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

Modi elected NDA leader, to be sworn in as PM on June 8



NEW DELHI: Amid speculation of jockeying for portfolios by its constituents, NDA on Wednesday moved swiftly for early formation of a BJP-led govt, setting the stage for Narendra Modi to be sworn in as PM on Saturday. Sources said Modi, who was unanimously elected leader of the National Democratic Alliance on Wednesday, will be elected leader of the NDA parliamentary party on Friday to fulfil the requirement to stake claim to form govt. Modi is likely to call on President Droupadi

Murmu on Friday evening to submit letters of support from NDA constituents. The impetus for early swearing-in came from NDA partners at the meeting of the alliance. "Modi played a major role in our historic Andhra victory, should take over the reins of the govt without delay. He has the full support of all of us," a source quoted TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu as saying in the meeting. JD(U) president and Bihar CM Nitish Kumar articulated the same sentiment and wondered why the matter was being delayed.

"Instead of holding discussions, he should have been elected leader straightaway," Kumar said, according to sources. NCP's Praful Patel also spoke along the same lines. "Our numbers may have come down but there is no mistaking your overwhelming popularity. Majority of people see you as best suited to be PM," the Rajya Sabha MP said. DVSD (3). The drill for Modi's record-equalling third swearing-in got underway on Wednesday with the Union cabinet recommending the dissolution of Lok Sabha.

Preparations for the swearing-in ceremony going on

Chief election commissioner Rajeev Kumar, along with election commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and S S Sandhu, will call on the President with the list of newly-elected MPs. Rashtrapati Bhavan is closed for the public until Sunday, in what is being seen as part of preparations for the swearing-in ceremony. The NDA meeting was held amid growing buzz about Naidu staking claim to important infrastructure-related ministries besides demanding the position of Speaker as a pre-condition for pledging the support of his 16 MPs to Modi. Some political circles also maintained that Naidu had asked for a common minimum programme and appointment of an NDA convener for better coordination among partners. Sources, however, denied any muscle flexing.

Will take steps at right time: Mallikarjun Kharge after INDIA meeting

NEW DELHI: On the day BJP and allies sealed the deal to form the next govt, the opposition said it will take "appropriate steps" in the future to "realise the people's desire not to be ruled by the BJP govt", in a clear bid to create uncertainty about the coming NDA regime in which the BJP will depend on the allies to make the numbers. The opposition dubbed the Modi rule as "fascist". Stalwarts of the INDIA bloc met Wednesday for over two hours to discuss the election results, with sources saying that most of the parties expressed the wish to form the govt but conceded that it was difficult to stop the BJP now that it has stitched the alliances. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge told reporters that "people's mandate has given a befitting reply to BJP and its politics of hate, corruption and deprivation". He said the mandate is "in defence of the Constitution of India and against price rise, unemployment



Rahul cashes in on Modi's absence to sweep Manipur

GUWAHATI: The year-long ethnic conflict in the heart of India's northeastern region, Manipur, deeply affected its multi-ethnic groups, resulting in the collective mandate of these communities going against NDA as the conflict significantly impacted their lives and changed the political

dynamics in the Lok Sabha elections. Kukis, Meiteis, Nagas and Muslims, who historically coexisted in a blend of harmony and tension, overwhelmingly voted in favour of Congress, which won the two Lok Sabha seats, defeating BJP in Inner Manipur. The valley.

and crony capitalism, and also to save democracy." He assured that the INDIA bloc will continue to fight against the "fascist rule" of BJP led by Modi. "We will take appropriate steps at the appropriate time to realise the people's desire not to be ruled

by the BJP govt. This is our decision that whatever promises we have made to the people, we will keep," Kharge said, flanked by opposition biggies including Sonia Gandhi, Sharad Pawar, Rahul Gandhi, M K Stalin, Akhilesh Yadav.

Anupam, Shark Tank judge on election results: Picture abhi baaki hai

Anupam Mittal, Shark Tank judge on Lok Sabha election results: Picture abhi baaki hai. Anupam Mittal shares views on Lok Sabha Elections 2024 results, praising NDA's mandate and BJP's victory. Mention of Samajwadi Party and Congress victories in UP. Shark Tank Judge and CEO of Shaadi.com Anupam Mittal has shared his views on the Lok Sabha Elections 2024 results. Expressing his views on the election results, Mittal wrote "Wow, what a mandate - especially UP" and "Never underestimate the power of the common man" in a post on X (formerly Twitter). In the recent Lok Sabha election results declared on June 4th.

Don wives face dusk as voters reject most in Bihar

PATNA: Bihar dealt a hard blow to dons-turned-politicians' proxies, aka their wives. Four such candidates were in the fray but three of them bit dust, while one scraped through. Kumari Anita, whose marriage to Nawada jailbreak convict Ashok Mahto was in itself a poll gimmick, contested from Munger on an RJD ticket against JD(U)'s Rajiv Ranjan Singh, alias Lalan Singh, who won by 80,870 votes.

Anita tied the knot with Mahto in March after being advised by RJD president Lalu Prasad to field his wife from the seat, as being a convict of more than two years' sentence, he himself couldn't contest. Since Mahto was not married at the time, he instantly went on a bride hunt and got married. Moments after wedding during an "inauspicious period", Mahto, accompanied by his newly-wed wife, went to Prasad's residence and the latter blessed her with an RJD ticket.

Among other losers are Bima Bharti - wife of Awadhesh Mandal facing murder, kidnapping and extortion cases - from Purnia, and Hena Shahab, widow of convict Mohammad Shahabuddin, from Siwan. Bharti too contested on a RJD ticket and got 27,017 votes - equivalent to NOTA's 23,819 as she finished a distant third. Shahab contested as Independent from Siwan - considered the "pocket borough" of Shahabuddin who was convicted in a kidnap-cum-murder case in 2007.

Porsche teen's blood sample replaced with mother's: FSL report

The forensic report confirmed the blood sample from the woman in the Porsche crash belongs to the driver's mother. The Juvenile Justice Board extended the boy's detention due to lack of parental care. Bail hearings for pub staff were deferred. Porsche teen's blood sample replaced with mother's: FSL report

My caste voted mostly for BSP but Muslims didn't: Mayawati

LUCKNOW: Jatavs, the core of BSP's vote base, stood by it in the Lok Sabha elections but Muslim voters didn't despite being given a choice of candidates representing the community, party chief Mayawati said Wednesday in her first response to drawing a blank in UP. "People from my caste voted



mostly for BSP and I am grateful to them for this," she said. "But from now on, BSP will field Muslim candidates only after thorough deliberations to avoid the

were given appropriate representation." "Our party has taken the result seriously. We will assess our performance and take strict action in favour of the party and the movement.

"BSP contested 79 seats and gave tickets to Muslim candidates for 20 of these. Only five of them - in Amroha.

18-19 NCP MLAs want to return, says Pawar senior's grandnephew

PUNE: Some MLAs of Ajit Pawar-led NCP are trying to re-establish a connection with Sharad Pawar's party ahead of the assembly poll in the state after NCP (SCP) candidates Nilesh Lanke and Bajrang Sonawane won the Ahmednagar and Beed Lok Sabha seats. Lanke and Sonawane had switched from Ajit Pawar to Sharad Pawar's camp while tickets were being distributed for the Lok



Sabha polls. Karjat-Jamkhed MLA Rohit Pawar, grandnephew of Sharad Pawar, on Wednesday, further said, "Nearly 18 to 19 MLAs (of Ajit Pawar camp) are interested in returning to the

party. But for those who stayed with Sharad Pawar in difficult times are important to him and would remain the party's priority." NCP (SCP) state president Jayant Patil, however, said on Wednesday that the decision to take back such MLAs rests with Sharad Pawar. "The LS results were out on Tuesday and some are already reflecting upon their decisions.

5 trekkers feared dead, 4 missing in Uttarakhand

UTTARKASHI: Five individuals have been confirmed killed, and four others are feared dead after a group of 22 "highly experienced" trekkers, aged between 34 and 71, returning from Sahastra Tal, a high-altitude lake 4,232 metres above sea level in Uttarakhand, were struck by adverse weather conditions and strayed off course in the mountains.

A collaborative effort involving the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), Army, Air Force, Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), and forest and revenue departments managed to rescue 13 of them and recover the bodies of the five so far.

The group, consisting of 22 people - 18



from Bengaluru, one from Pune, along with guides and porters from Uttarkashi - set out for the Sahastra Tal summit on May 29 from Silla village in Bhatwari block and were scheduled to return to Silla on June 7. The team reached the lake after six days around noon on Monday (June 3) afternoon and started descending by afternoon, when they lost their way due to a complete white-out

caused by heavy hailstorm, snowfall, and dense fog. Having left their trekking gear and the support staff at Lamb Tal, the final night halt before the ascent to Sahastra Tal, they had no help, tents, or adequate food supplies, forcing them to seek shelter under the rocks for the entire night, exhausted and battling extreme cold and inclement weather. 5 veteran trekkers

dead, 4 missing in U'khand. The following morning, after the weather cleared, the support staff, which had stayed back at Lamb Tal, initiated the rescue operation with guide Rajesh Thakur notifying the district administration. On Tuesday evening, the forest and revenue department teams and local villagers commenced a search for the missing trekkers.

Those disrespecting medals, uniform won't be spared

NEW DELHI: Enough is enough, says the 12-lakh strong Army, grappling with the repeated unauthorised use of its uniform and medals across the country. The force is now cracking the whip with the message that those "disrespecting the sanctity" of military attire and decorations.

will not be spared and could even face legal action. "The Army headquarters has taken a stern view of such violations," a senior officer told on Friday. A strong warning, for instance, was recently issued to a Noida-based event management firm after one of its employees was spotted flaunting Army medals at a function, which drew widespread attention on social media platforms.

'Worn out' laws on missing soldiers' pension need to be abolished: HC

INDORE: Madhya Pradesh high court has observed that Indian Army's behaviour towards missing soldiers is "somewhat rude" and said that "worn out" laws regarding release of pension and retirement benefits to families of missing soldiers need to be abolished. Justice Anil Verma made the observation while issuing final directives in a second appeal filed by parents of signalman Surendra Singh Solanki - who has been missing since July 25, 2010 - regarding modification of his date of death. "The history of our Army is full of unique tales of courage, sacrifice and martyrdom. The brave soldiers live for the country and die for the country. But

unfortunately, when a soldier suddenly goes missing, the Army's behaviour towards him becomes somewhat rude," HC said in its May 27 order. Instead of helping the soldier's family, Army expects them to get the date of his death declared through civil court, and are denied pension and other retirement allowances, Justice Verma said, adding, "It is a hardship for the grieving family of a missing soldier." Solanki, a Mandsaur resident, joined the Army in 2002. After he went missing, his parents lodged a missing person's report and started receiving ordinary family but in 2020, received a communication from the dept that "due to non-availability of death certificate.

On the occasion of "World Environment Day", various programs including tree plantation were organized in North Central Railway



Prayagraj: On the occasion of World Environment Day, World Environment Day was celebrated with enthusiasm in North Central Railway today on 05.06.2024. In the same sequence, various programs were organized in all three divisions including North Central Railway Headquarters under the theme of "Land Restoration, Desertification and Drought Resistance" and the slogan "Our land is our future". On this occasion, General Manager Shri Ravindra Goyal on this occasion, the General

Manager along with other major department heads administered the oath of environmental protection to the officers and employees present in the premises. In this sequence, a street play was performed for environmental awareness by the team of Scouts and Guides of North Central Railway. On this occasion, the General Manager said in his address that there is a need to make continuous joint efforts to stop indiscriminate cutting of trees, to plant trees and to save the environment from getting

contaminated by increasing pollution so that global warming can be prevented. The world can be saved from danger.

