

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Title Code - UPENG04488

NATIONAL ENGLISH DAILY

MORNING EDITION PRAYAGRAJ

Saturday 05 June, 2024

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

'Bold decisions' to define third term, says PM Modi, vows war against graft



NEW DELHI: Shrugging off celebrations in the opposition camp over BJP's loss of majority, PM Narendra Modi on Tuesday declared that his third term will be defined by bold decisions, signalled the likelihood of fresh initiatives specifically aimed at women, the poor and SCs/STs and declared his intent to press on with his drive against corruption. "All Indians will walk together and make the country progress...the third term will be used to write new chapters of bold decisions and it

is a guarantee of Modi," the PM said in his address to BJP cadres who had gathered to applaud the verdict that will lead to the third consecutive Modi-led regime. If he was feeling disappointed over the results, Modi did not show it. Nor was there any indication that the reduced numbers would act as a restraint on him as the PM asserted that his drive against corruption would continue. "If the country has to progress in the 21st century, then we will

Oppn despite being united couldn't even come close to BJP's tally, says PM

The INDIA alliance staged a remarkable resurgence in several politically significant Hindi heartland states on Tuesday. The Samajwadi Party, a constituent of the alliance, made substantial gains in Uttar Pradesh, while the bloc also progressed in Rajasthan, Bihar, Haryana, and Jharkhand. Despite the INDIA alliance's strong showing, PM Modi's BJP-led alliance is poised to secure a third consecutive term in power, albeit without the overwhelming majority predicted by various exit polls. Results and trends indicate that the National Democratic Alliance is set to secure 291 Lok Sabha seats, while the INDIA alliance is expected to have a tally of 234. The outcome of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections presents a sobering reality for the BJP, which appears to fall short.

Big message is people don't want Modi, Shah running country: Rahul Gandhi

NEW DELHI: Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge termed the results a mandate against PM Modi and a "very big and damaging political and moral defeat" for him and BJP as "he sought votes in his own name everywhere he went". Congress MP Rahul Gandhi said, "the main message in this election is that people have unanimously and clearly said, 'we don't want Narendra Modi and Amit Shah involved in the running of this country'." Rahul said INDIA bloc fought this election as one and with clarity, giving India "a new vision: a pro-poor vision". Kharge and Gandhi addressed a press conference on Tuesday evening here in the presence of Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi. "We have always said that this election was a fight between Modi versus the people. We humbly accept the people's mandate," Kharge said.



Cops seize Revanna's phone, to seek court nod for medical tests

BENGALURU: Soon after Prajwal Revanna's flight landed in Bengaluru from Munich at 12.47am on Friday, an all-woman SIT team met him at the exit and took him to a waiting vehicle. The SIT, originally constituted to probe a series of purported sleaze videos involving the Hassan MP, is prob-

ing three cases of sexual assault against him, the first of which was registered in Holenarasipura police station of Hassan district on April 28. Flanked by two cops in the backseat, Prajwal was taken to Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital for a medical check up and then to CID.

He described the gains made by INDIA bloc in the polls as a mandate of the public and a "victory of the people and democracy". "This time the people did not give any party a complete majority, particularly the governing party, BJP that sought a

Court on Chhota Rajan: Hotelier killed after extortion plot

MUMBAI: In a 55-page detailed judgment convicting and sentencing deported gangster Rajendra Sadashiv Nikalje alias Chhota Rajan (67) to life imprisonment for the 2001 murder of hotelier Jaya Shetty, a special court said it is seen that as a gang leader he conspired with the co-accused and killed the victim due to non-payment of the extortion amount. The judge said it was significant the murder took place just days after the victim complained to the police and the multiple letters he had written to them expressing concerns for his safety were the most crucial evidence.

Shashi Tharoor wins Thiruvananthapuram for record 4th term

Rajeev Chandrasekhar, the BJP candidate, acknowledged his loss to Shashi Tharoor of the Congress party in the Thiruvananthapuram Lok Sabha constituency on Tuesday. However, he pointed out that the election outcome in Kerala suggests a growing support for the BJP among the people. Chandrasekhar, who serves as the Union Minister of State for Information Technology in the outgoing cabinet, expressed his disappointment over the loss, despite the BJP's strong campaign in the state. "We have come very close and have set a record margin and vote share. It shows that people of Kerala are increasingly supporting the BJP. It is disappointing that I couldn't win today, but fought a clean campaign. We didn't use divisiveness like our opposition. Growth of BJP in Kerala is completely expected and will continue," he said. Chandrasekhar also mentioned that the party's overall performance in India was disappointing, as they were leading in only around 300 seats, contrary to the exit polls' predictions of 350 to 400 seats. However, he expressed confidence that the BJP will form the government, leaving the decision to the leadership in Delhi. As per the latest figures from the Election Commission, Tharoor secured 3,53,679 votes, which was 15,759 more than Chandrasekhar's 3,37,920. CPI's Pannyan Ravindran secured the third position with 2,44,433 votes. With this victory, Tharoor has now won the Thiruvananthapuram constituency for the fourth consecutive time since 2009.

BJP secures 17 Lok Sabha seats in Karnataka

Counting for all the 28 seats is completed in Karnataka. BJP wins 17 seats, Congress 9 and JD(S) 2 out of 28 seats in Karnataka in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Over 13,000 polling staff deployed at 29 counting centres.

Congress secures 4 of 6 Himachal seats in bypolls, BJP bags all 5 in Gujarat

NEW DELHI: Bylections to 25 assembly seats in 12 states delivered a set of results Tuesday that didn't hold too many surprises, unlike the Lok Sabha verdict. Congress won four of six in Himachal Pradesh to strengthen CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu's hand after a period of uncertainty sparked by a



revolt in his ranks, while BJP swept all five seats at stake in Gujarat with a motley crew of four Congress turncoats and a former Independent MLA.

Kutlehar and Lahaul-Spiti, respectively. Two other Congress rebels, Inder Dutt Lakhanpal in Barsar and Sudhir Sharma in Dharamshala, won as BJP nominees. The winning Congress candidates that took the party's strength to 38 in the 68-member assembly are Anuradha Rana.

Prajwal Revanna fails, but Gowdas retain their Vokkaliga base

NEW DELHI: BENGALURU: In what can be considered retention of Vokkaliga support despite all odds, former PM HD Deve Gowda-led Janata Dal(S) won two of three Lok Sabha seats it contested in alliance with BJP. JD(S) state chief HD Kumaraswamy defeated Congress' Venkataramange Gowda from Mandya by 2.8 lakh votes, avenging his son's defeat in 2019. Party

candidate from Kolar reserved seat, Mallesh Babu, won with a margin of 1.27 lakh votes. Videos Gowda's son-in-law and noted cardiologist CN Manjunath, fighting on a BJP ticket, defeated DK Suresh, brother of deputy CM DK Shivakumar in his stronghold of Bengaluru Rural, by a massive 2.7 lakh votes. "When Gowdas, especially Deve Gowda, are cornered politically. the

Vokkaliga community supported them. This time also, they did the same," said a JD(S) functionary. The victories are likely to boost morale of the party hit by its drubbing in last year's assembly elections, Prajwal Revanna's alleged sex scandal, and efforts by Congress to split the party, a source said. Meanwhile, Prajwal, jailed in sex scandal case, failed to retain the family's bastion of Hassan.

Bihar Lok Sabha Election: JD (U), BJP win 12 seats and RJD 4

NEW DELHI: The counting of votes ended and have announced the results of all 40 seats where Bihar's former chief minister registered the first victory in the state. Till now BJP and JD (U) won 12 seats and some of them are Darbhanga, Paschim Champaran, Begusarai and Araria. The results for 2024 Bihar Lok Sabha elections are all set to be declared today. Voting in 40 Lok Sabha constituencies of Bihar took place in seven phases starting April 19 and ending on June 1. The exit poll for the Bihar Lok Sabha elections 2024, which was announced on Saturday, predicted that BJP-JD(U) alliance is likely to win 32-33 seats and INDIA



bloc 5-6 seats.

51.92% voter turnout was recorded in the seventh and last phase of Lok Sabha elections in the state's eight constituencies. Chirag Paswan of Lok Janshakti Party (LJP), Jitan Ram Manjhi of Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular), Misha Bharti of RJD, independent candidate Rajesh Ranjan Alias Pappu Yadav of

RJD, Ravi Shankar Prasad of BJP and Upendra Kushwaha of Rashtriya Lok Morcha are among the key candidates in fray this Lok Sabha elections in the state. The list of constituencies include Arrah, Araria, Aurangabad, Bhagalpur, Banka, Buxar, Begusarai, Darbhanga, Gopalganj, Gaya, Hajipur, Jamui, Jahanabad, Jhansi, Katihar,

Karakat, Kishanganj, Khatwa, Madhubani, Madhepura, Munger, Maharajganj, Muzaffarpur, Nawada, Nalanda, Purnia, Paschim Champaran, Patna Sahib, Patna, Pataliputra, Purvi Champaran, Sasaram, Samastipur, Saran, Sheohar, Siwan, Sitamarhi, Supaul, Ujjarpur, Valmiki Nagar. In the Lok Sabha election

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 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. "The firm has apologised in writing.

Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury stumped by Pathan in Baharampur

Trinamool Congress (TMC) surged ahead in the West Bengal Lok Sabha elections, establishing leads in 29 constituencies after multiple rounds of counting. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was leading in 12 seats, while the Congress party held the lead in one, as per the data provided by the Election Commission website. The TMC's performance, if sustained until the final results, would mark its second-best showing in the state since the 2014 elections, where it secured 34 seats. Prior to the 2024 election, exit polls had projected substantial gains. for the BJP in the Lok Sabha polls. Notably, two exit polls, namely Matriz and Jan Ki Baat, had allocated 21-25 and 21-26 seats to the BJP, respectively.

The incumbent Trinamool Congress, having suffered significant losses in the 2019 elections, might experience a further decline in its seat tally in this election. West Bengal, along with Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, was among the three states where the Lok Sabha elections were conducted across all seven phases. West Bengal Lok Sabha Elections: Lose-lose for BJP in Midnapore and Durgapur after Dilip shift Dilip Ghosh from the Midnapore constituency to Burdwan-Durgapur proved costly for the BJP, which lost both the Lok Sabha seats. Ghosh lost to Trinamool's Kirti Azad by a margin of 1,37,981 votes, his first electoral defeat since his career transition.

RaGa's Rae Bareilly victory margin more than double Modi's in Varanasi: Shekhar Bahuguna

Prayagraj: "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has won Varanasi constituency for a third consecutive term. However, his victory margin has narrowed to 1,52,513 votes against Uttar Pradesh Congress president Ajay Rai. Contrastingly, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has won the Rae Bareilly seat comfortably with a significant margin of 3,90,030 votes. In Varanasi, Modi has secured 6,12,970 votes and Rai came second with 4,60,457 votes. In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, the prime minister had won the seat by a victory margin of 4,79,505 votes while in 2014 he had won by a margin of 3,71,784 votes against Aam Aadmi Party leader Arvind Kejriwal," said key member of UP Congress election team, Shekhar Bahuguna.

