

# AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Title Code - UPENG04488

NATIONAL ENGLISH DAILY

MORNING EDITION PRAYAGRAJ

Saturday 18 May, 2024

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

## PM Modi: Forced to spell out facts to expose opposition's communal mindset

**BARABANKI:** PM Narendra Modi challenged the opposition's allegation that he was consistently pushing a "Hindu-Muslim narrative", saying he was being forced to "spell out facts to expose their communal mindset". "SP aur Congress tushtikaran ke aage ghutne tek chuke hain... Aur Modi jab inki sachchai desh ko bata raha hai, unki Hindu-Mussalman karne wali soch ko benaqab karta hai to ye kehne hain ki Modi Hindu-Mussalman karta hai (SP and Congress have surrendered to the policy of appeasement. And when Modi exposes them, they accuse me of talking Hindu-Muslim)," he said at a rally here. Videos The PM said BR Ambedkar and Jawaharlal Nehru were the staunchest opponents of reservation based on religion, but Congress turned Karnataka into a "laboratory" for this. "The entire Muslim commu-



nity was declared OBC. Will you allow the same to happen in UP?" Referring to Ram temple in Ayodhya, he said, "Opposition is so full of poison against Ram that it even turned down our invitation to the consecration ceremony." The PM said an SP-Congress dispensation will put Ram Lalla back in a tent. "Congress is gearing up to reverse SC verdict on Ram Mandir. Don't be under any illusion... they can go to any extent," Modi said, accusing the opposition of being driven by the lure of "parivar and power". Modi had started his speech in Awadhi, say-

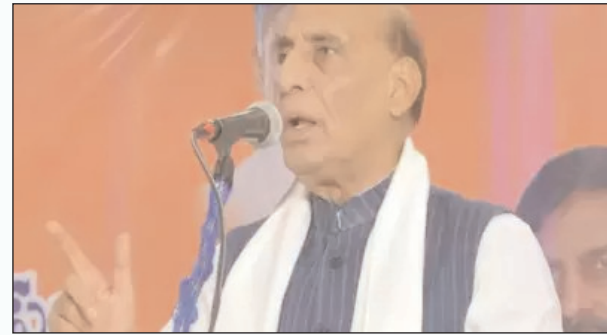
ing, "Hum aapke karja ma doob gayan (I am indebted to you). I vow to repay this debt through diligent work." He said NDA is confident of scoring a hat-trick so that it can make "many big decisions for the poor, youth, women, and farmers". "You need MPs who will work and do good for you. We need MPs who will develop the area, not those who will abuse Modi for five years. For this, you have only one option - lotus (BJP symbol). Can you achieve a 1,000cc performance with a 100cc engine? If you want rapid development, only a strong govt can provide it." The PM lavished praise

### PM Modi is trying to instil a fear of Muslims: Uddhav Thackeray

**MVA top guns** took potshots at PM Narendra Modi at INDIA bloc's rally at BKC's Pataka Maidan on Friday, with Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray leading the barrage saying the country had seen demonetisation in 2016 and would now see "demonetisation" on June 4. He said BJP was a garbage truck picking up rotten leaves - traitors - from everywhere, and Modi was trying to instil a false fear of Muslims in people. Ahead of Monday's voting in the city, he accused Modi of insensitively holding a road show where people had died hours earlier in a hoarding crash in Ghatkopar. AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal said Modi was following in Putin's footsteps and accused the PM of not giving him insulin for 15 days in jail.

## PoK was and will remain a part of India, says Rajnath Singh

**LUCKNOW:** Defence minister and Lucknow MP Rajnath Singh on Friday said Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir (POK) was part of India and will remain a part of India. "Following the revocation of Article 370, development has surged at an unprecedented rate in Jammu & Kashmir, prompting even the residents of POK to express their desire to integrate with India. International human rights organisations should take suo motu cognizance of the human rights violations taking place in POK, which was, is and will remain a part of India," he said at poll rallies in Deoria and Salempur. He said that before 2014, India was perceived as a "weak and impoverished country" and was not taken seriously internationally. "But under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, it has become the fifth largest economy. Former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee elevated India to the 11th position in



### Turnout in 1st 4 phases of Lok Sabha polls at 67%; 45.1 crore

**NEW DELHI:** Voter turnout in the first four phases of the ongoing Lok Sabha polls stands at 67%, Election Commission said on Thursday. Around 45.1 crore of 97 crore registered electors have voted so far, it said. Polling data available till now indicate the turnout in the first three

phases saw a dip compared to 2019, but the gap narrowed in the fourth phase - to 0.4 percentage points. The poll body is expected to release the final voting percentages for the fourth phase on Friday. EC's voter turnout app put it at 69.2%; the turnout in these seats. considered the fastest-growing globally, with projections indicating that India would ascend to become the world's third-largest economic superpower by 2027. "BJP has never misled the people through fake promises. and assurances.

### Rebel SP MLA from Unchhahar joins BJP at Amit Shah's rally

**LUCKNOW:** Manoj Pandey, rebel Samajwadi Party (SP) MLA from Unchhahar assembly seat, formally joined BJP in the presence of Union home minister Amit Shah in Rae Bareilly on Friday. He later shared dais with Shah during a rally which was called in support of party candidates from Rae Bareilly and Amethi, Dinesh Pratap Singh and Smriti Irani. Polling in Rae Bareilly and Amethi is due on May 20. Pandey, who is the ex-chief whip of SP, had cross voted in favour of BJP candidates during Rajya Sabha elections held in Feb this year. Pandey, once considered close to SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, has been one of the key Brahmin leaders in the party. He was also in contention to contest from Rae Bareilly as BJP candidate. However, BJP went ahead with Dinesh Pratap Singh.

### Explain increase in voting percentage days after polling, SC tells EC

**NEW DELHI:** Supreme Court on Friday sought Election Commission's response to the application by an NGO, Association for Democratic Reforms, expressing apprehension about possible replacement of electronic voting machines citing the big increase in final voting percentage figures days after polling. A bench of CJI D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra ordered the EC to file its response to ADR's application by May 24, when it will be heard by a vacation bench during the court's summer break, which commences from Monday. ADR has sought a direction to the EC to publish voting data within 48 hours of close of polling. When the bench asked "what is the difficulty in putting the turnout data on the website", the EC counsel said it "took time as we have to collect a lot of data". On April 26, the SC had dismissed ADR's plea for return to ballot papers and its suspicion of EVMs. **Absence of figures in absolute numbers raises concerns: ADR** With the court taking up the same NGO's plea again doubting the fairness of the electoral process, EC's counsel, senior advocate Maninder Singh, emphasised that senior officials of the poll panel had answered every doubt expressed by the NGO's counsel Prashant Bhushan and a bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta, after several interactions with EC officials, had on April 26 dismissed the 'back to ballot' plea and rejected the doubts against EVMs by saying they were trustworthy. "Just because Bhushan feels like bringing anything through an application, that too in a petition pending since 2019, the court should not entertain it. These are attempts to impede the election process, four phases of which have been completed smoothly," Singh said. The CJI-led bench took exception to the charge of preferential treatment being given to Bhushan and said, "That is a wrong charge. If we find an issue requires the court's attention and intervention, we will do so irrespective.

## Election Commission's updated turnouts for 4 phases up votes by 1.07 crore

**NEW DELHI:** An analysis of turnout numbers put out by EC late night of the day of polling in each phase and the latest updated numbers shows that the difference could be nearly 1.07 crore votes over the first four phases of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. That's an average of over 28,000 votes per constituency for the 379 that have finished polling. EC's revised turnouts for 4 phases up votes



by 1.07cr How do we reach this conclusion? The EC has been putting out data on turnout in various stages in each phase, apart from what is available 'real-time' on its app. The latest data put out on polling day

11 days after polling day for the first phase, and four days after polling for phase 2, 3 and 4. The final figures have been only very slightly different from figures put out typically late evening on the day after polling. However, they vary considerably from the data put out on polling night in several states. Since the EC has also put out numbers for the electorate in each constituency.

## Amid POK unrest, India slams Pakistan's 'exploitative policies'

**NEW DELHI** Amid raging protests in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, India hit out at Pakistan for its "exploitative policies" denying the local people rights over their own resources. India believes that the protests are a natural consequence of Pakistan's continued policy of systemic plundering of territories which remain under its forcible and illegal occupation, said for-



eign ministry at a media briefing. "Such exploitative policies deny the local people rights over their own resources and the benefits thereof," said spokesman while reiterating that Union Territories of Jammu &

Kashmir and Ladakh have been, are and shall always remain integral parts of India. Foreign minister S Jaishankar had said earlier this week there's a ferment happening in POK. "You can see it on social media or television. The analysis of it is very complex but definitely, own mind that someone living in POK is comparing their situation with someone actually living in Jammu and Kashmiri.

