ballot papers for the Tarn Taran Parliamentary Constituency in Punjab. All these ballot papers,

serially numbered, were in good condition. The delegation alleged that thousands of such ballot papers meant for various parliamentary constituencies in Punjab, Haryana, and Chandigarh had been recovered from a godown in Chandigarh, and since the printing of ballot papers was far in excess of the actual requirement, the polls in most of these constituencies were vitiated. Sen-Varma immediately deputed the Deputy Election Commissioner, P.I. Jacob, to proceed to Chandigarh to investigate the matter. Jacob had reached Government Press, Chandigarh, at about 10 am on March 26. He found that ballot papers for 23 parliamentary constituencies in Punjab, Haryana, and Chandigarh were printed in that government press. In fact, the authorities had kept the margin of error at only two per cent, far lower than the permissible limit of five per cent, to account for the wastages. Only 252,631 surplus ballot papers were printed for 23 parliamentary constituencies, when the figure could have been far more. However, the problem arose when, along with 6,000 waste papers shredded to pieces by official orders, after the election results were declared, these surplus ballot papers were removed intact by the contractor.

Israel-Hamas war: Despite Cairo talks

This war between Israel and Hamas has gone on for an unprecedented more than 200 days, with exceptional destruction on both sides. The declared objectives of both sides have not been achieved. While it has broken various myths and presumptions, it has established that a war between a state and a non-state actor may be an ongoing tirade, but its outcome is totally unpredictable. Even though decimated, the Hamas leadership continues to remain in the fray, denying outright victory to beleaguered Netanyahu, who is on the verge of losing their sole supporter and protector—the US President Joe

Biden, facing an uphill election, is losing credibility abroad and at home for his Jekyll and Hyde approach. Their frustration with Netanyahu was more than evident when they outlined certain red lines, seeing the terrible humanitarian disaster in the plight of Gazans and Palestinians. Its misadventure of attacking the Iranian consulate in Damascus, which had the potential to expand the disastrous war beyond Gaza, did not amuse them either. Although the Iran-Israel showdown was managed, given the US commitment to the security of Israel, aid and arms continue to be provided, thereby

letting the war go on. The Houthis are threatening to take the 'Ships war' to the Mediterranean. They have already hit 107 ships since November, adversely impacting maritime traffic. Such US policy has provoked the conscience of a large number of students across the Ivy League and other universities, as the Arab lobbies in the West have acquired much greater salience. Arabs have traditionally voted for Democrats, but this time around, as per observers, it may not be so, and that could make a big difference for Biden's re-election, which is naturally even more important for him.

Hence, his warnings to Netanyahu and his ultra-right-wingers to ceasefire and even his first time abstaining from UNSC Resolution 2728, as well as telling Bibi that in an escalation with Tehran, Washington would not support him, may have carried a message because of which talks between Hamas and Mossad and the CIA, with the help of Egypt and Qatar, are still going on and likely to produce some kind of truce and exchange of hostages and prisoners. On the other hand, Hamas also cannot go scot-free and take refuge behind the suffering internally displaced million plus Gazans.

The Kerala State Cooperative Coir Marketing Federation (Coirfed) gets One Cr order from Golden Temple



Bhatinda Doorways and corridors of the Golden Temple in Amritsar, Punjab will welcome guests in style with coir products made in Kerala. The Kerala State Cooperative Coir Marketing Federation Ltd. (Coirfed) has recently received an order worth One crore rupees from the Golden Temple for coir products. Coirfed officials said the first container with 100 roll matings will be dispatched to Amritsar in the coming days. Coirfed chairman

T.K. Devakumar (Ex MLA) recently visited the Golden Temple and had discussions with the authorities there. "The Coirfed used to supply coir products to the Golden Temple, but a gap emerged in their relationship. Coirfed is happy to restart supplying coir products to the holy place. We got this order following interventions made by the Coirfed management and our Amritsar showroom manager. The Coirfed is planning to expand market operations to

other States with potential for coir and coir products," Mr. Devakumar said. Besides this, the Coirfed also received an order worth ₹50 lakh from the Chennai Cricket Association for supplying cricket mats. Coirfed was formed in the year 1979 which is the apex federation of co-operative societies engaging in making coir products that are being used by establishments across the country for domestic and commercial purposes.

Govt takes Third Mumbai plan another step closer to reality

MUMBAI: The urban development department (UDD) has invited suggestions and objections from the general public from 124 villages that have now been made a part of the proposed Third Mumbai. Third Mumbai largely consists of area that falls under the influence zone of the recently opened Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL), or Atal Setu.

MTHL is expected to have a major impact on the economic development and growth of the region and the state govt has decided to tap the potential that will emanate from this project. On Dec 12, Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) was appointed the New Town Development Authority (NTDA) for area that falls under the MTHL influence zone. MMRDA has envisaged Third Mumbai as a liveable and environment-friendly greenfield sustainable business centre with smart city features.