"In another major contest in Amethi, Congress nominee Kishori Lal has managed to win the seat against union minister

Smriti Irani by a margin of 1,67,196 votes. Interestingly, Lal has defeated Irani by a bigger margin compared to Modi's victory in Varanasi. This is the first time that Lal - who is considered to be the backroom strategist of the Gandhi family - participated in an electoral contest," he remarked.

"A prime minister with a clear majority in the Lok Sabha leads his party to seek the mandate for another five-year term. The electorate deny him a majority. In the best of parliamentary traditions, that leader loses the moral right to rule as voters have clearly refused to renew his license. But during the past ten years we have developed a fashionable contempt for value-based political practices. We have promulgated a 'Naya Bharat', with new expedients and opportunisms dressed up as a 'new normal. So, no one should be surprised if the ruling cote-

rie resorts to every kind of trick and treachery to ensure that Narendra Modi stays in that corner office in South Block. But at the same time, no one needs to

that newperson, offering himself as the tireless servant of the people, someone who had nothing but the welfare of the masses uppermost on his mind. No

Sabha elections held on Tuesday, India Alliance's Congress candidate and former MLA & UP minister Ujjwal Raman Singh won by a record of more than 45,000

votes. He gave a crushing defeat to the nearest BJP candidate and Neeraj Tripathi, son of former Governor Keshari Nath Tripathi. An important aspect of the victory of SP candidate Ujjwal Raman Singh was that he took a huge lead in the counting of EVM votes along with postal ballots. BJP had given its seat to Neeraj Tripathi, son of former gov-



be in any doubt that Modi stands rebuffed," he remarked.

"No one, in and out of the Bharatiya Janata Party, can dispute that he had made the 2024 Lok Sabha battle a personal project. He vigorously and valiantly campaigned throughout the length and breadth of the country, trying to dominate the narrative, sitting down for interviews with this or

one had any doubt that this was an election for Prime Minister Modi to lose. And, no one should be in any doubt that he has lost it. There can be no two opinions about this. Nor should anyone be in doubt over what India has rejected in rebuffing Modi. That too cannot be much of a mystery," he opined.

"In the counting of votes in Allahabad Lok

Sabha elections held on Tuesday, India Alliance's Congress candidate and former MLA & UP minister Ujjwal Raman Singh won by a record of more than 45,000 votes. He gave a crushing defeat to the nearest BJP candidate and Neeraj Tripathi, son of former Governor Keshari Nath Tripathi. An important aspect of the victory of SP candidate Ujjwal Raman Singh was that he took a huge lead in the counting of EVM votes along with postal ballots. BJP had given its seat to Neeraj Tripathi, son of former gov-

Cops identify one more benami property of Atiq

Prayagraj: Prayagraj police have identified another benami property of slain mafia-politician Atiq Ahmed. The property in Lukerganj area is estimated to be worth around Rs. 1 crore and was purchased in the name of another person. Although many of Atiq's properties in Prayagraj and other places have been attached, much of it is still to be identified. Police are facing difficulties in their identification as they are benami properties of the slain mafia politician.

Police officials said the documents of the property in Lukerganj are under scanner and it will soon be attached under the Gangster Act.

The property in Lukerganj area was allegedly bought for Rs. 70 lakh. However, its present cost is estimated to be over Rs. 1 crore. While police have information that the flat was owned by Atiq, it is yet to be confirmed in whose name it was purchased and who is in possession of it presently. Some years back, the administration freed a large plot of land illegally grabbed by Atiq and constructed flats for the poor families in Lukerganj area.

The drive of attaching and demolition of properties and buildings owned by Atiq was started in 2020. Even after Atiq and his brother Khalid Azeem aka Ashraf were shot dead at Colvin Hospital on April 15, 2023 police were still unearthing his illegally earned properties. Some months back, police attached a sprawling house worth several crores owned by Atiq in Noida. Moreover, property worth Rs. 12 crore which Atiq had purchased in the name of a mason Hublal was also attached by police.

Possibility of storm and rain in many districts including Kanpur division

Kanpur: There was drizzle at three places including Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh. The Meteorological Department has issued a warning of rain with strong winds in 44 districts including Kanpur division, but the heat wave is likely to continue in other districts. Meteorologist Dr. S.N. Sunil Pandey of Chandrashekhar Azad University of Agriculture and Technology, Kanpur said that the weather today in many districts of the state including Kanpur division was cloudy on Tuesday morning. There will be rain and drizzle at some places. He said that it has rained with drizzle in the state capital Lucknow, Kanpur, Kushinagar. According to the Meteorological Department, there is a possibility of rain with strong winds in 44 districts of the state including Kanpur division. Whereas in 25 districts of the state, a warning has been issued regarding scorching heat as well as heat wave.

BIGG BOSS gave confidence to sign up for Laughter Chefs Unlimited Entertainment: Vicky Jain

Varanasi: COLORS is all set to serve 'Laughter Chefs Unlimited Entertainment', a one-of-a-kind culinary-comedy crossover that brings an extravaganza of non-stop entertainment. Twelve popular entertainers are entering a chaotic kitchen for an epic cooking showdown that's sure to be a blast. From messing up recipes to cracking jokes, they're poised to stir up a storm of laughter. This kitchen will be graced by stars donning the chef's hat including Krushna Abhishek - Kashmera Shah, Vicky Jain - Ankita Lokhande, Rahul Vaidya - Aly Goni, Reem Sameer Shaikh - Jannat Zubair, Karan Kundrra - Arjun Bijlani, and Sudesh Lehri - Nia Sharma. Adding the tadka of her humour is the one and only comedy queen Bharti Singh, with Celebrity Chef Coach Harpal Singh Sokhi lending a helping hand to the novice chefs and rating their dishes. Among the laughter chefs, Vicky Jain shares her experience of stepping aboard this laugh riot.



They will bring their sense of humor to the table. The show will be a mood-lifter for the audience. He has yet to discover how things will go and how he is going to manage the chaos of the kitchen, offering unlimited entertainment, but he'll find out once he gets into the kitchen and face those circumstances. All he can do is stay positive and give his best, no matter what obstacles come my way. His experience in the industry is quite limited for now. Dekhiye 'Laughter Chefs Unlimited Entertainment' 1st June se har Saturday - Sunday raat 9.30 baje se sirf COLORS par.

Couple held for man's murder over illicit affair

Prayagraj: Airport police on Monday arrested a couple in connection with the murder of a man over illicit affair. The victim's body was found at Chandrasen village on Sunday. Police said the victim's body was hanged by the accused in a bid to pass off the murder as a suicide. An FIR of murder was registered against five persons on complaint of victim's father. The other accused are still at large, police said. As per reports, the body of 30-year-old Rajendra Singh was found hanging at the house of one Phul Singh of Chandrasen village on Sunday. Rajendra Singh was a resident of nearby Ganja village. His father Narpat Singh and other kin alleged that Phul Singh and his kin killed Rajendra and then hanged his body.

SHO of Airport police station Arun Kumar Singh said Phul Singh and his wife Pratibha Singh were questioned in this connection during which Phul Singh confessed to have strangled Rajendra.

He informed police that Rajendra and his wife Pratibha were having an affair before their marriage. The duo continued with their relationship even after Pratibha got married to Phul Singh some years back. Phul Singh works as a security guard and Rajendra used to come to his home in his absence. On Saturday night, Rajendra was with Pratibha when Phul Singh suddenly reached home. He locked Rajendra in a room and called his relatives. They assaulted Rajendra and then strangled him before hanging his body, said cops.

Low enrolment threatens funding of 1068 government-aided junior high schools

Prayagraj: The financial aid for 1068 government-aided junior high schools in Uttar Pradesh is uncertain due to a significant decline in student numbers. According to the report of Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) portal, the student count in classes 6 to 8 for the academic session 2023-24 dropped below 100 in each of these schools.

The following schools were initially added to the list of schools eligible for grants on September 7, 2006, with the condition that they maintain a minimum student count of 105. Failing to meet this requirement now puts their ongoing

funding at risk, according to state primary education officials.

Taking cognisance of the fall in number of students in these schools, director (Primary Education) Pratap Singh Baghel has sent a list of these schools to the respective Basic Shiksha Adhikaris (BSAs). The missive, a copy of which is with HT, instructs them to make sure that there is an increase in student enrolments in these institutions. Schools that fail to meet the required student numbers are at risk of being removed from the list of institutions receiving the support grant from the state government.

The issue is wide-

spread, with Prayagraj district leading the way with 46 schools having fewer than 100 students. Other affected districts include Mau (56 schools), Azamgarh (33 schools), Deoria (45 schools), Agra (31 schools), Ambedkar Nagar (33 schools), Auraiya (33 schools), Ballia (30 schools), Varanasi (26 schools), Aligarh (9 schools), and Amethi (6 schools). Only four districts have government-aided schools all having the number of students exceeding 100. In some instances, the schools have less than 10 students and many in which the number of teachers surpasses that of the

students in these schools.

For instance, Upper Primary School Budhau Baba in Cholahpur block, Varanasi, has just one student and two teachers. Narayan Montessori School in Mishrikh, Sitapur, has four students and one teacher; Jai Hind Junior High School in Nagal, Saharanpur, has seven students and one teacher; and Sarvodaya Junior High School in Sataon, Rae Bareilly, has one student enrolled against three teachers in the school. Additionally, Balika Junior High School in Rasoolpur and Lal Surya Pratap Upper Primary School in Kaurihar, Prayagraj, have no students at all in the schools.

House of Abhinandan Lodha spreads light of Ayodhya across the world

Varanasi: With a series of grand events at iconic locations in Dubai, New York, and Delhi NCR, HoABL showcased the immense potential of Ayodhya - the symbol of national pride, inviting global participation in

tential. The event highlights included an immersive display at the largest frame in the world, Dubai Frame, standing tall at 150 meters. Dubai Frame is one of Dubai's most iconic structures and it signifies a

cal and spiritual significance, showcasing progress innovation and tradition.

Mr. Abhinandan Lodha, Chairman of The House of Abhinandan Lodha, said, "It is our honor to be able to showcase the glory of

ing a legacy that honors our past and builds a promising future. Our mission is to elevate Ayodhya to its rightful place as a global spiritual capital, and today, we have taken a significant step in that direction."

In Jan 2024 this year Shri. Amitabh Bachchan bought land at The Sarayu™, a 7-star branded land development project by The House of Abhinandan Lodha. Speaking about his investment in The Sarayu™, Mr. Amitabh Bachchan said, "I am looking forward to embark on this journey with The House of Abhinandan Lodha for The Sarayu in Ayodhya, a city that holds a special place in my heart. The timeless spirituality and cultural richness of Ayodhya have forged an emotional connection that transcends geographical boundaries. I am looking forward to building my home in the global spiritual capital." This event was HoABL's small contribution in the transformation and renaissance of Ayodhya. HoABL is committed to creating a legacy, ensuring Ayodhya's place as a global spiritual capital is celebrated and preserved. For more information on investment opportunities and to be part of Ayodhya's growth.

