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Agnipath will 'degrade' combat power & operational efficiency of military, say several officers

NEW DELHI: Amid the political slugfest over compensation paid to Agniveers who die in the line of duty, several serving military officers and veterans say the overriding critical concern that the Agnipath scheme will "degrade" combat effectiveness and operational efficiency is being ignored despite the clear and present threats posed by China and Pakistan. Parents of Agniveer who died in mine blast want Centre to scrap scheme Army says family of Agniveer Ajay Kumar already paid Rs 98 lakh It takes seven to eight years for a soldier, sailor and airman to become fully combat-ready, with the requisite hands-on experience, but 75% of the



Around 60,000 soldiers retire every year

Around 60,000 soldiers retire every year, while the annual intake of Agniveers is limited to 40,000 at present. Given that the govt is unlikely to scrap the radical Agnipath scheme, which is primarily aimed at slashing the ballooning salary and pension bills, the armed forces want the retention rate of Agniveers to be raised to at least 50-60% from the existing 25%, among other tweaks, based on surveys and feedback from their units. Admiral K B Singh, who retired as the Navy chief in Nov 2021, in a post on 'X' on , said, "The only motivation driving Agnipath is reducing the pension bill. The fact that this scheme will degrade combat effectiveness .is bilised after four years under the

scheme rolled out in June 2022. While this will especially hit the IAF and Navy, which are more technology-intensive, the Army will also be impacted. "The very nature of warfare is changing with rapid technological advances. Why should the armed forces spend precious time and money training Agniveers to handle sophisticated weapon systems, missiles and machinery when the bulk of them will go after four years," a top officer told TOI. Moreover, the overstretched Army is already facing a shortage of combat-ready soldiers, which will get further accentuated with each passing year without tweaks in the Agnipath scheme.

Lalu Prasad asks party workers to be ready for elections

NEW DELHI: Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad on Friday asked his party workers to be ready for elections which he claimed "can happen anytime". "I appeal to all party workers to be ready, as elections can happen anytime. Modi's government in Delhi is very weak and it can fall by August," he said. The former Bihar chief minister was speaking at the party foundation day event in Patna. In the same event, Tejashwi Yadav also attacked former ally Janata Dal (United) and "... Those from Janata Dal United, compromised with their ideology due to their greed for power and allied with BJP. RJD is the only party which has neither compromised nor kneeled before BJP. Being in power is not the biggest thing," he said. The former deputy CM also asserted that the RJD's fight is for the weak and



How Rishi Sunak led Tories to worst defeat in UK history

JAMMU: To Conservative Party's worst defeat ever. Betrayed by his own Cabinet, haunted by scandals, and abandoned by voters, Sunak's political career implodes in a spectacular fashion. From D-Day controversies to betting scandals, the downfall of a deprived. "In Lok Sabha elections, our vote share increased by 9%, while NDA's vote share was reduced by 6%. Today, RJD has won 4 seats. We could have won more. Even then, our alliance has won 9 seats in this

once-promising leader shocks the nation. "The British people have delivered a sobering verdict," he admitted. "I take responsibility for the loss." "Everything that could go wrong, did go wrong": How Rishi Sunak led Tories to worst defeat in UK history. Lok Sabha polls," he said. RJD, which is part of opposition INDIA bloc, has questioned the stability of Modi 3.0 government as the BJP was unable to win majority on its own in Lok Sabha elections 2024.

Hathras stampede key accused Madhukar surrenders

NEW DELHI: The key accused of the Hathras stampede, Devprakash Madhukar, surrendered on Friday and has been taken into custody by the Uttar Pradesh Police. Madhukar was the main organiser of the 'satsang' (religious prayer meet) where a stampede claimed the lives of 121 people. Madhukar's lawyer, AP Singh claimed that Madhukar surrendered to the Delhi Police in Najafgarh and following his surrender, the Delhi Police handed him over to the UP Police. Earlier, Uttar Pradesh police had announced a Rs 1 lakh bounty on Madhukar. The state government agencies had launched intensive searches across the state and in neighbouring Rajasthan and Haryana to trace the Hathras stampede key accused.

Imran Khan to go on hunger strike over lack of confidence in chief justice

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's jailed former prime minister Imran Khan has threatened to go on hunger strike over his lack of confidence in the Chief Justice of Pakistan, Justice Qazi Faez Isa, and if the ill-treatment meted out to him in prison continues, said Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) politicians who met him in Rawalpindi's Adiala jail on Friday. Speaking to media after meeting Khan, the PTI politicians warned that if the injustice continues the party's founder will go on hunger strike. "If the party's founder goes on a hunger strike in jail, it will trigger a nationwide hunger strike," said Shamim Naqvi, a PTI politician from Karachi. Imran cited ongoing concerns over Justice Isa's involvement in benches handling PTI cases and his personal cases. He emphasised the concerns expressed by his legal team about the CJ's infrequent attendance, reflecting a growing sentiment in his camp that justice might not be administered fairly in these circumstances. Imran also expressed disappointment over a cancelled meeting with his legal and political teams. The superintendent, allegedly at the request of a jailed colonel, denied Khan's team access, citing operational reasons. "They (Pakistan's powerful military authorities) are mistaken; they think my party will weaken. They don't realize that the party with the strongest voter base remains strong," Imran said while asserting his party's resilience. He emphasised that the IMF cannot solve the country's issues and that the solution lies in fair and transparent elections.

Mahua vs Rekha: After NCW's FIR threat over 'pajamas' remark, TMC MP launches counter attack

NEW DELHI: Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra has once again stoked controversy with her "pajamas" remark on Rekha Sharma, the chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW). The commission has reacted strongly to the TMC leader's "derogatory, crude" remarks and sought strict action against her. However, unde-



terred by NCW's FIR threat, the Trinamool MP dug up old remarks of Rekha Sharma and called her a "serial offender". On July 4, NCW chief Rekha Sharma went to Hathras to meet the women who were injured in the tragic stampede that claimed 121 lives. Videos showed the NCW chief at the stampede site with someone holding an

umbrella for her. Reacting to the video, several users on social media wondered why the NCW chief could not hold the umbrella herself. Mahua Moitra reacted to one such post and took potshots at the NCW chief. "She's too busy holding up her boss's pajamas," the Trinamool MP wrote attacking Rekha Sharma, who is often accused.

Odisha police take help of technology to control Rath Yatra crowd

BHUBANESWAR: Alarmed by the death of 121 people in a stampede during a satsang in UP's Hathras on Tuesday, Odisha police have incorporated technology to ensure effective crowd control during Rath Yatra in Puri. The festival is expected to attract around 10 lakh devotees and several VVIPs, including President Droupadi Murmu, on Sunday.



ADG (law and order) Sanjay Kumar said the police have for the first time procured AI-enabled cameras and drones to manage the massive crowd during the festival. The primary focus is on preventing any stampede-like incidents during the pulling of chariots along the 3-km-long Grand Road, which faces Jagannath Temple.

Trump dares Biden for a no holds barred debate to prove

As US President Joe Biden prepares to put up a brave front and convince his supporters in a TV interview with ABC on Friday evening (local time), former President Donald Trump has issued a new debate challenge, unlike the previous format, which the ex-president claimed would test Biden's competence. Trump, who got the better of Biden in their first debate, proposed a debate with no rules and no moderators. In a post on Truth Social on Thursday, Trump, 78, called for a "no holds barred" debate to let Biden, 81, prove his "competence or lack thereof." He suggested a direct, unmoderated dis-



cussion, claiming it would "blow everything away" and attract higher ratings than their previous debate, which drew 47.9 million viewers. "I have the answer to the crooked Joe Biden incompetence puzzle. Let's do another Debate, but this time, no holds barred," Trump stated in his post. "An all-on discussion, with just the two of us on stage, talking about the future of our Country," he added. The first debate, moderated by CNN's Jake Tapper and Dana Bash, limited responses to two minutes per answer and one minute for rebuttals, with microphones muted for overtime or interruptions. Trump argued his format would give Biden a chance to justify controversial policies on open

borders, sports inclusion, electric vehicles, and inflation, suggesting this would test Biden's competence. Why Trump wants a 'no holds barred' debate During their first debate on June 27, Biden froze at one point and made confusing statements. The president later acknowledged his below-par performance, attributing his disorientation to extensive foreign travel and jet lag. Trump, riding high since then, claimed this format would allow Biden to explain the policies he has enacted during his first term, which Trump argues have been detrimental to the American people.

Woman drugged, gang-raped by colleagues in car

HYDERABAD: Two sales executives of a well-known real estate firm here were arrested Wednesday for allegedly drugging, raping and beating their 26-year-old colleague for hours inside a car on the night of June 30. The colleagues left the woman outside a private hostel in Miyapur. after the crime, police said. The accused, identified as Sanga Reddy (39) and Janardhan Reddy (25), were sent in judicial custody on Wednesday. While a zero FIR was initially filed at Uppal police station based on a complaint by the survivor, the case was subsequently transferred to Miyapur police station as the crime occurred under the latter's jurisdiction. The accused have been booked under IPC sections 376 (rape).

Biden goes into make-or-break weekend with more gaffes

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden is entering a make-or-break weekend with his political future and legacy hanging on an interview and two public rallies through which he will try and disprove the growing belief nationwide that he's too old for a second stint in the White House. Biden is sitting down for an interview with ABC News' George Stephanopoulos in course of campaign events in Wisconsin on Friday and chat is expected to be broadcast at 8pm east coast time. The platform is expected to be fair but tough on the President, with direct questions about his age and mental acuity. Stephenopoulos is a former Democratic Party advisor and served as the White House communications director and later as senior advisor to President Bill Clinton. Any flubs in the unscripted interview (where there will be no teleprompters) and in rallies (where there will be teleprompters) could close the door on the President's bid for a second term, with many Democratic operatives critical of his insistence on staying in the race, already leaning against it. Events on Thursday in the run-up to the interview were not encouraging for the Biden camp. The 81-year old President (he will be 82 on November 20) mis-spoke badly in a radio interview where he struggled to find words, at one point saying he was proud to have been "the first Black woman to serve with a Black president." He evidently mixed up his time as Obama's vice-president and Kamala Harris' vice-presidency under him.

Buffalo follows its owner home, resolves ownership dispute!

Prayagraj: To resolve the dispute over ownership of a buffalo, the Pratapgarh cops used an age-old method of leaving the decision to the bovine itself after several hours of panchayat failed to decide the issue. Police handed over the buffalo to its owner after it followed him on being left on the road unattended. The other claimant was reprimanded by both police and villagers.

The case involved Nandlal Saroj, a resident of Rai Askanpur village under Maheshganj police station of Pratapgarh district. His buffalo went missing some days back and strayed to Purey Harikesh village where one Hanuman Saroj allegedly caught hold of it. Hanuman refused to hand over the buffalo to Nandlal who finally traced the animal after a frantic search for three days. Nandlal then approached the cops at Maheshganj police station and lodged a complaint against Hanuman Saroj. Cops called both the claimants to police station on Thursday. However, despite a panchayat over the issue held for several hours, both of them kept claiming the buffalo to be theirs.

SHO of Maheshganj police station Shrawan Kumar Singh then devised a way out to resolve the dispute. Singh announced before the panchayat that the decision should be left on the buffalo itself. The buffalo will be left on the road alone, and the person whom it will follow will be declared its owner. The villagers also agreed to the decision and both Nandlal and Hanuman were asked to stand in opposite directions on the route to their villages.

Cops then released the buffalo from the police station, and it took the route straightaway to Rai Askanpur village following Nandlal. As per the decision, the buffalo was handed over to Nandlal. Hanuman Saroj who was still objecting to the decision was admonished by both cops and villagers. SHO Shrawan Kumar Singh said acting on the complaint, an investigation was carried out. The buffalo itself returned to its owner, he added.

Arrest of ex-principal demanded in paper leak case

Prayagraj: The paper of RO/ARO examination conducted by the Public Service Commission was distributed by the same accused Arpit Vineet Jaswant, who was arrested from Bishop Johnson Girls School, Mission Road. At his behest, the post of Principal was assigned to Parul Solomon for his personal gain without any management approval and without any advertisement, with the aim of ensuring ARO/RO papers could be leaked. Making the above allegations, Michael Daniel, national president of the Masih Jagriti Manch who held a meeting in Rajpur, has demanded an investigation from the Chief Minister of the state. In the meeting, he demanded the arrest of former school principal Parul Solomon, the alleged real mastermind of the ARO/RO paper leak episode.