It will have regional-level amenities with mixed-use and integrated residential areas for job creation and economic growth of Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR). Of the 124 villages, 80 villages are from Navi Mumbai Airport Influence Notified Area (NAINA), 33 villages from the Khopta New Town Notified Area, two villages from Mumbai Metropolitan Regional Plan and nine from the Raigad Regional Plan. Since some of the areas from NAINA and Khopta New Town Notified Area

have been moved to NTDA, UDD has decided to seek suggestions and objections about the modifications. A notification issued by state UDD said: "The suggestion and/or objections in respect of the proposed modification [are sought] from the general public within 30 days (April 3). The suggestions and/or objections shall be addressed to the joint director of town planning, Konkan Division, 3rd floor, main building, room no. 305, Konkan Bhavan, Navi Mumbai-400601."

CAPSULES

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

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

TOP 3 FUTURISTIC SKILLS NOW A PART OF KLAY PRESCHOOL CURRICULUM

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



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

ents, are also better informed today and look beyond the childcare facilities. Parents seek immersive preschool environments that serve as nurturing hubs, foster-

ing comprehensive development that lays the stepping stone to a child's learning journey. Rated as India's largest chain of preschools and daycare centres, Ms. Shruti Madhavan, spokesperson of KLAY, says, "Catering to children as young as 6 months old, we offer educational programs that are aligned with the National Curriculum Framework 2020 and draw inspiration from the Finnish Educare model and the theory of Multiple Intelligences.

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

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



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

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

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

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

Chandigarh: Remedium Lifecare Ltd. (BSE: 539561), a company engaged in trading API intermediates (KSMs and CRMs) and various other raw materials essential to API trading, has announced that its board will meet on May 10, 2024, to consider and approve the Audited Financial Results for the quarter and Financial Year ended 31st March 2024, and to consider recommendation and approval of the issue of Bonus Shares to the existing Equity Shareholders of the Company. Remedium Lifecare Ltd., a company engaged in trading API intermediates (KSMs and CRMs) and various other raw materials essential to API trading, has bolstered its performance and presence

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

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

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

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



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

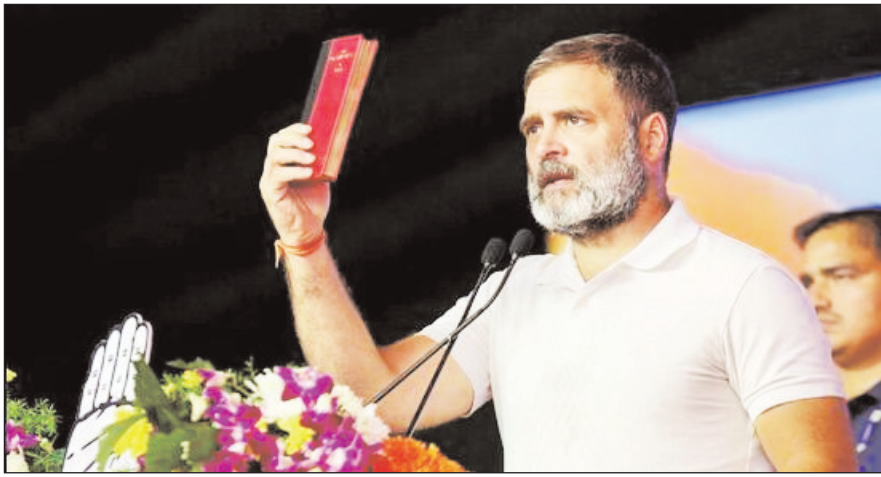
tive, IDTR aims to upskill over 250 female participants, equipping them with the necessary knowledge and expertise to pursue their careers. The training program at IDTR includes diverse aspects such as Interactive theory sessions covering road safety rules and defensive driving techniques, Advanced Driving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

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

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

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

Congress files EC complaint against BJP over Rahul Gandhi, Muslims video



Delhi: The Congress party in Karnataka has filed a formal complaint against BJP national president JP Nadda, IT cell head Amit Malviya, and state unit chief B.Y. Vijayendra for posting a social media video allegedly threatening SC and ST members. Congress leader Ramesh Babu, chairman of KPCC's media and communications department, wrote to Karnataka's chief electoral officer about a Karnataka BJP social media video featuring Rahul Gandhi and

Siddaramaiah. SC, ST, and OBCs are shown as "eggs" in a reserve basket in the video. The video shows an animated Rahul Gandhi planting another Muslim "egg" in the reservation basket. It shows Congress leaders giving Muslims more money than SC, ST, and OBCs. "In the said video, it is projected as though funds are fed into the mouth of Muslim Community and that the Muslim Community kicks out the SC, ST and OBC community," Babu said. This portrayal

breaches the model code of behavior and the SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act of 1989, he claimed. The Congress leader worried that such actions could incite community enmity, especially during the 14 constituency Lok Sabha elections. "The film intimidates SC/ST voters to not vote for Congress. This is a clear case of frightening Sc/St community members and portraying them as "Eggs" being stomped by Muslims "Ramesh Babu remarked.