Flipkart's Big End of Season Sale 2024 sets stage for largest fashion extravaganza

Varanasi: Flipkart, India's homegrown e-commerce marketplace, has announced its much-anticipated 'Big End of Season Sale' (Big EOSS) beginning 1st June 2024. With the stage set to be one of the largest celebrations of fashion, the Big EOSS will offer customers a wide range of trendy styles, premium brands and exciting Gen Z offerings curated on 'SPOYL', delivered to every serviceable pin code PAN India.

Speaking about the Big EOSS, Arief Mohamad, Vice President and Head of Flipkart Fashion said, "Season after season, Flipkart's Big EOSS isn't just a fashion shopping event - it's a celebration! It gives us the opportunity to bring joy to our customers as we continue to focus on offering the best value and the widest range of trendy styles from top brands.

The Big EOSS shopping extravaganza has not only delighted customers across India, but has fuelled positive growth for sellers and brands on our platform. We're dedicated to offering the latest and best in fashion - across apparel, footwear, and accessories - all accessible through customized on-

app experiences."

The Flipkart Big EOSS 2024 will offer choices from over 12,000 brands and 2 Lakh+ sellers, with the option of open-box delivery across categories like sports shoes, watches and jeans. Same-day delivery will be available on over 1 lakh products. Some of the popular choices include styles from Puma, Adidas, Nike, Tommy Hilffiger, Fossil, Titan, Crocs, UCB, Vera Moda, Only, W, USPA, Arrow, American Tourister, Peter England, to name a few among the wide selection of brands available on Flipkart.

Customers can avail of various bank offers when making their purchases during Flipkart's Big EOSS, such as 10% Instant Discount on Credit Cards & Credit Cards EMI across RBL Bank, BOB Bank, HSBC Bank (with minimum order value of Rs.2,500). They can also avail offers with Flipkart UPI on a minimum order value of Rs.200.

In the run-up to Big EOSS, Flipkart has also launched a star-studded marketing campaign featuring Allu Arjun and Alia Bhatt, which has encouraged wishlisting of products by customers PAN India.



Ayodhya's promising future. The events highlighted the importance of connecting the Indian diaspora with their heritage and cementing Ayodhya's rise as the global spiritual capital.

This global activation is in line with the Central and State Government's plan to transform Ayodhya into a Global spiritual and cultural hub. By presenting Ayodhya's rich legacy at iconic locations, HoABL underscored the city's significance and growth po-

bridge between the past and the present, so it was a fitting destination to honour Ayodhya's tradition while heralding its future through an immersive augmented reality display. In Times Square, New York City, a video display and on-ground activation brought Ayodhya's heritage to the heart of NYC, connecting a global audience to the splendor of Ayodhya. Additionally, a spectacular drone-show illuminated the skies of Delhi NCR, celebrating Ayodhya's histori-

cal and spiritual significance, showcasing progress innovation and tradition. Mr. Abhinandan Lodha, Chairman of The House of Abhinandan Lodha, said, "It is our honor to be able to showcase the glory of

BJP's Praveen Patel trounces nearest SP rival by 4332 votes

Prayagraj: In the Lok Sabha general elections, BJP finally succeeded in scoring a hat-trick in Phulpur Lok Sabha seat. Three-time MLA Praveen Patel succeeded in winning Phulpur Lok Sabha. It was a tough fight between BJP Candidate Praveen Patel and SP candidate Amarnath Maurya. SP gave its best performance so far in this Lok Sabha election. But in the end Amarnath Maurya lost the election by 4332 votes. With this victory, BJP has succeeded in scoring a hat-trick by winning Phulpur Lok Sabha seat.

Praveen Patel defeated

Amarnath with a margin of 4332 votes. Praveen Patel got 452600 votes while Amarnath Maurya had got 448268 votes. It is said that Kurmi voters decide fate of candidate in Phulpur seat.

BJP's Praveen Singh Patel was successful in retaining Phulpur seat for BJP in a tough contest, by defeating Amarnath Maurya of SP. For Phulpur Lok Sabha seat, BJP showed confidence on sitting MLA Praveen Patel by canceling the ticket of sitting MP Kesari Devi Patel, while Amarnath Maurya was candidate of SP-Congress alliance. Bahujan Samaj Party



has fielded Jagannath Pal here.

Earlier in Phulpur Lok Sabha Congress won for seven times and SP maintained its dominance for five times (1996-2004), whereas in 2014, Keshav Maurya of BJP and in 2019, Kesari Devi Patel were declared winners. In the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, BJP candidate, Keshav Prasad Maurya won over his nearest rival Dharamraj Singh Patel of SP by a margin of more than three lakh votes. It should be mentioned that Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru was the first to win from Phulpur seat in 1952. After that, he scored

a hat-trick by registering consecutive wins in 1957 and 1962. In the 1964 by-election held after his death, Vijay Lakshmi Pandit (Pandit Nehru sister) in the 1967 won in election. After Ram Pujan Patel won here in 1971 and then Ram Pujan Patel in 1984. After Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, Ram Pujan Patel was the only MP to score a hat-trick on Phulpur seat. In the Phulpur Lok Sabha constituency, there were a total of 20,67,043 registered voters on the electoral rolls for the 2024 Lok Sabha election, of which 11,22,020 were male, 9,44,827 female and 196 of the third gender.

Congress leader's purse snatched

Prayagraj: Congress State Committee member Fuzail Hashmi's purse went missing late evening from Ashok Nagar under Cantt police station area by pickpockets. After the victory of Congress's Ujwal Raman Singh from Allahabad parliamentary constituency, Hashmi had come to his Ashok Nagar residence with a convoy from the counting venue Mundera Mandi. As soon as I got down from the car. Three assailants surrounded Hashmi and by the time he could control himself, the assailants had snatched away his purse. FIR of the incident has been lodged in the concerned police station.

Int'l Environment Day today Plant sapling distribution and painting competition

Prayagraj: Plant sapling distribution and painting competition on Int'l Environment Day today under the joint auspices of Ek Soch Sanstha and Naz Multispeciality Hospital on International Environment Day on Wednesday, June 5 at 5 pm in Karaili Cylinder Park (in front of the house of former MLA Asif Jafri ji) for various schools. A painting competition on environmental protection and a program of plantation and distribution of saplings has been organized among children. The above information was given by Syed Mohammad Askari.

Congressmen celebrated Ujjwal's victory after 40 years

Prayagraj: Prominent Congressmen of the city expressed happiness among each other by distributing sweets on the victory of Congress's Ujwal Raman Singh from Allahabad parliamentary constituency after 40 years. Former UP Congress Committee spokesperson Kishore Varshney, UPCC members Fuzail Hashmi and Harikesh Tripathi, Parvez Siddiqui, Arshad Ali, Sartaz Mohammad, Ajay Srivastava, Mukhtar Ahmed, Zahid Neta, etc. present at the Mundera counting venue, congratulated Ujjwal on his victory and congratulated Rahul on his victory. It was said that the formation of India coalition government under the leadership of Gandhi was certain. These leaders demanded the resignation of the country's outgoing PM Narendra Modi. He said that he has got the mandate to sit in the opposition and not in power.



Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee General Secretary Mukundan Tiwari has congratulated Ujjwal Raman Singh on the victory from Allahabad parliamentary constituency. He said that the people's mandate was with a popular leader like Ujjwal from the beginning.

Cong bags Alld seat 40 years after Amitabh Bachchan's feat

Prayagraj: Congress candidate Ujjwal Raman Singh on Tuesday secured a win on the Allahabad Lok Sabha seat ending the party's 40 years long dry patch when actor Amitabh Bachchan was elected. According to the Election Commission, Singh won the seat by a margin of 58,795 votes against Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate Neeraj Tripathi. Singh got a total of 4,62,145 votes, while

1984, the Congress has won the seat after 40 years. He said before 1984, former prime minister Lal



Tripathi received 4,03,350 votes. Senior Congress leader from Allahabad Baba Abhay Awasthi said that after Bachchan, who was elected from the seat in

Bahadur Shastri won the election from the Allahabad parliamentary constituency in 1957 and 1962. "After Shastri's death in 1966, his son Harikishan Shastri won the 1967 election from

here," Awasthi said.

The Congress leader added that after 1984, many big leaders like Anil Shastri, Kamla Bahuguna, Satya Prakash Malviya contested elections from this seat on Congress ticket, but lost.

Since 2014, the seat has remained with the BJP with Shyam Charan Gupta winning the constituency in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections and Rita Bahuguna Joshi in the 2019 polls.

Singh (51), son of Samajwadi Party's stalwart leader and two-time MP from the Allahabad seat Rewati Raman Singh, has

been an MLA from the Karchana seat of Prayagraj district.

After the Allahabad seat was given to the Congress under the INDIA bloc, Singh left the SP and joined the Congress, which announced him as its candidate from this constituency.

Tripathi (57), son of BJP leader and former West Bengal Governor late Kesari Nath Tripathi, was named as the BJP's Allahabad candidate in April, replacing outgoing MP Joshi.

Earlier, Tripathi served as the additional advocate general for the Uttar Pradesh government.

The Allahabad constituency falls in Prayagraj district and went to polls on May 25. The seat has over 18 lakh registered voters.

Fire breaks out

Prayagraj: A massive fire broke out in the junkyard near the DRM office located in Civil Lines. The fire brigade vehicles brought the fire under control with great effort.



RPF arrested mobile thieves

Prayagraj: Joint theft of passenger luggage by Railway Protection Force Sub Inspector Sanjay Kumar Tiwari and Government Railway Police Sub Inspector Devendra Pratap Singh on 03.06.2024 In order to prevent and arrest the criminals involved in theft, two vicious thieves were caught while stealing the luggage of passengers at Prayagraj Junction. On interrogation by the Railway Protection Force, the accused revealed their names as Rupe Singh Gaud, son of Badri Singh Gaud, Age 21 years, Shahdol, Madhya Pradesh and Manoj Sharma, son of Late Ram Lakhan Sharma, age 24 years, Khuldabad, Prayagraj. Two stolen mobile phones whose estimated value was Rs 30,000/- were recovered from the accused. Appropriate action is being taken by the Railway Protection Force.



No let-up in heatwave in Sangam City

Prayagraj: With maximum temperature shooting above 40 degrees Celsius almost everyday, Prayagraj residents are reeling under searing heatwave these days. Infact, the city witnessed one of its hottest weeks in recent memory. Adding to the woes of the residents are water shortage and power crisis that has further made the days tough here. On June 4, temperature was 44.2 degrees Celsius.

On May 29, the temperature reached an astounding 48.8 degrees Celsius, setting a new record for the highest temperature ever recorded in May. This milestone surpassed the previous record set on May 30, 1994. Notably, this temperature matched the highest maximum temperature recorded

ever in the previous 128 years. Prayagraj came into the spotlight when it was officially declared the hottest city in the country on May 29. As temperatures soared, Prayagraj residents experienced a relentless heatwave, with May 22 marking a scorching 41.4 degrees Celsius.

Despite a brief respite on May 23, the heat intensified in the following days, reaching 43.6 degrees Celsius on May 25, 44.4 degrees Celsius on May 26, and 44.6 degrees Celsius on May 27. On May 28, the mercury reached 48.2 degrees Celsius, pushing the city to its limits.