In the meeting, he demanded the arrest of former school principal Parul Solomon, the real mastermind of the ARO/RO paper leak episode. He told in the meeting that despite repeated notices being sent by the STF, former Principal Parul Solomon is not appearing for questioning, whereas as per the rules of the Public Service Commission, there is a provision to make only the Principal the center administrator for competitive examinations. Deliberately, former principal Parul Solomon sent the name of accused Arpit Vineet Jaswant in her place, whereas the accused was not even an employee of the school in any temporary or permanent capacity and the former principal associated his brother-in-law Alexander Masih with the same gang. Michael Daniel also alleged that during the tenure of Parul Solomon, there have been irregularities in all the competitive examinations conducted in Bishop Johnson Girls College, which if investigated, will be revealed on a very large scale. National President of Masih Jagriti Manch, Michael Daniel said that if action is not taken against school principal Parul Solomon, then the workers of the Manch will protest in Lucknow. Ankita Peter, Rohit Paul, Johnson Phillips advocate Mahendra Srivastava, Sumit Austin, Prabha Chandra, Sam Das, Amit Samson etc. were present in the meeting.

Anger among traders over non-disclosure of robbery incident

Prayagraj: In the necessary meeting organized at Camp Office Pannalal Road, District Vice President of All India Industry Trade Board, Anil Goyal and his wife Priya Goyal discussed the robbery and gold theft of 29th June. The traders expressed concern over the working style of the police and strongly condemned the police for not taking the chain snatching incident seriously and not registering an FIR even after a week. Expressing surprise, District President Lalu Mittal said that in broad daylight at 7:30 in the evening, in a crowded commercial area like Civil Lines, a businessman riding a bike was pushed and then snatched his wife's chain and ran away, which is a serious matter in itself. In this incident, the businessman's wife suffered serious injuries and is admitted to Vatsal Hospital. Metropolitan President Animesh Aggarwal expressed concern over the continuous looting being carried out by businessmen in



the last few days. Victim businessman Anil Goyal told that he is tired of making rounds of the police station. The police also has CCTV footage of the robbery but no action has been taken till now. Ganga Par President Rajendra Kesarwani Pappu Bhaiya demanded immediate action against the culprits and recovery of the gold chain. District Women President Ratna Jaiswal said that there is fear among women due to such incidents happening with women. General Secretary Ruby Kesarwani said that one feels scared when leaving the house alone. Metropolitan President Lady Apoorva Chandra demanded immediate disclosure of the incident. Shyam Ji Kesherwani President Chowk Vyapar Mandal, Ratnadeep President Zero Road Vyapar Mandal, Vimal Gupta President Munford Ganj Vyapar Mandal Nandita Dhar etc. many people were present in the meeting.

School children planted tree in name of their mother

Prayagraj: In the tree plantation program organized by BJP Bhardwaj Mandal, in the courtyard of Swami Vivekananda School, George Town, the school children planted a tree in the name of their mother and took a pledge to protect it. On this occasion, former Cabinet Minister Narendra Kumar Singh Gaur, Principal Ajay Kumar Mishra, Rachana Srivastava, Councilor Ashish Kumar Dwivedi, Board President Anil Bhatt, Rajesh Kesarwani, Ganesh Verma, Gyanendra Gupta, Akhileshwar Mishra, Aman Sharma, etc. school teachers were present.



UPLekhpal Association stages dharna, strike continues

Prayagraj: UPLekhpal Association has staged a dharna of Lekhpals belonging to all the eight tehsils in Sadar Tehsil in Prayagraj, demanding action to provide justice to the victim Lekhpal couple. The matter is about parking the car. Earlier there was an altercation regarding parking the car. The case is related to the owner of a lodge. The owner of the lodge was drinking alcohol while sitting with his friends, after which the owner of the lodge first had an argument with his friends and later husband and wife, both of whom are accountants by profession, are on the post of accountant in Prayagraj. Lekhpal will not work until the accused are arrested. Lekhpals put up posters of not working in Sadar Tehsil. If the demands are not met, then people coming to the tehsil are facing problems for the last two days due to the Lekhpals going on strike. On Saturday, on Tehsil Day, people reach the Tehsil with their problems, where work is done to solve the problems of the people with the help of accountants along with higher officials. Now in such a situation, on Saturday Tehsil Day, accountants are on strike in all the eight tehsils of Prayagraj. Along with the loss of revenue, the common people also had to face problems.



Sindhi bhajan and singing organised, community expresses their thoughts

Prayagraj: In the evening of Sindhi bhajan and singing, the people of the society presented their thoughts. The motherland of the Sindhi community resides in Pakistan, but the heart resides in India. While people gathered with bhajans and singing, they laid emphasis on brotherhood and unity. They said that the motherland of Sindhi society is in Pakistan and Hindustan resides in the heart. Well-known personality Najeeb Allahabadi in coordination with the organizer Taha conducted the program and Uma Shankar Ailani co-



ordinated the program. Chief guest was Indra Madhyan and special guests were MA Ansari and Dr. Naz Fatma. In the bhajan presentation, Vasudev Madnani, Ajit Lalwani, Mahesh Malang, Dharampal Madnani made

the gathering lively and poet Nayab Baliyavi recited a poem. In the program, people doing excellent work in the society, selected by Shafqat Abbas Pasha Charanjit Singh and Abhishek Kumar Akhil, were

honored by the chief guest by wearing a shawl and giving memento, in which all Shri Balram Bajaj, Kanhaiya Rai Chandani, Mahesh Malang, Bharat Hirani, Ramesh Chandani, Dharam Pal Madnani, Uma Shankar Ailani, Ratanmal Kewalani, Shyam Kesarwani, Ajit Lalwani, PC Ahuja, Mahesh Magiya, Vasudev Mandani, Sunil Ahmed Khan, social worker, Anil Soneja, Purn Dharmani, Rajat Gumnam, Dr. Alok Chandra, Sanjay Singh, Syed. Mohammad Askari, social worker and Shams Taj journalist were honored in a grand ceremony.

Abbott launches "Chakkar ko Check Kar" Campaign

Varanasi: Abbott, the global healthcare leader, launched its 'Chakkar Ko Check Kar' campaign in India to highlight an often-overlooked balance disorder, vertigo, which affects close to 70 million people in India. Vertigo is a condition that can make people feel like the world is spinning around them. Through this campaign, Abbott aims to help people take control of their health and better manage the condition. To give the world a window into the disorienting reality of vertigo, Abbott kickstarted the campaign through a digital film, which features Bollywood actor and UNICEF India Ambassador, Ayushmann Khurrana. It paints a vivid picture of how vertigo's sudden spin-

ning episodes can throw life off balance, urging those who resonate with these experiences to take action.

Dr Jejee Karankumar, Medical Director, Abbott India added, "Around 70 million Indians experience vertigo. While this balance disorder can affect people's quality of life, it can be managed. Abbott aims to simplify the journey of people living with vertigo by raising awareness and empowering them with knowledge and tools that can help recognize signs of the condition, to get timely medical advice and support and live fulfilling lives."

Ayushmann Khurrana, sharing his personal experience with vertigo, said, "Dealing with vertigo has

been a challenge, but it taught me the power of resilience. Diagnosed in 2016, every sudden movement made the world spin around me. Amidst demanding film schedules, the constant fear of an impending dizzy spell was daunting. However, finding the right medication

and embracing meditation helped me manage my condition completely. While it can feel like a tough condition to manage but it's crucial to remember that it's a battle you can win. I hope my journey inspires others to seek the help they need and navigate life with renewed confidence."

His experience is not uncommon. There are millions suffering from this condition silently and con-

fusing it for a normal chakkar. Getting the right diagnosis and treatment at the right time and making key lifestyle changes is important to manage this condition and stay in control of your health. An integral part of the campaign is the survey conducted by Abbott in collaboration with IQVIA. The survey findings help understand the realities of people living with vertigo in India. This survey was conducted across Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Bangalore, and Kolkata, with insights from 1,250 respondents. These included vertigo patients and caregivers as well as people with family members experiencing dizziness and are not yet diagnosed with the condition.

BJP celebrated b'anniv of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee

Prayagraj: Bharatiya Janata Party, Prayagraj Metropolitan, organized a symposium on the life of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, remembering him on the eve of his 123rd birth anniversary, at the Civil Lines office. On this occasion, the chief guest of the program, former Kashi region president Mahesh Chandra Srivastava said that the life of population founder Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee was dedicated to the nation. He made his supreme sacrifice by defying the power for the unity and integrity of India. To save the 'one country, two marks, two heads, two constitutions', he protested against it and played his role in the ideological fight to keep West Bengal a part of India and as a member of the Constituent Assembly, he gave suggestions for change in language and culture. On the occasion, former Cabinet Minister Narendra Kumar

Singh Gaur said that Article 370 and Article 35A were a curse to separate India from Kashmir for which Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee sacrificed himself and said that the Bharatiya Janata Party will support Dr.



Shyama Prasad Mukherjee. She is not one to forget her sacrifice and following her ideals, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made her dreams come true by removing Article 370 and Article 35A from Kashmir. On this occasion, Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani

said that even yesterday Congress was breaking the country, even today Congress is breaking the country for vote bank politics and the majority society is calling Hindus sometimes as saffron terrorists, some-

times as communalists and sometimes as Hindu terrorists. Insulted and today they are insulting the Hindu society by calling them violent. On this occasion, BJP Metropolitan President Rajendra Mishra, while presiding, said that the history of Congress has been one

of breaking the country and that is why Congress is continuously breaking the country, making Kashmir India. She wants to re-implement Article 370 and is making all her efforts for it, but Bharatiya Janata Party will make her efforts futile. Apart from this, former Deputy Mayor Murari Lal Aggarwal, Devesh Singh, Ramesh Pasi, Mrityunjay Tiwari, Varun Kesarwani, Kunj Bihari Mishra, Shashi Varshney, Sachin Jaiswal, gave a darshan on the biography of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, program coordinator Sanjay Srivastava, co-convenor Sanjay Singh, Deep Dwivedi, Kuldeep Mishra, thanks were given by the board president Vijay Srivastava on this occasion. But Dnyaneshwar Shukla, Hanuman Prasad, Anand Dubey, Rajesh Gond, Rohit Jaiswal, Anand Jaiswal, Rajesh Kesarwani, Vivek Mishra, Shobhita

Srivastava and all the workers of the metropolis and division were there.

Former Union Minister and former BJP state president Mahendra Nath Pandey, on his arrival in Prayagraj, paid tribute to us on the eve of the birth anniversary of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee at the party office in Civil Lines. On this occasion, BJP metropolitan president Rajendra Mishra, district in-charge and former regional president Mahesh Chandra Srivastava and Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani, welcomed the workers including Shashi Varshney, Rajesh Kesarwani, Vijay Srivastava, Sachin Jaiswal, Anand Jaiswal, Ghanshyam Maurya, Rajesh Gond, Prateek Tyagi, Prashant Shukla, Pawan Mishra etc. Bharatiya Janata Party will organize a worker honor ceremony at the Civil Lines office on 6th July at 11:00 am.

SAR Televance Ltd announces Composite Equity Issue of Rs. 450 cr

Varanasi: SAR Televance Limited (NSE Symbol: SARTELE) announces Composite Equity Issue of ₹450 crore. The Composite Issue comprises Rights Issue aggregating up to ₹300 crore and FPO aggregating up to ₹150 crore (The "Total Offer Size"). The proposal for fund raising of an amount up to ₹450 crore through issuance of equity shares through Composite Issue was approved at the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company held on 20th January 2024. The Rights Issue will comprise 1,50,00,000 fully paid up Equity Shares of Rs. 2 each at an issue price of ₹200 per Rights share (including premium of ₹198 per Rights Share). The Rights Issue will open on Monday, July 15th 2024 and close on Monday, July 22nd, 2024.

Lord Jagannath ji fed Aushadhi Prasad's Bhog

Prayagraj: The second day of the story of Lord Jagannath ji organized under the aegis of Shri Jagannath Ji Mahotsav Samiti Trust Prayagraj But Pandit Manoj Pandey, while narrating the fast story of Lord Jagannath ji, told that the fast story of Lord Jagannath ji is heard on all four Mondays of Chaitra month and Lord Jagannath ji is worshiped with jaggery on the first Monday and with coriander on the third Monday. On the fourth Monday, raw and cooked food is prepared and offered to Lord Jagannath with Panchamrit and on the fourth Monday, Lord Jagannath is worshipped. It is said that it is believed that by worshiping and fasting with devotion on these four Mondays, man can be saved from all troubles. Salvation is achieved and it is said that the story of Lord Jagannath ji's fast was started by Sudama ji. He had kept the fast of Lord Jagannath ji to provide freedom from suffering to the devotees of God and he actually got the darshan of Lord Jagannath ji. And since then the tradition of fasting story of Lord Jagannath ji is going on and conducted by Rajesh Kesarwani. On this occasion, decoction of Dashmula medicine was offered to Lord Jagannath ji and symbolic aarti was performed. On this occasion, Gagan Das Gupta, Jairam Gupta, Basant Lal Azzad, Dau Dayal Gupta, Rajesh Kesarwani, Women President Poonam Gupta, Seema Srivastava Happy Kasera, Triloki Kesarwani, Amar Rastogi, Preeti Gupta, Mamta Mishra, Lata Upadhyay, etc. were the devotees.