## Will Swati 'assault' case impact AAP's prospects in LS elections?

**NEW DELHI:** For the Aam Aadmi Party and the opposition bloc INDIA, the controversy around the alleged assault of party MP Swati Maliwal at the residence of Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal could not have come at a worse time. Maliwal's allegation of assault against Bibhav Kumar, who is Kejriwal's ex-PA, has snowballed into a huge controversy. The BJP has gone all out against Kejriwal and the INDIA bloc. The AAP, on the other hand, has accused the saffron party of hatching a conspiracy to entrap the Delhi chief minister using Swati Maliwal. The controversy comes in the middle of a fiercely



contested Lok Sabha elections, with three phases of voting still left. This includes polling in Delhi and Punjab where the AAP has huge stakes. It was only last week that the AAP got a major boost when the Supreme Court decided to grant the interim bail to Kejriwal, who was in jail in an alleged money laundering case in connection with the now-scrapped Delhi excise policy. On May 10, SC allowed Kejriwal to come out

political turn, both AAP and the BJP - have engaged in a blame game over the incident. Swati Maliwal's decision to lodge an FIR with Delhi Police, three days after the incident, was a clear hint of her isolation within the party. Delhi Police, which comes under the Centre, has often been the bone of contention between the BJP and AAP. In fact, in 2023 as the chairperson of Delhi Commission for Women, Swati Maliwal had gone out on a late-night drive on the streets of the national capital to check the promptness of Delhi police to help women in distress.

### 2 farmers from UP booked for placing Rs 2.3 lakh bet on poll result

**BAREILLY:** Two farmers of Patei Nasir village under Rajpura limits of UP's Sambhal district were booked for betting on the outcome of the election result in the constituency. An FIR under section 13 of the Public Gambling Act was lodged against the two for placing a Rs 2.3 lakh bet. on their "favourite poll candidates". The two farmers were booked following a complaint by their neighbour, Veopal Singh. A "contract letter" on govt stamp paper was prepared on Wednesday with the signatures of two witnesses. It stated: "If the BJP candidate wins, Nireesh Yadav will give Rs 2.3 lakh to Vijendra Singh Yadav and vice versa." The witnesses were their friends Dinesh Kumar and Pyare Lal.

### Visually challenged girl grows up at rehab, cracks Maha job test

**AMRAVATI:** Twenty-five years ago, a visually challenged baby girl was found dumped in a dustbin at Jalgaon railway station in Maharashtra. With her parents unknown and untraceable, police took the numb, famished newborn to a remand home in Jalgaon, which fed her and shifted her to a better-equipped rehab home for the deaf and blind 270km away at Paratwada in Amravati. Here, she was named Mala Papalkar, who over two decades later scaled heights to crack a Maharashtra Public Service Commission (MPSC) exam and is readying to set foot in Mantralaya. - the Maharashtra secretariat in Mumbai - as a clerk-cum-typist. The results were announced Thursday. Mala's mentor and

Padma awardee Shankarbaba Papalkar, 81, did not just give her his surname, but also nurtured her talent, schooled her in Braille and made his protege a trailblazer in the world of the visually challenged and orphaned children. Talking to TOI, Mala, 25, said: "God sent angels to rescue me and take me to where I am today. I won't stop here. I will sit for the UPSC exams and become an IAS officer." According to Shankarbaba, Mala finished her primary education at a school for the blind and passed higher secondary with first division. "She did her graduation in 2018 from Amravati University and post-graduation in arts from Govt Vidarbha Institute of Science and Humanities.



# Theater is challenging for every artist: Himani Shivpuri

Prayagraj: Doing theater is very challenging for every artist, in this the artist has to fight with himself and come out, nothing is permanent in life. Cine star Himani Shivpuri said these things in Vimarsh-5 a new initiative. On Friday, Vimarsh-5, a new initiative was organized by North Central Zone Cultural Centre, Prayagraj (Ministry of Culture, Government of India) in the cultural center premises. On this occasion, cine actress Himani, honored with Dadasaheb Phalke and Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, reached Shivpuri Cultural Center and shared her life experience with the audience. At the beginning of the program, program in-charge Vinod Shukla honored Himani Shivpuri by presenting her a flower bunch and a memento. As soon as he came on stage, the audience wel-

comed him with applause. Dehradun born Himani Shivpuri is active in the cinema as well as theater field. He got a new identity from the popular TV serial "Happu Ki Ultan Paltan". He started his career with "Do Paisa Ki Nautanki". Played roles in many plays like Anjaan Ka Khwaab, Tughlaq, Mitron Mar Jani, Surya Ki Aakhri Kiran, Sandhya Chhaya and Vidya Sundar and Sihansan Khali Hai. After that, after leaving the theater, on the big screen, "Kuch-Kuch Hota Hai", "Main Prem Ki Diwani Hoon", "Hum Rahi", "Hum Apke Hain Koun", "Hum Saath Saath Hain", "Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham" Like never looking back after working in different roles in famous films, she says that her father always supported her in reaching this position. After passing out from the National School of



Drama, she wanted to do theatre, but her husband inclined her towards films. She further says that she was very nervous while doing her first film "Ab Aayega Maza", but the audience appreciated it a lot.

He answered the questions asked from the audience with his simple and easy words. Asked how challenging it was for him to take up acting as a career, Nitish replied, "At that time, it was difficult to step into the en-

tertainment industry, and no one in the family took my career choice seriously." Himani, a veteran actress with a career spanning 37 years and being a part of countless hit Bollywood films, believes that nothing is permanent.

Talking about the film Dilwale Dulhaliya Le Jayenge, he said that in the film, the story of Raj and Simran reaches a point in the end, but the end of the story of me and Anupam was not shown. Actually, our story also had to reach a point, but I was not on the set during the shooting of the climax. If you pay attention, I am nowhere in the climax. Priyanshi, Shantanu, Ravi etc. asked questions. During the question-answer and discussion, the audience present discussed many aspects related to theater and acting. At the end of the program, Center Director Prof. On behalf of Suresh Sharma, Ashish Srivastava expressed gratitude to all the art lovers. On this occasion, a large number of dignitaries including officers and employees of the center were present. The program was conducted by Dr. Amitesh.

## District Legal Services Authority conducted surprise inspection

Prayagraj: Secretary to the Child Welfare Committee every week. Instructions were given to talk to children on WhatsApp and to create a register and keep sending reports of the said action for six months under the direction of Member Secretary, Uttar Pradesh State Service Authority Sanjay Singh and guidance of Honorable District Judge/Chairman, District Legal Services Authority Prayagraj Santosh Rai. A surprise inspection of the Juvenile Justice Board, Government Communication Home for Juveniles, Government Women's Shelter, Government Children's Home for Girls, Government Children Home for Children and Child Welfare Committee was conducted by Secretary District Legal Services Authority Prayagraj Dinesh Kumar Gautam.

On 8.5.2024, 93 children were rescued by the rescue team of Child Welfare Committee at Prayagraj Railway Station. 18 children were kept under the Child Welfare Committee. All the children from the Child Welfare Committee were left with their guardians and the Secretary, District Legal Services Authority Prayagraj instructed the Child Welfare Committee to talk to all the children on WhatsApp every week and register them for six months and after taking the above action, the District Legal Services Authority Send report to service authority. Everything was found safe and organized in the other communication room. This information was provided by Secretary District Legal Services Authority Prayagraj Mr. Dinesh Kumar Gautam.

## Voter awareness program concluded

Prayagraj: Voter awareness program concluded with distribution of Raksha Sutra/Sankalp Patra at GIC - In the program DIOS welcomed the observers and

parents along with their families and neighbors to the booth. CDO said in his address that our children are the future of the country. The children themselves

occasion. Voter awareness oath was administered by CDO. The program was conducted by Dr. Prabhakar Tripathi, Professor Bhaskar Shukla, Vice Principal Bansh Raj, all the teachers and 1500 students of the school were present in the program. NCC and Scout children of the school welcomed everyone by playing the band. On this occasion, Dr. B. of the sweep team. A large number of dignitaries including S Yadav, Anupam Parihar, Brijesh Srivastava, Rakesh Pandey, Shesh Nath Singh, Hasbeen, Arvind Gautam, Irshad Ahmed, Mukesh Kumar were present.

will go to the booth along with their parents. The Principal should honor the children whose parents voted for them in the prayer meeting. The observer had a dignified presence on this



CDOs by giving them bouquets. Principal GIC welcomed everyone by paying floral tributes to the DIOS. In his address, the DIOS said that on May 25, our students should take their

## Sonia, Rahul and Priyanka shared grief with Pramod Tiwari on the demise of BC Mishra

Pratapgarh, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi came to the rally of India Coalition in Rajya Sabha on Friday in Sonia Gandhi, Lalganj, neighboring district Rae Bareilly Deputy leader of BJP Pramod Tiwari was seen sharing the family grief over the sudden demise of his close social worker BC Mishra. At the same time, former Chief Minister of the state Akhilesh Yadav also met Rajya Sabha member Pramod Tiwari on the stage and expressed family condolences on the demise of

BC Mishra, father-in-law of regional MLA and state Congress Legislature Party leader Aradhana Mishra Mona. Even in times of family grief, Sonia Gandhi encouraged the patience of Rajya Sabha member Pramod Tiwari to discharge the responsibilities assigned by the party in the election campaign. Let us tell you that BC Mishra, the founder of Ambalika Institute and an honorary member of the management committees of many schools of the area, died on Thursday due to illness.