With the aim of increasing awareness on environmental issues, every year June 5 is celebrated as World Environment Day on all units of North Central Railway. In the same sequence, today on World Environment Day, there is widespread awareness regarding environment in the entire zone. Programs were organized to broadcast. Rail is the most environment friendly mode of transport

and with the aim of making it completely environment friendly, efforts are in progress to make it zero carbon emitting. North Central Railway has set an exemplary example by adopting various energy efficient technological measures, as a result of which our Railways has received the first prize in the National Energy Conservation Award, 2023. Lower consumption of HSD oil used in diesel engines ensured during FY 2023-24, resulting in revenue savings of Rs 99.7 crore. Apart from this, North Central Railway has also con-

ducted Investment Grade Energy Audit (IGEA) of 74 service buildings in the entire zone.

In the field of energy conservation, solar energy panels have been installed in North Central Railway, through which 11.81 lakh units of solar energy was donated in the year 2023-24. This has resulted in saving of revenue of Rs 4.93 crore per year along with reduction in CO2 emissions of 9921 (metric tonnes). Appropriate efforts have been made by giving priority to the cleanliness and environmental pro-

tection of the premises under each departmental unit of the three divisions and factories including the North Central Railway Headquarters. In the same sequence, along with tree plantation in Prayagraj division-3,87860, Agra division-1,91730 and Jhansi division-77740, water recycling plants have been installed in all three divisions for proper use of water. On this occasion, various programs including tree plantation campaign, awareness programme, street drama were organized at the headquarters.

UP Govt running 'O' Level & CCC Computer Training Scheme

To provide advanced computer education to the unemployed youth of backward classes Lucknow: Backward Class Welfare of Uttar Pradesh Government is conducting 'O' Level and CCC Computer Training Scheme online for the financial year 2024-25. The objective of this scheme is to provide advanced computer education to unemployed young men and women of backward classes. Director Backward Classes Welfare Department, Dr. Vandana Verma said that training under this scheme is provided by institutions recognized by 'NEELIT', an authorized organization of the Government of India will be done. Institutions interested in providing computer training can apply online in the districts from June 08, 2024 to June 21, 2024. The applica-

tion process and guidelines are available on the website of Backward Classes Welfare Department backwardwelfareup.gov.in and obcomputertraining.upsdc.gov.in. After applying, the institutions should download a copy of the online filled application along with the signed print-out of all The required documents have to be submitted to the Directorate, Backward Classes Welfare, Indira Bhawan, 10th Floor, Ashok Marg, Lucknow or the concerned District Backward Classes Welfare Officer of office by 5:00 pm on June 21, 2024. Review of the applications and physical verification of the infrastructure of the institutions will be done by a committee constituted under the chairmanship of the Director, Backward Class Welfare.

On Environment Day, children's painting competition organized to create awareness among public

Prayagraj: To spread awareness about environmental protection through plantation and sapling distribution, students from class UKG to class V were awarded certificates and gifts to the participants from Ek Soch Sanstha and Naz Multispeciality Hospital. On International Environment Day, students of various schools from class UKG to V participated in a painting competition on environmental protection, courtesy of Ek Soch Foundation and Naz Multispeciality Hospital in Cylinder Park, Karaaili, while the parents of the participants and the general public were informed about environmental protection. Saplings were distributed along with the oath taking



ceremony. The chief guest of the program, Dr. Naz Fatma, Director of Naz Multispeciality Hospital and Advocate Syed Iftakhar Hussain, President of Ek Soch Foundation, presented Neem, Amla, Guava, Banyan, Peepal saplings along

with Tulsi saplings. Chief guest Dr. Naz Fatma said that the main reason behind the scorching heat today is that we are getting carried away by the storm of materialism and are cutting trees and running axes on our own feet. We should save trees

and plant more and more trees. So that the environment remains balanced. Iftakhar Hussain made people aware about the environment and said that if the earth, we and our society are aware then we can maintain this heat and deteriorating environmental balance. Advocate Syed Abbas Hussain, Founder of Sanstha Ek Soch, Amit Yadav, Managing Director of Maa Charitable Trust and Naz Multispeciality Hospital, Shuja Abbas, Ahmed Nawaz, Azim Ansari, Ahad Ansari, Hashsham Ansari, Nasir Hussain, Ashutosh Kumar Srivastava, Karne Maurya, Asif Hasan, Syed Mohammad Askari Arsalan Khan, Farzan, Ahmar Naqvi etc. were included.

Curtains draw over Summer Workshop focussing nurturing & honing budding talents

Prayagraj: The Muktakashi stage of North Central Region Cultural Center was buzzing on Wednesday. The colorful costumes on the stage along with the accompaniment's jugalbandi on tune and rhythm and the sound of the cymbals of ghunghrus was attracting everyone. Sometimes Rajasthani folk dance, Kathak and sometimes Haryanvi and Kalbelia folk dances. The occasion was the colorful conclusion of the 15-day summer presentational children's workshop organized by North Central Region Cultural Center Prayagraj, Ministry of Culture, Government of India. To bring out the hidden skills of the children who participated in the workshops of sculpture, painting, Kathak and folk dance, the trainers invited

from Rajasthan, Varanasi, Prayagraj and Haryana wholeheartedly gave a new flight to the dreams of these children. At the end of the



workshop, the children presented the different styles they had learned under the guidance of the trainers to the audience and received a lot of applause. The parents and the audience present there gave a lot of applause after seeing one

wonderful presentation by them. The program starts with the presentation of Kathak dance on Krishna Vandana "Kasturi Tilakam"

and "Shri Krishna Nirat Thunga Thunga". After this, the children created a lot of excitement by giving a captivating presentation of Haryanvi and Kalbelia dance "Haryana Ek Haryanvi Ek". Every presentation given by him dur-

ing the program mesmerized the audience present there. The trained women presented "Mera Daman Sila De Re O Nandi Ke Veera" and received a lot of applause. An exhibition of sculpture and painting of trained children was also organized in the art gallery, which was greatly appreciated by the people. Center Director Prof. In Suresh Sharma's welcome address and blessings, he congratulated the children and said that it is hoped that whatever the children learned in 15 days through this workshop, they will continue to perform well in the future also. The children were honored with certificates amid thunderous applause. On this occasion, a large number of people including all the officers and employees of the center were present.

Campus drive organized by Tata Motors Ltd. at Govt ITI Lucknow

Lucknow: Raj Kumar Yadav, Principal, Government Industrial Training Institute, Aliganj, Lucknow has informed that a special campus drive is being organized in the institute in collaboration with Tata Motors Limited, Lucknow on 07 June 2024. MA. According to Khan, Training Counseling and Placement Officer, direct selection will be done for the posts of apprenticeship and temporary workers in this campus drive. It includes various technical professions like Electrician, Fitter, Machinist, Mechanic Motor Vehicle, Painter General, Turner, Welder Mechanic Diesel Engine, Automotive CNC Machining Technician, CNC Programmer Cum Operator, Technician Automotive Manufacturing, Mechanic (Central Air Conditioning Plant, Industrial cooling and package Air conditioning), Electronics Mechanic, Information and Communication Technology System Maintenance, Electric vehicle service lead Technician, Refrigeration equipment maintenance specialist, Mechanic (Domestic, commercial Refrigeration and Air conditioning Machines, Mechanic Refrigeration and Air Conditioning, Mechanic Mechatronics, Automotive Mechatronics, Mechanic power Educational qualification for the post of Intermediate or Temporary Worker for Electronics (Inverters, UPS and Maintenance of Drives), Wireman Control panel Electronics and COPA trade should be High School with 1 year experience. Salary of Rs 12,945 to Rs 13,915 per month, plus canteen, transport, PF, ESIC and other facilities will be provided. Age limit should be between 18 to 32 years. Interested candidates can get employment by attending the Government Industrial Training Institute, Aliganj, Lucknow on 07 June 2024 at 09:00 am attaching all the educational certificates along with their bio-data. Selection will be made on total 1000 posts. Both male and female candidates can participate in this fair.

Blood donation camp organized Mayor honoured the blood donation warriors

Prayagraj: Blood donation done by Hindu Yuva Vahini on the birthday of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. On this occasion, Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani honored



the blood donation warriors. He congratulated Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on his birthday. On this occasion, Hindu Yuva Vahini, District President Amit Pratap Singh, Mandal in-charge Kunwar Gyanendra Pratap Singh, Councilor East Dwivedi Rajesh Kesarwani, Metropolitan President Tushar Verma, Prashant Singh, Durgesh Singh and other workers of Hindu Yuva Vahini were present.

Celebrated birthday of CM Yogi

Prayagraj: Bharatiya Janata Party workers celebrated the birthday of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at Indian Press Square. On this occasion, BJP Metropolitan President Rajendra Mishra celebrated the birthday of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Chief Minister



Yogi Adityanath was congratulated on his birthday by feeding him sweets on the pictorial. Anil Bhatt, the convener of the program, was the chairman of the board. The main ones who congratulated him were Rajesh Kesarwani, Vijay Srivastava, Ganesh Verma, Ashunla Goswami, Priyanka Parashar, Vineeta Gupta, Shatrughan Jaiswal, Rohit Jaiswal, Kalpana Sharma, Councilor Ashish Dwivedi, Sonu, Gyanendra Gupta, Aman Sharma, Vikas Srivastava, etc.

Congregation of St. Peter's Church planted trees on World Environment Day

Prayagraj: On Wednesday, on the occasion of World Environment Day, a tree plantation program was organized by the Pastor Committee of St. Peter's Church, Muirabad and the youth and women's group of the church under the leadership of Presbyter Incharge of the Church, Rev. Praveen Massey. On this special occasion, while praying for the environment under the chairmanship of Praveen Massey, Bible chapter Ezekiel 17:5-6 was read where it is written that "He also took some of the seed of the ground and sowed it in the fertile ground. And he sowed them near abundant water". Different varieties of air-bearing and fruit-bearing trees were planted around the church premises. Pastor Praveen Massey said that the environment in which we live is called environment, if our environment is not safe then our safety will also be questioned. The air we are breathing, the water we are drinking, the things we are consuming all come under our environment. In such a situation, the importance of environmental protection increases. He said that by adopting habits that protect the environment, reducing pollution and reducing the consumption of electricity and water, we all can contribute to environmental protection at our own level. To highlight the importance of environment, to take necessary steps for environmental protection and to make people aware about it, a tree plantation program was organized. He told that this is a beginning but he will try his best to plant trees continuously in the coming days. All the church members were present on this occasion. Nirmal Eusebius, Ansh Dixon, Shant Chhattri, Abhineet Chhattri, Ronald Harris, Neetu Masih Varsha MU, Poonam Massey, Nathaniel Lawrence, Angela Singh, Bonnie Uworld, Ronita Chhattri, Sunil Kumar Verma, media in-charge Rakesh Kumar etc. were present.