Best employee and best section award distribution prog for month June-July organized

Ajay Kumar Singh zeroed in on as best employee of month

Prayagraj: Best Employee and Best Section Award Distribution Program for the month of June-July was organized at North Central Railway, Personnel Department, Headquarters Prayagraj. The chief guest, Principal Chief Personnel Officer, Mr. Anurag Tripathi was present in the program. In the award ceremony, the Best Employee Award for the month of June-July was given to Shri Ajay Kumar Singh, Office Superintendent/MPP and TADK, Personnel Department, Head Office for his commendable work. He is working in North Central Railway till 30th June 2024. The work of giving attendants in lieu of TADK to a total of 143 officers was completed quickly. Apart from this, work related to transfer/

posting of 33 TADKs was done. Single window cell cases are being completed continuously week after week by them. Apart from this, the work of MPP Cell was completed on time with

(Araj) Section, Personnel Department, Headquarters. Chief employee and welfare inspector of this section, Mr. Ajay Kumar Sinha and his colleagues had received this award many times in the

non-selection examinations of non-gazetted employees are being conducted by this section on time. Confidential (Non-Gazette) Section has followed the directions issued by the Railway

this, suitability written examinations for compassionate appointment are also conducted and the result is released timely after getting approval from the Head of the Department. Regarding Centralized Computer (CBT) based departmental examination. In compliance with the letter issued by the Railway Board, I have contributed in preparing the syllabus for the posts related to the Personnel Department to start the selection process. The program was organized with the aim of increasing the confidence, creativity and curiosity of all the employees of the Personnel Department, Headquarters. During this time, all the officers and employees of the Personnel Department and Headquarters should be present.



full responsibility.

In this series, the award for the best section of the month of June-July was given to the Confidential

past. Provided for excellent execution of all the tasks while performing various tasks with efficiency. Departmental selection and

Board - Under the instructions, objective based multiple choice written examination is being conducted successfully. Along with

Police conduct raid to seize fake Tata products

Prayagraj: Tata Steel officials, in collaboration with the Uttar Pradesh Police, conducted a raid on a manufacturer in the industrial area of Prayagraj. The entity was found infringing the Tata brand by manufacturing and selling counterfeit Tata-branded mild steel beams illegally.

The products were being sold under the registered 'TATA' trademark and branding in an attempt to deceive consumers into believing that they were purchasing genuine Tata products.

Upon receiving information about the unscrupulous activity, Tata Steel with the assistance of the Prayagraj Industrial Area Police conducted the raid on the entity on July 2, 2024. The raid resulted in the seizure of a substantial quantity of Tata-branded mild steel beams, and an FIR has been registered against the entity under section 63 of the Copyright Act, 1957.

Tata Steel's products possess tremendous goodwill in the minds of the consumers by virtue of the quality of the products and the unauthorised use of its brand name on counterfeit products can cause damage to its reputation.

Tata Steel strongly condemns any unauthorised use of its trademarks and logos. To safeguard its brand reputation and goodwill, Tata Steel's dedicated brand

protection team diligently monitors and takes decisive action against entities that infringe upon the brand's intellectual property rights, including counterfeiters.

The Company remains committed to tak-



ing legal action against any such illicit activities that undermine its assets and harm its customers. The Company urges consumers to only purchase Tata Steel products from authorised dealers and distributors to ensure the authenticity of the product.

HQ Purva UP & MP Sub Area hosts conference on flood relief operations

Discuss and strategize enhanced flood relief measures



Prayagraj: Headquarters Purva UP & MP Sub Area successfully organized a significant conference on Friday, focusing on flood relief operations across the districts of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. The event witnessed participation of senior officials from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and the Civil Administration, all converging to discuss and strategize enhanced flood relief measures.

The conference aimed to bolster inter-agency coordination and improve the efficiency of disaster management operations in the

flood-prone areas of UP and MP. The collaborative discussions covered a range of topics, including rapid response mechanisms, resource allocation, early warning systems, and community preparedness.

Major General Rajesh Bhat, GOC Purva UP & MP Sub Area, who presided over the conference, emphasized the importance of a unified approach to disaster management. "Our collective efforts and seamless coordination are crucial in mitigating the impact of floods and ensuring the safety and well-being of our communities. This conference serves as a platform to share insights, experiences,

and best practices" he stated.

Senior officials from the NDRF, SDRF, PAC, Irrigation Department, Health Department and Civil Administration shared their perspectives and operational experiences and preparedness level. The conference concluded with a renewed commitment to strengthen disaster management frameworks and foster a spirit of collaboration among all stakeholders to implement the strategies discussed and ensure a robust flood relief response, informed Shantanu Pratap Singh, Public Relations Officer, Ministry of Defence, Prayagraj.

Chariot of ABVP's nationwide campaign 'Complex Chalo' received grand welcome in Prayag

Prayagraj: Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad, Kashi Province, started the Parishad Chalo Rath from Amethi on Monday to rejuvenate the campuses and develop the Parishad culture and reached Prayag Mahanagar today. Here Metropolitan Minister Sachin Singh, Metropolitan President Dr. Manish Srivastava sir, Department Head Dr. Anubhav Rawat sir and Metropolitan Organization Minister Archit Soni welcomed him. Parishad Chalo Rath passed through various municipal units of Prayag metropolis like Shantipuram Municipal Unit, Phaphamau Municipal Unit, Teliarganj Municipal Unit and reached Govindpur Municipal Unit, where a public meeting was organized. Addressing the public meeting, Metropolitan Minister Sachin Singh Rajkumar said that in order to enliven the campuses and to restore the council culture, a country-wide campaign, 'Parishad Chalo' campaign is being run by Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad, for this purpose the campuses of Kashi province are being organized through 'Chalo Yatra'.

A public awareness campaign is being run through which students will be motivated to visit the campus. Parishad Chalo Rath Yatra organized by ABVP

10th grade to mid-year students studying on university campuses. In the first phase, efforts were made to increase students' interest

to be made to make the campus vibrant and become a center of employment generation and to provide arrangements like canteen,

the process of socialization of a student as he understands his responsibility towards the society and nation. Public awareness campaign will be conducted in the districts through the campus Chalo Abhiyan Rath being run by ABVP Kashi Pradesh. During this period, Chaupal will be set up, seminars will be held, street plays will be performed, leaflets will be distributed, the importance of Sanskrit will be explained and even by visiting families, students will be motivated to go to the campus and get education. The group of students will continuously move with the chariot and the Rath Yatra will also be given a grand welcome at all the major places. Campus Chalo Rath Yatra was given a grand welcome in Teliarganj Nagar Unit, after which a procession was taken out from Phaphamau Nagar Unit to Teliarganj Nagar Unit and a public meeting was organized in Govindpur Nagar Unit. On this occasion, Teliarganj councillor Sanjay Paswan, Vidyarthi Parishad workers Abhinav Pandey, Aman Shukla, Rudransh Rai, Rishi and Saurabh Tiwari and other workers were present.



Kashi Prant will start from Amethi and reach Allahabad University on July 6 via Sultanpur, Fish City, Jaunpur, Pratapgarh, Kaushambi, Prayag District and Prayag Metropolis. As a result of thinking about the decreasing presence of students in the campus, the Student Council will run the Campus Chalo campaign throughout the year. The Campus Chalo campaign is a mass movement, planned in two phases ranging from

in the campus through student dialogue, student parliament, motivational speeches through various competitions and to create a positive environment in the campus by starting student union, experiment classes in school and projects related to arts, sports service and environment. Emphasis will be placed on. In the second phase, by communicating with all stakeholders in the education sector, efforts will

sports court and student welfare center to make the campus interesting.

Prayag Metropolitan President Dr. Manish Srivastava sir said that after the Corona period, there has been a decline in the attendance rate of students in educational campuses due to which students are forgetting the campus culture and this is proving to be a hindrance in their all-round development. Classroom education is a part of

Bishop Dan hands over memo to Police Commissioner, levels serious allegations against evicted principal

Prayagraj: Bishop Morris Edgar Dan, Diocese of Lucknow Chairman Bishop Johnson Girls Wing Katra, Prayagraj has shot off a letter to police commissioner demanding registration of FIR in connection with the embezzlement of Rs 2.4 crore of students' fees by impersonating the Principal through fabrication and fraud. On Friday, the delegation led by Bishop Dan submitted a memorandum to the Police Commissioner Prayagraj. The letter to the Police Commissioner reads as follows:

"Apart from being the Bishop of the Diocese of Lucknow Church of North India, the applicant is also the ex-officio Chairman of the Diocesan Education Board, Registered letter No. (1-35070), which runs more than two dozen schools including Bishop Johnson Girls, Wing Katra, Prayagraj. Yojana Lal had

resigned from the post of Principal of Bishop Johnson Girls Wing Katra, Prayagraj on 11/02/2022. According to the rules, till the new appointment is made, the senior teacher of the school should be given the charge of acting Principal and the Principal should be appointed through interview by taking out advertisement in newspapers for the new appointment," he remarked.

"But Arpit Vineet Jaswant, the mastermind of leaking the papers of recruitment examinations in Bishop Johnson Girls Wing, got Parul Solomon, who was working as a teacher in another school, published the advertisement for the post of Principal with the connivance of Parul Solomon's father Peter Baldev. They got her selected by forming a fake selection committee. Whereas the members of the selection

committee wrote that gangster accused Peter Baldev forcibly threatened us and got us to sign the illegal selection of Parul, the complaint about which was given to the concerned authorities, the said complaint letter is attached. Complaints made by the members of the selection committee explicitly states that the appointment of Parul Solomon to the post of Principal is illegal which has been done through forged documents and forgery," he stressed.

He further claimed, "On the basis of the said complaint, the bank refused to operate the bank account with the signature of Parul Solomon. After that, Parul Solomon, with the connivance of his father, former dismissed by Peter Baldev, his brother-in-law Alexander Masih, husband Sumit Solomon and other unknown accountants

cheated the students. Till now, these people have embezzled approximately Rs 2.4 crore of fees and by not paying salaries to the teachers and employees of the school, they embezzled all the fees. Not only this, these people did not even deposit the PF fund of teachers and employees and embezzled that money also. After investigation of the above complaints, all the allegations were found to be true and due to this illegal appointment to the post of Principal through fake means, she was dismissed from the post and Shirley Masih was appointed as the new Principal in her place and took charge. There is a lot of anger among the teachers and employees due to the embezzlement of the students' fees by depositing them in cash for the last one year and the embezzlement of the salaries and PF funds of

the teachers and employees. It is absolutely necessary to take action against the culprits."

Prior to signing off, he said, "Therefore, it is a humble request to appropriate authorities that in the case of appointment to the post of Principal against the rules and embezzlement of Rs 2.4 crore of students' fees through forgery and forgery, accused needs to be booked with immediate effect. Please issue an order to register a case against Vineet Jaswant, Parul Solomon, Peter Baldev Alexander Masih, Sumit Solomon and other unknown people." Memorandum and delegation was led by Principal of Girls High School Rev. Dr. Vinita Eusebius, Madam Archi Pastor Praveen Massey, Pastor Ajit Francis, Amar Moses Akash Tripathi, etc. people were present. This information was given by media in-charge Sunil Kumar Verma.

UP Board's compartment/improvement exams on July 20

Prayagraj: The officials of Uttar Pradesh Madhyamik Shiksha Parishad, commonly known as UP Board, will conduct compartment/improvement examinations of students who had appeared in High School and Intermediate Examinations-2024, on July 20. The High School improvement or compartment exam would be held from 8am to 11.15am and in the second shift, the exams for intermediate students would be held from 2pm to 5.15pm, said UP Board officials.

Secretary, UP Board, Bhagwati Singh said the exams for both the classes will be held at all the district headquarters at the examination centres determined by the District Inspectors of Schools (DIoSs) concerned. The DIoSs will ensure all the requisite arrangements at the examination centres, he added. It is

worth mentioning that a total of 44,357 students are registered to appear in the compartment/improvement examinations, including 20,729 students of high school and 23,628 students of intermediate compartment exam. Applications for the compartment/improvement examinations were accepted by the board till May 31.

UP Board secretary Shukla further said that the centre administrators will ensure that unnecessary crowd of examinees do not collect at the entrance gates of the examination centres. Likewise, similar arrangements should be made after the completion of the examination.

Candidates are strictly prohibited from carrying any electronic device inside the examination hall. Officials will also ensure that CCTV cameras equipped with voice recorder and

routers etc are fully installed in the classrooms during the examination period, UP Board officials shared. The overall arrangements, from storing of the question papers to taking them to the examination centres, will be carried out strictly as per the prescribed steps like the one followed during the main examination. The strong room will be under CCTV surveillance with 24X7 working voice recorders, they said.

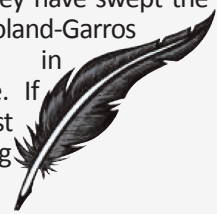
The candidates concerned must reach the examination centre at least 45 minutes before the commencement of the examination on the prescribed date by getting their admit cards downloaded from www.upmsp.edu.in or by contacting the registered school and getting their admit cards countersigned by the principal of their school, officials explained.