State Deputy Chief Minister Brijesh Pathak also attended the funeral of BC Mishra on his death. Chief Minister's advisor Anvish

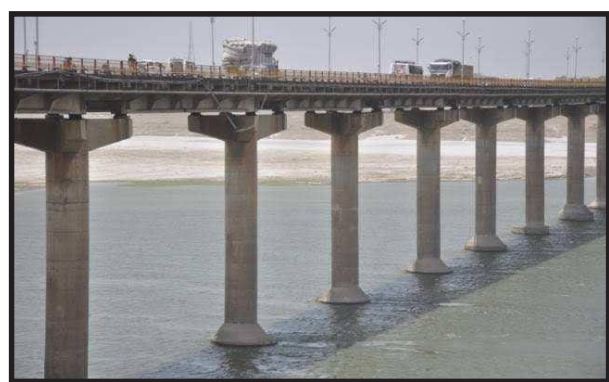
Awasthi also met Rajya Sabha member Pramod Tiwari and expressed condolences through phone call to CM Yogi Adityanath.

At the rally of India Alliance in the neighboring district, the morale of the workers and supporters was boosted on Friday after seeing Deputy Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Pramod Tiwari playing an effective role on the stage along with Sonia Rahul, Priyanka and Akhilesh and former Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh Bhupesh Baghel. Media in-charge Gyan Prakash Shukla has given the information about the meeting of Rajya Sabha member Pramod Tiwari with the top leaders of the alliance.

## Walking on the Edge: The Perilous Journey of Pedestrians on Shastri Bridge

Mirzapur: The Shastri Bridge in Mirzapur, once a symbol of strength and pride, now poses a significant risk to those who choose to cross it. Built in the 1970s, this bridge was initially designed to handle a certain capacity, but now it bears the burden of multiple overloaded vehicles, posing a threat not only to those vehicles but also to pedestrians. Moreover, there is no space left for pedestrians on either side of the bridge; on the contrary, the bridge itself is in a dangerous condition. People must start using National Highway 19 instead.

conditions. Despite multiple repairs, the bridge's structural integrity has been compromised due to excessive overloading by trucks and other vehicles, resulting in cracks appearing in various parts of the bridge.



Constructed in 1976, the bridge has now aged close to 50 years. Even after undergoing several repairs, it is now deemed unfit for prolonged use. In 2021, a comprehensive repair project was undertaken, totaling approximately 4.62 crore ru-

pees, involving bearing replacements and beam grouting. Additionally, maintenance activities such as carbon wrapping and cable grouting were meticulously carried out across 28 parts of the bridge. Despite all the

Mr. R.S. Upadhyay, the project manager of Bridge Corporation, stated that the Shastri Bridge in 2021 passed all necessary load tests according to standards and regulations. However, when cracks appeared in the bridge, concerns arose regarding the safety of both the bridge and its users. Once again, repairs were undertaken at a cost of 7.48 crore rupees. After five months of maintenance work, the bridge reopened for transportation in November 2023. Despite these efforts, lingering concerns persist regarding the long-term maintenance and safety of the bridge. More-

A significant concern in today's time is the immediate implementation of mea-

asures to address pedestrian safety, redirecting them towards alternative routes away from the perilous bridge. It is imperative to raise awareness among pedestrians about the imminent dangers posed by the bridge.

over, there are no restrictions on overloading, which is impacting the bridge's capacity. In response to increasing traffic, the government has approved the construction of a six-lane bridge and bypass. However, vehicle overloading continues unabated without any restraint, further deteriorating the condition of the Shastri Bridge. Residents express their concerns, stating, "We are residents of this area and witness the deteriorating condition of the bridge daily. The unchecked overloading has posed a significant threat to the facility of crossing the Ganga River. Even pedestrian passage across the bridge has become perilous for two reasons: firstly, the bridge itself has become hazardous, and secondly, there is no space for pedestrians to walk on the bridge.

## Cong-SP alliance deflated in front of Modi: Anil Parashar

Congress wants to re-impose Article 370 in Kashmir PoK is a part of India which Modi ji will take this time

Aligarh MLA Anil Parashar, who is worried about the election campaign of Allahabad and Phulpur Lok Sabha, said in the social public relations and meeting organized in the City North and City South Assembly Parinay Guest House that the people of the Congress alliance should be encouraged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. They are getting irritated with the concept of developed India and are sad to see the progress of India in these 10 years and most of all Congress and SP are saddened by the fact that Modi ji has demolished Article 370 and built Ram Mandir. And said that the Congress alliance wants to impose Article 370 again in Kashmir and want to cause irreparable damage to the country, but the public has got rid of it and Congress and

SP are doing politics with the intention of dividing the country into pieces on the basis of casteism. Now

occasion he told the workers. On this occasion, assembly in-charge Anuj Parihar, Suresh Maurya, as-



they can never come to power in the country because Prime Minister Narendra Modi is standing in front of them like a tsunami of nationalism, in front of which the Congress alliance has lost its air. District spokesperson Rajesh Kesarwani said that on this

assembly media chief Anand Vaishya Sudarshan, district media in-charge Rajesh Kesarwani, Vivek Mishra, Dnyaneshwar Shukla, Vivek Aggarwal, Pramod Modi, Ajay Agrahari, Ayush Agrahari Sanskar Sinha etc. gave the mantra of victory at the booths.

## Bosch Introduces New Semi-Automatic Washing Machines

Lucknow: BSH Home Appliances Pvt. Ltd, a subsidiary of BSH Hausgeräte GmbH, a global leader in the home appliance industry introduces its latest range of 'Made-in-India' semi-automatic washing machines, meticulously crafted to cater to the discerning fabric care needs of Indian households. With an unwavering commitment to consumer-centricity and the ethos of Make In India, Bosch presents an unparalleled laundry experience, promising superior fabric care and convenience #LikeABosch. Manufactured at par with German standards of quality and design, these washing machines ensure reliability and performance that align with global benchmarks. Commenting on the launch, Saif Khan, MD & CEO, BSH Home Appliances, said "We are delighted to introduce our new range of Semi-Automatic

washing machines tailored for Indian consumers. With this launch, we aim to further strengthen our presence in the laundry category and elevate the fabric care experience for Indian consumers. At BSH Home Appliances, we are dedicated to enhancing everyday life through consumer-centric innovations. With a strong emphasis on 'Make in India,' each feature of our products is thoughtfully crafted to suit the diverse needs of Indian households." BSH Home Appliances further strengthens the commitment to 'Make in India' and 'Make for India' through innovation and unwavering pursuit of enhancing user experiences. BSH India recently bagged an impressive array of five iF Design Awards and four India Design Marks for its range of home appliances designed and manufactured in India.

## Their tickets for foreign excursion after elections secured: PM's dig at Cong-SP

Fatehpur: Prime Minister Modi, in a scathing attack on the Congress and Samajwadi Party, as well as its leaders Rahul Gandhi and Akhilesh Yadav, stated that he has been informed by someone that their tickets for a foreign vacation after the elections have been booked. While mocking both leaders without mentioning their names, PM said, "Panje aur cycle ke sapne toot gaye, khatakhat khatakhat; ab 4 june ke baad ki planning ho

rahi hai ki haar ka thikra kiske phodaa jaaye, khatakhat khatakhat; mujhe to koi bataa rha tha ki videsh yatra ka ticket bhi book ho gya hai, khatakhat khatakhat..." (Congress and Samajwadi Party dreams were dashed, and they are already planning for life beyond June 4, as well as who would be held accountable for failure. Someone informed me that their tickets for an overseas vacation had been bought," remarked the Prime Minister.

In Uttar Pradesh, Congress does not exist, and the whole Congress is dedicated to preserving family respect. However, the partnership of two boys is launched every election because the compatibility of both SP and Congress matches, as both are dedicated to family, both are in politics for corruption, both will do anything to please their vote bank, both promote criminals and mafias, and both

SP and Congress are equally sympathetic to terrorists, he added.