Triveni Sangam Seva Samiti Maheva distributed sherbet

Prayagraj: Triveni Sangam Seva Samiti Maheva distributed sherbet by offering spinach to the cow Maa Maheva Gate Naini, Prayagraj Triveni Sangam Seva Samiti Maheva Prayagraj distributed the sherbet by offering spinach to the Lord in Shri Durga temple before distributing it to more than 50 cows. After the sherbet was distributed, the main ones who distributed the sherbet were Committee Secretary Dinesh Yadav, Vijay Rawat, Chandrabhan Singh, Juhi Srivastava, Kanchan Jaiswal, Dr. Sarita Patel, Puja Jogi, District President of Janhit Sangharsh Committee Abhilash Kesarwani, Rohit Nishad, Mohit Committee officials like Nishad, Sanjeev Saxena, Sumit Sharma, Sahil Pasi, etc. were present.



New initiative: "Cutoff Junction" prepared by law students of AU to help new entrants

Prayagraj: Under the "Legal Chariot" being run by the law faculty students of Allahabad University, the admission process is being explained to the candidates taking admission in this session and all the To provide a single location for cutoff, an integrated "cutoff junction" was created. In this, the cutoff of all the courses will be shown in a systematic order, which will provide a lot of convenience to the students. On this portal

created by the students of Allahabad University, the details of all the courses provided by the university, seats available in the courses, fees, last year Other important options like cutoff, topser list, required documents will be available in it. Students can access the Cutoff Junction portal from this link <https://www.legalchariot.com/p/allahabad-university-cutoff.html>. Portal Director Hritikh Mehrotra said that Allahabad University

conducts admission through separate portals for undergraduate and postgraduate. Due to which the candidates have to face a lot of difficulties. In such a situation, this thing has been made available at one place, so that the candidates do not have to face any kind of problem. Also, the last year's cutoff has been put on the portal so that they can get an idea about the courses offered here.

Municipal Corporation will plant 10 lakh saplings

Municipal Corporation will plant saplings on its vacant lands

Prayagraj: For the good health of the citizens of Prayagraj city and environmental protection, the Municipal Corporation, under the leadership of Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani, planted large trees on the vacant lands of the Municipal Corporation in Rajapur Sadar Bazaar, the Mayor said that the Municipal Corporation has planted trees in every corner of the city. We will plant trees on the vacant lands which will free the city



from pollution, the Mayor said that trees are the main part of our life, life is protected only by trees, Mother Earth will be safe only through environmental protection, life is incomplete without environmental protection, Environment The work of conservation is impossible without the common people. Therefore, the Mayor also requested for the cooperation of the public in this work. On this occasion, the

Mayor administered the oath of environmental protection and tree plantation to all the citizens present in the program. Councilor Gan Shri Bhaskar participated in the tree plantation program. Patel ji, Mr. Ahmed Ali, Mr. Mukesh Kasera, Girijesh Mishra, Rajesh Kesarwani, Environment Forest Department officer, Uttam Verma, Aparajita Singh, Jai Kishan, Dev Divedi and local citizens had a dignified presence.

Prayag, Phaphamau railway stations to have double entry, exit gates

Prayagraj: In preparation for the upcoming Mahakumbh-2025 mega religious fair, the Northern Railway has started building second entry/exit gates at Prayag and Phaphamau railway stations, similar to the setup at Prayagraj Junction. The development aims to streamline passenger movement and enhance overall accessibility at these bustling stations, informed officials. The construction of the new gates has already started, and the work is planned to be completed well before the formal start of the Mahakumbh. Comprehensive infrastructure enhancements, including the installation of new ticket counters, are also underway alongside the new gates at both railway stations, officials added. At Prayag station, the construction of a new platform and gates towards Ram Priya road has started. However, due to space constraints, there will be no parking facilities at this end.

In contrast, Phaphamau railway station is witnessing the erection of an entirely new structure, including a platform and an entrance/exit gate towards Rangpura village. A food plaza is also proposed at this location. The new gate will enhance connectivity to Varanasi Road and Phaphamau Kachar. Divisional railway manager (DRM)- Lucknow Sachindra Mohan Sharma has been overseeing these developments, visiting Prayagraj twice within the last month. On May 19, Sharma briefed Kumbh mela officer Vijay Kiran Anand on the ongoing development works at the stations. Further inspections were conducted on May 31 to ensure the projects were well on track in keeping with the deadlines. Plans are also in place for construction of a second gate on the side of Lowther Road of Prayagraj Rambagh station. However, limited space on this side has led to some uncertainty regarding its implementation.

Environment Day celebrated in Prayagraj Division

Prayagraj: Environment Day was celebrated at Prayagraj Division Office and Prayagraj Junction Station under the leadership of Divisional Railway Manager/Prayagraj, Himanshu Badoni on 05.06.2024. On this occasion, Divisional Railway Manager said that for environmental protection, tree plantation is being done continuously in railway premises and carbon emissions are being continuously reduced. Only through the ef-



orts of all of us to protect the environment will the coming generations be able to get a clean and healthy environment. On this occasion, under the leadership of Divisional Railway Manager, officers, employees and members of Bharat Scout Guide took out Prabhath Pheri for environmental awareness from Divisional Railway Manager's Office/Prayagraj to Prayagraj Junction Station and Bharat Scout Guide on platform number 1 of Prayagraj Junction. A street play was staged by the members. After the street play, all the officers and employees along with the Divisional Railway Manager took an oath to preserve the environment. On the occasion of Environment Day today, employees and children took oath for environment protection along with plantation of trees at Tundla, Aligarh, Fatehpur, Mirzapur stations. On this occasion, special cleanliness campaigns were conducted at all the stations of the division. On this occasion, Additional Divisional Railway Manager/General, Sanjay Singh, Senior Divisional Environment and House Keeping Manager, Alok Kesarwani, Senior Divisional Engineer/Coordination, Sitaram and other officers, employees and members of Bharat Scout Guide were present.

ABVP submitted memo to extend last date of PG admission registration

Prayagraj: Activists of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad Allahabad University unit submitted a memorandum to the Director of Entrance Examination to extend the date of postgraduate admission registration. After the start of registration, Gandhi Studies course was started and opportunities were provided to commerce stream students in B.Ed also, due to which many students are still not able to apply. In this regard, today ABVP submitted a memorandum to extend the last date of registration. Alok Tripathi, unit president of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad Allahabad University unit, said, "Students have faced many problems during the application, due to which they A new

course has also been started by the University from this session, for which the candidates were given very less time. Therefore, ABVP demands extension of the last date of application."

B.A.L.L.B. of Allahabad University (Main Campus) Pitanshu Agrahari, resident of Kushinagar, a student of eighth semester of the course, passed away this morning due to heat stroke. He used to live in a room in Prayag. He had mild fever since yesterday morning and it became high late night after which he was taken to the hospital where he was given medicine but was not admitted. Due to deteriorating health this morning, he passed away around 10 am. May God give him a place at his feet and give strength to the family to bear this loss.

127 students of AESL Prayagraj become top scorers in NEET UG 2024

7 students secured 700 and above in the prestigious NEET UG 2024 exam

Prayagraj: Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), the national leader in test preparatory services, proudly announces the outstanding achievement of 127 of its students from Prayagraj who scored 600 and above in the prestigious NEET UG 2024 examination. This remarkable feat is a testament to their hard work, dedication, and the high-quality coaching provided by AESL. The results were announced by the National Testing Agency (NTA). 7 notable students who scored 700+ are Tanisha Gupta secured AIR 389 by scoring 710, Astha Rai secured AIR 564 by scoring 710, Prakhari Singh secured AIR 980 by scoring 705, Udbhav Mishra secured AIR 1,124 by scoring 705, Samrat Kanishak secured AIR 1,220 by scoring 705, Prateek Mishra secured AIR 1,349 by scoring 705 and Mrityunjay Mani Tripathi secured AIR 1,846 by scoring 700.

The students enrolled in AESL's classroom program to prepare for NEET, widely regarded as one of the toughest entrance ex-

am globally. They attribute their remarkable success to their rigorous understanding of concepts and strict adherence to a disciplined study schedule. "We are grateful that Aakash has helped us with both. But for the content and coaching from AESL, we would not have grasped many concepts in different subjects

in a short period of time," the students expressed. Congratulating the students on the extraordinary achievement, Dr. H. R. Rao, Regional Director, Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), said, "We congratulate the students for their exemplary feat. Over 20 lakh students appeared for NEET 2024 from across the country. Their achievement speaks volumes of their hard work and dedication as well as the support of their



parents. We wish our students all the best in their future endeavors." NEET is conducted an-

nually by National Testing Agency as a qualifying test for students who wish to pursue undergraduate medical (MBBS), dental (BDS) and AYUSH (BAMS, BUMS, BHMS, etc.) courses in government and private institutions in India and also, for those intending to pursue primary medical qualification abroad.

achievement, Dr. H. R. Rao, Regional Director, Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), said, "We congratulate the students for their exemplary feat. Over 20 lakh students appeared for NEET 2024 from across the country. Their achievement speaks volumes of their hard work and dedication as well as the support of their

2030KaBharat kickstarts its SDG projects

Prayagraj: Under the 2030KaBharat campaign dedicated to Sustainable Development Goals, a series of impactful projects were launched in Indore today. These projects address critical issues such as poverty, hunger, and quality education, along with providing support for street vendors and rehabilitation and welfare for prisoners. Led by social worker, writer, and political strategist Atul Malikram, 2030KaBharat campaign envisions an educated and prosperous nation. The campaign aims to expand these projects to 10 states across the country by March 2026.

Explaining about these projects, Pawan Tripathi, Chief Branding and Communications Officer, said, "It is a matter of pride for us to start this initiative from Indore. Through these projects, we are taking the initiative to train teachers of open schools in small towns and alleys with the aim of promoting quality education while helping to end poverty and hunger by providing several means. Additionally, we



plan to distribute 1 lakh standees as support to street vendors. Our goal is to brand and market products from 100 prisons as part of our efforts to rehabilitate and sup-

port prisoners. These products will be made available to customers through online stores, reflecting our commitment to their welfare and reintegration into society."

Highlighting other important points related to the projects, Rohit Chandel, Project Key Co-ordinator, said, "Funding for these projects will come from the CSR of the corporate sector, and through this initiative, various sections of society will be empowered, and significantly contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Additionally, India's 40- to 45-year-old youth leaders and intellectuals will be interviewed on the Sustainable Development Goals to share their views on eliminating poverty and hunger in India and making quality education accessible to all." This important step of the 2030KaBharat campaign will provide a new direction to the deprived sections of society and help in realizing the dream of an educated and prosperous India.

Prayagraj students excel at 2023-24 Olympiad Awards

Prayagraj: Three students from Prayagraj have secured top ranks in the SOF Olympiad exam for 2023-24. Ashwit Srivastava, a first-grade student from St. Joseph's College, achieved the first rank in the International English Olympiad, earning an international gold medal and a merit certificate. Vinayak Agrahari, a second-grade student from Patanjali Rishikul, also claimed the first rank in the National Science Olympiad, receiving an international gold medal and a merit certificate. Ananya Sonkar, an eighth-grade student from St. Mary's Convent Inter College, also claimed the second rank in the International Social Science Olympiad, earning an international silver medal and a merit certificate.

This year's SOF Olympiad saw participation from approximately millions of students across 70 countries, including over 21,822 students from Prayagraj. Notable schools from Prayagraj, including Delhi Public School, Girl's High School & College were among the participants.