Editorial

A younger lot: On the French Open

Ritu Walia

For nearly two decades, a champion other than Rafael Nadal at Roland-Garros has been as elusive as a shadow at high noon on solar equinox. Ever since he made his debut in 2005, the legendary Spaniard has won the event a record 14 times, losing just three of his 115 matches. The occasional uprisings against his ironclad rule, mainly from Novak Djokovic, were crushed with characteristic menace; Nadal leads the Serb 8-2 on Parisian clay. French Open 2023, however, is set to herald a shift, for Nadal will miss the event for the first time since 2004 because of the hip injury that has kept him out since January. There are signs that a change of guard is in the offing in men's tennis in general. With Roger Federer retired and Djokovic out of form, the once vice-like hold of the 'Big Three' is at its weakest. Djokovic is a two-time champion and will be motivated to break the tie with Nadal on 22 Majors. But Carlos Alcaraz, the reigning World No.1 and winner of the French Open tune-up events in Barcelona and Madrid, seems primed to occupy centre stage. The 20-year-old has already established his Slam-winning credentials (2022 US Open), and a follow-up act will only embellish his status as the game's chosen one. Challenging him will be the Scandinavian duo of No.4 Casper Ruud, who lost the 2022 summit clash to Nadal, and No.6 Holger Rune, finalist at both Monte Carlo and Rome recently. Daniil Medvedev has developed a new-found love for the red dirt following his success in Rome last week, but the Russian No.2 is at best a wild card, alongside Stefanos Tsitsipas, Andrey Rublev, Jannik Sinner, and Alexander Zverev. In contrast — and in a departure from the past — it is the women's field that wears a settled look, with Iga Swiatek, Aryna Sabalenka, and Elena Rybakina forming a dominant trio. They have swept the last four Majors and the Roland-Garros preparatory tournaments in Stuttgart, Madrid and Rome. If anything, Swiatek is just the first among equals, by virtue of being the World No.1.



Studios claim ownership of rights

It was since foreign companies entered the Indian film market that filmmakers in the country, especially in the Hindi film industry, took huge strides. Films with budgets in lakhs suddenly started costing crores. With projects being underwritten by big-time backers, the films with stars started costing over Rs 100 crore. Actors wanted to be paid in crores and so did the director. Soon, the stars started asking for Rs 100 crore or more and the ones with just a single success wanted Rs 10-15 crore. Female artistes started demanding in crores, even though their films, at best, collected Rs 5 crore or less in lifetime business. Somewhere along the line, the filmmaking happened with no sense of the economics. The prices the stars demanded were artificial, much against their draw or potential to recoup. This continued for a long time because the companies which backed these films opened their purse strings generously. The producer had nothing to lose and stood only to gain. Nobody cared for what a star charged or a director did. Ridiculous budgets were presented and sanctioned by the new corporate entrants who were under the impression that they were producing films when, in fact, they were actually outsourcing the film production activities.



Everyone benefits from the Lok Sabha election

Everyone benefits from the 2024 Lok Sabha election.



Though unhappy by its drop from 303 seats in 2019 to 240 this time, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is relieved to have won three consecutive terms for the first time in over 60 years. The Congress-led Opposition's 2024 numbers may be lower than the BJP's, but it seems to have found a weakness in Prime Minister Narendra Modi. After three general elections in a succession of two-digit votes, the Congress under Rahul Gandhi had its third-worst Lok Sabha performance, but its supporters are celebrating keeping the BJP below 272. Same with their supporters: Hindu BJP voters are thrilled that their party is back in power, but Muslim voters believe they have returned their

'veto power' in Indian politics. The Congress-led Opposition may be celebrating, but the BJP should be relieved. After all, it realized the party is in trouble without losing power in Raisina Hill. The party has five years to clean up. A vote where everyone has something to be thrilled about makes it easier to misread the outcome, which is the BJP's problem. First, the BJP should view the Lok Sabha results with cautious optimism, as three consecutive terms are exceptional. The Modi government has defeated anti-incumbency and the post-pandemic tendency of Covid-19 being a graveyard for ruling dispensations globally. Most incumbents have failed to recover from the enormous coronavirus outbreak. Taking the wrong medication is more dangerous for the BJP than not taking any cor-

rective actions. Unfortunately, politicians' egoistic tendency to blame voters rather than party leadership for recent political defeats makes the latter more likely. One can understand how Uttar Pradesh voters, especially Ayodhya, were villainized after the poll. Dubious political commentators have already given their verdict, exposing Hindutva's declining returns in Indian politics! Such feel-good, part-dubious analysis should not be accepted by the BJP. The party may also view the results as localized and one-time. Localized because while losing approximately 50% of seats in Uttar Pradesh, the party swept Madhya Pradesh. Uttar Pradesh, unlike Madhya Pradesh, has a viable opposition with a strong M-Y vote-bank for anyone who can defeat the BJP. The

Opposition troubled the BJP wherever it had a party infrastructure, albeit a basic one, and vote-banks, whether in Uttar Pradesh or Maharashtra. Naturally, the Opposition distributed tickets smartly, notably in Uttar Pradesh, where Akhilesh Yadav generously offered SP tickets to Dalits and OBCs and less than 10 seats to M-Y candidates! In contrast, the BJP had ticket distribution troubles. Misfits, incompetent, and corrupt candidates were common, as were imports from other parties. This sparked party discontent and heartburn. The Ayodhya BJP candidate was unpopular before the election, and he was on sticky ground. Of course, his loose statements on reserves and the Constitution made matters worse for himself and the party. Ideological fluidity in the BJP compounded its

problems. A party that earns 18-20% of votes for being a Hindutva vehicle is bound to boomerang when its national president publicly distances itself from "bhagwa" during the election campaign. In an interview with a Delhi daily, JP Nadda said the "BJP and bhagwa (saffron) are not synonymous" and that the BJP might win the 2024 elections without the RSS! He overlooked that when a Hindu doesn't see himself as a Hindu, he's tempted to adopt caste identities. The BJP must realize that any ideological compromise has led to political hara-kiri. In 1984, the BJP, fresh from the Jana Sangh, burned its fingers by openly supporting Gandhian socialism and won only two Lok Sabha seats. When the Jinnah-fied BJP downplayed its Hindutva identity in 2004 and 2009, the party suffered similarly.

Mob and justice: On the Alwar lynching case verdict

The thin line between culpable homicide and murder under Indian penal law is a subject of endless analysis, but it is not easy to accept this nuanced distinction in a case of mob lynching. A Sessions Court in Alwar district of Rajasthan has sentenced four men to a prison term of seven years for the lynching of a Muslim dairy farmer in July 2018. However, it acquitted Naval Kishore, a Vishwa Hindu Parishad functionary, for want of sufficient evidence. If one recalls the acquittal of all those tried for the 2017 murder of Pehlu Khan,

who was also a victim of cow vigilantism, there is a semblance of justice for Rakbar Khan, 31, who was attacked by a mob while transporting two cows along with a friend near Lalawandi village in Alwar. The police had found Rakbar Khan with serious injuries, to which he succumbed later, presumably due to the delay in taking him for medical treatment. If one takes into account the number of attacks, some of them fatal, involving so-called cow protection gangs in various States in recent years, the record of the criminal justice system in

successfully prosecuting those involved in such incidents is quite dismal. In this backdrop, the fact that the police in Alwar managed to obtain a conviction is noteworthy. However, that the assailants were found guilty only of culpable homicide not amounting to murder and wrongful restraint does raise some concern. A conviction for murder would have entailed at least life imprisonment.

Rakbar Khan's family is justly aggrieved both over the acquittal of one suspect, who they believe was the main

accused, and the seven-year prison term. The police relied on some telephone conversations between the acquitted VHP leader and the assailants to rope him in as a key suspect.

However, the court did not consider this adequate proof. While deciding that the fatal attack did not amount to murder, the trial court has concluded that the assailants neither intended to cause death nor knew that their assault may cause death. The prosecution is likely to take up both the "inadequate" sentence awarded

to the four and the acquittal of one on appeal. Organised cow vigilantism poses a major threat to the safety and security of minorities, as well as to the maintenance of the rule of law.

Despite the Supreme Court deprecating the bigotry and hate propaganda that underlie such activities, incidents of sectarian violence and vigilantism seem to go on. Both preventive and punitive measures are needed to arrest the trend, and one cannot emphasise enough the need for efficient investigation and prosecution.

The OTT space wars

Similarly, Shemaroo was in the video renting business initially, and later, acquired the video rights distribution business and always made sure it collected the best of the repertoire from top production houses. Zee and Shemaroo, when they entered the OTT business, possessed ample content. There were some big business and media houses that entered the field because it was the thing to do in the name of expansion or, in some cases, not to be left out of the changing world. There are so many OTT platforms today, that one has lost count. But, talking of the Jio Cinema, it has adopted the same disruptive practice it did while launching the JioPhone: free talk time! To start with, Jio Cinema aired the Indian Premier League (IPL 2023) cricket matches free sans subscription charges while Star Sports held the telecast rights.



This could very well have affected the revenues of Star Sports, but what after IPL? An OTT platform is not something a viewer gets addicted to. It is the content that attracts a viewer, even if it is the paid kind. So what is the company promoting, Jio Cinema, or the JioPhone. Looks like, primarily, it is the phone. The Jio mobiles are priced at between Rs 1,500 and Rs 3,000, and, now, a smart phone comes for around Rs 4,000. But, then, there are dozens of phones that are available in the similar price range.

A year of crucial importance

India's Presidency of G20, the challenge posed by the rise of minority politics at home and the concerted campaign of opposition parties including the regional entities against the ruling dispensation, all cumulatively add to the need for effective and firm governance in the country in the pre-election year. India presently is in the midst of efforts by the Narendra Modi government to reach a new high in building international relations, maintain domestic peace in the face of a planned attempt of hostile forces within and abroad to push the country towards a serious communal divide and establish once again - in the run-up to the next General Election - the image and strength of India as the world's largest democracy. India's Presidency of G20, the challenge posed by the rise of minority politics at home and the concerted campaign of opposition parties including the regional entities against the ruling dispensation, all cumulatively add to the need for effective and firm governance in the country in the pre-election year. Prime Minister Modi's foreign policy initiatives have enhanced India's image abroad and have also delivered on trade and economic relations, but the regime seems to be facing an increasing challenge in the area of internal security and stability because of divisive and disruptive politics at home and the organised attempts of anti-India forces within and outside of the country to build a narrative that India was moving towards an authoritarian, majoritarian and non-secular rule.

Since the Modi government's development agenda is in full swing and its schemes for the less privileged have also

made an impact, the opposition was taking to finding fault with the democratic content of the present dispensation at the Centre and alleging misuse of coercive instruments of the state by the regime to selectively run down the leaders of other parties.

India however, is used to the 'wisdom of the crowd' asserting itself in all critical situations and there is little doubt that in a national poll, people would make a sound judgement on the integrity of the Modi government, its political will in safeguarding national security and the sincerity of its efforts to develop the country economically. India has made its G20 Presidency an event with a difference - its motto 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' or 'World is one family' setting the note for a global mission that India wished to pursue on this forum. On the initiative of Prime Minister Modi various international conferences in the run-up to the G20 Summit in September are being held at different locations across India to give the visitors a feel of the vastness, cultural richness and development, of this country and to spread the awareness among the people here, of the big strides India was taking to make its presence felt internationally.

The rise of India as a major power in the world with considerable influence on issues of global peace and development, the continuity of the policy of bilateral relations extended to a multilateral format that guaranteed mutually beneficial outcomes for both security and economic advancement and the designing of G20 events in a manner that would promote domestic growth.