Further criticizing Akhilesh Yadav for his recent visit to the home of deceased mafia-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari in Mohamadabad, Ghazipur, PM remarked, "SP's love for mafias hasn't finished yet; their party head is reciting 'fatiah' on mafia's tomb... Pakistan used to assault our nation, but Congress gave them a free pass, and they created a false narrative of

Saffron Terrorism. And the UP SP administration provides hospitality to rioters and they utilize helicopters to visit the Chief Minister.

The BJP has fielded sitting MP Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti for the Fatehpur Lok Sabha seat, which is up for election in the fifth phase on May 25. Niranjan Jyoti of the BJP won the Fatehpur seat in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections with 566040 votes. BSP's Sukhdev Prasad Verma secured 367835.



# Counseling of loco pilots done under safety drive in Vidyut Lobby

Prayagraj: Safety counseling of loco pilots was done in the class-room of Vidyut Lobby Prayagraj. A total of 22 running employees of the Electrical Operations Department participated in this counseling class. During this safety counselling, loco pilots were counseled on various issues related to the safety drive of Railway Board. 1. Fire is a chemical reaction which arises from the combination of oxygen, heat and fuel and the continuous reaction taking place in it. To extinguish the fire, one

of the supplies is cut off, due to which the fire gets extinguished.

Extinguishing a fire by blocking oxygen is called smothering method, extinguishing a fire by removing or reducing fuel is called starvation method and extinguishing a fire by pouring water on it is called cooling method. 2. Causes of fire and types of fire like use of different fire extinguishers to extinguish the fire caused by solid, gas, liquid, metallic substances and electricity. 3. How many types of fire extinguishers are there



and how to use them. 4. What is the duty of the loco pilot in case of fire in the engine/train, and how to protect the adjacent line. 5. Our aim in Railways is safety, security and punctuality and zero loss. During counseling under Safety Drive, Safety Consultant Chandrika Prasad explained in detail different topics in the class through quizzes. Chief Loco Inspector of Prayagraj, JN Tiwar, Crew Controller, RK Singh and SK Mishra were also present in this counseling class.

## People of Karchana eager for Modi's third term

Prayagraj: Our representative reached Lakathaha, Tala, Bendau, Khai Bhun Da, Rampur industrial area of Karchana tehsil of Allahabad parliamentary constituency and tried to know the sentiments of the people by discussing the elections with the voters. Voters of Karchana area say that the problem of Neelgai, problem of irrigation and non-accessibility of clean drinking water are common in their area. Voters say that the entire crop and hard work gets wasted due to blue bull. No government has solved this problem. Farmers of the entire region are worried. When asked by the reporter that the Congress/SP candidate is from the royal family in your area and his father has represented this region in the state-center for a long time, has he considered this problem? Voters said that it is true that the father of the Congress/SP candidate has represented this area for a long time but his son had lost the seat in the assembly election because the people of the area are no longer on emotions. Voters are voting on development and in future too, voting will be conducted on development plank.

Voters of Karchana area said that ever since the BJP government has come to power at the Center and State, the narrative of development is going on in the area. Gradually, over bridges are being constructed in the entire Karchana area. The problem of drinking water has also been resolved to a considerable extent. Gradually, Modi ji is reaching every house under the water scheme. The government is also keeping an eye on the problem of irrigation. The entire Karchana region has great hope from the BJP government and the Prime Minister and BJP candidate Neeraj Tripathi that solution to the problem of Nilgai will also be fixed in the third term of Modi ji. Karchana region is waiting for the third term of Modi government. BJP will win here with huge votes. The voters of Karchana region have made up their mind to vote for BJP with full confidence. The voters of Yamunapur region believe that the BJP candidate is a person of very clean image and should get a chance to represent the region.

## Workshop on Teacher Student Relation - A Bond Beyond Learning

Prayagraj: "A strong teacher-student bond leads to a sense of belonging and community within the classroom." A rejuvenating and informative workshop on 'Teacher Child Bonding - Empowering Methods' was conducted for the teaching faculty on 17th May 2024 at MPVM. It was attended by the teachers from Patanjali Group of schools. The workshop began in a traditional way by invoking the blessings of the Almighty by a prayer where Mrs. Rupa Shankar along with the director of Patanjali Nursery school Mrs. Rekha Baid, Principal Mrs. Alpona Dey and the coordinators.

The main aim of the workshop was to provide educators with time-sensitive and cost-effective knowledge that can be easily integrated into their classrooms. The workshop was led by noted resource person, Dr. Rupa Shankar an Early Childhood Facilitator and a Counsellor for the past three decades. The workshop was



lively and engaging, highlighting the ways and techniques to solve the childhood issues, especially in early school. It explored the idea that in the realm of education, the foundation of success is not solely built on imparting knowledge but on fostering a profound bond of trust and respect between the teacher and the student. An educator, culti-

vate an environment where students are intellectually stimulated and emotionally supported. She also highlighted the fact that negative comments should not be used in the classroom that can create a negative impact on the child's mind. Director of Patanjali Rishikul Mrs. Rekha Baid presented a token of love and gratitude to Dr. Rupa Shankar.

The session concluded by vote of thanks given by the school Principal Mrs. Alpona Dey. She expressed her gratitude to Dr. Rupa Shankar for enlightening the teachers with the intricacies of the problems of early childhood. She thanked the resource person by saying that her teachers are benefitted by her wisdom.

## Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani, PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, visits COSA and Raipur Military Station

Prayagraj: Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani, PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, visited Headquarters Chhattisgarh & Odisha Sub Area (COSA) and Naya Raipur Military Station and on 17 May 2024. The GOC-IN-C reviewed and appreciated operational, training and administrative initiatives & endeavours undertaken by the Indian Army in Chhattisgarh and Odisha.

During the visit the GOC-IN-C honoured Parents of Lt Rajiv Pandey, Vir Chakra (Martyred in Operation Pawan 1987, Sri Lanka) and Col Viprav Tripathi (Martyred in Manipur in 2021), expressing solidarity and gratitude of the Indian Army. He also



interacted with over 100 Veterans and commended their

continued contribution to the nation building. Officials

including those employed by the Army for welfare of veter-

ans, in areas as remote as Bastar, briefed the GOC-IN-C

on numerous measures taken for improvement in health care facilities and other welfare initiatives, concerning ex-servicemen from Chhattisgarh & Odisha.

Senior Military and State dignitaries including Lt Gen Ashok Jindal, PVSM, AVSM, YSM (Retd) Director AIIMS Raipur, Maj Gen Paramjit Singh Dahiya, Chief of Staff MB Area, Air Commodore Felix Pinto, SC, VM, Commander ANTF and Col Rajneesh (Retd), DIG STF also interacted with visiting dignitary on various issues. The Army Commander specially complimented the outstanding work being done by military veterans in Chhattisgarh State.



NSS said that voting is our right, each and every person should cast his/her vote. Prof. VC Prof. B Mehra (Admin.), told about the importance of casting vote. Mr. Satyam Kumar Kesari Asst Coordinator, encourage NSS volunteers to help the people on polling date. There are 240 NSS volunteers were participated in the programme. Sweep team of Prayagraj Mr Anupam Parihar, Shri Sheshnath Singh, Dr Rakesh Pandey, Mr Irshad Ahmad, Mr Brijesh Srivastva, Mr Hashveen Ahmed, Mr Pawan Singh, Mr Arvind Kumar Gautam encouraged NSS Volunteers to cast their vote. NSS Programme officer, Dr. Hira Bose, Dr. Prashant Ankur Jain, Dr Anisha Verma, Dr Mukesh Kumar Maurya, Dr Dilip, Dr Puneet Arora, Dr Abhinav Dayal were present in the programme.

## An Evoking Session to Spiritual Journey in MPVM

Prayagraj: A very thought provoking and motivational session was organised for the students of Maharshi Patanjali Vidya Mandir. Mr Prateek Bhardwaj, the wonderful spokesperson for the scriptures and Vedic literature, who is an alumnus of MNNIT Allahabad, carried the students to the high-yielding spiritual journey of mind and intelligence with a unique activity based interactive session.

The ice-breaking segment of the session was the word MIND, and their came numerous responses of the students with their perceptions and this is how Mr. Prateek grabbed everyone's attention and smoothly entered into the minds of stu-



dents and discussed about the two faculties of 'Mechanism of Mind', 1. The Mind, that proposes thoughts and controls senses & 2. The Intelligence, that helps in decision making.

He administered an enlightening activity "Managing Mind" and received awesome involvement of the students. Another segment, which was "Nourishing the Intelligence by

Study of Scriptures" was profoundly successful in convincing the students towards the need of it. The other insights were: GIGO Principles: garbage in, garbage out; Ashtang yoga;

Power of Sound Vibration and emphasise on "Chariot of the Body" extracted from Bhagwad Geeta, in the context of human being with all his senses, mind and soul.