Event planned by Nihal Vihar of the BJP in Ward 47 Mandal



Delhi: In Nihal Vihar, Delhi, the BJP Mandal Ward 47 organized a road show. Nihal Vihar BJP Ward 47 Mandal President Rajveer Kashyap spearheaded the organization of this

yatra. Participating in the event was Yogendra Chandolia, a BJP candidate from North West Delhi, who spoke to the residents of Nihal Vihar. At this rally, every single BJP official and worker

was visible. There was a strong push for people to cast their ballots at the event. Floral garlands were presented to him throughout his public relations activities.

Candidates in Gurgaon ramp up campaigns

Delhi: Sitting BJP MP and Lok Sabha candidate for Gurgaon Rao Inderjit Singh campaigned in Sohna villages, urging voters to vote for the BJP based on Haryana's ten-year development. Singh stated that the ₹ 1,500 crore elevated Sohna Road project has reduced

the travel between Gurugram and Sohna to 20 minutes.

Improved connectivity and the Delhi-Mumbai expressway will make Sohna a residential and business hub, he said. Sohna would be connected to Nuh, Palwal, and Sonapat by the Orbital

Railway Corridor, creating job and economic prospects, the Gurugram MP added. The BJP is seeking votes based on its 10-year work. He addressed public meetings in Bhondsi ward-8, Ghamdoj, Alipur, Saanp Ki Nangli, Baluda, and Sohna to gain party.

The Delhi Unit of Prahari Manch held its inaugural literary seminar

Delhi: The Hotel Waterfall Prahari Manch in Paschim Vihar, Delhi, hosted the Delhi Unit's inaugural literary seminar. Dr. Naresh Naz, the creator of the monitoring platform "Maqam," has this idea. Shalu Gupta, Global President of Prahari Manch, presided over this program. Famous poets and poetesses performed ghazals, muktaks, and songs on this important occasion, together with "Rudranshi" and Dr. Mamta Jha, President of Prahari Manch. Rajneesh Tyagi, also



known as "Raaz," Mukesh Sharma, also known as "Anmol," Prabhanshu Kumar, Pawan Kaushik Siddipuria, Nidhi Bhargava Manvi, Bijendra Singh, Shyama Bhardwaj, also known as "Shyam," Rishi Kumar Sharma, also

known as "Chyavan," Pandit Leela Ram, Sunita Poonia, also known as "Darpan," Manoj Kumar, Indu Mishra Kiran, Chanchal Harendra Vashisht, Kiran Yadav, Dr. Mamta Jha, "Rudranshi," and Shalu Gupta are prominent among them.

Mukesh Gupta wished all Prahari pen writers a cordial greeting and offered encouragement throughout his speech. Whose poetry touched the hearts of everybody. This time around, everyone found the program enjoyable.

Brij Bhushan's son replaced him in BJP

Delhi: BJP persuaded controversial Kaiserganj incumbent Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh to support his younger son Karan and repeat the candidature of UP minister Dinesh Pratap Singh from Nehru-Gandhi bastion Rae Bareilly. By sidelining Brij Bhushan, the former Wrestling Federation of India leader accused of sexual harassment by lady wrestlers, BJP has sought to dispel perception it was easy on the six-time MP. Brij Bhushan kept hoping and resumed campaigning with roadshows after the leadership withheld his candi-



dature. Brij Bhushan also won Gonda (1991 and 1999) and Balrampur (2004) in addition to Kaiserganj (2009, 2014, 2019). His son Prateek is an MLA and his wife Ketaki, a BJP candidate, won from Gonda in 1996. The 54 educational institutes Brij Bhushan owns or is affiliated

with provide him influence. Both sides of the 100km Ayodhya-Gonda route connecting Gonda, Balrampur, Bahraich, and Shravasti are home to these institutes.

Dinesh Singh, a Gandhian confidant and former Congressman, is running again in Rae Bareilly.

PM Modi's 6-year election ban is denied by court

Delhi: The Delhi High Court dismissed a case seeking to disqualify Prime Minister Narendra Modi from running for office for violating the Model Code of Conduct (MCC), calling it "thoroughly misconceived". Lawyer Anand S Jondhale requested the Prime Minister's six-year ban from running for office for breaking the model code of conduct at an electoral rally in Uttar Pradesh. A single judge panel led by Justice Sachin Datta said the petitioner.

Opening of the RB Perfect Mart Foundation's new office



Delhi: The RB Perfect Mart Foundation opened a new office in Jwalapuri, Delhi. CEO Brijesh Kumar, Director Rinku Bishen, Director Kaushal Singh, International Dancer Rahul, and Fitness Trainer Rinku Bishen

were present. Children in need and those with talent will receive free instruction in dance, modeling, yoga, meditation, singing, and other activities through this program. With havan-puja, the same branch was

established. Corporation Councilor Pappu Chhilwal and International Fitness Trainer Praveen Baghri were the principal guests on this occasion. Garlands of flowers were presented to each attendee.