Prioritising the road ahead for the Indian industry

Seventy-five years after independence, becoming the fifth largest economy in the world and poised to be the third largest economy by 2030, India has indeed surpassed many significant milestones. But the moot question here is what has fuelled India's growth, the services or the manufacturing sector, and what should be its future plan of action. The last nine years have proved to be a period of immense economic and commercial gains for India businesses, partly helped by the government's new policy initiatives and also the charged-up Indian businessmen ready

to take-up new challenges and claim their due place under the sun. Seventy-five years after independence, becoming the fifth largest economy in the world and poised to be the third largest economy by 2030, India has indeed surpassed many significant milestones. But the moot question here is what has fuelled India's growth, the services or the manufacturing sector, and what should be its future plan of action. The economic reforms ushered-in by the Narasimha Rao government in 1990s, and the subsequent unshackling of chains bound-

ing the private sector ill then, proved to be a boon for the Indian businessmen. But more or less these economic reforms ushered in the groundwork for future transformation of the Indian businesses, which were able to lead the growth curve with the services sector. Currently G-20 Sherpa and former head of the Niti Aayog, Amitabh Kant in his book, 'Made in India: 75 Years of Business and Enterprise', offers an insiders peep in to the second-generation reforms which began in 2014 and delves deep into the policies and people behind the new age start-ups and their novel businesses versions that

are unleashing the entrepreneurial zeal among the Indian youth. Kant's ringside view as a top policy maker have added immensely to the book, besides highlighting his out of the box campaigns such as Make In India, Start-up India, God's Own Country.

and policy changes like Performance-Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI), Aspirational Districts, e-Mobility, Green Hydrogen, and Ease of Doing Business reforms. However, the book has also given an opportunity to the top business leaders and policy makers to air their views about the

Delhi car buyers left in the dark as EV policy expires

Delhi: Since the EV scheme expired last year, Delhi car purchasers have been without the incentive for six months. The policy, which gives EV buyers financial advantages, expired on December 31, 2023, and was supposed to be extended in January. Transport minister Kailash Gahlot said bureaucratic hurdles prevented the extension, depriving the public of subsidized benefits for six months. "This should be expedited so that the people can benefit and Delhi can continue to be the No. 1 state in terms of EV penetration," Gahlot added. The state cabinet approved the

IN LIMBO

The policy

- ▶ The initial Delhi Electric Vehicle Policy was notified on August 7, 2020, for a duration of three years and was later extended till Dec 31, 2023
- ▶ The next extension was due in Jan this year for benefits to continue
- ▶ However, the extension has not been sought despite govt making announcements earlier that it would be extended till June
- ▶ Sources in the department said that the interruption is because of bureaucratic delay
- ▶ The govt wanted to bring EV policy 2.0 in Oct after the expiry of current policy in August for which it did consultations with different stakeholders

Two-wheelers ₹ 5,000 per kWh of battery capacity (maximum ₹ 30,000)	Subsidies under EV policy	Four-wheelers Not applicable anymore as it was offered only for the first 1,000 EVs that were registered
Three-wheelers ₹ 30,000 per vehicle, irrespective of cost and battery capacity		

executive order for the policy extension, but the model code of conduct for the Lok Sabha elections prevented its implementation, a transport department official said. "We have now sent the extension

proposal again for approval," the person said, expecting approval in a week. The bank managing the EV subsidy website had difficulty, the spokesman said. "The portal hadn't

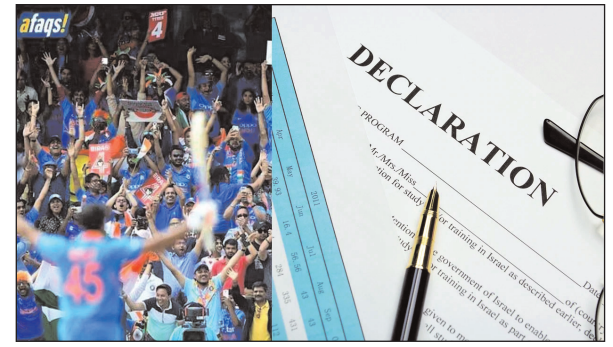
used the vehicle number as a unique ID number, which may have led to discrepancies," stated. "The bank caused the delay. But now the portal is fixed." Electric two-wheelers receive a Rs. 5,000 subsidy per kWh of

battery capacity (maximum Rs. 30,000) under the EV program. A Rs. 30,000 subsidy is given to three-wheelers regardless of cost or battery capacity. The four-wheeler incentive was just for the first 1,000 EVs registered in Delhi under that plan, thus it no longer applies. After the present policy expired in August, the administration sought to create EV Policy 2.0 in October.

It even consulted stakeholders, but that failed, extending the previous policy again. After CNG from petrol and diesel, EVs are the biggest change in capital automobile use.

Self-declaration for ads: Rules are unclear

Delhi: Concerns about advertising self-declarations will persist. The Supreme Court ordered advertisers to attest that their advertising does not make false claims last month. What this means is understandably feared. The marketing head of an FMCG firm thinks self-declaration follows multiple food and beverage advertising issues. "A lot of brands had to deal with the regulators and it is possible that self-declaration is a result of that." How it will unfold is uncertain. "The government has not publicly policed or penalized erroneous declarations. Uploading is good, however the backend needed to verify submissions should have been implemented first. Who assesses claim merit" He asks. According to ASCI Secretary General Manisha Kapoor, mis-



leading assertions in advertising are complex. Technical accuracy is important, but so is knowing how an ordinary consumer could view the commercial given its clues and context. ASCI's impartial jury debates and recommends each ad "she says. Advertisers generally assume their advertising is not misleading, she says. They may leave some remarks and depictions to artistic freedom. Creative freedom is their right and what makes advertising attractive, yet it can become deceptive "said.

Centre will lend Rs 75,000 cr interest-free under Viksit Bharat

Delhi: The Union government will lend Rs 75,000 crore interest-free for 50 years to States to implement 'Viksit Bharat' reforms. The government wants to build India by 2047. Finance Minister proposed this in her Lok Sabha Budget address. To achieve 'Viksit Bharat', states require more economic and development-enabling reforms.

Ensure Sirsa-like victory for Congress in entire Haryana : Kumari Selja

Chandigarh/Karnal: All India Congress Committee General Secretary, former Union Minister and newly elected MP from Sirsa Lok Sabha constituency, Kumari Selja said that the people of Sirsa parliamentary constituency, the high command ordered her to contest the elections. Being a true soldier of the Congress, she followed the order and fought the elections wholeheartedly and all the workers and people considered themselves as Selja and fought the entire election and also got her victory with a huge margin. She said that all of you should

double the celebrations at the same time. In a statement issued to the media, Kumari Selja has said that she wanted to contest the assembly elections, but on the demand of the people of Sirsa Lok Sabha constituency, the high command ordered her to contest the elections. Being a true soldier of the Congress, she followed the order and fought the elections wholeheartedly and all the workers and people considered themselves as Selja and fought the entire election and also got her victory with a huge margin. She said that all of you should

start preparing for the assembly elections from now because one battle has been won and the other is yet to come. The people have defeated the always lying jumbalabaz government in the Lok Sabha elections, the arrogance of the BJP has been shattered. Kumari Selja said that all of you want us to travel together to Chandigarh. This is possible only when all of you bring the BJP to its state before 2014. It is your job to get a big majority for the Congress, after that it is my and the Congress high command's job to form a government.

ARMEE INFOTECH LIMITED FILES DRHP WITH SEBI

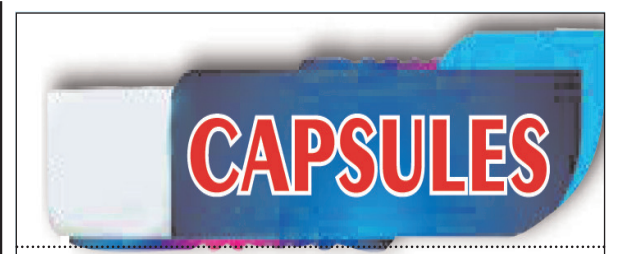


GURUGRAM : Armee Infotech Limited ("The Company" or "AIL") has filed its Draft Red Herring Prospectus ("DRHP") with market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI"). The Company plans to raise funds of the total issue size through Initial Public Offering of Equity Shares (Face Value 10 each) comprising of fresh issue of equity shares aggregating up to 25,000 lakhs [250 crore]. ("Total Issue Size"). The Company is sector agnostic and provides IT Infrastructure solution and IT managed service to a wide variety of projects for both Government/public sector undertakings (PSUs) and private sector with a focus on Government/PSU projects and a predominant presence in the state of Gujarat. The Company proposes to utilize the net proceeds from the Issue towards funding (i) Augmentation of working capital require-

ments of the Company estimated up to 16000 lakhs [160 crore] providing earnest money deposit for bidding for various projects and margin deposits for bank guarantees, in Fiscal 2025 and Fiscal 2026; (ii) Prepayment or repayment of certain outstanding borrowings available by the Company estimated up to 1,063.22 lakhs [10.63 crore]; and balance towards General corporate purposes. The loans that we propose to repay from Net Proceeds (amounting to 1,063.22 lakhs) constitute 26.30% of the total outstanding borrowings of the Company as on December 31, 2023. The Equity Shares to be offered through the Red Herring Prospectus are proposed to be listed on the stock exchanges being BSE Limited ("BSE") and National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("NSE") together with BSE, the "Stock Exchanges").

NCP's Amol Mitkari Attacks Mahayuti

Delhi: The BJP and Shiv Sena are fighting for Mahayuti alliance domination, while the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) is being marginalized. Ajit Pawar adviser proposed he form an alliance with Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) president Prakash Ambedkar for the assembly elections, fueling the flames. This proposal has raised concerns about the NCP leaving Mahayuti. NCP spokesperson Amol Mitkari openly criticized Mahayuti and hinted at internal discord. "Some want Ajit Pawar to leave Mahayuti. He is being singled out for the alliance's Lok Sabha performance. According to a viral video, Mitkari said this will revolutionize Maharashtra politics. His comments have raised suspicion about Mahayuti to run in the assembly elections alone.



BJP names in-charges for the upcoming elections in Maharashtra, Haryana, J'khand, and J-K



Delhi: The party's election in-charges and co-incharges for the assembly poll-bound states of Maharashtra, Haryana, Jharkhand, and Jammu & Kashmir were named by BJP President JP Nadda on Monday. According to a party announcement, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav will serve as the state's co-incharge and senior BJP leader Bhopender Yadav has been named as the incharge for Maharashtra. The BJP has appointed former Tripura chief minister Biplab Kumar Deb as co-incharge of the state's elections, replacing Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, according to the statement. According to the statement, Jharkhand's election in charge is Union Minister and former chief minister of Madhya Pradesh Shivraj Singh Chouhan, while Assam's chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma is the state's co-incharge. It added that G Kishan Reddy, a union minister, has been named the new leader for Jammu and Kashmir. Jammu and Kashmir elections must be held by September, per the Supreme Court's directive to the Election Commission, while assembly elections in Maharashtra, Haryana, and Jharkhand are scheduled for later this year.

Congress would run CM Sukhu's wife in Dehra assembly byelection

Delhi: Congress nominated Himachal Pradesh chief minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu's wife Kamlesh Thakur for Dehra assembly bypoll against BJP's Hoshyar Singh. AICC general secretary (organisation) KC Venugopal announced that Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge had accepted Kamlesh's Dehra bid after she topped two party surveys. Independent Hoshyar Singh won the seat in 2017 and 2022 after BJP won in 2012. He is running for BJP this time. Kamlesh, born April 2, 1970, in Nalsooha village, Dehra subdivision, Kangra district, has been active in politics, especially in Nadaun, represented by Sukhu. Her master's in political science is from Government College Chandigarh. Social service, especially women empowerment, has been her focus. She has been involved in the Himachal Pradesh Congress Committee for 20 years, keeping strong party links. The by-election will make Kamlesh and his wife the first husband-wife assembly members in Himachal Pradesh.

More than 40 Telangana IAS officers were transferred

Delhi: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's Telangana State Government transferred and posted nearly 40 IAS officers in the first major upheaval. June 24, 2024 IAS officer reshuffle. The government has been discussing transferring IAS personnel for some time, but after the Lok Sabha election 2024 announcement, it did

not act. The Chief Minister met with senior officials led by Chief Secretary A. Santhi Kumari to finalize the transfer list. The Chief Secretary ordered Energy Department principal secretary Syed Ali Murtaza Rizvi to be transferred to the Commercial Taxes and Excise department and replaced by Greater Hyderabad Municipal

Corporation (GHMC) commissioner D. Ronald Rose, who was also appointed chairman and managing director of TG Transco and Genco. Kata, HMDA metropolitan commissioner is now GHMC commissioner. Transport Commissioner Jyoti is now Registration, Stamps, and Housing secretary.

BJP rejects leadership change in Maharashtra

Delhi: Following the party's dismal performance in the most recent Lok Sabha elections, the BJP ruled against changing the leadership of the state of Maharashtra. The choice was made after a meeting of the Maharashtra BJP core committee that included Union Home Minister Amit Shah and party president JP Nadda. Reporters were informed by Union Minister Piyush Goyal at the BJP headquarters that "there will be no change in leadership in Maharashtra." State BJP chairman Chandrashekar Bawankule, along with senior leaders Sudhir Mungantiwar, Chandrakant Patil,

Pankaja Munde, and Vinod Tawde, were present at the meeting. In the most recent Lok Sabha elections, the BJP secured nine seats in Maharashtra, a decrease from its 2019 total of 23 seats. Devendra Fadnavis, the deputy chief minister of Maharashtra, had made the offer to leave the MahaYuti administration of Shiv Sena, BJP, and NCP in order to concentrate on leading the party to victory in the September-October assembly elections. During the meeting at the BJP headquarters, the party's showing in the Lok Sabha elections was also a topic of discussion.