He focused on the "Effect of Gratitude" with a slide show of 'Case study of Water', propelled the benefits of chanting 'Hare Krishna Mahamantra'; explained Mantra Meditation and guided students to do 'OM' chanting and Hare Krishna Mahamantra which is the direct route to the attainment of almighty. The principal expressed her gratitude to Mr. Prateek Bhardwaj for conducting tremendously inspiring session for the students and praised the students for their wonderful participation and acceptance.

## 792 passengers charged at Prayagraj Junction in ticket checking campaign

Prayagraj: Railway Administration is determined to provide excellent facilities to all its passengers. Prayagraj Division keeps running ticket checking campaigns at stations and trains to curb ticketless and irregular travel along with providing good food, pure drinking water, clean toilets to all the passengers. On 15.05.2024, under the direction of Senior Divisional Commercial Manager of Prayagraj Division, Himanshu Shukla, under the supervision of Assistant Commercial Manager, Sanjay Gautam, Divisional Ticket Inspector/Red, Diwakar Shukla, at Prayagraj Junction, along with the team of Commerce Department and Railway Security Force and Along with the Government Railway Police, a thorough investigation was conducted at Prayagraj Junction station and

12 trains passing through it. In this campaign, Rs 5,42,390 was recovered by charging a total of 792 passengers. Out of these, 288 passengers were charged Rs 2,94,200/- for traveling without ticket, 490 passengers were charged Rs 2,46,790/- for irregu-



lar travel and 14 persons were charged Rs 1400/- for spreading filth. Railway administration requests all its passengers not to litter the train and railway premises and travel with valid tickets. Railways respects all its passengers.

## Voting Awareness Football Tournament Kicks Off today

Prayagraj: Northern Football Academy is going to organize Voting Awareness Football Tournament 2024 at football ground of CAV Inter College Civil Line Prayagraj on May 18 According to the Head Coach Indranil Ghosh four teams will participate in the league basis tournament which will end on May 19 evening.

## BJP engaged in making the public meeting of Modi, Yogi, and Amit Shah successful

Prayagraj: BJP is engaged in making the proposed public meeting of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath successful on the voting to be held in Phulpur and Allahabad Lok Sabha seats of both Prayagraj Lok Sabha seats on 25th May. District spokesperson Rajesh Kesarwani said that the huge public meeting of Home Minister Amit Shah and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on May 19 and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on May 21 has almost been fixed and in view of the intense heat, the organization is organizing the public meeting. To make the campaign successful, meetings are being held in all the assemblies of Allahabad and Phulpur in which targets have been set to bring people from Mandal Presidents to MLAs. Apart from this, responsibilities have also been fixed to the Morcha and cells for Modi ji's public meeting. A target of about 15 lakh to 25 lakh numbers has been set in Yogi's public meeting and 10 to 15 lakh numbers have been set in Yogi's public meeting and to achieve this target, 20,000 numbers will be given to all Mandal Presidents, 50,000 numbers to MLAs, District Panchayat President, Mayor and MPs.

A target has been set to express, apart from this, preparations have been made for Mandal and Morcha cells to reach the public meeting venue with thousands of workers through bike and scooter rally from their respective Mandals. Apart from this, in view of the extreme heat, the organization has proposed Ample arrangements of cold water will be made at the public meeting venue. District spokesperson Rajesh Kesarwani said that on May 21, a huge public meeting of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is proposed at the Parade Ground and on May 19, Home Minister Amit Shah's public meeting at Meja Assembly and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's public meeting at Karchana and The city northern assembly is scheduled at Ramlila Maidan Bhardwaj Puram.

## Voter Awareness Prog organized at SHUATS with collaboration of Sweep Prayagraj Team

Prayagraj: The National Service Scheme (NSS) Unit of Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences (SHUATS) organized Voter Awareness Programme on 17th May 2024 the Chief Guest of the programme was Shri PN Singh Asst Nodal officer Sweep, DIOS Prayagraj provided information about voting which will be held on 25th May 2024, at Prayagraj and expected that the percentage of voting would be increase. Dr. Dipak Kumar Bose Co-ordinator

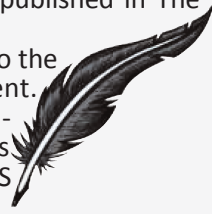


## Editorial

### Stuck in an Orwellian world

**Author** Umesh Upadhyay in his book, *Western Media: Narratives on India from Gandhi to Modi*, recalls "the summer of 1982", when he was in Canada. In July that year, Giani Zail Singh was elected the seventh President of India. But to his "utter surprise", there was no mention of India having a new president in the Canadian newspapers. This despite the fact that Canada had by then "a sizable Punjabi population, so much so that some signage in certain areas was in Gurmukhi. If you happened to travel by Air Canada, there were announcements in Punjabi". Yet, the appointment of the first Sikh President of India found no mention in Canadian newspapers. Incidentally, one day, Upadhyay found a news report about India in the local Canadian newspapers. It was regarding a bus accident in which some Hindu pilgrims were killed. "A bus accident in India finds a place in the international section of a Canadian newspaper, but the world's largest democracy getting a new President — that too a Sikh — doesn't. Why is that?" This question bothered Upadhyay for long, till he realised that "the Western media's coverage of developing countries like India is that it solely focuses on disasters — man-made or natural. It creates a lopsided image of such countries as crisis-ridden nations". One understands the Western media's mindset from journalist Gerald Priestland's article, 'With Nehru Around India', for the BBC in the 1950s. "There were times when I found myself writing: 'This country (India) is doomed; if it does not starve to death or perish of the plague, it will surely explode in bloody revolution.'" Nothing of the sort happened. India not just evaded such nightmarish scenarios, but also became a power to reckon with, economically as well as geostrategically. To add to it, the country has decided, especially in the past 10 years, to consciously shun its Western colonial hangovers. New India is today far more confident about itself, its cultural/civilisational identity, and of course its space in the world order. This, however, is just half the story. The other half is far more disconcerting. And this second half has two altogether different facets. One, the mainstream media in the West traditionally acts as an extended arm of the government. The Western media coverage of the Ukraine war is a classic example. One can, therefore, see an adverse media reportage or human rights coverage in the American press just before the United States is supposed to seek some economic, commercial or diplomatic concessions from India. The two act in tandem to secure larger American interests. The second development is as disconcerting for India as it is for the United States. It's the growing Qatari-Saudi-Chinese money in the American media, think tanks and academia. Millions of dollars have been poured into American institutions, especially in the past two decades, thus creating a class of people American in blood and colour, but Qatari in taste, Chinese in opinions, and Saudi in intellect. According to a 2022 study, between 2001 and 2021, US higher education institutions received \$13 billion in funding from foreign sources, of which Qatar alone contributed \$4.7 billion to dozens of American academic institutions, including Harvard. Similarly, a US Education Department record shows that Saudi Arabia contributed \$650 million to American universities between 2012 and 2018. Saudi money went to all sorts of American universities: From the elite Harvard and Yale, to public universities like Michigan and Berkeley. As for Chinese money, nearly 200 US colleges and universities held contracts with Chinese businesses, valued at \$2.32 billion, 2012 and 2024, according to a report published in *The Wall Street Journal*.

based on disclosures made to the US Education Department. Chinese money has also flooded the American media. As per a report based on the US Justice Department data, which came out in July 2021.



## India needs to increase its pace considerably

**India needs to** increase its pace considerably to keep up with China on the tech front. Illustration by Shutterstock. There are multiple disruptions that are taking place currently. The Cold War did provide some kind of stability, though it witnessed multiple conflicts wherein warring sides were either supported by the US or by the Soviet Union or Russia. With the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991, the US emerged as the sole superpower, and its fragile stability still continued. With China undertaking major strides in all domains, coupled with its new-found ambition of becoming the sole superpower of the world, the interna-

tional narrative of dynamic equilibrium is witnessing a major change. With Chinese incursions having entered their fifth year in eastern Ladakh, the Russia-Ukraine war continuing in the third year, and the Israel-Hamas conflict continuing in the eighth month, with no end in sight for any of these conflicts, global uncertainties continue. As this emerging geopolitical situation becomes more and more fragile with every passing day, new political alignments are emerging. Russia-China has already entered into a 'no limit' friendship, with a new alignment emerging in the form of Russia-China-North Korea-Iran. More

nations could join this alliance, including Pakistan. The balancing act expected from India on the geo-political front is an important challenge, but India has been walking a tight rope efficiently so far. India has also been managing the economic issues, including the challenges of the supply chain, reasonably well in the national interest. The biggest challenge that is most disruptive stems from technological disruption, which is more alarming as compared to geopolitical and geoeconomic disruptions. In fact, technological disruptions shape even geopolitical and geoeconomic disruptions. The Houthi attack in the

Red Sea using drones and missiles resulted in the US and some other NATO countries mobilising their resources to counter this threat. Technology to be effective need not result in high-end, sophisticated weapons, but low-end, cost-effective weapons using simple technology are also potent tools for the strategic impact that happened consequent to this attack by Houthis in the Red Sea. Another technological impact can be gauged from the fact that Ukraine, with a non-existent navy, has caused asymmetric damage to Russian vessels and has become a headache for the Russians in the Black Sea.