Bars until 4am? Nightlife may improve in Noida

Delhi: The UP government has constituted a five-member committee to decide whether to extend bar curfews in the city and Ghaziabad to boost nightlife and excise taxes. The Noida restaurant owners' group asked the excise department to allow bars till 4am. City bars can now stay open till 1am. Noida district excise officer Subodh Kumar said excise commissioner Adarsh Singh, joint director of statistics Jogendra Singh, and deputy excise commissioner Alok Kumar created the bar timing committee. "Like other NCR cities, Noida and Ghaziabad have similar per capita incomes and economic activities. In this situation, the



excise agency must seek new revenue sources. The Delhi government extended bar hours to 3am in May 2022 for a license fee. Bars in Gurgaon can operate 24/7 with a license. Khera claimed extra hours will help night shift workers relax. Many offices in Noida are open 24/7. Many late-night party regulations drive individuals to fly to Gurgaon or

Delhi. "The new hours will help people dine at bars and boost government revenue," he claimed. The committee stressed that the new hours must not affect peace and order. "We're considering expanding bar hours. Noida nightlife should improve by the end of the year when the airport opens.

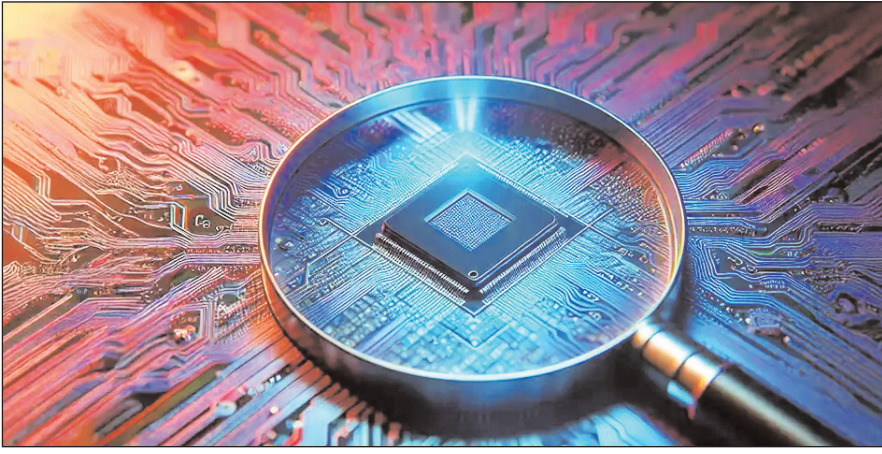
Cong fields Anand Sharma, Raj Babbar; Amethi, Rae Bareilly suspension persists

Delhi Divya: The Congress fielded former Union minister Anand Shamra from Kangra, ex-MP Raj Babbar from Gurugram, and two other Lok Sabha candidates. while keeping Amethi and Rae Bareilly names a secret. Sharma, 71, will run in his maiden Lok Sabha election.

The BJP is a threat to people's lives in addition to statutes

Delhi: As some strongholds of the Samajwadi Party (SP), like Mainpuri, prepare for the third phase of the Lok Sabha elections, party chief Akhilesh Yadav, who spoke at a public meeting in Budaun in support of his uncle Shivpal Yadav's son, Aditya Yadav, took a jab at the ruling party, claiming that the BJP will be completely destroyed in the next phase. "False promises characterized the BJP's reign. The first two waves of the polls showed that people this time rejected them," he stated. "Not just Constitution, BJP is a threat to peoples' lives," he stated, alluding to the controversy over the Covid vaccine. He made an attack on the BJP-led government, stating, "They used to declare that they would treble farmers' income. A farmer who examines his account will discover that, on the contrary, he is losing money. Farmers are currently in this situation... With the three black farm laws, the government intended to seize farmers' lands.

India-made Micron Tech semiconductor chips to launch globally in 2025



Delhi: Micron India Managing Director Anand Ramamoorthy said that Micron Technology's packaging operation in Gujarat's Sanand will produce the first Indian semiconductor chips in the first half of 2025. "We expect to have products roll-out early next year, in the first half, which is a very good turnaround given that we had announced this whole engagement in the middle of last year," he said. Sanand may become a worldwide semiconductor

powerhouse since Ramamoorthy predicted most of its chips will be exported. The chips will be utilized in data centers, smartphones, notebooks, and IoT devices, said Ramamoorthy. Demand, cost, and customer needs will dictate chip allocation closer to manufacturing. Micron also wants to explore two-wheeler electric vehicles and Indian government contracts. Micron's semiconductor supply chain is moving to India, with Simmtech opening

operations in Gujarat. Ramamoorthy said the company is working with the government and suppliers to capitalize on India's semiconductor ecosystem. Micron is building an ATMP plant in India under the government's \$10 billion semiconductor production and assembly incentive program. The initiative, funded by central and state governments, will create thousands of direct and indirect jobs, boosting India's semiconductor industry.