TMC and Congress to work together against BJP in Parliament

Delhi: After a contentious general election season in West Bengal and sharp comments from both sides, the two key INDIA bloc allies have reached out to each other to jointly formulate issue strategies and bolster the Opposition's united offensive against the government in the upcoming Parliament session, sources said. TMC chief Mamata Banerjee pulled out of the alliance in West Bengal amid repeated barbs by Bengal Congress chief Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury. Weeks after the latter lost his home seat of



Baharampur to the TMC, former Union minister P Chidambaram met Banerjee to improve relations. According to the sources, the two leaders discussed the enormous number of measures passed in the past decade that needed reconsideration and greater coordination in Parliament. The Congress even requested Banerjee to campaign

for Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who is running in her first election in Kerala's Wayanad, which her brother Rahul Gandhi deserted this week for Rae Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh. In the last INDIA meeting before elections, Banerjee advised Priyanka Gandhi to face Modi in Varanasi. The TMC also wants the Opposition alliance to downplay the Left.

Congress has 125 MPs in both Houses of Parliament, followed by TMC's 42 and Samajwadi Party's 41. "There is a large section of the Congress leadership that wants a good relationship with the Trinamool," said Derek O'Brien, TMC Rajya Sabha leader. The Lok Sabha defeat of Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury eliminated a key "roadblock" in the TMC-Congress alliance, according to TMC leaders. In the session starting June 24, the Opposition will attack the government over the NEET and UGC NET issue.

Air India Mumbai to San Francisco flight delayed, passengers sit inside cabin for six hours



UMBAI: Passengers of an Air India flight from Mumbai to San Francisco had to sit inside the passenger cabin for about six hours with poor conditioning as the Friday afternoon flight was inordinately delayed.

Flight AI-179 was supposed to depart at 2.25 pm and passengers, which included many senior citizens, had boarded by 3.30 pm, said sources. Passengers took to social media to complain about poor air conditioning and no update on the flight status.

An X (formerly Twitter) user Devang Desai posted: "Passengers are stuck inside flight after reported engine problems. Few passengers decided not to fly."

(Air India) Not departing, not giving correct information." "A couple of senior

citizens fainted in the heat. Some were allowed to deplane," said sources. The other passengers were finally disembarked at 9 pm.

Air India in a statement said: "AI-179 from Mumbai to San Francisco, scheduled to depart at 1600 hrs today, was delayed due to a technical issue arising just before departure. Giving top priority to safety issues, the aircraft was held back for engineering checks. Meanwhile, a few guests decided to discontinue the journey and the flight got further delayed as their baggage had to be offloaded from the

aircraft. The flight pushed back at 1917 but had to ramp return due to one guest feeling unwell. While the ailing guest was being deboarded with his baggage, the night landing restrictions at SFO had set in along with the crew flight duty limitations. Guests have been offered hotel accommodation, complimentary refreshments at the airport. The flight has now been rescheduled at 1030 hrs tomorrow. Inconvenience caused to guests is sincerely regretted."

ICICI Prudential Life Insurance launches its First ULIP with Fund Value-based distributor payouts – ICICI Pru Platinum

FARIDABAD/GURGAON: May 24, 2024: ICICI Prudential Life Insurance launched ICICI Pru Platinum, the Company's first unit-linked product which aligns distributor payouts to their customers' fund value – the distributor commissions are linked to their customers' Assets under Management. This unique product incentivises distributors to encourage their customers to stay invested for the entire policy tenure. Notably, it offers customers a cost and tax-efficient route to build wealth over the long-term. ICICI Pru Platinum provides unlimited free switches between asset classes, without any cost or tax implications. Customers can choose from an array of 21 funds under this product, comprising 13 equity and four each in the debt and balanced categories, besides offering an option of four portfolio strategies. Announcing the launch, Mr. Amit Palta, Chief

Distribution Officer, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, said, "ICICI Pru Platinum, our Company's first unit-linked product designed to make distributor payouts aligned to their customers' fund value, promoting the long-term interests of both. We endeavour to continuously innovate and introduce products and processes which are simple. This is in line with our philosophy of ensuring right product to the right customer at the right price and through the right channel. We have introduced pioneering products on the annuity and pension savings platform. These include an annuity product which offers a 100% refund of all premiums paid from the date of purchase. We also offer a traditional product which allows customers to make partial withdrawals to meet liquidity requirements. Notably, we are the only life insurer in the country to payout commissions to the same

day. Besides, achieving the milestone of issuing ~45% of our savings policies on the same day in FY2024." He further added "Life insurance is all about claims and as a customer friendly brand we aim to settle all claims speedily. This is reflected in our industry leading claim settlement ratio of 99.2% for FY2024 with an average turnaround time of just 1.3 days." ICICI Pru Platinum provides a choice between two life cover variants. The Growth Plus variant entitles the nominee to receive either the sum assured or the fund value, whichever is higher. Whereas the Protect Plus variant offers the nominee both the sum assured and the fund value. About ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company (www.iciciprulife.com) ICICI Prudential Life is promoted by ICICI Bank Limited and Prudential Corporation Holdings Limited. The Company began operations in fiscal 2001 and has consistently been amongst

Non-recovery of cash not prima facie proof no graft took place: HC on Sisodia

NEW DELHI: Non-recovery of ill-gotten money can't be prima facie proof that no corruption has taken place because a person now uses new technologies to commit offences without leaving behind any trace, Delhi high court has observed, while denying bail to AAP's Manish Sisodia in the city excise policy case. In its order pronounced Tuesday and uploaded Wednesday, HC said "recovery of cash from a person may not necessarily be a mandatory requirement in a money laundering case where allegations are part of a conspiracy comprising multiple accused." It added the liquor policy case involves commission of "serious offence" of corruption in public office and laundering, which "strikes at the heart of economic and social systems, undermining the rule of law and eroding public trust in institutions." HC rejects plea of no money being recovered from the former deputy chief minister while pointing out to statements of some hawala dealers and other witnesses recorded in course of the probe. "This court is of the view that the prosecution has made out a prima facie case of commission of money laundering under Section 3 of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) against Manish Sisodia at this stage," high court observed. HC said the form "of corruption which has the tendency of stealing legitimate resources of the poor ordinary people and giving it to the rich can be one of the worst." It noted that the new excise policy has "eradicated" the common and small-time businesses. and gave the entire playing field in the liquor business to those who had "money, power and had created a cartel" on the basis of financial gains to those formulating a policy, which adds to the seriousness of the offence".

NSE Listed Companies' Market Capitalization Surpass USD 5 Trillion

SHIMLA: The market capitalization of Indian listed companies on NSE surpassed USD 5 Trillion (Rs 416.57 trillion) on May 23, 2024. On the same day, the Nifty 50 Index touched an all-time high of 22,993.60. The Nifty 500 index also touched an all-time high of 21,505.25 today indicating that growth in equity market is not restricted to only the large, capitalized stocks. The journey of market capitalization of Indian listed companies from to

USD 2 trillion (July 2017) to USD 3 trillion (May 2021) took about 46 months, USD 3 trillion to USD 4 trillion (December 2023) took about 30 months and the latest USD 1 trillion addition took only about 6 months. The top 5 companies by market capitalization are Reliance Industries Limited, TATA Consultancy Services Limited, HDFC Bank Limited, ICICI Bank Limited and Bharti Airtel Limited. In the last 10 years, Nifty 50 index

has delivered 13.4% returns (Total price index CAGR). During the same period, domestic mutual fund assets under management (Equity and Debt) increased by 506% from Rs 9.45 trillion end of April 2014 to Rs 57.26 trillion end of April 2024. The Foreign Portfolio investors (FPIs) assets under management (Equity and Debt) increased by 345% from Rs 16.1 trillion end of April 2014 to Rs 71.6 trillion at the end of April 2024.

Growth in market capitalization is not restricted to the top companies but is observed across stocks. The constituents of Nifty 100 index now account for 61% of market capital as compared to 74.9% of total market capital as of April 2014. The resource mobilization by corporates including the Small and Medium Enterprise in the primary market has been encouraging and has provided an effective alternative mechanism in addition

to the traditional methods of fund raising. Liquidity in secondary market has also improved significantly in Capital Market Segment. The equity segment's daily average turnover has increased by over 4.5 times from Rs 17,818 crores in FY15 to Rs 81,721 crores in FY24. The achievement of this milestone is a testament of the vision outlined for the Amrit Kaal which includes a technology-driven and knowledge-based economy.

Urbanization led to overall 60% enhancement in warming in Indian cities: IIT study

BHUBANESWAR: Urbanization alone has led to an overall 60 percent enhancement in warming in Indian cities, with eastern tier-II cities leading the way. It was revealed through a study conducted by the researchers from IIT Bhubaneswar. This research provides a science based quantitative ranking of urbanization for Indian cities. The study titled 'Urbanization and regional climate change-linked warm-



ing of Indian Cities' published in the journal 'Nature Cities' provides insight by carefully separating regional climate change and urbanization in multiple cities. Sethi_Vinoj_NatCities 2024 (1) (1) (1) The researchers investigated the contributions of local-scale urbanization and

regional climate change to the warming in 141 major Indian cities over the past two decades. They took 18 years of high-resolution land surface temperature data from NASA's Aqua satellite for the period between 2003 and 2020. They also compared urban and rural warming trends. The study found that Tier II cities in eastern India showed stronger urbanization-driven warming compared to larger metro cities like New Delhi.

Congress says EC withholding voter data; poll panel says application 'misleading'

NEW DELHI: The Congress criticised the Election Commission (EC) on Thursday for withholding voter data from the public and accused the poll panel of failing to fulfill its constitutional obligations as well as exhibiting a biased inclination. Congress spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi accused the EC of attempting to act as the "election department" of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) by not addressing complaints of model code violations by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and home minister Amit Shah. Instead, the EC has been issuing generalized directions to political parties, which Singhvi referred to as "false equivalence".

Singhvi's remarks followed the poll panel's submission of an affidavit to the Supreme Court, in which the commission stated that the "indiscriminate disclosure" of polling station-wise voter-turnout data and its publication on the EC website would lead to chaos in the ongoing Lok Sabha election machinery. Singhvi argued that the EC's actions regarding complaints against top BJP leaders and its refusal to disclose voter data are not befitting of a high-level constitutional institution. "This is against the constitutional responsibilities of the institution. This is the Election Commission, not the election agent of any party. When a constitutional institution does not follow the

Constitution and shows inclination towards power, then it should be understood that this is the end of democracy," Singhvi said. "We are not asking the EC about EVMs (electronic voting machines) but about disclosure of data. Through this stand in its ridiculous affidavit, the EC is falling into the BJP's trap to orchestrate decimation and destruction of electoral democracy," he added. Singhvi alleged that the reply filed by the EC in the apex court is just an 'escape mechanism'. "This reply of the Election Commission is just an escape mechanism. Whereas anyone can get this data by paying money to the Election Commission," Singhvi alleged.

Samsung 'Solve for Tomorrow' Conducts First Ever Design Thinking Workshop to Develop Problem-Solving Skills in School Students

KARNAL: Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, has introduced the first ever design thinking & training workshop in select schools across the country. This unique initiative, part of Samsung's 'Solve for Tomorrow' programme, focuses on enhancing essential skills such as problem-solving, critical thinking, probing, and creativity among students through the Human-Centered Design Thinking framework. The national education and innovation competition aims to foster a culture of innovation amongst the next generation. Tailored specifically for India, the one-day workshop has been conceptualised to encourage students to appreciate the idea of design thinking and nudge them to

identify and solve real-world problems. As part of the academic curriculum, Human-Centered Design Thinking is a powerful practice for solving-problems. Using processes and tools from the design world, the-Human Centred Design framework impresses upon empathy, definition, ideation, prototyping and testing of a solution to improve the lives of users. "Samsung Solve for Tomorrow is part of our vision to empower the next generation and create an ecosystem of innovation in the country. We believe that they are the flag-bearers of innovation and require nurturing from a young age. The design thinking workshops have been introduced as a pilot in 10 schools this year to motivate young students

to execute projects, which involve problem-solving, collaboration, and creative thinking. Through these offline sessions, school students will get a unique opportunity to question basics, identify real-world issues and propose tech-based solutions," said SP Chun, Corporate Vice President, Samsung Southwest Asia. This is how a one-day Design Thinking Workshop looks like: -Introduction to Basic Concepts of Design Thinking -Five Steps of Design Thinking Process 1. Empathy: Students engage in role-play and interviews, empathizing with various user types affected by real-world problems, exploring their experiences and perspectives.

Cyclone 'Remal' to impact West Bengal, adjoining Bangladesh, IMD

NEW DELHI: A low-pressure area over the southwest & adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal moved north-eastwards and is likely to concentrate into a depression over central parts of the Bay of Bengal by the morning of May 24 and is expected to intensify further into a cyclonic storm over the east-central Bay of Bengal by May 25, according to India Meteorological Department. And subsequently, it would move nearly northwards and reach near Bangladesh and adjoining West Bengal coasts by 26th May evening as a severe cyclonic storm. In a statement, the IMD said, "Low Pressure Area over southwest & adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal moved north-eastwards and lay as a well-marked low pressure area over west

central & adjoining south Bay of Bengal at 0830 hrs IST of today, the 23rd May, 2024. It is very likely to continue to move north-eastwards and concentrate into a Depression over central parts of Bay of Bengal by morning of 24th May, 2024." "Thereafter, it is very likely to continue to move north-eastwards, intensify further into a cyclonic storm over east-central Bay of Bengal by 25th May morning. Subsequently, it would move nearly northwards and reach near Bangladesh and adjoining West Bengal coasts by 26th May evening as a severe cyclonic storm," it added. If the cyclone is formed, it will be named 'Remal', and it will be the first cyclone in the Bay of Bengal this pre-monsoon season. According to the IMD.