# Pakistan: No end in sight to Army, Imran Khan confrontation

**After December 16, 1971,** no date is as traumatic for the Pakistan army as May 9, 2023. On the former day the pride of the men in khaki was humbled on the parade ground in Dhaka when Lt Gen AAK Niazi surrendered to Lt Gen Jagjit Singh Arora. On the latter, the supporters of former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Imran Khan rioted against the army in the streets and cantonments of the country. In the process they destroyed monuments dedicated to the army's revered martyrs, pillaged corps commander Lahore's house, which is named after the country's founder, Mohammed Ali Jinnah, and also attacked other army installations. By showing such utter disrespect the rioters outraged the army's image of itself as the final protector of the people and the country and its foundational principles. No wonder some army generals cried out in anguish that what the 'external' enemy (obviously, meaning India) had not been able to accomplish had been done by the country's internal foes. The May 9 events set the army chief, Gen Asim Munir, squarely against Imran Khan. That their relations were fractured was one aspect of the issue. The other was the inroads that Khan had succeeded in making in the army by invoking



the 'gairat' (pride) of some officers and other ranks by projecting that he was standing firm against the attempts of foreign countries, especially the United States, at interfering in Pakistan's internal affairs. The fact that some members of the armed forces had given their ear and more to Khan's song was unacceptable to the majority of the force. This is because the ethos of the army demands that all officers and men must be loyal to the army chief and no one else. Munir and his supporting generals and officers simply could not afford to overlook Khan's inroads into the army, for it would have impaired the force's discipline and professionalism. And, they could not allow a political leader, however popular, to create splits in the force. Hence, Munir acted decisively against many in its own ranks, including the corps commander, Lahore. He had

them court martialled and dismissed. He opened a second front against Khan through other political forces (the term 'other political forces' has been deliberately used for the Pakistan army is both a professional and a political force) and like-minded individuals in other institutions, including the judiciary, to ensure that Khan remained incarcerated and that the PTI was weakened. The aim was to get it defeated in the elections to the National Assembly and reduce Imran Khan's challenge to a nullity. Munir succeeded in these objectives but not fully. As Pakistan marked the anniversary of May 9, it became clear that the army and its fellow political travelers have not succeeded in entirely rooting out the Imran Khan challenge. The events of the last few days and Munir's long statement of May 9 demonstrates this fact. On May 7

Director-General of Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) Major General Ahmed Sharif addressed an over two-hour long press conference. He vehemently, and again and again condemned those responsible for the mayhem of May 9 last year. This was a clear reference to Imran Khan and the PTI though Sharif carefully avoided naming them. During his fulminations he slipped in the 'message' that a dialogue with the PTI was only possible if they apologised "publicly" to the "nation" for their actions and pledging to abandon their anarchical approaches adopted constructive political positions. It is not surprising that the Pakistani media underlined Sharif's 'message' for Khan and the PTI. Imran Khan's response to this message was clear and direct. When asked by reporters, as he left a case hearing in a court on May 8, if he was willing to apologise for the May 9 events, Khan responded in the negative. According to media reports Khan stressed that he came to know of May 9, 2023 events only when he attended the court proceedings in the Pakistan Supreme Court on that day. He also emphasised that he had already condemned the violent incidents. PTI's Omar Ayub Khan who is the current leader of the opposition in the

Pakistan National Assembly went further to call the events of May 9 as a conspiracy against Khan. On May 8 evening Pakistan president Asif Ali Zardari said "May 9, 2023 will always be remembered as a dark day in Pakistan's history...". Media reports stated that he stressed that the events of that day had "tarnished" Pakistan and had only "served the interests" of the country's enemies. Prime minister Shehbaz Sharif told a special meeting of the cabinet on May 9 morning that the aim of the May 9, 2023 events was to end democracy in Pakistan, bury the constitution and establish an individual's dictatorship. While these reactions of the current political leaders were significant the most noteworthy statement came from army chief Asim Munir. During a visit to the Lahore Garrison on May 9, Munir said that attempts were being made through digital platforms to create divisions between the army and the people. He characterised the riots of May 9, 2023 as "criminally orchestrated violence" and that its plotters were now trying to "twist the narrative". However, he added, "there can be no compromise or deal with the planners and architects of this dark chapter in our history". He then went on to say "the real leaders.

## The war in Ukraine an existential threat to Europe

**Emmanuel Macron,** along with his wife Brigitte Macron, hosted Chinese President Xi Jinping and his wife Peng Liyuan at the Pyrenees mountains, a place where the French President made regular trips to see his grandmother as a child, on Tuesday. A day before this, on Monday, the wife of the Chinese President, on invitation, visited the Orsay Museum with the first lady of France in Paris. The two-day visit of the Chinese President to France was a part of Xi's Europe tour, which includes Serbia and Hungary as well, two countries that have maintained close ties with Russia despite the Ukraine war. Xi's Europe tour will conclude on Friday. Xi's France visit saw the rolling of the red carpet for the Chinese President as he attended

the state dinner organised for him by Macron at the Elysee Palace, as the General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party started his first trip to Europe in five years. The streets of Paris, which were the Eden of modern liberal views—remember the French Revolution—were donned with Chinese and French flags, welcoming an 'autocrat' ruling a regime no less 'Robespierian'. Yet protesters wearing Tibetan flags on their shoulders took part in a demonstration in support of members of the Tibetan and Uighur communities, whose rights the West claims to vehemently advocate. The visit marked 60 years of diplomatic relations between Paris and Beijing, as France was the first Western country to formally recognise the People's Republic of

China on January 27, 1964. To understand the reasons behind this hospitality, Macron's recent interview to the Economist can be referred to, in which the French President called the war in Ukraine an existential threat to Europe. Otherwise as well, the President has been considered among the most 'hawkish' leaders when it comes to the security of the continent. Macron has been advocating a more 'independent' security policy for Europe moving out of the cross-Atlantic approach and favours being less reliant on the US, or NATO in terms of ensuring Europe's security. "If Russia wins in Ukraine there will be no security in Europe... Who can pretend that Russia will stop there?" asked the French President.

## Congress ecosystem loosely comprised Westernised

**Author and** columnist Swapan Dasgupta has revealed that 'The New York Times' approached him in March this year for a "thought-provoking essay on the appeal of the PM's BJP movement". Dasgupta sent his 1,500-word essay to the NYT and was first asked to incorporate "some of the criticisms of Modi", which he was fine with. The essay, which was sympathetic to Modi and had elaborated on the shift in the Indian establishment, was sent on April 22, says Dasgupta. However, after two days, he was told "it looks as though we won't move forward with this. Sorry for that." Dogmatic consistency has been the defining characteristic of the overseas India-watchers' perception of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Ten years ago, on April 10, 2014, in a feeble bid to influence voting in the general election, a clutch of notables including writer Salman Rushdie, Harvard professor Homi Bhabha, artist Anish Kapoor and others, published a joint letter in a British newspaper charging Modi with "failure of moral character and political ethics". "Were he to be elected prime minister," they argued, "it would bode ill for India's future as a country that cherishes the ideals of inclusion and protection for all its peoples and communities." Adding its voice to the panic, *The Economist* suggested "it would be wrong for a man who has thrived on division to become prime minister of a country as fissile as India." The experience of 10 years at the helm and the very real possibility of voters granting him a third term doesn't appear to have tempered the disquiet of the custodians of Indian Enlightenment. With opinion polls suggesting yet another emphatic mandate for the Bharatiya Janata Party, the critics believe the one-sidedness of the contest is due to Modi

"turning democracy into electoral authoritarianism". A Chatham House this month report has drawn attention to charges of "authoritarianism by stealth through controlling key levers of power, including security services, tax authorities and the media". If the June 4 results lead to the BJP decimating the Rahul Gandhi-led Congress yet again, it is likely that Modi's overseas critics will team up with India's Opposition to question the legitimacy of the triumph. Although such a challenge will lack credence if the turnout is good, the larger objective is to sow doubts in the minds of business leaders and political decision-makers about India's success story. Modi is the real target and by barring him with the brush of autocracy, his critics hope to envelop him in yet another murky controversy. Their hope is that the memories of an earlier saga when the United States rescinded his visa can be resurrected to damage his global standing. The twinning of the Western liberal establishment's concerns over India's "democratic backsliding" with the opposition Congress party's fighting the polls on a similar platform is significant. Since Modi assumed charge in 2014, there has been a silent revolution that has resulted in the

growing marginalisation and irrelevance of the old elite that inherited the country from the British in 1947. What is often described as the Congress ecosystem loosely comprised Westernised and cosmopolitan individuals and was influenced by progressive.

e and secular assumptions. In a recent article on its demise, the journalist Tavleen Singh has caricatured this once-powerful elite: "The truth is we were an effete, hopeless bunch.