On May 30, temperature climbed back up to 47.7 degrees Celsius, making the week as one of the hottest

on record for Prayagraj. In response to the blistering heatwave, the power department has initiated the



installation of coolers to regulate the soaring temperatures of transformers, which are prone to over-

heating due to overload and searing heat.

On May 29, an effort was made to install coolers

and fans near transformers located at power sub stations like Kalyani Devi, Mayohall, and Tagore

Town, among others. Power department's chief engineer PK Singh said that the surge in temperature has been marked with a rise in demand for electricity and this in turn had increased load on transformers installed across the city.

The week also witnessed frequent power supply disruptions across various localities of Prayagraj including Govindpur, Salori, Jhansi, Tagore Town and Preetam Nagar among others reeled under power disruptions on May 29 and the trend continues even now, claim locals.

One-third of the city, including the Civil Lines locality, is also grappling with a water supply crisis due to a drop in Yamuna water lev-

els, affecting over 75,000 homes and causing hour-long water supply cuts since May 29. According to Jal Kal secretary Shivam Mishra, the city was receiving about 15 million litres less water per day, necessitating half-hour supply cuts in the mornings and evenings. Mishra explained that more motors are being installed to try to draw additional water into the intake well. The current situation eerily resembles that of 2009, when a severe water crisis was witnessed in the city. Despite efforts, the situation remains dire, with only 85 million litres being received presently per day, affecting nearly 4 lakh people relying on Khusrobagh water supply station.

Agni Suraksha Mitras keeping vigil in rural

Prayagraj: Agni Suraksha Mitras or fire safety volunteers deployed at 23 development blocks of the district are now helping the fire department control incidents of fire in rural areas. Besides, a WhatsApp groups of 100 fire safety volunteers has been formed in each block for the purpose who remain in regular contact of the fire department and help them reach the exact location in case of fire incidents. The volunteers have also been provided three-day primary training on how to respond in case of fire. They have been trained on how to contain fire and start rescue operations till firefighters reach the spot.

The measure has been undertaken due to several cases of massive fire outbreaks in villages where agricultural produce got destroyed. Chief fire officer, Prayagraj RK Pandey said fire stations in rural areas take immediate action in case of emergency. However, due to long distances in rural areas and absence of exact location of the incident, fire often causes much destruction. Fire Safety volunteers or 'Agni Suraksha Mitra' in each block of the dis-

trict are helping firefighters. They are raising awareness and remain alert to control fire incidents.

The Whatsapp group of the volunteers include block employees, anganwadi workers, social activists, village heads, prominent persons, socially active youths and students.

Through WhatsApp groups, the fire department will remain in contact with each village and will get help in tracing the exact location of the incident spot, the CFO added. Fire officers have also been asked to identify fire hotspots and vulnerable places and buildings in the city and rural areas of the district. The officers are visiting schools, commercial buildings and hospitals and providing training to staff on how to respond in case of any emergency situation and how to use fire safety equipment.

The department has also formed 10 teams which are carrying out fire safety audits of buildings, malls, guest houses, hospitals etc. Notices are being issued to owners if buildings are found lacking fire safety measures.

Curtains to be drawn over NCZCC workshop today

Prayagraj: The 15-day summer presentational children's workshop organized by North Central Region Cultural Center Prayagraj, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, will conclude on Wednesday at 7 pm in the Cultural Center premises. Center Director Prof. Suresh Sharma said that on the occasion of the conclusion of the workshop, there will be a colorful presentation of Kathak, Rajasthani folk dance prepared by the children under the direction of the trainers and Haryana folk dance by the women trained in the workshop. An exhibition of paintings and sculptures will also be organized in the Mahatma Gandhi Art Gallery.

Tree felling in Prayagraj after compensatory afforestation, UP govt tells court

Prayagraj: The Uttar Pradesh government has assured the Allahabad High Court that felling of trees for proposed road widening in Prayagraj would be done after the compensatory afforestation in July. This assurance was given after the suggestion of the high court that cutting of trees be deferred for sometime so that period of extreme heat is over.

The court was hearing a PIL which alleged that indiscriminate felling of trees by the state is being done in the name of widening of roads. The court directed to list the PIL in the third week of July for the next hearing.

During the course of hearing of the PIL filed by Anand Malviya and others, chief standing counsel

(CSC) Kunal Ravi Singh, on behalf of the state government, assured the court that felling of trees would not be done in the months of June and July and shall be resumed after the compensatory afforestation is carried out in July, 2024.

He further submitted that in case, compensatory afforestation is undertaken without cutting the existing trees, it may not be possible to achieve the prescribed target but he fairly admitted that it would still be possible to achieve 60-70 per cent of the prescribed target.

Taking the assurance of CSC on record, a division bench comprising Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta and Justice Kshitij Shailendra directed the vice-chairman, Prayagraj Development

Authority (PDA) to file his affidavit on or before the next date and bring on record the steps taken by him in the meantime with regard to compensatory afforestation.

He shall also disclose in his affidavit the species of trees planted on Mahatma Gandhi Marg and Sadar Patel Marg in Civil Lines area under compensatory afforestation drive in lieu of cutting of old grown-up trees on the two roads during road widening. The court also directed the authorities to consider planting of local species of shade-trees on the aforesaid two roads during the coming rainy season and disclose the steps taken in this regard in the affidavit to be filed.

Passing the above direc-

tives, the court in its order dated May 31 observed, "We have seen the city temperature touching nearly 50 degrees Celsius and one of the major cause attributable to it is non-judicious cutting of trees and considerable reduction in green cover of the city.

"The newspapers are full of news of people dying because of heat strokes and considerable rise in influx of patients in hospitals. We feel that it is need of the hour that compensatory afforestation is carried out without fail in the month of July, 2024. The effort should be made to plant healthy grown-up trees, as assured by the Vice-Chairman, Prayagraj Development Authority (PDA), in the affidavit filed by him," added the court.

Editorial

Telangana Martyrs' Memorial: World's largest stainless steel structure

Hyderabad now has the world's largest seamless stainless-steel memorial—the Telangana Martyrs Memorial, or Amara Jyoti. Dominating the landscape for miles and close to the State Secretariat, the elliptical-shaped structure has a giant, yellow flame in carbon steel atop it. The memorial has been built as a tribute to those brave people who gave up their lives over the past five decades, or so, for the statehood of Telangana. This international distinction didn't come easy. Amara Jyoti has been four years in the making. Prior to this, the conceptualisation and ironing out of the logistics took two years; hence, it necessitated altogether six years. The construction began in 2019, and it was inaugurated in June, 2023. It also took a huge amount of manpower. Over 5,000 construction labourers (approx), around 100 engineers, and 500 technicians contributed to making this memorial plan a reality. About 4,500 stainless-steel plates, weighing over a hundred tonnes, were used for the structure, along with other materials. Finally, it cost nearly Rs 180 crore. However, it was an investment eminently worth the cost and effort for the state government and the workforce, considering that it holds so much symbolic value. The steady stream of visitors that are pouring in is also appreciating this monument. The crowds are getting bigger considering it is located in the central part of the city and beside the famous Hussain Sagar Lake. The memorial is spread over a total area of 3.29 acres of land. There is a large, well-landscaped garden, and the memorial structure with its highly polished, reflective exterior stands within this green space. The built-up area of the memorial, including the garden, is about 2.88 lakh sq feet (26,800 sq metres). The artist-sculptor who developed the concept, designed the memorial, and also supervised the project from start to finish, K Venkata Ramana Reddy, explains that he already had exposure to many famous monuments, including memorials around the world in 80 countries, but, for the purpose of this project, visited many countries to study the kind of war memorials they had. "I submitted five designs, of which the one you see was approved by the Telangana state government," he reveals. The stainless-steel material (316 L) was procured from Sweden. The 4,500 sheets were assembled into approximately 450 large plates in Dubai and shipped to Hyderabad in containers. Here, onsite, these stainless-steel plates were assembled, i.e., welded together with flawless precision and laser technology, to create a smooth, seamless exterior with a mirror-like finish. Of course, the interior walls and slabs used concrete. Globetrotters may find the Amara Jyoti somewhat reminiscent of the famous Chicago Bean or Cloud Gate and the Bubble at Karamay in China. However, Ramana Reddy is quick to rebut the comparisons, though he does appreciate the Chicago Bean. As he points out, "The Chicago Bean or Cloud Gate is a public art project and not a memorial. Moreover, it is smaller in length, breadth, and width." The Bubble is widely considered a copy of the Chicago Bean design. Making Amara Jyoti was a very tough task and required painstaking attention to detail, explains Ramana Reddy, reeling off more statistics. The base of the lamp, or diya, has an elliptical shape with a major axis length of 54 metres and a minor axis length of 37 metres. From the terrace, the diya rises to a height of 26 metres. and is 45 metres from ground level.

How two villages along India-China border is Sardar Patel's dream fulfilled

Though historically intimately linked, two separate events took place recently, nearly 1,000 miles away from each other. The central sector of the Indo-Tibet boundary in Uttarakhand, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan directed Army formations to work for the rehabilitation of the border villages of Nelang and Jadung, near the Line of Actual Control in Chamoli district. During the 1962 Indo-China war, both villages were abandoned, and their residents were relocated to safer nearby areas.

Far away in the east, at the Tawang War Memorial in Arunachal Pradesh, the Indian Army, along with the Tawang administration and the local Monpa population, commemorated the 74th anniversary of the arrival of Maj Bob Khathing in the area. In 1951, the Manipuri Naga officer took over the administration of the border town of Tawang, south of the McMahon Line; a communiqué of the Defense PRO in Guwahati thus explained, "After the valiant Major undertook a treacherous march from the plains of Assam to Tawang, negotiating Sela and Bomdila passes during peak winters, leading a contingent of 200 Assam Rifles troops and 600 porters for a difficult maiden mission, thus materialised the formal



establishment of Indian civil administration at Tawang." The above two events are linked as the takeover of both places' administration is the result of a decision of the Himmasinghji Border Defence Committee created by the Army Headquarters on November 12, 1950. **Let us remember the facts** On October 7, 1950, the communist troops advanced in eastern Tibet, and after smashing the ill-trained and ill-equipped Tibetan army, Chamdo, the capital of Kham Province, fell to the invaders. On November 7, Sardar Patel, the deputy prime minister, despite his poor health, sent a long letter to the prime minister about the implications of the Chinese invasion of Tibet for India's northern border. Five days later, the dying Sardar (who passed away on December 15) constituted

this committee to examine the possibility of Chinese communist troops occupying the areas south of the McMahon Line or elsewhere on the Indo-Tibet border and "to consider the feasibility of advancing outposts of the Assam Rifles in order to forestall such ingress". Maj Gen Himmatsinghji, deputy minister of defense (chairman), it included Lt Gen Kulwant Singh, K Zakaria, head of the Ministry of External Affairs' historical division, SN Haksar, joint secretary also from MEA, Group Captain MS Chaturvedi from the Indian Air Force, and Waryam Singh, deputy director of the Intelligence Bureau. After discussing at great length the advisability of pushing forward a post to Tawang, it was decided to go ahead. It was also decided to send troops

to Nelang (then written Nilang) and Jadung (then Jadhung), two tiny villages south of the Tsangchok-la, the pass marking the watershed in the area, in the Chamoli district.