Congress prepares for 2025 Delhi assembly elections



Delhi: In order to begin preparations for the 2025 assembly elections, Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee (DPCC) chairman Devender Yadav attended executive committee meetings of Adarsh Nagar and Karawal Nagar district units. A resolution was voted to host monthly block-level meetings, raise party flags at all members' houses, and invite social organizations, residents' associations, and NGOs to join or support the party, Congress officials stated. Congress workers are proud that the party's vote share increased in the Lok Sabha elections and that Delhi residents are again looking to the party for excellent administration. Congress rule brought unparalleled growth to Delhi. In his Adarsh Nagar talk, Yadav said people now struggle to access potable water, experience frequent power shortages, and deal with waterlogging,

air, and water pollution. In the 2024 Delhi Lok Sabha elections, the BJP won all seven seats despite Congress and AAP's partnership. The AAP and Congress stated their alliance was restricted to Lok Sabha polls and it was unclear whether they would contest assembly elections separately or together. A Delhi Congress senior said block and district members offered methods to strengthen the party and solidify grassroots achievements. The leader noted that strengthening the block and district units, which work on the

frontlines of the party, is necessary to strengthen the party in the Capital. Devender Yadav said sessions with grassroots workers will strengthen the party at the booth level and put it in a strong position for the early 2025 Delhi assembly elections. "Congress workers should not lower their guard and diminish their enthusiasm, as, under the dynamic leadership of Rahul Gandhi, the party was poised for a major leap, because people wanted change and stable leadership," Yadav stated.

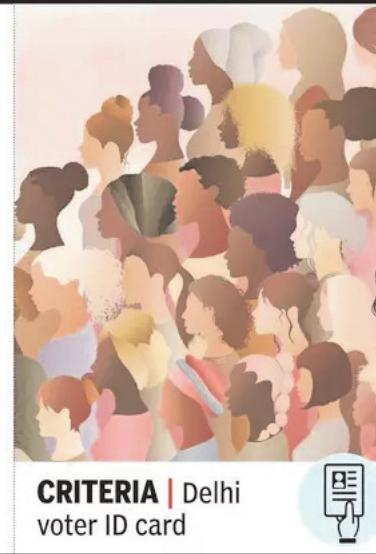
Delhi nears Rs 1k women's aid scheme launch

Delhi: The Delhi government has launched the Mukhyamantri Mahila Samman Yojana to give Rs 1,000 to women over 18. Delhi women and child development minister Kailash Gahlot said he has ordered officials to speed up the process to eliminate "bureaucratic hurdles" and launch the plan fast. "I've instructed the department to write the cabinet note to start Mukhyamantri Mahila Samman Yojana. The project aims to help economically disadvantaged women live decent lives and become financially independent. He said they wanted Delhi women to benefit from the plan quickly. The finance, planning, and law departments would approve the cabinet note, according to a top Delhi official. "The officials will vet it, give comments, and after their approval, it will go to the cabinet," he said. However, other authorities noted that chief minister Arvind Kejriwal's imprisonment pre-

WHO'S ELIGIBLE | AAP gov't in its last budget announced a monthly aid of ₹ 1,000 to Delhi women aged 18 or above

MONEY ALLOCATED | An amount of ₹ 2,000 crore has been set aside for this scheme named Mukhyamantri Mahila Samman Yojana

EXCLUSION | The scheme will not apply to govt employees, taxpayers and beneficiaries of any govt pension plan



CRITERIA | Delhi voter ID card

vents cabinet sessions, making scheme implementation difficult. "It has to be notified by the cabinet and after that, it goes to the LG for approval," a rep said. The AAP government proposed the policy in its 2024-25 budget and hopes to implement it before the 2025 assembly elections to attract women. Kejriwal dubbed it the "world's biggest programme" for women's empowerment. The initiative

received Rs 2,000 crore in 2024-25. Women must be Delhi voters to qualify for the scheme. She must fill out a paper and self-declare that she is not a government employee, taxpayer, or member of any government scheme. Based on her self-declaration, she will get scheme benefits. The woman must furnish her Aadhaar card and bank account information with the form.

The Directorate of Estates constructs homes for parliamentarians

Delhi: A top government source, who wished to remain anonymous, claimed that Gandhi would be given a new home fit for a Union Minister. The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs' Directorate of Estates is searching for and assigning residences to the 280 new MPs, the highest since 2014. Rahul Gandhi and other Union ministers will take possession of their new Lutyens Delhi residences next week. A top government source, who wished to remain anonymous, claimed that Gandhi would be given a new home fit for a Union Minister. Up to his disqualification from the Lok Sabha in August 2023, Gandhi resided at 12 Tughlak Lane. Though we haven't chosen the address, Rahul Gandhi will receive a category VIII mansion similar to those owned by cabinet ministers. He hasn't asked for anything,

Core sector growth drops to 6.3% in May

In May, the eight key industries grew 6.3% year-on-year, down from 6.7% in April, mostly due to weaker steel, refinery products, and crude oil output, the commerce ministry. Core sector growth was 5.2% in May 2023. As a sequential measure, core sector output grew 3.7% in May. May output usually rises from April. In the preceding 12 years, the month-on-month growth averaged 6.8%, but this year it was lower. "A combination of factors, including the heatwave over parts of the country and the phased parliamentary elections,

Panel warns officials about illegal tree cutting

Delhi: A three-member Delhi ministerial fact-finding committee has issued letters to senior DDA, forest, and Delhi Police officials for reportedly destroying 1,100 trees in Ridge without authorization. On Saturday, ministers Atishi, Saurabh Bharadwaj, and Imran Hussain constituted a committee to report to the forest minister. Does the opposition's request for a SC-appointed inquiry into NEET-UG 2024

irregularities make sense? The committee has ordered the principal secretary, DDA vice-chairman, principal commissioner (LD and LM), DDA commissioner (housing), deputy commissioner of police (south Delhi), station house officer (SHO), and other senior officials to attend a July 1 meeting. The committee's factual report to Supreme Court is due July 11. "As the next date of hearing in this matter is

12.07.2024 and the Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed GNCTD to file an affidavit based on the facts before 11.07.2024, your cooperation is needed to adhere to the strict timelines imposed by Supreme Court of India," Bharadwaj wrote in his email. Delhi's government and civic agencies were ordered to meet to consider comprehensive green cover measures by the court.

Smt Smriti Irani Launches 24/7 Violence Helpline for Women

Delhi: Smt Smriti Zubin Irani, Former Union Minister for Women and Child Development, inaugurated the National Commission for Women's 24/7 helpline number 7827170170 today to improve women's safety and security nationwide and advance the Union Government's goals. The helpline supports women afflicted by vio-

lence 24/7 online by referring them to police, hospitals, District Legal Service Authority, psychological treatments, etc. Smt. Irani praised the NCV and the new helpline at a virtual launch. In times of need, this digital helpline assures women that their government and Commission would support them.

ICICI Pru iProtect Smart offers 'Life Continuity' option

KARNAL/HISAR: Every earning individual has financial goals, such as buying a house, funding children's education, or saving for retirement. But life is unpredictable and the untimely demise of the earning member can disturb the financial goals and put the family in financial distress. As a thumb rule, individuals must follow the 'first Protect then Save' approach. The starting point for building a financial savings plan is purchasing a term insurance plan. The reason is simple, what if the earning member passes away how will the family continue with the savings plan. Ideally the life cover amount should cover all outstanding liabilities and be sufficient for the family to contin-

ue with their lives. ICICI Prudential Life offers the 'Life Continuity' option in its best-selling term insurance product, ICICI Pru iProtect Smart. This feature enables the family to receive the claim amount as monthly income which is very useful for families who may not know how to manage the lumpsum claim amount. Another valuable add-on benefit is the critical illness benefit that should be taken.

Studies suggest that approx. 10 crore Indian families are pushed into poverty every year due to healthcare expenses. For a nominal additional premium, iProtect Smart provides the critical illness benefit which covers 34 ailments such as cancer, kidney

failure, leukemia, parkinson's etc. The critical illness benefit pays out the claim upon diagnosis, ensuring individuals have the finances for medical treatment. Checking the claim settlement ratio and the average claim settlement time are two important points which individuals should consider before buying a term insurance plan. In FY2024, ICICI Prudential Life had a claim settlement ratio (non-investigated) of 99.17% and the average settlement time of just 1.27 days. Fulfilling the responsibility towards the family is making a commitment to secure and safeguard their future. Many financial experts agree that term insurance is the foundation.

Government prepares senior folks' fifth home

Delhi: Delhi's new senior citizen home in Paschim Vihar, north west Delhi, is ready for opening. The capital's fifth elderly and infirm facility, officials said. Four old age homes at Bindapur, Wazirpur, Tahirpur, and Kanti Nagar are operated by the social welfare department, while eight others, including Paschim Vihar, are under development. A senior social welfare official said the five-story geriatric care building is ready for the city's elderly who require shelter. The new senior home will house 96 people. "The building finished early this year. A few finishing touches can be done 10-15 days before the inauguration. An official said the fire department's no objection certificate is required before the center's opening. Destitute Delhi citizens 60 years and older who have no family can live in old age homes if they don't have an infectious condition. Residents receive free housing, food, clothes, bedding, TV-radio, books, an amusement center with religious and spiritual programs, health check-ups, and physiotherapy. For the elderly to "interact with each other, sit together and talk about their joys and sorrows" officials set up round tables. "No one wants to live in old age homes, but the government must develop them and offer all the amenities they need. The official added we will provide free cutting-edge facilities to seniors in old age homes. Another senior age home in Sarita Vihar may open in 2025.



Wait 7 days to port after replacing the SIM

Delhi: New Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) rules require mobile phone users to wait at least seven days after replacing a lost or non-functional SIM card before switching service providers. The Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability (Ninth Amendment) Regulations, 2024, prevent fraudsters from

porting to new service providers under new names. The service provider cannot give the user a unique porting code until this seven-day period ends. The customer receives an alphanumeric porting code from the current TSP to port their phone number to a new TSP. TSPs had three-and-a-half months from the TRAI to modify their

telecommunication systems to refuse UPC requests in the seven-day period and test the systems before the system was rolled out across India.

The (DoT) wrote to TRAI in September 2022, "It has come to the notice that mobile connections are being fraudulently ported out by the criminals/fraudsters.

Two new booze vends will cheer up domestic flyers at Delhi airport

Delhi: Delhi Consumers' Cooperative Wholesale Store Limited plans to open a liquor shop at T3's arrival section by the first week of July and another at T1's departure area in the following weeks. This strategy aims to help Delhi restore share of domestic liquor sales after the closure of private-operated premium liquor stores due to the rescission of Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22 in September 2022.



International passengers can buy liquor at T3's duty-free shops. Following this trend, domestic terminals will shortly open shops. The Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22 allowed six private

premium liquor stores in the Delhi airport's domestic terminals at its height. After the scheme was canceled amid CBI and ED probes for alleged irregularities, the Delhi govern-

ment returned to the excise regime and gave retail liquor to four government corporations. Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development Corporation and Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation tried to rent airport space for booze shops but couldn't negotiate conditions. Finally, Delhi Consumers' Cooperative Wholesale Store Limited found space for the shops.

Magenta Line is first driverless Metro network

Delhi: All 29 Magenta Line trains are presently unmanned. DMRC has removed the drivers' cabins, although an attendant is present after three-four trains. They will be removed in phases. Magenta Line trains would be fully automated. "Magenta Line can now transport people without drivers. DMRC officials stated attendants will be removed gradually. The Pink Line will follow the Magenta Line. Full automation is available



on Magenta and Pink lines in Delhi Metro's 97km network. Only one network operates driverless trains in India. Driverless trains will operate in DMRC's Phase-IV expansion lines. Driverless train

operation was inaugurated on the Janakpuri West-Botanical Garden Magenta Line in December 2020 and the Majlis Park-Shiv Vihar Pink Line in November 2021. A train operator was present until now to

instill trust and support. With the expertise from these two lines, we will try this in Phase IV soon. We installed track monitoring cameras for driverless operations in Phase IV "DMRC managing director Vikas Kumar. A DMRC spokesman remarked, "Driverless trains increase flexibility and eliminate human errors. The system also increases coach availability for operations. Driverless trains eliminate pre-induction.