## With the blessings of the public, Dr. Sushil Gupta will be crowned with victory: Ma. Satbir Goyat



**Kaithal:** Aam Aadmi Party Education Wing State Vice President Master Satbir Goyat said that BJP leaders should answer the questions of the public instead of running away from them. During its 10 year tenure, BJP has done nothing except making false statements and misleading the public. He said that the public is asking the same questions which the BJP had made to the public in the last elections, but in the intoxication of power, instead of fulfilling the promises, the BJP government has left no stone unturned in sabotaging the interests of the public. mother. Satbir Goyat is continuously campaigning day and night in various villages of Kurukshetra Lok Sabha constituency in favor of India Alliance candidate Dr. Sushil Gupta from Kurukshetra Lok Sabha constituency and appealing to people of every section with folded hands to vote in

favor of Dr. Sushil Gupta. Is. AAP leader Goyat said that Dr. Sushil Gupta, rich in positive thinking and down to earth, has settled in the hearts of the people due to his honest, clean, friendly and friendly image and people of every section of the society are openly supporting Dr. Sushil Gupta. Cooperation is being done. With the blessings of the public, Dr. Sushil Gupta will be crowned victorious in the elections. He alleged that the BJP, which came to power on the basis of false promises, has not fulfilled them, so with what right is it asking

for votes from the public in the Lok Sabha elections. The public will no longer fall under any false illusion of BJP. He said that the candidates of India Alliance will show the way home to BJP by winning the elections with the blessings of the public on all the 10 Lok Sabha seats of Haryana including Kurukshetra. Under the BJP government, farmers, employees, s a r p a n c h e s , Anganwadi workers, Asha workers, laborers and every section of the society demonstrated with their demands and tried to raise their voice, but at the behest.

## AI inside most apps you use

AI is being used by nine in 10 internet users in India, thanks to the enormous computing capabilities on their phones, connectivity, and cloud infrastructure, finds a study by marketing data and analytics firm Kantar. The current AI user base of the country stands at 724 million and is poised to grow at 6% on a year-on-year basis. These are users who have used any of the AI features like image filters, personalised recommendations, and smart devices. Social media and fitness apps are taking the lead in terms of driving AI adoption, with the highest number of AI-led features embedded in

related applications. Entertainment apps are a close second. AI is also touching digital commerce and pharmacy apps. Kantar anticipates that many more digital commerce and entertainment apps will adopt AI features to enhance the quality of customer experience and stay in line with emerging trends. Adoption remains slow in BFSI, job search and short video apps segments, the study showed. Usage of AI tech is expectedly higher among the youth (19-24 years). But those who are 45 and above are also keeping up, with usage for the cohort at about 81%.

Even as consumers embrace AI, the technology's usage is not as rampant among marketers due to privacy and safety concerns, Deepender Rana, executive MD (insights), South Asia and Puneet Avasthi, senior ED (insights), South Asia, at Kantar told TOI in an interaction. About 60% of the organisations surveyed by the firm said that they rarely or never use AI. "There's a lot of data but consumers don't want to use AI in a manipulative manner and companies are still discovering what are the boundaries of privacy," Rana said. Besides, marketers also need to make sure biases don't creep.

## Masala row: Govt inspects facilities of spice makers, regulator says

**NEW DELHI:** Following the suspension of sales of certain products by spice makers MDH and Everest in Hong Kong and Singapore due to alleged high levels of a cancer-causing pesticide, the government has now initiated inspections of their facilities to

ensure compliance with quality standards. The spices export regulator has confirmed that inspections are underway at the facilities of MDH and Everest to verify adherence to regulatory standards. The move comes as a response to concerns

raised regarding the quality of spices produced by these companies. In a statement, the spices export regulator said that they are collaborating with the companies to identify the root cause of the issue and propose corrective measures.

## Conspiracy against PM amounts to treason: Delhi high court

**NEW DELHI:** Conspiracy against the Prime Minister amounted to treason and a person cannot be accused of such a serious offence irresponsibly without any cogent material, the Delhi high court Wednesday said. The court was hearing a lawsuit filed by BJD MP Pinaki Misra against lawyer Jai Anant Dehadrai, seeking to restrain him from making "false and defamatory" tweets and statements. Dehadrai had alleged that Misra, along with expelled TMC MP Mahua Moitra, had conspired



against the Prime Minister. Pulling up Dehadrai, Justice Jasmeet Singh orally observed: "When you say conspiracy against the Prime Minister, it is troublesome. You can't be trigger happy... Conspiracy against the Prime Minister is an

offence against the state, (it is) treason... It has serious repercussions on the general public." The court said that Dehadrai should await the outcome of his complaint to the authorities before he makes such allegations. "The allegation of con-

spiracy against the prime minister cannot be made irresponsibly and needs to be based on cogent and substantive reasons," the court further said. Following Justice Singh's remarks, Dehadrai and his counsel assured the court that he would not make further statements in relation to Misra "conspiring" against the Prime Minister till the next date of hearing. The court said CBI was already looking into the allegations, and the dispute between Dehadrai and Moitra was also pending before the HC. Taking the statement.

## Fortis Healthcare: Expanding Horizons in Mental Wellness

**GURUGRAM :** Fortis Healthcare today achieved a significant milestone in India's mental healthcare landscape with the launch of 'Adayu Mindfulness', a dedicated vertical for comprehensive Mental Healthcare along with an exclusive collaboration of United We Care and Adayu - AI Powered Holistic Mental Health Solution with World's most Advanced Virtual Psychological First Aid. This collaboration will leverage the power of artificial intelligence to enhance mental well-

being and accessibility of care for individuals everywhere, powering it further by Adayu's trained team of mental health experts to provide holistic care. This visionary initiative reaffirms Fortis Healthcare's commitment to transformative healthcare solutions and underscores its role as a trailblazer in revolutionizing mental healthcare services across India. Dr. Ashutosh Raghuvanshi, MD & CEO, Fortis Healthcare, said "Fortis Healthcare is uniquely committed to integrat-

ing mental health into mainstream healthcare, a vision we have been cultivating for over a decade. Today, we take a significant step forward with the launch of our dedicated mental health vertical, 'Adayu Mindfulness'. This new initiative not only emphasises our commitment to addressing the pervasive challenge of mental health but also showcases our innovative approach by integrating AI technology through our partnership with 'United We Care'. This collaboration is set

to transform the accessibility of mental health services, making comprehensive care available at the touch of a button. This is more than an advancement in healthcare technology; it is a movement towards destigmatising mental health issues and enhancing the availability of care for those in need across India. Through such pioneering efforts, we continue to lead the way in transforming healthcare delivery and improving patient outcomes."

## 2024 Jawa Perak Unveiled: Elevating the Bobber Experience with Enhanced Performance and Unmatched Comfort

**GURUGRAM :** The recently launched 2024 Jawa Perak showcases significant enhancements to its spirited 334cc, liquid-cooled engine. These advancements aim to elevate the overall riding experience, highlighting Jawa Yezdi Motorcycles' commitment to customer-driven learnings, innovation and excellence in research and development. Noteworthy improvements include the implementation of micro geometry modifications to the gear tooth, resulting in superior meshing quality for reduced noise, vibration, and harshness (NVH) lev-

els. Additionally, the new gearbox covers contribute to a refined sound emission from the gearbox, further enhancing NVH characteristics and overall ride comfort. The 2024 Jawa Perak also boasts a new crankshaft that delivers a significant reduction on engine stress levels resulting in a and sophisticated ride. Complemented by an Assist & Slipper (A&S) clutch for effortless shifting and seamless transitions, the new Perak delivers an authentic bobber experience. Furthermore, riders can expect enhanced versatility with improved gear ratios

and throttle mapping, catering to diverse usage scenarios from urban commuting to spirited highway cruising. Other notable features include an updated piston skirt profile and the cast iron liner in the cylinder block for improved NVH and reduced friction, sportier suspension for agile handling, a robust chassis for spirited riding, class-leading braking capabilities. a larger throttle body diameter of 38mm, and a patented breather canopy that minimizes oil consumption and emissions, reinforcing the Perak's status.