The Science Olympiad Foundation hosted an awards ceremony at New Delhi to honor the winners, their teachers, and principals for the academic year 2023-24. The event celebrated the top three world-wide rank holders from grade 1 to 12 who participated in seven different Olympiad exams. Distinguished guests like former Chief Justice of India, Justice Dipak Misra, and renowned author and screenwriter Chetan Bhagat graced the occasion. At the ceremony, former

chief Justice of India, Justice Dipak Misra addressed the gathering of over 700 attendees, he said, "Competition or the effort to compete doesn't end here, that is the beauty of competition in Life. When you talk about

should be determined to manage time. Time management is a major step toward success. On the path of success one may, sometimes, face certain difficulties and at that time, do not react in a manner that will

intellect of a human mind can never be replicated by artificial intelligence.

During the event, 66 international rank-1 winners received a cash prize, a gold medal, and a merit certificate. The 66 rank-2 winners



competition, success follows it because everyone competes to succeed. Success is the real achievement. He further highlighted that one may not be able to master the 'time' but they

show weakness of mind. The young students should always keep in mind where they have studied and never forget their Alma Mater. He underscored that the unique experience and

were given a silver medal and a merit certificate along with a cash prize, while the 66 rank-3 winners received a bronze medal, a merit certificate, and a cash prize. Additionally, the top 26 prin-

cipals and top 60 teachers from 70 participating countries, whose students performed exceptionally well, were honored with monetary awards, mementos, and citations.

Moreover, SOF announced the launch of International Hindi Olympiad to encourage the Hindi language among the younger generation, nurturing a deeper appreciation and proficiency in their mother tongue. This new Olympiad aims to promote linguistic and cultural pride among students globally. While interacting with students, Chetan Bhagat, Indian Author and Columnist, said, "When you get recognition and awards for something, you feel, I should do it more. This is the recognition of your potential. Potential doesn't mean that the result is guaranteed. You have to

do the work and then you turn that potential into something beautiful."

Speaking on the rise of AI he further added that while AI can make things easy but it can never truly replace humans. AI cannot create art, it lacks human touch. Mahabir Singh, Founder Director of SOF, proudly announced the completion of 26 years of organizing Olympiad exams. He said, "In the 2023-24 academic year, over 91,000 schools from 70 countries participated, with millions of students involved. More than 1,30,000 students from 7000 schools received awards for top state-level ranks, and over 1,00,000 students were honored with 'Gold Medals of Excellence' for excelling in their schools. Additionally, 3,500 principals and teachers were recognized for their

dedication to enhancing students' academic knowledge." Various initiatives were announced during the ceremony, including scholarships for meritorious girl children from economically weaker sections and students from Defense Services Families who excel in academics. Additionally, training programs, camps, and exhibitions were organized by SOF to further enhance students' academic knowledge.

The award felicitation ceremony was also graced by Guest of honour Prof. Y. S. Rajan, Former Vikram Sarabhai Distinguished Prof ISRO, Visionary Scientist, Author, Technologist, CS Ashish Mohan, Secretary, Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) and Mr. R. Ravi, CEO, Founder Epiance Software Pvt. Ltd. B'loru.

Editorial

France offers a welcome breather for India

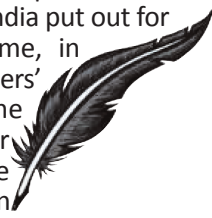
Prime Minister Narendra Modi with chief guest French President Emmanuel Macron during the 75th Republic Day parade, at the Kartavya Path, in New Delhi, on 26 January, 2024. PTI

Between them, US President Joe Biden and rival Republican Party's Nikki Haley seem bent on pushing India closer to France for a balanced relationship in the western world that has all the ingredients of strategic stability, both in the bilateral and multilateral contexts. That is if one were to leave out India's Russia relations, which many believed were rocky but became sort of rock steady all over again owing to the Ukraine War, where the long American arm was seen all over the place.

Yes, Nikki Haley, 51, is not even Biden's likely rival in the US presidential polls in November. She did not mean to question, challenge or rebuke India, either. Instead, by claiming that India was moving closer to Russia than the US, implying that the Biden presidency did not inspire confidence not only in New Delhi, but also in Tokyo and Seoul, Canberra and Wellington, Haley was only targeting the incumbent back home. But her choice of India, and not any of America's NATO allies, for example and her choice of words, gave the impression that she was trying to convince a certain section of Republican voters that she was all American, and not Indian. It has to be front-runner and former president Donald Trump. Haley is trailing the Republican primaries and polled lower than their kind of NOTA in Nevada, but that does not make sure that Trump's name will be on the ballot. Indications are that at some point, either the Republican Party bosses or American courts could make it embarrassing for Trump's name to be on the ballot. Haley seems hoping for that day and is persisting in the primaries precisely for this reason. Maybe, like a typical Indian-origin woman that she is, Haley is hoping for 'sympathy votes' or 'survivor's votes', first in the primaries and later in the presidential poll. Of course, there is a long way to go this time than any time in the past.

Disappointment for India

Biden kept India waiting and eventually turned down the invitation to be the chief guest at the annual Republic Day celebrations. Information about India's invitation having spread after a time (generally it is kept secret until accepted – which again used to be a formality), Biden's avoidably-delayed rejection was a disappointment for India. It is not known how the Indian-American supporters of Biden and the Democratic Party feel about it. Not-so-official news sources claimed that Biden's decision owed to the election year commitments on campaigns and other essentials. In his place, another Democratic president, Barack Obama, took a short break from his so-called pressing engagements back home to be present in Mumbai first and Delhi next, where he was the chief guest at the 2015 Republic Day. Of course, in true American form and style, it was not a visit confined to honouring contemporary India's tryst with destiny. Obama did hard-selling business in an election year and took back orders for Boeing, which he said would ensure 20,000 Americans did not lose their jobs. Biden was constrained by domestic perceptions, both inside the Democratic Party and outside. Maybe, Team Modi too thought that having Biden would be a high-profile commencement to the ruling BJP-NDA's campaign for the Lok Sabha polls in the summer. To an extent, it compares with the 'Namaste Trump' show that India put out for the US President of the time, in February 2020 amid the farmers' rally in New Delhi. The Ahmedabad rally in particular was only a mirror-image of the Trump show for the Indian prime minister, 'Howdy Modi' in Houston months earlier in Houston, Texas.



Haldwani to Bareilly, seven decades of pseudo secularism has come home to roost

Haldwani, a small but bustling town in Uttarakhand, is the gateway to the Himalayas and ascent to tourist spots like Nainital and Bhimtal. Today, it is a far more dramatic dot on Bharat's map. On February 9, the town with an 18.55 percent Muslim population erupted with violence which left two dead and 250 injured. Islamist mobs attacked a demolition squad with accompanying cops and mediapersons when it went to demolish an illegally built mosque and madrasa. The mob hurled petrol bombs and stones, nearly set policemen on fire, and used women and chil-

dren as human shields.

Uniform Civil Code Bill tabled in Uttarakhand Assembly: How was the draft prepared?

Drone shots later revealed that the violence was unprovoked and planned. Images showed heaps of stones stored on rooftops. The very next day, 100 km away in Uttar Pradesh's Bareilly, another Islamist mob attacked the police with stones after Muslim cleric Tauqeer Raza was detained for giving a 'jail bhara' over the Gyanvapi mosque issue. Raza did not forget to mention the Haldwani mosque demolition as ghee on fire. Earlier in the week, a mob

surrounded a police station in Madhya Pradesh's Damoh after a dispute between a tailor, his customer, and a cleric who intervened. A man in the crowd, Akram Khan, took a loudspeaker and threatened violence. The Left-Islamist ecosystem has been shaken by the Pran Prathista at the Ayodhya Ram Mandir.

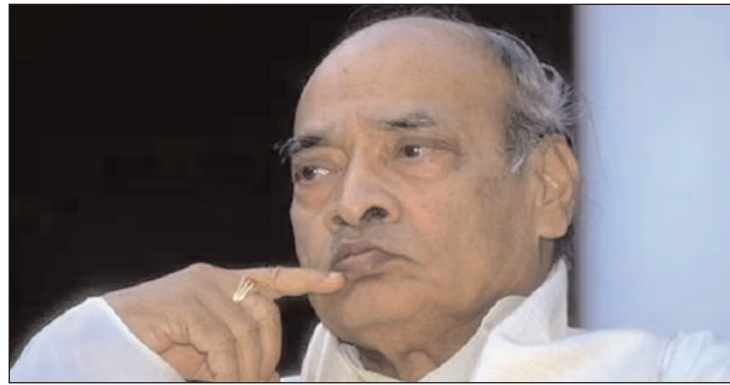
The legal challenge to the Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi, built after demolishing a part of Kashi Viswanath temple, has created further flutter. The mood of the nation after the Ram temple opening and a fast-crumbing Opposition alliance

point to another election victory for Narendra Modi.

One takes to the streets, of course, and with wanton violence, tries to overturn court orders or people's verdict. For seven decades since independence, a perverted secularism actively supported by political parties have signalled to Muslims that they should never peacefully coexist with the majority, must always be in victimhood mode, and heed the law of the land only if it suits them. The community has been told that its power lies in existing as an impoverished and irascible mass.

Narasimha Rao was a Batman of Indian politics, Bharat urgently needed to acknowledge

Former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao, in a true sense of the word, was a Batman of Indian politics. He became Prime Minister at a time when India's chips were badly down. In 1991, the country had to pledge its gold to pull the economy from the brink. He reoriented India's pro-Soviet Union foreign policy to bring it closer to the Western order. He reached out to Israel without leaving the Palestinian cause — an axis on which the Indian foreign policy still revolves around. And all this he delivered with a minority government. Still, Narasimha Rao remains largely forgotten and uncredited — Batman-like. Sanjaya Baru, in his book 1991: How PV Narasimha Rao Made History, emphasised at this phenomenon, with a tinge of sadness, when he recalled how "at an interaction with students at a university near Delhi, in the winter of 2015", he asked the audience "what the year 1991 meant to them". One student readily stood up to say he was born that year — and the entire audience burst into laughter. When Baru insisted on thinking more, there was silence. PV Narasimha Rao, Charan Singh, MS Swaminathan: Why they deserve Bharat Ratna Later, the same year, Baru addressed "a meeting of the Hyderabad Management Association" and he repeated



the same question. Many were quick to reply this time: The government that year had "introduced new economic policies that opened up the Indian economy", Baru was told. And who was responsible for this? "Manmohan Singh," pat came the reply! Some even credited P Chidambaram and Kamal Nath! Later, in an interaction with this author, Baru expressed his surprise at the height of Indian ignorance: "No one mentioned PV Narasimha Rao. Ironically, this incident took place in Hyderabad, which was Rao's own city."