AI reduces the lowest-fare luggage limit to 15kg

Delhi: Air India economy class domestic fliers on reduced fares can now check in 15kg of baggage instead of 25kg. AI's substantial allowance for economy fliers within India was its USP, and it would help make up for the long-awaited enhanced cabin product on the airline's outdated planes. All major Indian airlines give 15kg check-in for free. AI spokesperson: "Last year, we adopted a menu-based pricing strategy for branded fare families to comply with worldwide airline industry standards. Air India's 'comfort', 'comfort plus', and 'flex' fare families offer dis-



tinct features and limits at varying prices. We offer tariff families to help guests choose the finest meal and services for them." "Bundled fares provide passengers more value and choice for less. On a domestic sector like Delhi-Mumbai, the price difference between 'comfort plus' and 'flex' fares is typically about Rs 1,000,

with the 'flex' fare offering nearly Rs 9,000, including 10kg extra baggage, zero change or cancellation fees, more loyalty points, and more free seats." On domestic economy class routes, 'comfort' and 'comfort plus' price families allow 15kg baggage, while 'flex' allows 25kg. Domestic business

Apple may employ 5 lakh Indians

Delhi: Government sources that Apple will significantly increase its vendor workforce in India. In the next three years, Apple's suppliers and component makers might employ nearly 5 lakh people, up from 1.5 lakh.

Apple's Indian vendor with the most jobs is Tata Electronics,

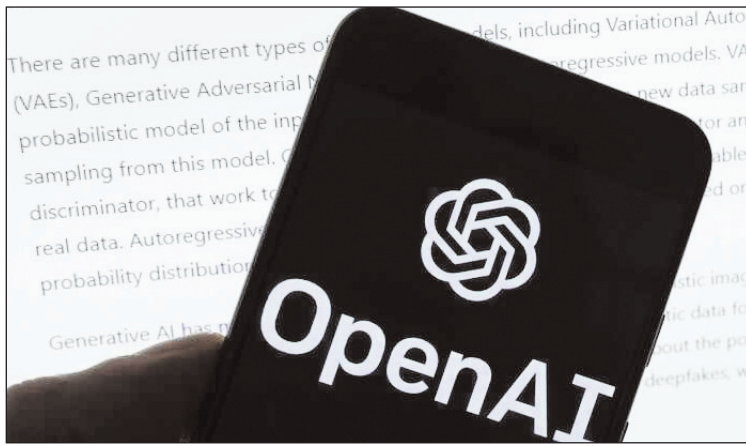
which runs two factories. A senior government official "Apple is hiring faster in India. They may employ five lakh people through vendors and component suppliers in the next three years, conservatively."

Apple has not commented on this forecast. Apple's ambitions

to boost Indian manufacturing coincide with this announcement. The corporation aspires to surpass five-fold manufacturing production in India, aiming for USD 40 billion (3.32 lakh crore) in the next four to five years. This surge aligns with Apple's Indian success.

Eight US publications sued OpenAI and Microsoft for copyright infringement

Delhi: OpenAI and Microsoft are being sued by eight US newspapers for "purloining millions" of copyrighted news stories to train its artificial intelligence chatbots. New York federal court received the lawsuit from the Daily News, Chicago Tribune, Denver Post, and others. The MediaNews Group and Tribune Publishing executive editor Frank Pine wrote, "We've spent billions of dollars gathering information and reporting news at our publications, and we can't allow OpenAI and Microsoft to expand the Big Tech playbook of stealing our work to build their own businesses at our expense." The lawsuit also



names MediaNews Group's Mercury News, Denver Post, Orange County Register, St. Paul Pioneer-Press, and Tribune Publishing's Orlando Sentinel and South Florida Sun Sentinel. Alden Global Capital

owns all publications. Microsoft declined comment. A request for comment from OpenAI was delayed. The New York Times sued OpenAI and Microsoft in December for Copyright infringement in ChatGPT's con-

struction and training. Teams of wealthy lawyers seeking to stop us from publicizing their stories. Lobby groups with unclear funding that debunk climate emergency and other science. Authoritarian regimes that disregard press freedom. Bad actors propagating online falsehoods to subvert democracy. Something powerful is on our side. We got you. The Guardian is funded by Indian readers like you, and our editor selects what we publish. This week is the 31st World Press Freedom Day, a time to reflect on free expression as the foundation of all rights. It's also a chance to assist independent media worldwide.

Jio Financial Services will hire the head of consumer banking at Standard Chartered Bank

Delhi: Kusal Roy, the head of Standard Chartered Bank's consumer banking division in India, has tendered his resignation and is anticipated to join Jio Financial Services. The news of upcoming consumer-focused initiatives that Jio Financial Services would soon offer coincides with the development. Roy is a seasoned banker who joined StanChart Bank in 2020 after heading Tata Capital. He had previously worked for Citibank and ICICI Bank.



Roy's departure was verified by StanChart in response to an email inquiry. Following the release of the company's most recent financial results on April 19,

Jio Financial Services announced a number of initiatives, which were unveiled concurrently with the announcement of Roy's resignation.