Blood donation camps were held by Sant Nirankari Mission in Vijay Vihar (Rohini), Shalimar Bagh, and Najafgarh



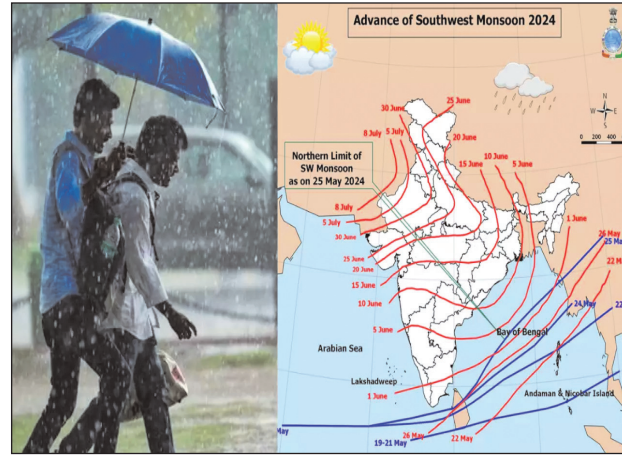
Delhi: Under the auspices and divine direction of Nirankari Rajpita Ramit Ji and Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj, the Sant Nirankari Charitable Foundation, the social arm of the Sant Nirankari Mission, organized blood donation camps at Branch Rohini, Shalimar Bagh, and Najafgarh, where 185 Mission devotees generously gave their blood for the good of humanity. To gather blood, medical professionals and members of the AIIMS blood bank team visited the camp. Smt. Rajwasdev

Singh Ji, the Deputy Head of Sant Nirankari Mission, gave the camp its opening. She gave all of the blood donors who took part in the blood donation camp encouragement and recognition for their unselfish devotion and priceless contribution to the well-being of the populace. The CPAB Department Convener, Hon. Shri S.L. Garg ji, officially opened the Shalimar Bagh camp. He urged everyone in the camp who was donating blood, saying that giving blood is the greatest kind of giving. In addition, the

esteemed Mrs. Raj Kumari (Mami ji), Member Incharge of the Publicity Department, officially opened the Najafgarh camp. She also urged everyone who volunteered to give blood, emphasizing that we should do it at all times for the good of humankind. Upon completion of the blood donation camp, Mr. Vinod Khanna, the local coordinator, conveyed his sincere appreciation to all the dignitaries, blood donors, medical professionals, and their support staff.

When Will Delhi Get Monsoon

Delhi: Delhiites are eagerly awaiting Southwest Monsoon, but relief may not arrive until June. The monsoon arrived over the Bay of Bengal three days early, on May 19, according to the IMD. IMD anticipates above-average June-September rainfall at 106% of the long-term average. This is likely due to La Nina and good Indian Ocean Dipole circumstances. Although there may be more rain, some forecasts expect powerful bursts with dry spells in between. The IMD expects the monsoon to reach Kerala by May 31, with a four-day delay. This matches the typical June 1 start. "Not early. Near regular date" IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra



said. The weather agency also reported that the monsoon will reach the Bay of Bengal and Andaman on May 19, Karnataka on June 3-8, and Maharashtra on June 9-16. Delhi should get some relief from the heat on June 27. IMD issued a red signal on Sunday, May 19, expecting two days of high

heat in several sections of Delhi.

The temperature in Delhi reached its highest point of the season on Saturday, and it is projected to soar further. The southwest monsoon arrives in Kerala around June 1. It surges northward and covers the country by July 15.

Kejri will begin his Pb campaign

Delhi: Till the conclusion of the state's election campaign for the June 1 Lok Sabha elections, Delhi Chief Minister and AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal will campaign in Punjab. Party leaders have stated that Kejriwal will travel from Delhi to Amritsar and then to Ferozpur to address a town hall meeting. He

will later conduct road shows in Bathinda and Hoshiarpur for party candidates. He has scheduled campaign events in each of the state's 13 seats while he is camped there through May 30. It is probable that he will engage with various voter demographics, such as attorneys and business owners, at the

town hall meetings. Other than that, the chief minister is the focus of this election campaign, which goes by the slogan "Sansad Mein Bhi Bhagwant Mann," according to an AAP official. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has been the focal point of the AAP's Lok Sabha campaign in the state.

Studies show polluted air increases Type 2 diabetes risk

Delhi: Air pollution may increase Type 2 diabetes risk. Air pollution, especially PM2.5, is known to cause chronic lung ailments, heart attack, stroke, and cancer, but the diabetes argument is gaining ground. Several research from the US, Europe, and China have shown the association, but a new two-city study from India found that even a 10 g/m3 increase in PM2.5 exposure raises blood sugar. Mumbai-based JAPI (Journal of Association of Physicians of India) published an editorial headlined, 'Air



Pollution: A New Cause of Type 2 Diabetes? this month. Diabetes specialist Dr. V Mohan from Chennai wrote, "We now know that PM2.5 is an endocrine disruptor that affects insulin secretion and also leads

to insulin resistant." Due to summer, the air quality index has been low in recent weeks, but air pollution is becoming one of urban India's largest problems, killing 20,000 in Mumbai and 50,000 in Delhi annual-

ly. Dr. Mohan and Public Health Foundation of India researchers published the first PM2.5-diabetes study a few months ago. 'BMJ Open Diabetes Research & Care' found links between short-, medium-, and long-term PM2.5 exposure. "A 10 g/m3 increase in monthly average exposure to PM2.5 was associated with a 0.4 mg/dL increase in finger pick blood test and a 0.021 unit increase in HbA1c test," claimed the study. The HbA1c blood test measures blood sugar over three months. The study followed

Indian Ayushman Bharat digital mission to be shown at WHO

Delhi: Official sources said India will promote Ayushman Bharat, public health emergency preparation, and digital health changes at the World Health Assembly in Geneva from May 27. At the annual WHO event, it will display the Arogya Maitri Disaster Management Cube, an indigenous portable hospital with novel features to improve disaster response and medical support. Geneva will host the 77th World Health Assembly (WHA) from May 27 to June 1. The Indian Ministry of Health and Family Welfare delegation



is led by Union Health Secretary Apurva Chandra. Participants from 194 nations will shape the global health ecosystem. This year's WHA theme is "All for

Health, Health for All". WHA proceedings are held in Plenary, Committee A, and Committee B. Sources say health ministers/heads of delegation from 194

nations will attend the Health Assembly plenary session. India will chair Committee A, which will tackle universal health coverage, public health emergency preparedness and response, antimicrobial resistance, climate change, sustainable WHO financing, etc. Committee B handles internal and external audit, budget, financing, and the WHO secretariat.

At least 14 side events and various strategic roundtables will be held on the sidelines of WHAT to discuss diverse health problems and the global health architecture.

Indian traditional knowledge and genetic resources are further protected by a new patent agreement

Delhi : A new treaty finalized by members of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) requires patent applicants to reveal the nation of origin or the source of genetic resources if the claimed invention is derived from those

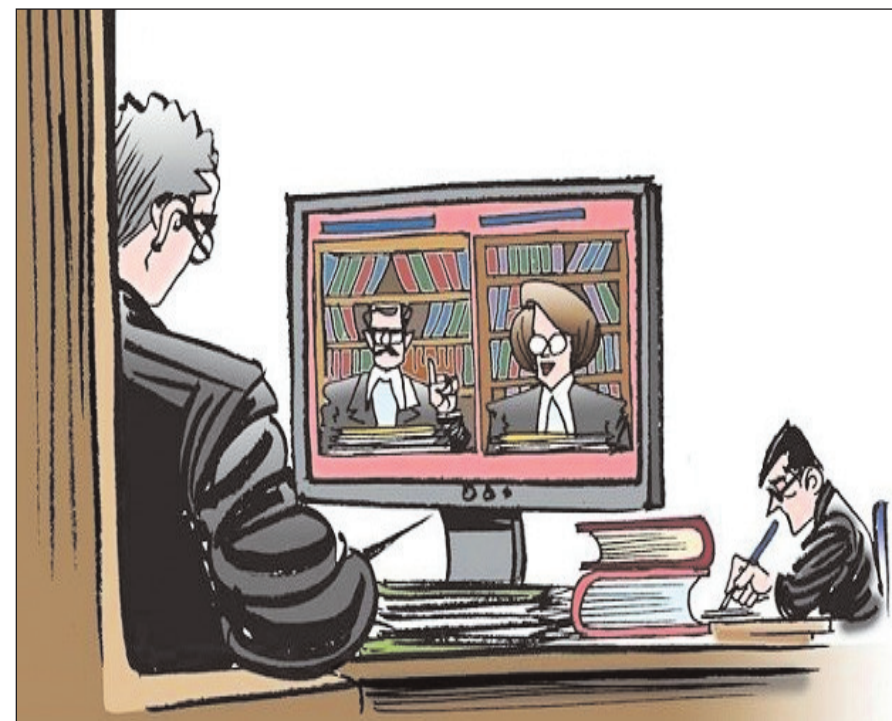
materials or related traditional knowledge. One of the main demands of the developing world, led by India, is the treaty that will offer extra protection for Indian genetic resources and traditional knowledge, including yoga, sidhi, and ayurveda. The agreement was finalized by the Geneva-based agency that is in charge of developing regulations pertaining to patents and trademarks. This will force some nations to revise their domestic laws. Rather than trying to register patents to take advantage of the immense traditional knowledge and genetic resources, India has asked that the world's largest corporations give credit to these resources. Even while there is protection against misappropriation

in India and other nations without disclosure requirements, the disclosure standards will offer protection internationally. Currently, there are disclosure requirements in 35 countries, the majority of which are voluntary and lack the necessary legal framework to be implemented successfully. For the first time, the knowwledge and wisdom that have long underpinned economies, civilizations, and cultures will be recognized by the WIPO treaty on intellectual property, genetic resources, and related traditional knowledge. These resources are now part of the global intellectual property system. "As a source of traditional knowledge and wisdom.

District Courts receive instructions to facilitate smooth case hearings via VC

Delhi: The Delhi High Court directed the national capital's district courts to follow a number of guidelines to guarantee that video conference equipment functions properly during court sessions.

The Delhi High Court's Acting Chief Justice Manmohan issued the following directives. The video conference must remain active throughout court hours. At the court end, the video will be turned on. According to the office order of June 5, 2023, it will be made sure that the video conference at the court's end won't be kept silent unless the court orders otherwise. According to the office order of June 5, 2023, it will be made sure that the video conference is not locked and that litigants, counsel, and members of the public can all attend without



difficulty, unless the court orders differently. Each Court is required to make certain that the item number is visible throughout the video conference.

Every court must make sure that, in

accordance with Office Order of June 5, 2023, a message appears on the video conferencing screen when the court retires, is not in session, is on leave, or when instructions are given to restrict the proceedings. According

to the ruling, the Principal District & Sessions Judges are required to provide a report on the video conference to the Registrar General's office of this Court using the stipulated format.

Record bank earnings benefit poor, MSME loans

Delhi: Modi said record bank profits in FY24 would enhance credit to the poor, farmers, and MSMEs, celebrating the revival of financial institutions that were plagued by bad loans. Modi posted on X that the banking sector had a remarkable comeback in the last 10 years' with net profit topping Rs 3 lakh crore in FY24. Due to UPA's phone-banking policies, our banks had large NPAs and losses when we took power. The underprivileged were denied bank accounts "Modi remarked. "This improvement in the health of banks will help improve credit availability to our poor, farmers and MSMEs," he said Modi's X comments on the banking sector's FY24 milestone earnings. Public sector banks made a record Rs 1.4 lakh crore in net profit in FY24, up 34% from Rs 1.05 lakh crore. Private banks grew 42% faster, raising their net profit to Rs 1.7 lakh crore from Rs 1.2 lakh crore a year earlier.

CAPSULES

New Mahipalpur STP forthcoming

Delhi: Delhi Development Authority informed the National Green Tribunal that it had given Delhi Jal Board land in Mahipalpur for a sewage treatment plant. DJB promised to finish the plant quickly after land ownership. Vasant Kunj Sector E-2 residents wrote to the green tribunal in 2022, alleging that wastewater in the open drain on the northern side of the DDA Legal Housing Complex Society wall was stagnating and sewage was seeping through the boundary wall into the society. DDA informed DJB to pay Rs 708.5 per acre to finalize land assignment in its NGT report. They stated DJB officials had submitted the payment request for approval. Priority will be given to land payments after approval. The DDA indicated that purified water will be used to maintain south Delhi's plantations and waterways after the STP is built. Another DJB report to NGT stated, "Currently, the allotment process is ongoing, and the construction will be completed within a reasonable time after obtaining possession of the land."

Government standards for spice export quality

Delhi: An official stated India has detailed procedures to prevent EtO (ethylene oxide, a hazardous chemical) contamination in spices for export. The official noted that the government tests spices exported to Singapore and Hong Kong as a precaution. The precautions are important after MDH and Everest goods were recalled in Singapore and Hong Kong due to EtO residue in spices.