When I asked Baru why Rao had been forgotten, he cited two reasons. "One, he faced several corruption cases, especially towards the fag end of his rule. But most importantly, the Congress decided to erase the memory of Narasimha Rao, to make the point that no person from outside the family can ever be a successful PM. After all, what did Rao prove? He

proved that someone doesn't need to be related to the Nehru-Gandhi family to be a successful prime minister. By becoming the first PM outside the family to run the country for a full term, he effectively challenged this notion." It's ironic to see the Congress disowning one of its own prime ministers, especially the one "whose impact on the nation's fortune went way beyond the economy", as Baru wrote in 1991. But then it was an obvious outcome for a non-Gandhi leader in the Congress. It had happened in the past with Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and it took place after Narasimha Rao, as was the case with Pranab Mukherjee. Anyone seen to be eclipsing the halo of the Gandhi-Nehru family was systematically targeted to be pushed to the footnotes of the party's — and by extension, the nation's — history. This explains Sonia Gandhi's hostility for Rao, to the extent that the former Prime Minister was denied a well-

deserved memorial in Delhi, even when lesser worthies could find space in the national capital. Author Vinay Sitapati, in Half Lion: How PV Narasimha Rao Transformed India, gives a graphic detail on how the late Prime Minister was denied a rightful place and space in Delhi after his death. "The home minister, Shivraj Patil, suggested to Rao's youngest son, Prabhakara, that 'the body should be cremated in Hyderabad'. But the family preferred Delhi. After all, Rao had last been chief minister of Andhra Pradesh more than thirty years ago, and had since worked as Congress general secretary, Union minister, and finally prime minister — all in Delhi. On hearing this, the usually decorous Shivraj Patil snapped, 'No one will come,'" Sitapati writes. Thereafter, Ghulam Nabi Azad and YS Rajasekhara Reddy reached out to Rao's family — Reddy, being the chief minister of Andhra Pradesh, promised a grand memorial for Rao in Hyderabad! Later in the day, prime minister Manmohan Singh entered the room and asked Prabhakara: "What do you want to do with the body?" To this, Rao's son replied, "These people say it should be in Hyderabad... This (Delhi) is his karmabhoomi. You should convince your Cabinet colleagues." Manmohan nodded. Sonia Gandhi was standing near, but

mostly kept quiet. When Sanjaya Baru arrived, Ahmed Patel sought his intervention. Baru's bureaucrat father knew Rao from the 1960s — and he was close to the family. "Sonia's political secretary tapped him on the shoulder. 'You know the family,' Patel said. 'The body should be taken to Hyderabad. Can you convince them?'" Sitapati quotes Prabhakara as saying, "We sensed even then that Sonia-ji did not want Father's funeral in Delhi. She did not want a memorial (in Delhi)... She did not want him (to be seen) as an all-India leader." The next morning, when Rao's body, draped in the national flag, was being taken to the airport, it was planned to stop at 24 Akbar Road, the Congress headquarters. "As the body approached 24 Akbar Road, located adjacent to Sonia Gandhi's residence, the funeral procession slowed. The entrance gate to the compound looked firmly shut. There were several senior Congressmen present, but hardly any cadres had been rustled up. No slogans filled the air, just deathly silence. The carriage stopped on the pavement outside, as Sonia Gandhi and others came out to pay their respects." "It was customary for the bodies of past Congress presidents to be taken inside the party headquarters so that ordinary workers could pay their respects.

Why India's \$100 bn proposed trade deal with Europe is different

In the pursuit of economic growth, the Maldives seems to have missed a crucial lesson: relying solely on a handful of major players isn't a sustainable strategy. The key to sustainable growth lies in opening up to broader economic participation.

India is a case in point

India stands on the brink of sealing a significant trade deal that could have far-reaching implications. Negotiations with Europe are nearing completion, with the potential for India to attract a staggering \$100 billion in investment. This proposed agreement with Europe is noteworthy for several reasons. Unlike conventional trade deals focused on tariff reduction, India is poised to open up its markets in exchange for substantial

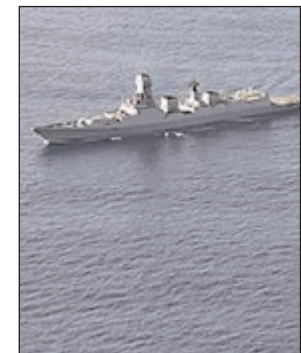
investment, a move that could inject significant capital into its economy over the next 15 years. The pact, unlike typical free trade agreements, comes with binding investment guarantees, a rare feature that could set a precedent for future trade negotiations. The investment is slated to originate from a special bloc of European nations known as the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), comprising Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland. While negotiations involve this bloc rather than the entire European Union, the agreement could serve as a model for broader regional trade engagements.

The potential investments are earmarked for both new and existing manufacturing projects,

promising to create over a million jobs and bolster India's industrial landscape. Beyond the economic windfall, the deal offers additional perks for India, including enhanced visa provisions for Indian professionals seeking access to the EFTA countries. In return, the EFTA nations seek expanded market access for their goods in India, spanning processed foods, beverages, electrical machinery, engineering products, pharmaceuticals and medical devices. While the deal holds immense promise, its fruition has been a long time coming, with negotiations spanning back to 2008. However, recent reports indicate that key issues have been resolved, paving the way for a potential agreement, pending finalization.

Anchored in Shivaji's spirit, India's naval operations get a desi touch in international waters

By carrying out back-to-back rescue operations in the past month, the Indian Navy has emerged as the bright spot in the otherwise unstable waters of the Red Sea. The Israel-Hamas war has not only thrown the Middle East into a flux but its effects are now also spilling over to South Asia and the wider expanse of the Indian Ocean Region. The worsening security concerns in the Red Sea due to constant attacks from the Yemen-based Houthis on cargo ships have further been exacerbated with Somali pirates also targeting the ships passing through this region. As the security situation in the Red Sea and also in the Arabian Sea has deteriorated, the Indian Navy has now emerged as the net security provider in the Indian Ocean Region. Indian Navy has always been exemplary in its duty and in particular, has always been proactive in benign causes like Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations. However, with the spill-over effects of the war in the Middle East threatening the security of the Indian Ocean Region, India is asserting its position as the resident power and as the primary stakeholder in the security architecture of the region. India's rescue



operations and in particular the role of the Indian Navy not only correspond to the existing global order. The current security concerns may have pronounced the role of the Indian Navy. But there is also a strong civilisational undertone to India's naval operations. This undertone could be considered from decolonisation and indigenisation perspectives.

The decolonisation narrative has been a major issue in the Indian political discourse for a long time. However, in the past few months, there has been a tangible and accelerated effort towards decolonisation and indigenisation across different spheres. Some important steps in this direction include the use of the name Bharat instead of India. This was the highlight when India hosted the G20 Summit in September 2023 as the placard in front of Prime Minister Narendra Modi displayed the name Bharat. Besides, three

criminal justice laws, the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita, the Bharatiya Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya Act, recently passed by the Indian parliament also seek to replace the colonial-era Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act. The recent consecration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya is projected as one of the most prominent steps towards decolonisation. Also, the scope of the decolonisation narrative has now expanded. For decades, only the 200-year British rule in India was earmarked as the colonial period in the collective memory of the Indian people. Now the 200-year period is being replaced by a period of about 1,000 years which includes the Islamic invasions in India. This indigenisation process which is becoming visible in the political, legal and cultural domains is gradually gaining emphasis in the security domain as well. Just as the decolonisation debate had been restricted to British rule, the same principle was evident in Indian strategic thought as well for a long time. As one of the relics of British rule, the continental mindset had remained a norm in Indian strategic thought for a long time.

Kaka Sachdeva distributed laddus in ward 27 on the victory of MP Naveen Jindal

Kaithal: BJP leader and councillor from ward number 27 Kaka Sachdeva, expressing happiness on the victory of BJP candidate Naveen Jindal from Kurukshetra Lok Sabha constituency, said that the people of Kurukshetra Lok Sabha constituency have put their stamp of approval on the development policies of Modi government and crowned Naveen Jindal with victory. Naveen Jindal's victory is the victory of the people on the basis of the blessings of the people and hard work of the workers. Kaka Sachdeva was talking after distributing laddus among the workers on the victory of MP Naveen Jindal. Councillor Kaka Sachdeva said that in the Lok Sabha elections, BJP candidate from ward number 27 Naveen Jindal got 2242 votes in his



favour and he won a record-breaking victory by 1080 votes from the ward, for which all the residents of 27 wards deserve congratulations. He said that the people of the country have expressed their faith in BJP under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the third consecutive time. The majority received by BJP in the country has once again proved that the people have given victory to development and

BJP's policies. People from Kurukshetra Lok Sabha constituency also expressed their faith in the BJP top leadership and Chief Minister Nayab Saini and have put the Kurukshetra Lok Sabha seat in the BJP's bag. On this occasion, a large number of youth including Goldie, Lucky, Happy, Shubham, Virendra, Lovely, Harsh, Vikas Kumar, Ashu, Kapish, Nanda, Johnny, Chotu, Sunil Sapra were present with him.

'Unwell' CM Kejriwal seeks interim bail till June 9 for medical tests

NEW DELHI: With the deadline for him to return to Tihar Jail a week away, Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal on Monday moved Supreme Court seeking extension of time to surrender till June 9 on the ground that he needed to undergo a comprehensive medical examination to identify whether his "unusually high blood sugar level, rapid weight loss and bouts of dizziness, coupled with palpitation", were life-threatening. Arrested by Enforcement Directorate on March 21 in a money laundering case relating

to the alleged excise policy scam and released on interim bail by the apex court on May 10 for campaigning, the 54-year-old Kejriwal said a senior physician from Max Hospital clinically examined him on May 25 and suggested whole body PET-CT to rule out malignancies and Holter monitor test, both of which would take 5-7 days. Kejriwal said since elections in Punjab were scheduled for June 1, he would be busy campaigning till May 30, and would not be able to undergo these tests in a day. Assuring that he had and would scrupu-

lously abide by the interim bail conditions, Kejriwal requested SC to extend his interim bail period by a week till June 9 to enable him to undergo the tests. The CM said he suffered from "an aggressive form of diabetes mellitus, which is very volatile and undergoes a wide range of swings in blood glucose, including episodes of high sugar, that is hyperglycemia, and low sugar, that is hypoglycemia". He claimed that during his incarceration from March 21 till his release on May 10, the "negligent and callous.

'Taware's removal was recommended in the past too'

Maharashtra government's DMER set up a committee to probe misconduct by two doctors at Sassoon General Hospital, Ajay Taware and Shrihari Halnor, arrested for manipulating blood sample reports of a teenager in a Porsche car crash.

'Taware's removal was recommended in the past too' Two doctors of the Sassoon General Hospital being taken into police custody after their arrest for alleged manipulation of blood samples and destruction of evidence in the case of a car accident involv-

ing a 17-year-old boy, in Pune. Maharashtra government's Directorate of Medical Education and Research (DMER) on Monday set up a three-member committee to probe the 'misconduct' by two doctors of Sassoon General Hospital.

CAPSULES

Magniflex India makes a sustainable leap forward with the launch of Magnigeo

Gurgaon: On the occasion of World environment day, Magniflex, a luxury mattress brand, has launched Magnigeo, a mattress that offers superior comfort while prioritizing environmental sustainability. Our planet is at a critical tipping point, facing unprecedented challenges with rising global temperatures and environmental degradation. With the launch of Magnigeo, Magniflex India marks a pivotal moment in the journey towards a more sustainable future. Magniflex also pledges to plant a tree for every Magnigeo purchase on behalf of the customer, and will issue a certificate in their name or their nominee's name. Commenting on their newest product, Anand Nichani, Managing Director, Magniflex India, said, "Magniflex is committed to driving growth, fostering innovation, and ensuring customer satisfaction. We are proud to be offering a wide range of premium sleep solutions that addresses the diverse requirements of every customer. With Magnigeo, we have come up with sleep solutions that not only caters to comfort, but also caters towards environmental responsibility." To meet the growing demand for quality mattresses, Magniflex India has introduced the Magniflex Investment Plan (MIP), offering Equated Monthly Instalment (EMI) schemes for its customers.. With this, customers can take advantage of hassle-free.