Godrej & Boyce to own Godrej land bank exclusive construction

Delhi: According to sources and regulatory filings, Jamshyd Naoroji Godrej and his sister Smita Krishna Godrej-controlled Godrej & Boyce will have exclusive construction rights over a vast land bank, including a prime 3,000-acre property in Mumbai, they received as part of the family agreement that split the Godrej empire. Deal splits the 127-year-old organization into two groups commanded by Adi Godrej and his brother Nadir and their cousins Jamshyd and Smita. The former would oversee Godrej Industries Group, which includes listed firms Godrej Industries Ltd, Godrej Consumer Products Ltd, Godrej Properties Ltd, Godrej Agrovet Ltd, and Aste Lifesciences Ltd. Jamshyd Godrej, 75, will manage Godrej



Enterprises, which includes Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Co., which operates in aerospace, aviation, defense, energy, construction, IT, and software. His niece Nyrika Holkar will be executive director. Both groups will use the Godrej brand, but they have a six-year non-compete arrangement to avoid each other. According to sources and the regulatory filing, they can enter other domains after the non-compete period, but not use the Godrej name.

Sources indicated the separation was done through share transfers, not value. Adi and Nadir Godrej will sell their Godrej & Boyce shares to the other branch. Jamshyd Godrej and his family will pass GCPL and Godrej Properties to their cousins through a family agreement. A separate agreement will regulate ownership rights for thousands of millions of rupees of real estate in affluent Mumbai areas under Godrej & Boyce (G&B).

Bandhan Life hires 1,000 avatars

"Most of our partner distribution operations are tech-enabled, so once a consumer knows what they want to buy, it's quick," said

Delhi: After acquiring Aegon Life Insurance, Bandhan Financial Holdings rebranded it Bandhan Life. The new company plans to become a multi-channel life insurance in five years as part of its expansion strategy. It will hire 1,000 people soon. After buying BCL and Aegon Indian Holding's shareholding in February 2024, BFHL became the promoter. "Our vision for the next five years is set,"



stated Bandhan Life MD and CEO Satishwar B. We will grow into all important product areas to improve our offerings." He continued, "To support our tech-enabled approach, we have extensively invested in technology and data-driven operations. This combination will enable us to develop with the new Bharat." Given their size and scale, Bandhan Bank may be the largest distribution partner initially. Satishwar said it serves mass and conventional banking customers. We sell offline too,

Currently, Australia is monitoring Indian spices

Delhi: In order to determine whether a food recall is necessary, Australia's food safety regulator is gathering data on potential contamination of spice mixes produced by Indian businesses MDH and Everest. Three MDH spice blends and one Everest mix were taken off the market in Hong Kong earlier this month. The same Everest mix was recalled by Singapore as well due to excessive quantities of ethylene oxide, which is dangerous for ingestion by humans and can cause cancer if exposed to high levels.

Children under 12 must sit with parents on flights without charge



Delhi: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has ordered airlines to seat children under 12 with a parent or guardian. This change follows many complaints from consumers, particularly group travelers, who were seated separated from their children after opting out of extra seat selection expenses. Under the new rule, airlines must seat children under 12 with their parents or guardians on the same booking reference. The DGCA stressed the need of recording seating arrangements for compliance. "Airline shall ensure that children upto 12 years are allocated seats with at least one of their parents/guardians, who are travelling on the same PNR and a record of the same shall be maintained," a revised DGCA rule stated. Passengers can opt out of opt-in services including premium seating and meals. Airlines may automatically assign seats before departure if passengers do not pick seats during web check-in. "Airline 'opt-in' unbundled services are optional. Auto seat assignment is available to passengers who have not selected a seat for web check-in before departure.

KESH KING ANTI-HAIRFALL SHAMPOO pairs PALAK TIWARI'S 'VIBRANCE' with the 'RADIANCE' of SHILPA SHETTY in its new brand communication

NEW DELHI : Kesh King Anti-Hairfall Shampoo brings together the youthful energy of Palak Tiwari, a rising star in tinsel town, with the timeless beauty of Shilpa Shetty. Shilpa has been the face of the brand since 2019 and also endorses Kesh King Ayurveda Oil – India's No.1 Hairfall Expert. Made by Raju Hirani Films, the new Kesh King Anti-Hairfall Shampoo commercial features a captivating exchange between the two celebrities, blended with the nostalgic Bollywood number from yesteryears "Ude Jab Jab Zulfe Teri". The commercial will be on air in the month of May. Speaking about this new development, Ms. Priti Sureka, Director, Emami limited, said, "Kesh King is a hair and scalp care solution brand with strong ayurvedic credentials. Over the years, the brand has effectively catered to its core TG with Shilpa Shetty as the brand



ambassador. Shilpa, with her expertise in promoting healthy living through yoga, perfectly embodies the brand's commitment to natural solutions. In addition, we have also onboarded the very talented Palak Tiwari to appeal to today's generation, who are seeking better hair solutions than what the current market offers, for their persistent hairfall woes. Palak

Tiwari, an emerging young talent in Bollywood will supplement youthful freshness to the charming beauty of Shilpa, enhancing the brand's messaging with a contemporary edge."