The Role of Jairamdas Daulatram

One man was central in the setting up of Maj Khathing's expedition to Tawang; it was Jairamdas Daulatram, the governor of Assam. It is sad that his role has been more or less forgotten today. On December 10, 1950, he managed to get the concurrence of the Ministry of External Affairs headed by Nehru; a Joint Secretary concurred with the Committee, "We cannot agree to a unilateral occupation of Tawang by the communists." The ball then started rolling, and preparations for the expedition began. Maj Khathing received detailed instructions from Nari Rustomji, the advisor to the governor, on behalf of Daulatram himself.

Eight Tasks

Precise tasks were given to the young and bold officer.

The first task was to occupy Tawang. Khathing was asked to explain to the local population and Tibetan officials that he was "doing no more than is being done by the administration in other parts of Indian territory;" in 1914, Tibet had agreed to the McMahon Line, north of

Tawang being the boundary. The major was ordered to "treat any Tibetan or other officials you may meet with courtesy, but nevertheless let them understand that jurisdiction in the area vests in you and not in them." He was directed to submit detailed reports about the Tibetan 'influence' in the area and the nature of taxes collected. He was further told to abolish all existing taxes and substitute them with lighter taxes to be paid to the Political Officer, representing the Indian government: "There will be no forced labour and everything needed will be duly paid for." An important task was to communicate to the local people that "none of their religious practices The sixth point was that in case Khathing met with armed opposition, he was to cable Shillong (the governor's office) immediately, "indicating the strength and position of opposing forces." Fortunately, due to Khathing's intelligence and diplomatic skills, this would not be necessary, and

74 years later, he was still considered by the Monpas as their liberator. Khathing was also asked to keep daily wireless telegraphic contact with Daulatram after crossing the Se-La pass. It is what Khathing did, and his dispatches and cables still make fascinating reading.

Why Somalia asked Turkey to defend its territorial waters

Somalia's President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud. Reuters File In Somalia, President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud has made a strategic play. The Somali government has approved a maritime security pact with Turkey. Ankara has been authorized to build up, train, and equip the Somali navy. Not just that—they will also defend Somalia's territorial waters. Turkish warships could be patrolling Somalia's coast, and they could be active in the Indian Ocean for the duration of ten years. There are many reasons why Somalia selected Turkey. Somalia has been dealing with a terror insurgency for almost two decades. Recently, there has been a rise in piracy along the Somali coast.

Also, there is chaos in the Red Sea with the Yemen-based Houthis disrupting global trade. All these are important reasons, but Somalia's primary target is different. Ethiopia is Somalia's neighbour and nemesis. The maritime deal is aimed at countering Ethiopia and stopping it from executing its port plan. Ethiopia is landlocked. But the Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, wants it. He believes that a port is essential for Ethiopia's growth. So on January 1 of this year, Ethiopia struck a deal with Somaliland to allow it to use its coast to build a navy. Somaliland is not officially an independent nation. It is considered a breakaway part of Somalia. In the entire international community, no country

has recognised Somaliland. It tried to separate from Somalia in 1991. Since then, it has been de-facto independent. Of course, Somalia was outraged by their port deal, too, because it won't end there. Reports say that Ethiopia could officially recognise Somaliland's independence, and Mogadishu will never allow this. It wants Ethiopia to rescind the offer, and that's where Turkey comes in. The new maritime deal could help Somalia. The deal could "convince" Ethiopia to back down. After all, would Abiy Ahmed dare to take on the Turkish navy? As Turkey is a NATO member, an attack on one member is an attack on all of NATO. So Ethiopian aggression is almost out of the question.

UPI in UAE: The changing face of cross-border payments

The recent development concerning the UPI affects international banking and finance systems at their most fundamental level.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his recent visit to the UAE announced the extension of the service of the UPI payment system in UAE which is a significant development not only between India and the UAE, but in the West Asian region as a whole. India's relations with the West Asian region could not realise the true potential immediately after independence, owing mainly to the countries of the region being bound by their obligatory Muslim solidarity with Pakistan. This, however, has changed dramatically over the past two decades, especially after the 9/11 incident and the global war on terror. India's West Asia policy is rooted in four important pillars that include the people, energy security, trade and security. It was in 2005 that the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh formulated the 'Look West' policy and then in 2014, PM Modi announced the need for 'Link West' along with the 'Look East' Policy. Within the region, it is UAE which has slowly emerged as India's key partner and a trusted ally. UAE, by its location and its stature in the region, forms a key pillar of India's West Asia policy. UAE is an



integral part of all-important regional forums including the GCC, Arab League etc. It is also part of the I2U2 or the West Asia Quad comprising India, Israel, the US and the UAE. India's bilateral relations with the UAE rest on three important pillars including trade and investments, energy and the Indian community in UAE. The landmark CEPA (Comprehensive Economic Partnership) signed on February 18, 2022, laid the foundation for an exponential increase in trade and economic partnership and is an example of a special relationship between the two nations. The recent development concerning the UPI affects international banking and finance systems at their most fundamental level. This involves two elements: cross-border financial transactions and associated payments, as well as the cross-border establishment of premises. There are many international agreements signed to

make the international banking system more effective. The International Banking law was also developed to stop large amounts of bank fraud. Banking law involves a wide number of private agreements among the private parties. In recent years, there has been an explosion in both types of activity and, with it, the need for international agreements as to how the business of international banking and finance should be conducted. These agreements which are signed among the sovereign countries are enforced using domestic legislation. There are three purposes. First, they may serve to facilitate the conduct of cross-border business. In this category, one finds agreements on technical standards, standardised contracts (master agreements), codes of conduct, harmonised accounting and disclosure standards, arrangements for cross-border payment, netting and custodial services.

Russia-Ukraine war enters third year: Bloody stalemate, no signs of breakthrough

In the book 'The Fathomless Caves', Kate Forsyth, the author, describes war as, "An unpredictable beast. Once unleashed, it runs like a rabid dog, ravaging friends and foes alike. It can drag on for years, a slow attrition of nerve and fortitude, or be over in one brilliant flash, an extravagant configuration of flame and blood and sweat." The Russian-Ukraine War fits well into the above description. When President Putin launched 'special military operations' to 'demilitarise and denazify' Ukraine on

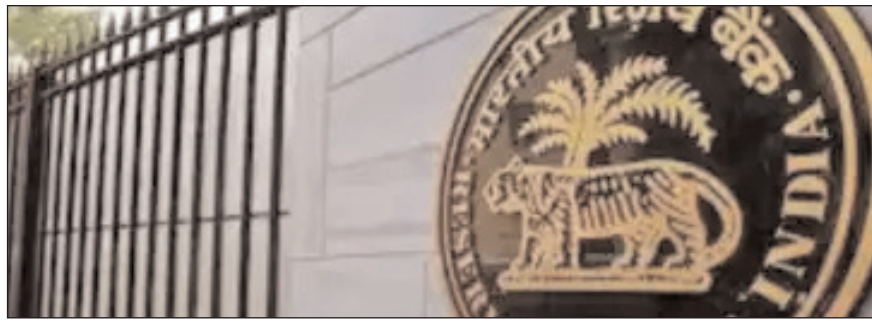


February 24, 2022, it was universally given that the war would be over in a few days, with Russia inflicting a crushing defeat on Ukraine. Ironically, two years

later, the conflict rages on, degenerating into a state of stalemate with little change in the ground situation. Although a classic limited war, its politico-economic impact

has been felt far and wide, with serious geo-strategic ramifications. Militarily, it has gone on to redefine the very nature of warfare. The Russian offensive commenced as a typical military campaign, preceded by missiles and airstrikes, followed by a large-scale ground invasion along multiple fronts. The northern thrust was launched from Belarus towards Kyiv, the southern one was from Crimea, and the south-eastern push was from Luhansk-Donetsk towards Kharkiv.

Unclaimed deposits with banks rise 26% to Rs 78,213 crore



NEW DELHI: The Reserve Bank of India's Annual Report, released on , revealed that unclaimed deposits in banks have surged by 26% year-on-year, reaching Rs 78,213 crore by the end of March 2024 from Rs 62,225 crore reported a year ago. Banks, including cooperative banks, are required to transfer unclaimed deposits of account holders that have remained dormant for 10 years or more to the RBI's Depositor Education and Awareness (DEA) Fund. The central bank, earlier this year, issued extensive instructions in an effort to assist account holders and streamline the existing guidelines on inoperative accounts. These guidelines cover various aspects of classifying accounts and deposits as inoperative or unclaimed, as well as measures to be implemented by banks. The RBI advised banks to conduct periodic reviews of such accounts, implement measures to prevent fraud, establish grievance redress mechanisms for swift complaint resolution, and take steps to trace customers of inoperative accounts or unclaimed deposits, including their nominees or legal heirs, for account reactivation, claim settlement, or closure. These instructions were expected to complement the cur-

Oyo posts first profitable year in FY24

MUMBAI: Oyo Hotels & Homes has recorded its first profitable year in FY24, posting net profits of nearly Rs 100 crore, founder Ritesh Agarwal said on Thursday. "This (January-March quarter) was our eighth consecutive quarter of a positive EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation) and we also have a cash balance of about Rs 1,000 crore," Agarwal said in a post on social media platform X, adding that the numbers are provisional. EBITDA is a metric of operational profitability. Oyo is among a batch of late-stage startups which have been working towards reduc-

ing cash burn, building in operational efficiencies and achieving profitability. A global tech downturn and reset in startup valuations nudged companies to set their financials in order and chase prudent growth. Investors have been maintaining a cautious stance and only cutting cheques for companies which have been at least able to demonstrate a path to profitability. SoftBank-backed Oyo recently withdrew its draft initial public offering (IPO) papers with market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for the second time and is negotiating with investors for a fundraise at lower valuation. The fresh funding could be at a 70% drop from its peak valuation of \$10 billion, had reported last week. Company insiders claim that the Gurgaon-based startup plans to refile IPO papers after refinancing its \$450 million loan. Agarwal said that various emerging travel trends bodes well for the hospitality sector. "I see growth ahead not just in India with emerging travel trends such as premiumisation, spiritual travel, business travel and conferences, destination weddings but also in our other key markets of Nordics, South East Asia, US and UK," Agarwal said.

At 61.3%, Maha LS polling shade better than in 2019

PUNE: Maharashtra registered 61.3% voter turnout in the five phases of the ongoing general , almost on a par with the last LS poll turnout, amid urban voter apathy. State chief electoral officer S Chockalingam said the

state's average in this election was better by 0.6% as compared to 2019 polls. "If we look at phase five, we are 1.4% better as compared to the last LS polls. This, however, does not include postal ballots, which will be added on the counting day," he said. "We will take more steps to make voting easier and increase voting percentage in the coming assembly elections," Chockalingam said. Additional chief electoral officer .