Maruti Suzuki strengthens commitment to renewable energy, commences a pilot Biogas plant at Manesar facility

Gurugram : Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSIL) commences a pilot Biogas plant at its Manesar facility in the fiscal year 2024-25, harnessing the untapped potential of in-house food waste and Napier grass as resources at its plant. The initiative is in alignment with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy's 'Waste to Energy' program, reflecting our commitment to sustainable practices and innovative waste management solutions. In FY2023-24, the company invested INR 120.8 crores towards commissioning renewable energy initiatives like solar power and biogas. It has further pledged to



increase the investment approximately fourfold to INR 450 crores spread over three years starting FY 2024-25. This will significantly boost MSIL's environmental sustainability initiatives. This initiative underscores Maruti Suzuki's unwavering commit-

ment to sustainable practices, managing waste effectively, carbon footprint reduction and bolstering energy security. Speaking on the company's upcoming green energy initiatives, Mr. Hisashi Takeuchi, Managing Director & CEO, Maruti

Suzuki India Limited said, "Energy is one of the critical inputs in the manufacturing process. As we ramp up our production capacity from around 2 million to 4 million by 2030-31, we are also accelerating our efforts to increase the share of sustainable and renewable energy sources across our operations.

This is in line with Suzuki's Environment Vision 2050 and Govt of India's renewable energy focus. The biogas plant at Manesar is another step towards fostering a cleaner and more sustainable energy landscape at MSIL and the industry at large.

Medvedev warns of World War if US strikes Russian targets in Ukraine

NEW DELHI: Former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev has issued a stark warning that any US attack on Russian targets in Ukraine would inevitably trigger a global conflict. Medvedev, who currently serves as Deputy Chair of Russia's Security Council, made this statement following comments by Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski. Sikorski claimed that Washington would strike Russian targets if Moscow resorted to using nuclear weapons



in Ukraine. In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Medvedev criticized Sikorski, saying, "Apparently, [he] has decided to scare his masters." Medvedev suggested that Washington, unlike Warsaw, has been more cautious and has not

made such threats publicly. He added, "Americans hitting our targets means starting a world war, and a Foreign Minister, even of a country like Poland, should understand that." Medvedev also referenced Polish President Andrzej Duda's recent remarks about Poland's willingness to host US nuclear weapons if offered the opportunity under Nato's sharing mechanism. He warned that in the event of a nuclear confrontation, "Warsaw won't be left out."

Le Travenues Technology Limited Initial Public Offer to open on June 10, 2024

Vatika Times Gurugram : Le Travenues Technology Limited ("ixigo" or the "Company"), shall open its Bid/Offer in relation to its initial public offer of Equity Shares on Monday, June 10, 2024. The total offer size comprises of fresh issue of Equity Shares of value of ₹ 1 each aggregating up to ₹ 1,200.00 million ("Fresh Issue") and an offer for sale aggregating up to ₹ 66,677,674 Equity Shares of face value of ₹ 1 each by the Selling Shareholders (defined below) ("Offer for Sale"). The Anchor Investor Bidding Date shall be Friday, June 07, 2024. The Bid/Offer will open on Monday, June 10th, 2024 for subscription and will close on Wednesday, June 12th. The Price Band of the Offer is ₹ 88 to ₹ 93 Per Equity Share. Bids can be



made for a minimum of 161 Equity Shares and in multiples of 161 Equity Shares thereafter. The Offer for Sale comprises an offer for sale of up to 19,437,465 Equity Shares by Saif Partners India Limited, up to 13,024,000 Equity Shares by Peak XV Partners Investments V (formerly known as SCI Investments V), up to 11,950,000 Equity Shares by Aloke Bajpai, up to 11,950,000 Equity Shares by Rajnish Kumar, up to 5,486,893 Equity Shares by Micromax Informatics Limited, up to 3,048,375 Equity Shares by Placid

Holdings, up to 1,333,513 Equity Shares by Catalyst Trusteeship Limited (erstwhile Milestone Trusteeship Services Private Limited) as the trustee of Madison India Opportunities Trust Fund and up to 447,428 Equity Share. by Madison India Capital HC (collectively, the "Selling Shareholders"). This Equity Shares are being offered through the red herring prospectus of the Company dated June 4, 2024 filed with Registrar of Companies, Delhi and Haryana at New Delhi (the "RHP") and are proposed to be listed.

For Kapadia, before her triumph at Cannes was trouble at FTII

FTII graduate Payal Kapadia won the Grand Prix at Cannes for her film 'All We Imagine as Light'. She faced backlash for protesting against Gajendra Chauhan's appointment at FTII. For Kapadia, before her triumph at Cannes was trouble at FTII. Kapadia had protested in 2015 against Gajendra Chauhan's appointment as FTII chairperson. Nine years are all it took for FTII graduate Payal Kapadia to go from "anti-national" to toast of the nation. The young filmmaker, whose 'All We Imagine as Light' clinched the Grand Prix at Cannes Saturday, was a student at the country's cradle of cinema and TV when she braved chants of "go to Pakistan" for participating in a 139-day protest in 2015 against the appointment of actor Gajendra Chauhan as the insti-

tute's chairperson. She, along with 34 other former students, continue to wage a legal battle over a case filed by the then institute's director, Prashant Pathrabe, alleging their involvement in gheraoing him and vandalising his office that year. But a day after conquering Cannes, there was not a trace of raucous in Payal's words. All she reflected was the afterglow of an unprecedented triumph that she gracefully shared with fellow filmmakers from India. "It's a great feeling to receive this prize because there are so many good films from India alongside ours, and we feel a part of the larger family of filmmakers. We have three films from FTII directors this time. My FTII batchmate Maisam Ali's film 'In Retreat' is the first Indian entry to Cannes' ACID sidebar (Association for the

Diffusion of Independent Cinema)," she told from the French Riviera. Payal's film on 2015 FTII stir had also won Cannes laurel. Also, an FTII student's (Chidananda Naik) film, titled 'Sunflowers Were the First to Know', won the main prize in La Cinesec section. It's fantastic for us and FTII." Payal's batchmates and other alumni recall that the 2015 protest was "against the appointment of people who had no achievement in filmmaking" but were allegedly included in FTII's governing council for political reasons. Harishankar Nachimuthu, ex-president of FTII Students' Association and spearhead of the agitation, said Payal always had a vision about where she wanted to go and was willing to fight it out. "She was denied a scholarship and a foreign exchange opportunity for participat-

2 convicted of murder even in absence of victim's body

MUMBAI: Over six years after 28-year-old BBlunt salon executive Kirti Vyas went missing, a sessions court on Monday held two of her colleagues - Siddhesh Tamhankar and Kavita Sidhwani (name changed), in whose company she was last seen - guilty of her murder, making it a rare conviction in the absence of the victim's body. Special judge MG Deshpande said, "The offence against both of you has been proved." The judge will pronounce the quantum of sentence on Tuesday. While the maximum punishment is death, the minimum is life imprisonment. The trial was conducted in-camera at the behest of Sidhwani's lawyer to protect her identity. Vyas went missing on March 16, 2018, after leaving

home for work. Tamhankar and Sidhwani were arrested on May 5 that year. A police inquiry found that the two strangled her in a car and dumped her body at Mahul. A prolonged search for the body did not yield results. The prosecution had said in court that Tamhankar had been afraid of losing his job after being put on notice by Vyas over his poor performance at work, and of his relationship with a married Sidhwani being exposed. Sidhwani (48), who had been granted bail by Supreme Court in 2021, broke down after the verdict. and was taken into custody. Tamhankar (42), who has been in jail since his arrest in 2018, made repeated attempts to calm her down.

Paytm shares start flat on bourses after declining 3.74%

NEW DELHI:

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

CAPSULES

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

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

Indians extremely demanding, but unwilling to pay: Uber CEO

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



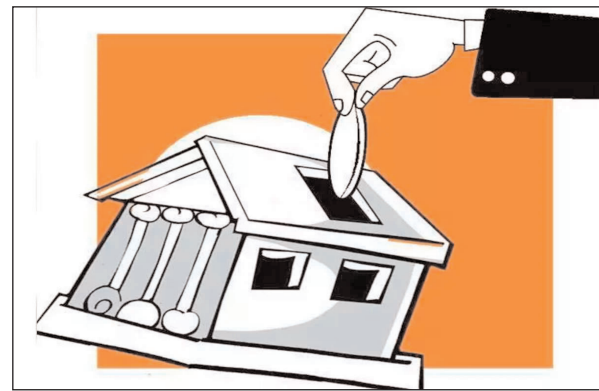
and three-wheelers in India. The company will be getting into bus services in some of the geographies. "It is also an extraordinary opportunity for us to expand our services to a wider population. We don't just want to be an upper-middle-class product. We want to be available to everybody."

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

NEW DELHI: Franco-Italian regional aircraft major ATR sees India emerge as its biggest market in the next five years. And as that happens, the turboprop-maker says "it will be foolish not to increase our footprint here" in terms of sourcing of components, pilot training and others. "India currently has 65 ATRs - 45 with IndiGo and 20 with Alliance Air.



IndiGo is to get five more. Startup carrier Fly91 (which is being launched by aviation industry veteran Manoj Chacko) will get its first leased ATR anytime now and the second in a week or so," Jean-Pierre Clercin, ATR's head of commercial for Asia Pacific, said. "Indonesia has about 100 ATRs and is currently our biggest mar-

ket. India and Brazil come after that. But the way Indian economy and air travel in the country is booming, within five years India will have the maximum ATRs given the government's focus on regional air transport through ude desh ka aam naagrik (UDAN) scheme," Clercin said. ATR feels India will need 50-150 such planes in the next decade. "That is the official estimation. But given the way India is developing, the actual number could be even higher. Much higher," he said. The turboprop major is

in talks with several Indian airlines for more orders. "The focus here is on regional and ATR is for that. So we are talking to all the airlines in India," he said. Asked if ATR plans to make in India, Clercin said: "We do already have a presence in India. There are some simulators (for pilot training) operated by third parties in India. The footprint depends a lot on the size of the markets, and India is one of the most promising aviation markets globally. We've seen the amazing resilience of the country.

Foreigners pursue every avenue to access hot India bond trade

Overseas investors are showing such keen interest in India assets that they are taking proxy exposure to the country even if they don't have the license or physical presence to trade there.

Foreign funds lacking direct access to India's \$1 trillion government debt market are increasing their exposure via instruments such as supranational bonds and swaps ahead of the nation's upcoming inclusion in global bond indexes. There's an "increased engagement from global investors, with momentum picking up this year," said Siddharth Bachawat, head for markets at Barclays Bank India. "In addition to interest from index-tracking managers ahead of the inclusion, discretionary activity from a



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

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

triple-A rated notes give overseas investors exposure to local debt without having to secure a license to operate onshore.

"Given India's disinflation trend and improved technical outlook with impending index inclusion, we favor duration in India," said Johnny Chen, fund manager at William Blair in Singapore. Also, buyers don't have to pay 20% withholding tax as these securities are settled offshore, which results in higher yields, according to Claudia Calich, head of emerging-market debt at M&G Investments in London. "Even if the pretax yield on supranational bonds tends to be lower than on India government debt, the yield is higher on an after-tax basis.