Palak Tiwari, the latest member joining the

brand wagon of Kesh King said, "India's rich tradition of ayurveda offers holistic solutions for overall health and well-being. In today's fast-paced and demanding lifestyle, natural remedies are essential for combating everyday challenges like hair fall. I love my long tresses, which need regular care and attention. To maintain my hair's strength and vitality, I wholeheartedly trust authentic and reliable ayurvedic solutions like Kesh King. I am thrilled to be on board with Kesh King Anti-Hairfall Shampoo and it's an added privilege to share the screen with the talented and celebrated Shilpa Shetty."

Cong complains about KCR's "threat," leading to a 48-hour campaign ban

Delhi: Former Telangana chief minister and BRS leader K Chandrashekar Rao has been prohibited by the EC from participating in processions, rallies, shows, meetings, and media interviews for 48 hours starting at 8 p.m. Telangana Congress filed a complaint, which prompted the action. During a news conference held in Sircilla on April 5, KCR made several remarks deemed offensive and disparaging by Congress. On the basis of a report submitted by Telangana's chief election officer, KCR received a notice on April 16. Congressmen had been referred to by KCR as "lath-kors" (a use-



less, sluggish person). In Telugu, he also said something like, "We will bite your heads off if you don't give Rs 500 as bonus (on MSP)." Congress had claimed in their suit that KCR had made death threats. According to EC, KCR had also broken the model code in earlier polls. In

response, BRS stated, "The Telangana and Sircilla election officers are not Telugu speakers and barely know the local language. The Congress party has taken several statements from KCR's news conference out of context in order to make their complaint."

DDA golf tournament returns after a year

Delhi: After a year, Delhi Development Authority (DDA) will host a Golf Tournament (LG Cup) 2024 at Qutab Golf Course (QGC) in Sept-Oct with 1,300 golfers. DDA has begun preparations and will seek entries from members, invitees from other

states, and non-members who have played golf at the course for a long time. An official claimed this is the largest golf competition in India by number of competitors, held in Delhi since 2001. "Usually, it takes place in Feb or March, but due to

some reasons, it will be organised at the end of Sept or the beginning of Oct this year," stated a source. Over two weeks, the competition runs Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. On the last day, the lieutenant governor will be the principal guest.

CAPSULES

AAP group led by Pathak will communicate with Cong



Delhi: AAP has formed a coordination group, led by MLA Durgesh Pathak, to improve relations with INDIA bloc partner Congress. The party has chosen coordinators in all seven Delhi parliamentary constituencies. AAP contests four seats in the capital's remaining three East, New Delhi, South, and West, while Congress contests North East, North West, and Chandni Chowk Delhi votes on May 25 in the sixth phase of Lok Sabha elections. Pathak added, "BJP MPs didn't work in their district, thus people are dissatisfied. Delhi residents have seen AAP work, and we will assure immaculate vote transfer. INDIA bloc candidates would win all seven Delhi seats." New Delhi Lok Sabha constituency is handled by Rajesh Gupta, West Delhi by Naresh Balyan, and South Delhi by Dinesh Mohaniya. AAP member Pawan Sharma will coordinate Chandni Chowk, while MLA Mukesh Ahlawat will manage North West Delhi. North East Delhi will be represented by Sanjeev Jha and East Delhi by Dilip Pandey.

Former Delhi Cong head Lovely joins BJP again with 4 others

Delhi: Former Delhi minister Arvinder Singh Lovely, who quit as state Congress chief last week over the party's partnership with AAP, joined BJP again. At the BJP's Capital headquarters, former Delhi minister Raj Kumar Chauhan, who left Congress in May 2019 but returned within months, ex-MLAs Naseeb Singh and Neeraj Basoya, who left the grand old party a few days earlier, and former Youth Congress president Amit Malik also joined. Lovely said that the



party has abandoned its sacrifice-based doctrine and practised 'tukde-tukde' tactics. Lovely claimed the Congress abandoned its ethic of sacrifice, recalling Indira Gandhi's remarks that

every drop of her blood was for the country. "I resigned as Delhi Congress president but wanted to stay involved. I met with other resigning members and supporters and decided not to stay

home, "Lovely remarked. "PM Narendra Modi's BJP is strengthening the nation. I appreciate PM Modi, Amit Shah, and JP Nadda hosting me and my Congress colleagues," He said. Lovely said he worked hard for Congress after leaving BJP, but great old party members were criticizing him following his resignation. Former Gandhi Nagar MLA joined BJP in May 2017 after alleging bribery in MCD seat distribution, but returned to Congress in February 2018.