CAPSULES

RI voter travels from US to India only to find name missing from voting list

Kalyan: Avdhoot Datar, a resident of Kalyan, who is working in the US, had come to the country especially to vote in the elections, but was disappointed after not finding his name in voting list. According to Datar, even though he lives in America, he used to come to India every time during elections. He said that seeing the development happening in India and seeing India's name being taken with respect abroad, he had come to participate in the elections this time too. Datar alleged that he visited at least six places, but his name did not figure in any of the list. He said when he inquired with election officials, he was told that his name was deleted. Datar said, "When I visited the Area Returning Officer office situated at Mumbai University Sub Centre, I found many voters' names were deleted from the voters' lists. He was sad that he came all the way from America to vote for the development of the country, but he was unable to exercise his rights. In Kalyan and Bhiwandi Lok Sabha constituencies thousands of voters complained that their names were missing from voters lists.

We must vote to make Indian democracy stronger,' says Milind Deora

MUMBAI: Shiv Sena leader Milind Deora cast his vote at a polling booth in Mumbai on Monday. After casting his vote, Shiv Sena leader Milind Deora expressed, "This is the first time in 45 years that our family is not contesting the elections from the South Mumbai seat.

Corporates debate setbacks in creating gender inclusive workspaces

BENGALURU: Corporates acknowledge that there is a need for streamlining the system to increase female workforce participation in the organized sector. Poor pay parity is one of the key aspects contributing to high attrition, stakeholders agreed.

Karthik SK, head of talent acquisition, human resources at Biocon Biologics, mentioned that women construction workers were tasked with heavy lifting while men did plastering, stone laying, and were paid Rs 200 more. After a dialogue with the contractor, he ensured the rectification of this discrepancy to provide equal pay for all. During an in-depth study, Karthik discovered that the lack of clean and



dedicated washrooms contributed to women leaving the workspace within six months of joining. "When young girls join, I observe their families waiting outside until evening for them. They are unsure if their daughter is in the right job or a safe space. That assur-

ance must be provided," he said. Over the years, with reforms at the ground level, he noted that attrition was reduced from 11 percent to six percent. Sayantan Nandy, chief of staff at Delhivery, mentioned the need to sensitize people in the warehouse

about their language. "The warehouse is a loud space, and the language used may not be appropriate. We sensitized them. Whenever we encountered resistance, we inquired why it was difficult." Nandy added that with the integration of technology in the workspace, where battery-operated pallet trucks and telescopic conveyor belts were introduced, the physical hazards of the job were mitigated. This made it easier for women to join. "Initially, we did not have separate female washroom facilities or female security guards. But that changed. A larger diversity presence was seen with more female employees, even in admin and HR," he said.

Godrej Agrovet arm Creamline Dairy forays into premium milk

HYDERABAD: Creamline Dairy Products Ltd, an arm of agribusiness player Godrej Agrovet Ltd, on Thursday announced its foray into the premium milk category with the rollout of Godrej My Farm Milk in the Hyderabad market. The company said the milk is sourced directly from the 1,400 cows at its own farm at Nashik using a completely automated process from milking to pasteurization and packaging. The milk is processed and packaged at its unit in



Hyderabad. The farm has a 9,000 litres per day capacity and the company is currently selling around 400 litres of the premium milk exclusively in the Hyderabad market through the quick commerce route, Godrej CEO Bhupendra Suri said. The company also launched its milk

report that highlighted that 55% of consumers associate unhygienic milk with unbranded milk options and that 90% of consumers are willing to pay more for a premium for high-quality and safe milk, reiterating the growing demand for pure and safe dairy products among consumers.

US GDP growth was slower last quarter on soft consumer spending

US GDP growth was slower last quarter on soft consumer spending

The US economy grew at a slower pace in the first quarter than initially reported, primarily reflecting softer consumer spending on goods. Gross domestic product rose 1.3% annualized in the first three months of the year, below the previous estimate of 1.6%, Bureau of Economic Analysis figures published Thursday. The economy's main growth engine — personal spending — advanced 2.0%, versus the previous estimate of 2.5%. The numbers underscore a loss of momentum to start 2024 after continual upside surprises in 2023. High interest rates, waning pandemic-era savings and slower income growth are some of the key factors weighing on American households and busi-



nesses. Consumer spending was marked down as outlays for goods — particularly autos — were much softer. Federal government spending slowed, while imports picked up compared to the first estimate. Net exports subtracted from growth for the first time in two years. The downward revision to consumer spending was partially offset by stronger business and residential investment. A key measure of underlying domestic demand known as final sales to private domestic purchasers rose 2.8%, versus the initially reported 3.1% increase. Economists have point-

ed to the strength in this metric as reason to believe that demand is still strong, even if the headline GDP figure looks weak by comparison. "Monthly data beyond March generally point to a continued, albeit gently cooling, economic expansion. We anticipate continued GDP gains this year and a healthy advance in 2024 overall," Nationwide Financial Markets Economist Oren Klachkin said in a note. "Some warning signs regarding the economic outlook are visible beneath the surface, but nothing that makes us pessimistic about the road ahead."

Birla Estates sets a new benchmark in Uber luxury real estate with the launch of Silas at Birla Niyaara clocking over INR 2500 Cr Sales

Birla Estates Pvt. Ltd. a 100% wholly owned subsidiary of Century Textiles and Industries Limited and the real estate venture of the Aditya Birla Group, announces record sales of its signature tower Silas at Birla Niyaara clocking an extraordinary INR 2500 Cr at launch. This has propelled Birla Niyaara's cumulative sales thus far to over INR 5400 Cr. Silas at Birla Niyaara features 148 4BHK-5BHK palatial residences, continuing the legacy of luxury set by the first tower. Birla Niyaara epitomizes convenience as it seamlessly connects Mumbai's premier commercial hubs, Fort and Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC). Its strategic location, in close proximity to the imminent Worli-Sewri connector and the new

trans-harbor link, guarantees swift and effortless access to these distinguished Central Business Districts (CBDs). The project also stands as a testament to Birla Estates' commitment to sustainability and boasts of 3 exclusive clubhouses for every age and interest, Hive - The Social Club, Playpen - The Children Clubhouse and BeFit - The Sports Club. Commenting on this development, Mr. K. T. Jithendran, MD & CEO at Birla Estates said, "Silas at Birla Niyaara will set new standards for luxury living in Mumbai. With its exquisite design and premium amenities, it promises residents an unparalleled lifestyle experience. Additionally, being India's first LEED Platinum

Residential Project underscores our commitment to sustainability in real estate development." He further added, "Today's luxury homebuyers seek privacy, exclusivity, and unique experiences. At Birla Estates, our commitment extends beyond luxury to embrace a vision of residences that not only epitomize opulence but also champion a greener, more sustainable tomorrow." Birla Niyaara is a canvas where luxury meets purpose, creating a living experience that is both refined and meaningful.

Silas' design ensures that every residence captures the beauty of the surroundings, offering a majestic view that enhances the overall living experience.

Pharma exports grew 10% to \$28 billion in FY24, poised to hit \$31 billion

HYDERABAD: India's pharmaceutical exports clocked a nearly 10% growth in FY24 to hit \$27.8 billion, propelled by the double digit growth in the US and UK generics market, and is poised to reach \$31 billion in the current fiscal year, a top official of Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (Pharmexcil) said on Thursday. India's pharma industry, which is currently pegged at around \$65 billion, is poised to grow to around \$130 billion by 2030, Pharmexcil director general Ravi Uday Bhaskar said at the inaugural of the 10th edition of PharmaLytics here. Pointing out that 50% of the Indian pharma sectors exports go to highly regulated mar-

kets, Bhaskar said exports to US grew over 15.6% to over \$8.7 billion in FY24 due to shortages in drug manufacturing capacities and the increasing demand for drugs pertaining to lifestyle diseases such as hypertension, depression, diabetes in the US. He said exports to the UK saw a 21.6% growth partly due to the increased cost of drugs, which were earlier sourced from Europe, post-Brexit. Apart from this, Africa showed a positive turnaround during FY24, from a degrowth of 5% to a growth of 8% as NGOs, who had diverted their funds towards Covid-19 vaccines and medicines, restarting procurement of drugs, he said.

Did Ajit call Pune police commissioner after Porsche accident?

NEW DELHI:

Maharashtra deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar on Monday confirmed that he had called the Pune police commissioner after the Porsche accident. Speaking to reporters in Mumbai, the deputy CM said, "As a people's representative, we receive calls regarding such accidents. I police commissioner and told him that the accused boy was from a wealthy family and there was a chance police might be pressured. I told him not to succumb to any political pressure." Earlier, Anjali Damania, a social activist, had claimed that he had called the Pune police commissioner after the Porsche accident. Blaming the parents of the teen accused in the crash, Pawar said the parents ignored his behaviour which resulted in the death of two young professionals. "The minor's conduct in the Pune accident is highly irre-



sponsible. It happened because the teenager's parents ignored his behaviour. The son is in an observation home and his father and grandfather have been arrested," he said. Asked about his party MLA Sunil Tingare, who had visited Pune's Yerawada police station hours after the accident in the Kalyani Nagar area, Pawar said, "Tingare himself has clarified his stand. He later met me in Pune and presented his version. I have asked top police officials to take strict action against cops or doctors who

tried to dilute the probe." Meanwhile, two doctors from Sassoon general hospital, arrested for destruction of evidence against the minor were sent to police custody till May 30. Another arrested employee of the hospital was also sent to 3-day police custody. The arrested individuals include the head of the hospital's forensic department. The accident, which occurred in the early morning of May 19, resulted in the deaths of two IT professionals when their motorcycle was by a speeding Porsche.

India bloc to elect PM and establish government, claims Kharge

Delhi: Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge asserted that the prime minister would be chosen by alliance leaders following the formation of an INDI Alliance government at the Center on June 4.

Kharge claimed that the Congress is opposing the BJP's philosophy of splitting the nation along Hindu and Muslim lines and claimed that the Narendra Modi government is "misusing" constitutional institutions. At an election rally in Rohru, which is under the Shimla Lok Sabha seat, he declared, "People are fed up with the Modi govt as unemployment and inflation are rising." He charged



that when the Centre turned down the state government's request for help of Rs 9,900 crore during the previous year's calamity, Modi was ignoring Himachal Pradesh.

China allegedly encroached on India's territory, and Kharge said the PM is scared of them,

saying the Modi government did nothing. He also brought up the Agniveer initiative, saying that Congress governments gave military personnel pensions and permanent employment. He claimed that the previous pension program was eliminated by the BJP government.

Badal brother-in-law is fired by SAD for anti-party activities

Delhi: Adesh Partap Singh Kairon (65), the brother-in-law of party president Sukhbir Singh Badal and a former cabinet minister, was kicked out of the SAD for 'engaging in anti-party activities'. Virsa Singh Valtaha, the SAD candidate from the Khadoor Sahib Lok Sabha con-



stituency, lodged a complaint against Kairon, citing his lack of involve-

ment in party affairs. Parneet Kaur, Sukhbir's sister, is wed to Kairon, the grandson of Partap Singh Kairon, the former chief minister of Punjab. He held three cabinet positions under Parkash Singh Badal's administration.