Attach bank accounts of ex-promoters of DHFL: Sebi



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

'Not polarising to show Congress brought religion-based quota': PM



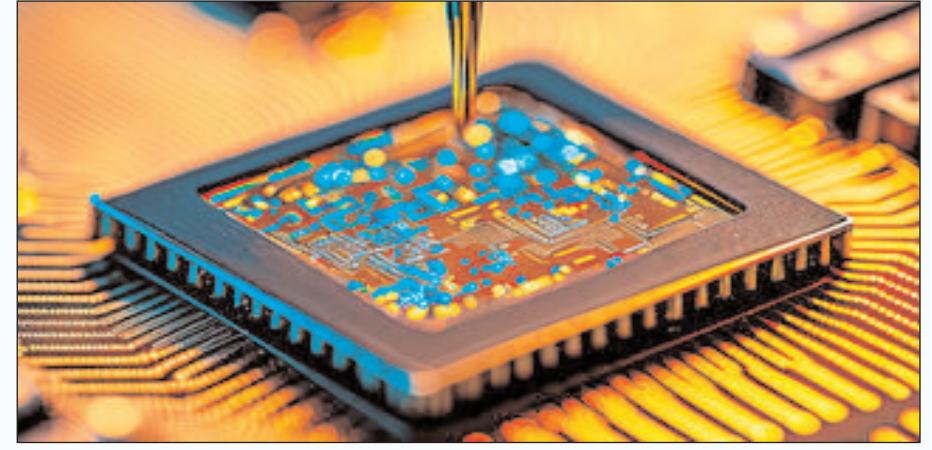
NEW DELHI: "To show that Congress violated the Constitution by enacting laws to provide reservations on the basis of religion is not polarisation," PM Narendra Modi asserted, taking head-on the criticism that he has tried to promote polarisation through his speeches. The second round of polls, Modi also stood by his statement that his predecessor Manmohan Singh had indeed said Muslims had the first claim on the nation's resources. He also declared that he was determined to fulfil BJP's commitment to implement a Uniform Civil Code. "It is clear that separate laws for communities are detrimental to the health of society. We cannot be a nation where one community is progressing with the support of the Constitution while the other community is stuck in a time warp due to appeasement. We will do everything in our capacity to make UCC a reality in India," the PM said, while also

renewing his vow to move forward on his 'one nation-one poll' plan. Modi expressed confidence of getting a third straight term, and said he was striving for a 400-plus tally to foil the "evil designs of opposition parties to take away reservations and rights of SCs/STs and OBCs and give it to their vote bank". The PM came down hard on the push for redistribution through measures such as wealth and inheritance tax. "I do not think they are solutions by any stretch of imagination. These are actually dangerous problems disguised as solutions. Would you work day and night if the govt

would take away your money at the end in the name of redistribution?" he asked, adding these ideas would "kill" the start-up revolution and were merely a way to please "the opposition's vote bank". He further said that these ideas carried the risk of creating "complete and irreversible communal disharmony". "Our Constitution protects the property of all minorities. This means that when Congress talks of redistribution, it cannot touch the properties of minorities, it cannot consider Waqf properties for distribution, but it will eye the properties of other communities," he added.

Modi dubbed Rahul Gandhi's proposal to conduct a survey to estimate people's assets "Maoist thinking and ideology" and a "recipe for disaster" which would lead to "raiding every home". Asked about the opposition's charge that he would change the Constitution in case he got a super mandate, Modi said, "It is ironic that people who have changed the Constitution maximum number of times are saying that we will change the Constitution. But before asking such a question, you should analyse my track record." Exuding confidence about BJP's prospects in the South, Modi said opposition parties had raised a "false bogey of discrimination" to divert attention from their failures. On foreign policy, he was unfazed about India being seen as disregarding the "rules of the international order" to pursue its national interests.

Beyond Rs 76k-crore: Government to scale up semiconductor package



NEW DELHI: Government is looking at rolling out a fresh multi-billion-dollar incentive package for semiconductor companies after nearly exhausting the Rs 76,000-crore plan that was launched in Dec 2021 for supporting investing companies, top sources told TOI. Preliminary work on the new package, which is "in all likelihood be much bigger than the previous one", has already begun, even though announcements in this regard will be made only once the new govt takes charge post the national elections, they said. "The new package would be one of the key agendas for the new govt and will be taken up on a priority basis," one of the sources said, pointing out that new proposals that are coming in for semiconductors necessitate a fresh package. "The matter would be tabled before the new Cabinet as some of the proposals are at an advanced

stage and would require immediate assurances from the state in terms of incentives," the source said. Success of Dec 2021 package is prompting the govt to work out a new one, especially in view of the aggressive stance of countries such as the US and China, which have announced much bigger packages for companies that are investing in semiconductors. Under the current plan, govt extends fiscal support of up to 50% of a project's cost to eligible display and semiconductor fabricators. This has been almost exhausted after

the spate of investments that came in India, which had previously failed to get any credible proposals for semiconductor manufacturing after trying for decades, finally managed to score big after American Micron emerged as the first major player to enter the space with a Rs 22,500-crore testing and packaging unit in Gujarat in June last year. This was followed up with approval to three proposals worth nearly Rs 1.3 lakh crore in Feb this year. These comprise: Rs 91,000-crore project of Tata to set up India's first semiconductor fab unit.

Modi praised me earlier but now wants my defeat: Sharad Pawar

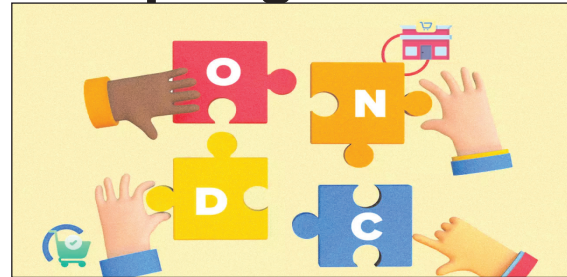
PUNE/NASHIK: Sharad Pawar on Sunday said PM Narendra Modi is inconsistent with his views and his stand. "When he spoke in Delhi, he said I have done historic work as Union agriculture minister. In Baramati, the PM said he came into national politics by holding my finger. But now, he says that anything and everything should be done to defeat me in Baramati," Pawar said at a public rally on Sunday.

Delhi plans to plant 2.3 lakh trees and 3.8 lakh bushes in parks

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

MCD plans to carpet or repair 50 km of interior roadways by Oct. to reduce dust. Between April 2023 and February 2024, 139 km of roads were resurfaced or repaired. A civic council wants to resurface 180km of roads by Oct. Road maintenance and resurfacing are ongoing. After winter, we started dense carpet work on damaged areas. Work is being done with MLA or Mukhyamantri Sadak Punarnirman Yojna non-plan head funding "said the official. Our 52 mechanical road sweepers are for PWD roads. He added that 195 water sprinklers, jet machines, and 30 mobile anti-smog guns are reducing dust pollution on roadways. PWD gave MCD 60 anti-smog weapons to reduce dust near construction sites. In highrises, 15 smog cannons are deployed. The official claimed these work as needed. In response to summer fires, MCD has limited unauthorised entry and the carrying of cigarettes, bidis, lighters, and matchboxes. "Supervisory staff must notify Delhi Fire Services immediately of fires. Junior engineers and supervisors have SOPs for 24/7 landfill supervision. The official stated fresh solid garbage is unloaded, compacted, and coated with bio-cover to prevent fires.

Government e-commerce platform accepting unicorns



Delhi: Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), a UPI-like alternative to e-commerce heavyweights, is onboarding unicorns like MakeMyTrip, PolicyBazaar, Cars24, and Zerodha to build traction. While ONDC was created to support small businesses like kirana stores and democratize online shopping, the gov-

ernment believes large players will give consumers more choice and boost demand in smaller towns and cities. The goal is to assist consumers and businesses without platform fees. "It gained popularity in the last two years. Five lakh sellers—70% small and medium—have joined. ONDC processed 72 million transactions in April

"Rajesh Kumar Singh, industry and internal trade secretary, told reporters. Singh expects all types of players to join, when asked if big startups would overwhelm smaller ones. "The intent is noble, let us see how it works and to what extent we can actually crack some of the issues you raised in terms of market concentration," said.

EC publishes a "rate list" for enticing competitions

Delhi: you can get a buffet or a packed lunch that includes two curries, rice, achar, roti, and sweets for Rs 80. You can also get a mini meal of chhole bhature or poori aalu for Rs 37. You can also get a small cup of tea or coffee for Rs 6. These prices do not include the cost of a roadside eatery or canteen. Every cup of tea or coffee, packed lunch, or small meal provided to a political worker conducting a

campaign during the capital election will be tracked and contributed to the candidate's overall poll expenditure. Not only will food costs be important, but so will the price of the chairs and tables that will be used at candidate polling places or during election gatherings. The candidates' election expenses also include the cost of renting vehicles for campaigning, posting posters, banners, and

hoardings, hiring a man to beat a drum, hiring horses and elephants for a road show, and hiring videographers, photographers, and drones to record the events. Every penny spent by the candidates is tracked from the time of nomination filing to the casting of ballots, with the total amount not to exceed the Rs 75 lakh cap on election expenses set by the Election Commission of India.

Airtel partners with Google Cloud to provide Indian businesses cloud and gen-AI solutions

Delhi: Bharti Airtel and Google Cloud are partnering to offer Indian businesses cloud and generative-AI solutions. The telecom company will use Google Cloud products to accelerate cloud adoption and modernization through the agreement. Airtel will offer cloud-managed services to its corporate customers, including over 2,000 large organizations and a million developing businesses. This partnership targets India's big and rising public cloud services industry, which IDC predicts will be worth \$17.8 billion by 2027.

Bharti Airtel managing director and CEO Gopal Vittal said, "Cloud and AI solutions will drive India's digital transforma-



tion. We're excited to collaborate with Google Cloud to provide safe and scalable cloud solutions for government, companies, and startups. Our collaboration will speed the implementation of generative AI in the country and uncover its potential to solve challenges. Airtel will also use Google Cloud's

generative AI to improve its mobile, broadband, and digital TV consumer experiences and internal processes. Airtel will also offer similar services to its Indian and global B2B customers. According to Google Cloud CEO Thomas Kurian, "Our strategic partnership with Airtel is a major step for accelerating cloud

Sahil Khan held in C'garh in 15k cr betting app case

MUMBAI: Actor Sahil Khan was arrested on Sunday in connection with his alleged role in the Rs 15,000 crore Mahadev betting app case. Khan (50) was produced in court and was sent to police custody till May 1. An SIT of crime branch nabbed him from a hotel in Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh. Khan, who had been working as a fitness expert until recently, had fled the city on April 24 and had been dodging the police by constantly changing his location. After his anticipatory bail application was rejected by Bombay HC on April 24, police had been trying to nab him. To track down his whereabouts, police were tracking his location which showed he was constantly on the move at different points of time.

Gadchiroli in Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Telangana, and Chhattisgarh. A senior crime branch officer said Khan was a partner in a betting app firm. "He had been promoting the app through social media and had also forged some documents.

One-year DDA flat maintenance with RWAs

Delhi: Delhi Development Authority would give residents' welfare societies maintenance work within a year of creation to ensure flat maintenance. This will also apply to Diwali Special Housing Scheme 2023 units. This conclusion followed Real Estate Regulatory Authority criteria. A maintenance fee is normally collected by DDA during allotment. It has maintained flats for 10-20 years, depending on the scheme. A DDA official stated that applicants must join the registered agency or RWA to maintain common services. Per pocket, one RWA will be registered. All new DDA plans require upfront monthly costs for one year, depending on flat type. "DDA shall do daily maintenance from maintenance charges for one year or until RWA is formed, whichever comes first. An RWA will get the balance

maintenance fund if it is founded before one year. If a RWA is not created within a year, it will be done on actuals "said the official. "For subsequent years, the necessary arrangement will be communicated to the residents," he said. Residents expect standard changes to speed up DDA flat maintenance, which had been delayed for a long period. The authority defined maintenance as green space maintenance, campus, colony, and housing pocket cleaning, light fitting replacement in common areas, lift maintenance and operation, and common area electrical bill payment. "After transfer, the urban authority will be responsible for common areas in many housing pockets. The authority indicated in a pamphlet that DDA will maintain the area until the urban body takes possession.