LPGL Literary Association organized the 112th International Kavi Sammelan

Chandigarh: L.P.G.I. Sahitya Association organized the International Kavi Sammelan. This is L.P.G.I.S.A. Centenary 112th G.G.M. (Global Gathering Meet), the theme of which was 'Birds'. Well-known poets from all over the world participated in this International Poetry Conference. Neeraj Gupta, Director of Chhatbir Zoo, was the chief guest. He praised L.P.G.I.S.A. this program and inspired everyone to protect the wildlife. Education Officer of Chhatbir Zoo,



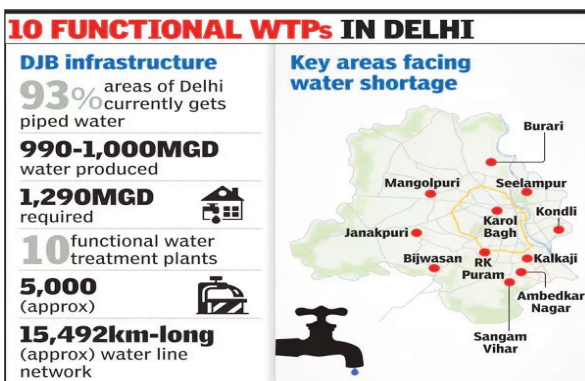
Harpal Singh was the special guest. He gave an inspiring statement regarding biodiversity. Famous poet Dr. Vinod Sharma participated as a special guest. He praised the contribution of Ashish and Yogita towards litera-

ture and encouraged all the poets. He appreciated all the poets and praised LPGLSA for uniting poets from all over the world. L.P.G.I. Sahitya Association (Regd.) Founder and Global Chairman Ashish Sharma and Founder

and Global President Yogita Sharma welcomed everyone and extended their best wishes. Poet Anjali Saraswat Sharma from India successfully conducted the program in a very brilliant manner. Special Statement LPGLSA UK Dr. Krishna Kanhaiya, President, and the vote of thanks was presented by Sunita Mahendru, Global Certificate Coordinator. Well-known poets and eminent personalities from all over the world participated in this conference.

The DJB picks 400 water places for summer fun

Delhi: The Delhi Jal Board has identified 440 water-deficient sites in the capital that will need additional attention in summer. Water is scarce in RK Puram, Burari, Palam, and Kondli. Officials said tankers carry water in these regions since piped water is scarce and tubewells are not



available. In summer, DJB's water production fluctuates between 990 and 1,000 million gallons per day (MGD), falling short of the city's 1,290 MGD needs. DJB receives over 100 water supply complaints and tanker requests daily. DJB officials say water tankers have been deployed for 16 hours in two shifts during peak summer. Water utility expects to deploy 961 tankers this year. Their permanent destinations now include 190

tanker filling sites. Other localities have water shortages besides the 440 highlighted. "For the last two days, there has been no regular water supply from the pipeline," stated a resident of DJB-unlisted Anand Vihar. I don't have a borewell, so we borrow water from a building site. Water is also purchased from the market. DJB executives informed me the issue will be resolved quickly after I complained. Hopefully it's resolved.

Children in Urban India Are More Likely to Develop Environmental-Induced Asthma, Warn Experts at Paras Health on World Asthma Day

Panchkula: A growing concern for child asthma in India is the alarming rise of environmental asthma, particularly in urban areas. Experts at Paras Healthcare on World Asthma Day warn that children residing in cities are significantly more likely to develop asthma induced by environmental factors like burgeoning outdoor air pollution, traffic-related air pollution, nitrogen dioxide, and second-hand smoking exposures. "There are many studies also that suggests significant impact of outdoor air pollution on the children in urban India, making them significantly more vulnerable to

"There are many studies also that suggests significant impact of outdoor air pollution on the children in urban India, making them significantly more vulnerable to asthma," said Dr. Surinder Kumar Gupta, Associate Director, Pulmonology, Paras Health Panchkula. According to a World Health Organization (WHO) report, ambient air pollution, or outdoor air pollution, is estimated to have robbed children under 15 of a staggering 2.3 million years of life in 2019 alone. This translates to a significant

health burden, highlighting the urgent need for stricter air quality regulations and cleaner air initiatives to safeguard the well-being of India's future generation. "There are several myths associated with asthma like people commonly believes that asthma is incurable disease but in 98% cases, it is easily treatable and other common myth is inhaler becomes

habitable which is not true.

Dr. Robin Gupta, Consultant, Pulmonology, Paras Health Panchkula, stated, "This increased risk is attributed to several factors associated with city life, including declining air quality in metro cities as well as tier 2 & tier 3 cities where pollutants like PM10 and PM2.5 are contributing highly to trigger more asthma problems among children. Moreover, urban environments often have higher concentrations of allergens like dust mites, pollen, and mold spores, which can exacerbate asthma symptoms."

The irrigation department will manage 22 major city drains

Delhi: All major 22 city drains would be turned over to the Delhi government's Irrigation and Flood Control Department (I&FC) by the end of May for improved maintenance and operation, an MCD official said. Delhi's urban development department ordered on April 29 that 'all concerned departments shall hand over the 22 open drains to the I&FC department' by May 31. The Delhi High Court ordered the Delhi government to assign all open drains in the city to one agency on April 8 to streamline drainage management, prevent flooding, and improve Yamuna water quality. A Delhi official said this will be a thorough exercise. "As per the court's order, the I&FC will submit a report which will include assessment of the quantity of silt in these drains as well as an action plan for desilting," said the spokesman.