BJP faces caste equations, irate farmers, and Agniveer program in Haryana

Delhi: Despite BJP government uncertainty, Haryana will vote for 10 Lok Sabha seats on May 25. In recent months, Kurukshetra MP and state BJP president Nayab Saini replaced Manohar Lal Khattar as chief minister and the BJP-JJP coalition ended. Post-Pulwama and Balakot air strikes fueled nationalist sentiment, which helped the BJP win all Haryana Lok Sabha seats in 2019. The Modi factor helped it win. The average margin of victory was almost



350,000 votes. This time, caste tensions, especially Jat mobilization, farmers' protest over agricultural regulations, and

the Agniveer program of armed forces recruitment are challenging the BJP. After the October 2019 state elections, the

BJP and JJP established an alliance, however they split before the Lok Sabha elections.

Saini, an OBC, replaced Punjabi Khattar as state chief minister.

Three independent MLAs withdrew their support for the BJP, which needed their support to stay in office. The BJP soon gained three JJP MLAs. Only Congress leader Bhopender Hooda, a Jat, enjoys pan-state support in Haryana, especially among non-Jat castes.

Odisha rally Smriti Irani attacks ruling BJD

Delhi: In a long election campaign in Odisha, Union Minister and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Smriti Irani lambasted the ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD). She addressed mass meetings in Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, and Balasore Parliamentary constituencies. Smriti Irani alleged the BJD government in Odisha is remote-controlled by a Tamil officer and some Tamil contractors, a veiled attack on former official V.K. Pandian, a close adviser of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. The Tamil Nadu-born officer of this remote-controlled administration did not explain why he withheld the commis-



sion's report on Ratna Bhandar's lost keys. I warn the remote control that the BJP will reveal the probe report. "Whoever found guilty behind the Ratna Bhandar issue won't be spared by Prime Minister Narendra Modi," Smriti Irani stated in Jagatsinghpur. The Union Minister claimed the

state administration failed to explain Ratna Bhandar's critical disappearance. Senior BJP leader stated PM Modi-led government will reveal Ratna Bhandar major thieves. The BJP leader further advised voters to choose a double-engine government for quick state development. She added the

Tamil Nadu officer of the remote-controlled administration in Odisha is snatching all the welfare initiatives the Central government has provided to the people here. Smriti Irani stated PM Modi is giving money for house construction but Tamil Nadu companies are winning contracts. She said at a Kendrapara electoral meeting:

"Why did the BJD government not build a medical college for the people? Amethi's 40-year-old medical college demand was realized when the BJP took control at the Centre and state. Therefore, Odishans should vote for the BJP to fulfill their demand."

Uttarakhand will notify parents of children aged 18 to 21 and enlist live-ins online

Delhi: By the end of the year, Uttarakhand is anticipated to have adopted the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), and plans are underway to develop an online registration system for married individuals and cohabiting couples. Notably, this is the first time the government has revealed that live-in registration will be available online. Prior to this year's Lok Sabha elections, the topic of couples needing to register and being subject to government monitoring under the UCC's live-in provisions had been a major talking point among young people. The essential regulations have been drafted by a nine-member team headed by former chief secretary Shatrughan Singh; the document is



expected to be finished by the end of June. By late 2024, according to officials, the Act's provisions will be put into effect. Singh stated to TOI, "Our goal is to simplify the online formality completion process for individuals." But because government employees require formal training, this procedure is complicated. In order to fulfill the deadline, we intend to create regulations and hold training sessions concurrently." He also mentioned that gov-

ernment officials, particularly those working at the sub-registrar office, will receive training both offline and online, even at the village level. Singh emphasized that by eliminating the need for repeated trips to the registrar's office, the online facility will help government employees as well as couples. Even with the extra time needed, he continued, the strategy would be "comprehensive and fool-proof."

PM's "Mujra" Attack on INDIA Bloc, Priyanka Gandhi's "Decorum" Response

Delhi: Congress politician Priyanka Gandhi Vadra slammed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "mujra" remark at a Bihar rally, saying he must respect his office. Other INDIA leaders criticized the Prime Minister's accusation of vote bank politics against the Opposition. Mujra is a courtesan dance. At a rally in Bihar, the Prime Minister repeated his claim that the INDIA alliance intended to deprive backward castes and favor Muslims, something the Congress and its allies deny. Bihar has refocused social justice efforts. I declare on its turf that I will stop the INDIA bloc from



taking SCs, STs, and OBCs' rights and giving them to Muslims. The Prime Minister said they may stay enslaved and perform mujra' for their vote bank. Another "mujra jab" at the Tejashwi Yadav-led RJD: "These RJD people who keep doing mujra' with their lantern (poll symbol) do not have the courage to speak a word in protest." The Prime



Minister added that the Opposition will amend the Constitution if they win, an allegation the Congress had made against the BJP. Ms Gandhi Vadra said that no Prime Minister would have used such words. "What does Modi say? Is it not his job to keep his post tidy? Respect the Prime Ministership. His reality is revealed. Show the nation

less realism. He forgot he represents the nation. Ms Gandhi Vadra criticized the Prime Minister for claiming the Congress is developing a wealth redistribution scheme to steal women's mangalsutras, saying, "Modi talks about buffalo and mangalsutras. The stray animal problem began throughout their time."

Gurugram water crisis: Municipal authority to punish people 5,000 if...

Delhi: A 5000 fine will be enforced on Gurugram residents who wash automobiles or courtyards with potable water between 5am and 9am. The Municipal Corporation of Gurgaon (MCG) made the decision to reduce water waste due to water scarcity, said The Times of India. Repeated infractions would result in water connection removal and a 5000 punishment, according to officials. To restore water supply, the MCG charges 5,000 and 1000 for reconnection. After urban local bodies (ULB) ordered water conservation during peak supply hours, the decision was made. Installing motors and pumps directly on the supply line, which lowers water pressure, is a common infringement. Apart from fines, motors and pumps will be confiscated. Also, unlicensed washing centers will be blocked and their water connections cut.

CAPSULES

LS polls' 6th phase saw eager J&K voters set another record with over 61% voting

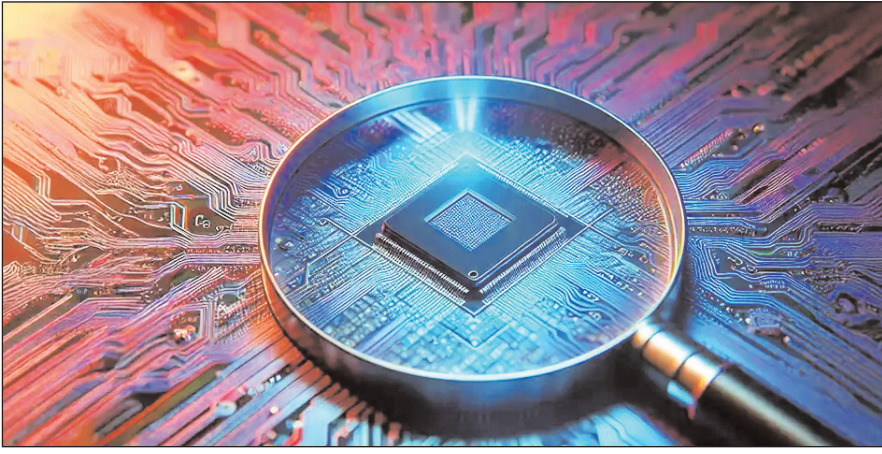
Delhi: Over 61% turnout was recorded in 58 seats in 8 states/UTs that went to polls in the sixth phase of the Lok Sabha polls. West Bengal (8 seats) had 79.47% turnout, UP (14 seats) 54.03 percent, and J&K's Anantnag-Rajouri seat, 54.30 percent, the highest in several decades. The EC noted that "in spite of hot weather in certain parts of the country, voters were undeterred in their enthusiasm as they were seen queuing up patiently to cast their votes across the country" and that many voters were still in line at some polling stations at the closing time.

TN govt. gives Covid-orphaned children Rs 430 crore

Delhi: Children who lost their parents to COVID-19 will receive Rs 430 crore from the Tamil Nadu government. A state government announcement said 382 Tamil Nadu children had lost both or one parent to Covid and related complications. The statement said it had allocated Rs 219 crore for girl protection. The state government would give 382 youngsters Rs 5 lakh apiece. Once they turned 18, they could withdraw Rs 19.10 crore with interest. The single parents of 13,682 children under 18 and nine Sri Lankan refugee youngsters received Rs 3 lakh each. The total was Rs 437.46 crore.

The statement stated government-announced free public bus travel for differently-abled and transgender people might save Rs 1000 per month. It gives 2.73 lakh girl students Rs 1000 under the 'Pudhumai Pen' scheme.

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



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

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

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

AI reduces the lowest-fare luggage limit to 15kg

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



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

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

Apple may employ 5 lakh Indians

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

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

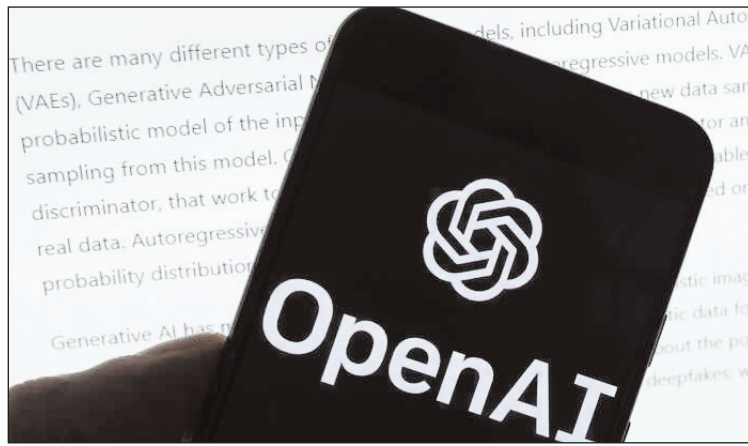
which runs two factories. A senior government official "Apple is hiring faster in India. They may employ five lakh people through vendors and component suppliers in the next three years, conservatively."

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

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

Eight US publications sued OpenAI and Microsoft for copyright infringement

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Godrej & Boyce to own Godrej land bank exclusive construction

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



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

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

Bandhan Life hires 1,000 avatars

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

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



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

Currently, Australia is monitoring Indian spices

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

Children under 12 must sit with parents on flights without charge



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

Low-pressure area over Bay of Bengal, forecasts IMD

PUNE: A weather conundrum is gathering steam over Bay of Bengal ahead of monsoon arrival. India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast formation of a low-pressure area over south-west Bay of Bengal around, while some independent forecasters sounded alarm about potential for an intense cyclone in the making that could impact Odisha, Maharashtra, and Gujarat. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, director general of meteorology, IMD, told TOI: "Low-pressure area will help monsoon advance over Andaman sea and adjoining Bay of Bengal, but it may not have an impact on onset of monsoon in Kerala.