Ekart's 'Refinish Service' sets new industry standards, turning returns into opportunities

GURUGRAM / PANIPAT : Ekart, one of India's leading 4 PL supply chain companies, has introduced a comprehensive 'Refinish Service' tailored to address the challenges of returns management in the fashion and lifestyle sector. This initiative marks a significant leap forward in efficient and sustainable return logistics management, offering brands unparalleled solutions to reclaim sellable inventory. In an era where customer returns pose a significant challenge for fashion brands, especially with products like apparel and footwear that have been tried at home or have minor defects, Ekart's refinish service emerges as a transformative solution. By refurbishing over 90% of returned inventory, Ekart enables brands to mitigate losses and maximize revenue potential. This service targets direct-to-con-



sumer (D2C), e-commerce, and retail players in the fashion and lifestyle segments. In addition to fashion and lifestyle brands, Ekart's refinish service extends to industries like footwear, handbags, accessories, and the home and decor, encompassing products such as curtains, bed sheets, blankets, etc. Mani Bhushan, Chief Business Officer, Ekart, said, "Returns management is a significant challenge for fashion brands, both logistically and financially. With Refinish, Ekart has introduced a

transformative solution to the persistent challenge of returns management. By harnessing cutting-edge technology and sustainable practices, we are empowering brands to optimize their supply chains and are driving a positive change on a broader scale.

Our Refinish service also marks a significant milestone with a one-of-a-kind large-scale setup in the sector. It sets a new standard for returns management, demonstrating our unwavering commitment to innovation, efficiency, and sustainability."

With Refinish, Ekart has introduced a

She was not a woman, she was a torch'

Special program in memory of National Nari Shakti Award winner Darshana Gupta

New Delhi: Bhiwani Parivar Maitri Sangh organized a special program at the NDMC Convention Hall in Delhi in memory of Mrs. Darshana Gupta, who received the National Nari Shakti Award and led many education, social upliftment and women empowerment organizations. The program started with Sangeetanjali, in which popular singer Swami Sanjay Prabhakaranand presented his melodious bhajans. In the felicitation session of the program, former National Vice President of BJP Shyam Jaju, executive member of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh Indresh Kumar, former Union Minister Santosh Bagdodia, Principal of Hansraj College Dr. Rama Sharma and pillars of Agarwal society Pradeep Mittal,



Balkishan Surendra Gopalsharan Shivratna Gupta, Ashok Buwaniwala, Arun Aggarwal remembered Darshana ji and narrated many important memories of his life.

ocean of emotions in the program

Each and every memoir related to Darshana Gupta came out from the mouth of the speakers and within no time the packed hall seemed to be stirred by a sea of emotions. The words of the speakers created such an atmosphere that everyone remained speechless, pin drop

silence... tears falling drop by drop from the eyes. Darshana Gupta's decision-making ability, her passion for social welfare, her eagerness to bring social justice to everyone, the work done by her in the

direction of women empowerment, her tireless and continuous efforts to achieve the target after setting it. Speakers kept talking about his unique ability in their own style. However, while doing this, if a speaker's throat choked, the eyes of the audience became like Ganga-Jamuna.

CAPSULES

Tata Steel to invest \$ 2 billion to fund rejig of UK operations

Mumbai: Tata Steel will infuse \$2.1 billion (Rs 17,408 crore) in its Singapore arm, to repay debt of its offshore entities and to "support the restructuring costs" of its loss-making UK operations. Further, it will convert debt instruments worth \$565 million (Rs 4,661 crore) it holds in the Singapore arm into equity shares. The fund infusion as well as the conversion of debt into equity will be done in this fiscal, said Tata Steel.

Tata Steel's profit slides 65% to Rs 555 crore

The Indian company owns 100% of Singapore arm called T Steel Holdings, which in turn owns the overseas steel assets including the UK plant. T Steel Holdings posted a loss of Rs 4,367 crore in FY23. Tata Steel will also be raising Rs 3,000 crore in the form of non-convertible debentures (NCDs). The company has been raising money through NCDs now and then. Tata Steel is investing £1.25 billion (\$1.6 billion) to build a new electric arc furnace (EAF) at its Port Talbot plant in UK, while deciding to shut down two blast furnaces at facility by Sept. The move will lead to axing of 2,800 jobs at the plant. "We will proceed with proposal to shut down heavy end assets this year, and set up EAF by 2027. This is a difficult period of change for our people... With respect to EAF, we will place equipment orders by Sept 2024 and have signed the agreement with UK National Grid securing high voltage connection, which will be available on schedule. We have as part of discussions with the unions, offered the best ever package of support for affected employees in Tata Steel UK. We have agreed to final terms of proposed grant package.

Exchanges warn investors of fake trading apps, impostors

MUMBAI: The bourses on Wednesday warned investors to not fall for social media posts offering high returns through specialised apps that use names of established brokers and other intermediaries. While NSE said in its warning that there have been cases where people impersonated representatives of Choice Broking and R K Global Shares & Securities, BSE didn't name any broker or market intermediary. "It has been brought to the notice of (NSE) that persons named 'Makhan Prajapati'

and 'Rakesh Sharma' claiming to be associated with entity named 'Choice Broking' operating through mobile number '9977690997' and person named 'Kuldeep Valiya' claiming to be associated with entity named 'R K Global Shares & Securities' and operating through mobile number '9112569388' are providing securities market tips for trading and assured returns on investment in the stock market. He is also offering to handle investors' trading accounts by asking them to share their login ID/pass-

words," NSE said. "Investors are requested to take note that Choice Equity Broking and R K Global Shares & Securities, registered trading members of (NSE), have informed that the above-mentioned person is not associated with them in any manner," it added. "Generally, impersonators carry out their activities via social media platforms and messaging apps such as Facebook pages and WhatsApp groups. They make enticing promises of guaranteed high returns," BSE said. When investors start to

believe they are dealing with legitimate registered intermediaries, they download the app and invest through it. "Reality is that their investments never actually occur on the stock exchanges. Instead, these transactions remain as paper trades within the app. When investors try to withdraw substantial amounts, the app suddenly becomes non-functional." BSE, in its letter, said Sebi had been receiving complaints from investors/intermediaries about fraudulent trading activities.

Prayas Ek Koshish social organization started Aashiyana Abhiyan for protection and promotion of birds

Loharu: Aashiyana Abhiyan has been started from Muktidham Loharu by Prayas Ek Koshish social organization to save birds from the ever increasing temperature and for their conservation. Under this campaign, 50 straw nests have been installed.

Giving information, Master Pawan Swami and Manoj Singhal, founders of Prayas Ek Koshish social organization, said that due to rising temperatures, every living being needs water. At such times, it is our duty to arrange food and



water for the mute birds. We should make efforts for conservation of every living being. Today, some species of birds are becoming extinct, for their conservation, Aashiyana Abhiyan has been started. SSJ Foundation administrator Dr. Anil Joshi, Rinku Prajapat and

youth Naman Sharma said that their organization has been running "Parindo Ke Liye Parinda Abhiyan" for the last 8 years and bowls are kept for birds at various public places, they are cleaned regularly and filled with water. He said that every living being has

an important role in the food chain and if the number of any living being increases or decreases, it has an adverse effect on the environment. We should plant as many trees as possible to conserve living beings and keep the earth's temperature balanced. We should keep arranging food and water for birds and other living beings from time to time. On this occasion, Ravindra Kaswan, Monty, Vishu Swami, Mayank Swami installed nests and bowls on trees for the birds.

RBI puts curbs on 2 Edelweiss companies

MUMBAI: The RBI has placed restrictions on two companies of the Edelweiss group - ECL Finance and Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company (EARCL) - over 'evergreening' stressed loans. Evergreening of loans is the practice where lenders extend additional credit to borrowers who cannot repay their existing loans. ECL

Finance offers corporate finance, loans against property and securities, MSME lending among others. EARCL is among the largest companies dealing with the purchase and recovery of bad loans from lenders. RBI has asked ECL Finance to "cease and desist, with immediate effect, from undertaking any structured transactions in respect of its wholesale exposures, other than repayment and/or closure of accounts in its normal course of business". EARCL has received similar orders preventing it from acquiring any new bad loans or restructuring security receipts. Security receipts are units issued to investors in bad debts, entitling the investor to a share in the recovery. RBI said that the decision to take action on ECL was based on concerns identified

during supervisory examinations. This action was prompted by the coordinated conduct of Edelweiss group entities, which engaged in a series of structured transactions to artificially improve the financial health of stressed exposures of ECL. They did this by using EARCL's platform and connected alternate investment funds to bypass relevant regulations. Incorrect valuation of security receipts was observed in both ECL and EARCL. Additionally, in ECL, RBI found several issues like providing incorrect details of eligible debts to lenders for calculating borrowing limits, not following rules for loan-to-value ratios when lending against shares, incorrect reporting to the Central Repository for Information on Large Credits and not following KYC guidelines.

Maruti Suzuki opens its 5,000th service touchpoint to further enhance customer delight

GURUGRAM : Maruti Suzuki India Limited announced the opening of its 5,000th service touchpoint in the country. This touchpoint located in Gurugram, Haryana was inaugurated by Mr. Hisashi Takeuchi, Managing Director & CEO, Maruti Suzuki. The expansion of the service network aligns with the Company's objective to continuously offer a delightful and hassle-free car ownership experience to its customers. Maruti Suzuki's Service Network is spread across 2,500 cities in the country. Maruti Suzuki inaugurated its first service workshop in the year 1983. By 1997, in a period of 14 years, it reached 1,000 service touchpoints. The Company increased its network by another 1,000 service touchpoints in 9



years, followed by 8 years and 7 years. Notably, the last 1,000 service touchpoints were set up in just about 3 years. Commemorating the milestone, Mr. Hisashi Takeuchi, Managing Director & CEO, Maruti Suzuki India Limited said, "At Maruti Suzuki, we have always believed in a 'Customer First' approach, and it has been our endeavor to provide our valued customers with convenience and delightful

car ownership experience. One of the ways to achieve this is to reach as close as possible to our customers so that they have assurance of finding a Maruti Suzuki service touchpoint nearby, whether they are navigating city streets or venturing into remote areas." He added, "Going forward, as we aim to increase our sales, a strong network of sales and service will be essential. In line

with this, we will continue to add more service touchpoints in the coming years. Notably, in the financial year 2023-24, we added 400 service touchpoints, making it the highest-ever addition in any financial year. Many of these new service touchpoints are located in the non-urban markets. Through our vast service network, we have been able to service a record 25 million vehicles in the last financial year."

Sensex falls 668 points on global factors

MUMBAI: Profit taking by nervous investors ahead of the Lok Sabha poll results on June 4 pulled leading indices down for the fourth consecutive session on Wednesday.

Rising crude oil prices and fading chances of a rate cut by the US Federal Reserve also weighed on investor sentiment. As a result, even the improvement in India's sovereign rating by global ratings agency S&P was discounted by Dalal Street investors, brokers and analysts said. At the close of Wednesday's trading, the sensx was down 668 points or 0.9% at 74,503, while Nifty closed at 22,705 points, down 183 points. From its all-time peak of 76,010 points on Monday, the sensx has lost 1,500 points.