However, we have not so far ruled out the possibility of the system turning into a cyclone later because May is known for cyclone formation. It is too early to confirm whether or not it will transform into a cyclone. If at all a cyclone forms, its impact on monsoon progress cannot be gauged as of now because it will depend on its path and intensity." GP Sharma, president of Skymet Weather Services, however, said the system did have a significant potential to become a cyclone, but is unlikely to hinder monsoon's progress. "There are ample chances that the Bay of Bengal system could gradually turn into a cyclone. It is

unlikely to disrupt the monsoon progress when it forms, rather only help in its progress," Sharma said. Roxy Mathew Koll, senior climate scientist at Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, told TOI: "A low pressure system will definitely develop over the south Bay of Bengal next week. Sea surface temperatures there are quite warm, so the ocean conditions are favourable. Madden-Julian Oscillation is reaching there soon, making the winds also favourable, providing rotational trigger for a cyclone to form. The restricting factor could be early monsoon development."

Samsung Solve for Tomorrow at a Glance

KARNAL/HISAR:

Samsung India has hosted a roadshow at Chandigarh University in Mohali where engineering students from the institute's incubator lab demonstrated their intent to participate in Solve for Tomorrow to solve pressing global issues. Samsung Solve for Tomorrow is a national education and innovation competition that aims to encourage a culture of innovative thinking and problem solving amongst the country's next generation. Youth can apply for Samsung Solve for Tomorrow at www.samsung.com/in/solvefortomorrow starting April 09, 2024, till 5 pm on May 31, 2024. The students came forward and expressed their commitment to solving real-world problems such as poor air quality and lack of clean energy fuels. They said they require a platform such as Samsung's 'Solve for Tomorrow' that can guide and support them in turning their ideas into action and help transform people's lives. Samsung has recently announced its partnership with the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology's (MeitY's) Startup Hub and Foundation for

Innovation & Technology Transfer (FITT), IIT Delhi, and the United Nations in India for the third season of 'Solve for Tomorrow'. This year, the 'Solve for Tomorrow' programme introduces two distinct tracks – School Track and Youth Track, each dedicated to championing a specific theme and targeted towards different age groups. Both the tracks will run simultaneously, ensuring equal opportunity and a level playing field for all students. The School Track, is tailored for students aged 14-17, focusing on the theme "community and inclusion". The track underscores the importance of uplifting underprivileged groups, improving accessibility to health & social inclusion for all through social innovations and hence 'Solving for India'. The Youth Track, on the other hand, targets individuals aged 18-22, with a focus on the theme "environment and sustainability". The track seeks innovative ideas for reducing carbon footprint, protecting the environment & promoting sustainability and hence 'Solving for the World'. **Samsung Solve for Tomorrow at a Glance**

Who can participate: 14-17 year-olds in School Track – individually or in teams of up to 5 members can submit their ideas in the "Community & Inclusion" theme and 18-22 year-olds in Youth Track –individually or in teams of up to 5 members can submit their ideas in the "Environment & Sustainability" theme Application themes: "Community & Inclusion", under School Track, caters to empowering underprivileged groups by improving accessibility to health, improving learning methods and access to education, and ensuring social inclusion for all "Environment & Sustainability", under Youth Track, will focus on environment protection, reducing carbon footprints and promoting sustainability. Hands-on training from various industry experts including Samsung, MeitY, IIT-Delhi, and technical support from United Nations in India. In addition, participants will get exclusive mentoring and coaching to build their ideas into prototype, an opportunity to attend a curated innovation walk with focused interactions with Samsung leaders.

CAPSULES

AIRIA Mall Gurgaon to Host Dino-Land 2.0 for Children

Gurgaon: AIRIA Mall announces its second edition of Dino-Land, redefining the traditional theme park experience and offering an extraordinary journey into the prehistoric era. Starting from 26th May, the adventure park will blend educational elements with entertainment for children. Building upon the success of its first edition, Dino-Land 2.0 promises an even more enriching experience. Spanning over a vast landscape, the park features life-sized animatronic dinosaurs, interactive exhibits, and a variety of activities for all ages. At the park, the children will be thrilled with the Dino 'meet and greet', games, and various crafts. It will be a delight for them to be engrossed with hands-on learning with fossil digging, baking soda volcanoes, and more, bringing the past world to life. For a nominal fee, families will have the perfect opportunity to create memories together filled with curiosity and refreshing engagements during this summer vacations.

In jail since 2019, J&K candidates' assets up, liabilities dip

BARAMULLA:

Independent candidate from Baramulla Lok Sabha seat Abdul Rashid Sheikh, who is lodged in Tihar for alleged terror-funding activities, has significantly reduced his liabilities and increased assets in the last five years, his poll affidavit shows. Better known as 'Engineer Rashid', the former MLA's assets are now valued at Rs 1.5 crore compared to Rs 80 lakh in 2019.

Congress government will be formed in Haryana with majority under the leadership of Hooda: Sultan

Kaithal: Senior Congress leader and former Chief Parliamentary Secretary Sultan Singh Jadoula said that in the assembly elections to be held in Haryana this year, Congress is fully prepared to wave the flag of victory under the able leadership of former Haryana Chief Minister Chaudhary Bhupendra Singh Hooda. Under the leadership of Hooda, Congress will come to power with full majority and all the announcements of Congress will be implemented with the first



stroke of the pen. While talking at his establishment in the town, Sultan Jadoula said that Hooda is the true well-wisher and sympathizer of the people of Haryana, who is fighting for the interests of the people day

and night and is playing an important role in strengthening and empowering the Congress in every corner of the state. As soon as the Hooda government is formed, Haryana will again become number one on the path of development and with the flow of the Ganga development all around, an atmosphere of greenery, prosperity, mutual brotherhood, peace and tranquility will be established and new dimensions of employment will be established.

In the Lok Sabha elections concluded yesterday, the Congress India alliance will wave the flag of victory on all the seats of the state. Congress leader Sultan Jadoula said that under the leadership of Hooda, leaders of various parties, officials and people of every class are leaving various parties and joining Congress. The support base of Congress is increasing day by day and the public has come to know that their interests are completely safe in the hands of Hooda.

Rename namesake disease hitting Ranikhet's fame: HC

DEHRADUN:

Uttarakhand high court has directed the state to propose a new name for a disease that has Ranikhet, a picturesque tourist spot, in its name. After a PIL highlighted that the hill station's reputation suffers due to its association with an avian disease known as 'Ranikhet disease', the administration has now been told to file an affidavit suggesting an alternative name by June 27. During the hearing,

Chief Justice Ritu Bahri and Justice Rakesh Thapliyal discussed the negative impact of the disease's name on Ranikhet's tourism. Ranikhet renowned for healthy air, Himalayan views The petitioner, Satish Joshi, of Ranikhet, said "the picturesque town's allure is overshadowed by this association". Ranikhet, about 50km from Almora, is renowned for its healthy climate, pleasant breeze, stunning Himalayan

views, and pollution-free greenery with deodar and oak trees. The area's attractions, including Kumaon Regimental Centre, museum, & golf course, offer memorable experiences for visitors. Ranikhet disease, also known as Newcastle disease, affects the birds and poultry, leading to severe respiratory issues, nervous system problems, and high mortality rates. This affliction has significant economic implications for

poultry farmers and can affect the large local bird populations. The petitioner contended other celebrated hill stations like Mussoorie and Nainital are exalted. Ranikhet, therefore, should not be overshadowed by a negative association with a malady. State govt acknowledged its limited jurisdiction in the matter but has, in turn, suggested that Centre could take necessary steps to rename the illness.

Students from Chandigarh Participate in Samsung 'Solve for Tomorrow' Roadshow; Want to Solve Environmental Issues

AMBALA: Samsung India has hosted a roadshow at Chandigarh University in Mohali where engineering students from the institute's incubator lab demonstrated their intent to participate in Solve for Tomorrow to solve pressing global issues. Samsung Solve

for Tomorrow is a national education and innovation competition that aims to encourage a culture of innovative thinking and problem solving amongst the country's next generation. Youth can apply for Samsung Solve for Tomorrow at www.samsung.com/in/solvefortomorrow starting April 09, 2024, till 5 pm on May 31, 2024. The students came forward and expressed their commitment to solving real-world problems such as poor air quality and lack of clean energy fuels. They said they require a platform such as Samsung's 'Solve for Tomorrow' that can guide and support them in turning their ideas into action and help transform people's lives. Samsung has recently announced its partnership with the Ministry of Electronics

& Information Technology's (MeitY's) Startup Hub and Foundation for Innovation & Technology Transfer (FITT), IIT Delhi, and the United Nations in India for the third season of 'Solve for Tomorrow'. This year, the 'Solve for Tomorrow' programme introduces two distinct tracks – School Track and Youth Track, each dedicated to championing a specific theme and targeted towards different age groups. Both the tracks will run simultaneously, ensuring equal opportunity and a level playing field for all students. The School Track, is tailored for students aged 14-17, focusing on the theme "community and inclusion". The track underscores the importance of uplifting underprivileged groups, improving accessibility

Flipkart's Big End of Season Sale 2024 sets the stage for the largest fashion extravaganza, with participation from over 12,000 Brands

GURUGRAM: Flipkart, India's homegrown e-commerce marketplace, has announced its much-anticipated 'Big End of Season Sale' (Big EOSS) beginning 1st June 2024. With the stage set to be one of the largest celebrations of fashion, the Big EOSS will offer customers a wide range of trendy styles, premium brands and exciting Gen Z offerings curated on 'SPOYL', delivered to every serviceable pin code PAN India. The Flipkart Big EOSS 2024 will offer choices from over 12,000 brands and 2 Lakh+ sellers, with the option of open-box delivery across categories like sports shoes, watches and jeans. Same-day delivery will be available on over 1 lakh products. Some of the



popular choices include styles from Puma, Adidas, Nike, Tommy Hilfiger, Fossil, Titan, Crocs, UCB, Vera Moda, Only, W, USPA, Arrow, American Tourister, Peter England, to name a few among the wide selection of brands available on Flipkart. Speaking about the Big EOSS, Arief Mohamad, Vice President and

Head of Flipkart Fashion said, "Season after season, Flipkart's Big EOSS isn't just a fashion shopping event - it's a celebration! It gives us the opportunity to bring joy to our customers as we continue to focus on offering the best value and the widest range of trendy styles from top brands.

The Big EOSS shopping extravaganza has not only delighted customers across India, but has fuelled positive growth for sellers and brands on our platform. We're dedicated to offering the latest and best in fashion – across apparel, footwear, and accessories - all accessible through cus-

Stock market crash today

Stock market crash today: The Indian stock market indices, BSE Sensex and Nifty50, experienced a significant downturn on Thursday, with the S&P BSE Sensex and the broader Nifty both falling by nearly 1% ahead of the final phase of polling. The Sensex hit an intraday low of 73,668.73, sliding by almost 800 points, while the Nifty touched 22,459.15, correcting by 250 points. This marks the fourth straight day of declines for the benchmark indices. BSE Sensex ended the day at 73,885.60, down 617 points or 0.83%. Nifty50 closed the trading session at 22,488.65, down 216 points or 0.95%. Firstly, heavyweights such as Reliance Industries (RIL), Infosys, and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) experienced corrections, significantly impacting the index movement. Also Read | What are 'Modi stocks'?