## Radio City, a trailblazer in vibrant music is thrilled to announce its debut on JioTV

**KARNAL :** Radio City, a trailblazer in vibrant music and engaging content, is thrilled to announce its debut on JioTV. This pioneering fusion marks a significant milestone as Radio City becomes the first-ever radio station in the country to introduce a 24x7 video channel under the banner of RC Studio. This launch on JioTV not only extends the reach of Radio City but also provides advertisers with limitless opportunities to engage with a nationwide audience. Through this association, Radio City will be able to reach out to JioTV's massive audience base across the country. The JioTV mobile app - which

has over 1,000 channels in more than 16 languages and 12 genres from over 200 broadcasters is available to all the Jio subscribers across the country. Through this launch, Radio City will touch the nerves of the younger, digitally savvy generation, leveraging their attraction to screens to reignite their interest in radio. By embracing the new digital platform, Radio City will deliver phenomenal content that echoes with the Gen Z. RC Studio will also be available on connected TVs through JioTV+ which comes as a part of JioFiber and AirFiber. This initiative will be pivotal in bridging the gap between differ-

ent audience segments and expanding Radio City's reach to a larger demographic, creating a more inclusive and vibrant entertainment approach. The launch of RC Studio propels Radio City into the digital era by enriching the entertainment experience for its audience with the JioTV app which is now also available on MyJio app and JioBharat phones. Ashit Kukian, CEO of Radio City, expressed his excitement: "In this exciting juncture of innovation and expansion, I am thrilled to announce the launch of our pioneering channel, RC

Studio, on JioTV and JioTV+." The launch marks a historic point in our journey, reflecting our brand's evolution and commitment to 'Radigitalization'. Our RC Studio's tagline, 'Mast Raho', encapsulates our dedication to crafting a comprehensive digital experience that caters to our existing and new audiences. Radio City has always been a frontrunner when it comes to innovative concepts, and with this launch on JioTV, we are forging the future of entertainment by providing a platform that ignites excitement and engages viewers and brands alike in ways like never before!"

## 19 years on, 20 get life imprisonment for double murder in poll violence

**VILLUPURAM:** Villupuram additional district judge S Rajasimmavaran sentenced 20 people to life imprisonment on Tuesday for murdering two people in violence during local body polls at a village near Villupuram in 2005. Those sentenced include an advocate, a police constable, and a government servant. The judge fined them Rs 50,000 each. The families of the two victims were awarded compensation of Rs 5 lakh each. Six others accused of the double murder died during trial. According to the prosecution, enmity prevailed between Kulasekaran (59) and Nakkeeran (49) over enjoying poramboke land (unassessed land, owned by govt) in the village. Nakkeeran had contested 2005 local body polls and another villager, Sekar, contested against him. Kulasekaran supported Sekar.



## BELSTAR MICROFINANCE LIMITED FILES DRHP WITH SEBI TO RAISE UP TO 1,300 CRORE



**GURUGRAM :** Belstar Microfinance Limited ("The Company" or "BML") has filed its Draft Red Herring Prospectus ("DRHP") with market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI"). The Company offers a wide range of loan products, such as micro enterprise, small enterprise, consumer goods, festival, education and emergency loans.

The Company plans to raise fund through Initial Public Offering of Equity Shares (Face Value 10 each) aggregating up to 13,000 million [1,300 crore]. ("Total Offer Size") The total offer size comprises of - (i) fresh issue of equity shares

aggregating up to 10,000 million [1,000 crore] ("Fresh Issue") and (ii) offer for sale of equity shares aggregating up to 3,000 million [300 crore] ("Offer for Sale").

The Company proposes to utilize the net proceeds of the fresh issue to meet future capital requirements towards onward lending estimated to be 7,600 million [760 crore] in FY 2025 and the balance amount towards general corporate purposes. ("The Objects of the Offer") The Offer for Sale comprises of Equity Shares aggregating up to 1,750 million [175 crore] by MAJ Invest Financial Inclusion Fund II K/S; upto 970 million [97 crore] by Arum

Holdings Limited and upto 280 million [28 crore] by Augusta Investments Zero Pte Ltd ("Investor Selling Shareholder"). (Combined the "Selling Shareholders") ICICI Securities Limited, Axis Capital Ltd, HDFC Bank Limited and SBI Capital Markets Limited are the Book Running Lead Managers of the IPO issue.

BML aims to be a socially responsible microfinance institution, driving financial inclusion across the country by furthering entrepreneurship and economic empowerment of women through the provision of loans in rural and semi-urban regions.

## ICICI Bank enables NRI customers to use international mobile number to make UPI payments in India

**GURUGRAM :** ICICI Bank today announced that it has enabled NRI customers to use their international mobile number to make UPI payments instantly in India, thereby significantly enhancing their convenience of making everyday payments. With this facility, the NRI customers of the Bank can make payments for their utility bills, merchant and e-commerce transactions with their international mobile number registered with their NRE / NRO bank account held with ICICI Bank in India. The Bank has made this service available through its mobile banking app, iMobile Pay. Earlier, NRIs had to register an Indian mobile number with their banks to

make UPI payments.

To bring forth this facility, ICICI Bank has leveraged on the international infrastructure laid down by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) for convenient usage of UPI across countries. The Bank offers this facility across 10 countries namely USA, UK, UAE, Canada, Singapore, Australia, Hong Kong, Oman, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

NRI customers of the Bank can make UPI payments by scanning any Indian QR code, sending money to a UPI ID or any Indian mobile number or Indian bank account. Speaking on the initiative, Mr. Sidhartha Mishra, Head – Digital Channels and Partnerships, ICICI Bank said, "We are delighted to

partner with NPCI to launch the UPI facility on international mobile number through iMobile Pay. With this facility, our NRI customers residing in 10 countries do not need to switch to an Indian mobile number to pay using UPI. This launch reinforces our commitment to provide our NRI customers with innovative solutions, for them to have a safe, secure and hassle-free payment experience. We are witnessing a positive response from our NRI customers who have started using this facility. With this initiative, we intend to leverage on NPCI's UPI Infrastructure in strengthening and transforming the digital payments ecosystem globally".

## CAPSULES

### Rahul Baba is running from one place to another to contest elections: Amit Shah

**Jammu**

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation and senior BJP leader Amit Shah addressed a massive public meeting organised in Daman and Diu during the third phase of the Lok Sabha elections, targeting the Congress, especially Rahul Gandhi. Considered a school of politics in himself, Amit Shah clearly stated that, 'Rahul Baba is running from one place to another to contest elections. There is no problem with the seat, the problem lies with Rahul, wherever he goes, he will lose.'

Amethi and Rae Bareilly have traditionally been strongholds for the Congress. The current state of the Congress is such that after losing in Amethi, Rahul Gandhi is attempting to contest from Wayanad, and now in 2024, he is going to contest from Rae Bareilly.

Those with a basic understanding of politics believe that Rahul Gandhi has been attempting to be launched for almost 20 years, but every time his launch has been unsuccessful. The Chanakya of Indian politics, Amit Shah, has even claimed that in the 21st attempt, Rahul's launch will fail. After Independence, Congress ruled the country for decades. During the Congress era, terrorism, Naxalism, and extremism were at their peak.

In the last 10 years, under the leadership of PM Modi and skilled guidance of Amit Shah, terrorism and Naxalism have been eradicated from across the country. The BJP government has proven that development work can also be done while preserving the symbols of faith.

## My real strength is the cooperation, support and blessings of people from 36 communities: Pala Ram Saini

**Kaithal:** Jananayak Janata Party's candidate from Kurukshetra Lok Sabha constituency, social worker Pala Ram Saini, during his election campaign, visited various villages, cities and shops of the Lok Sabha constituency and asked people of every section to vote in his favor. Appealed to. During this, people welcomed Pala Ram Saini with garlands of flowers and announced their support in the elections. Addressing the people, JJP candidate Pala Ram

Saini said that in every village and city of the Lok Sabha constituency, people of 36 communities are continuously getting full support, cooperation and blessings and with the blessings of the public, they will hoist the flag of victory in the elections. The public has come to know that their interests are safe only in JJP. Pala Ram Saini said that the huge support, cooperation and blessings of the people of the parliamentary constituency is my real strength, which

inspires me to move forward.

Along with hoisting the flag of victory in the elections, I will serve day and night for the all-round development of Kurukshetra parliamentary constituency and it will be made the number one area in the race for development. His victory will be a victory for the people of Kurukshetra. He alleged that BJP and Congress are two sides of the same coin, whose only objective from the

beginning is to gain power and fulfill their selfish interests by exploiting the people. In this Lok Sabha election, the aware public will not fall prey to the false promises of BJP and Congress and will wipe out both the parties at the cost of votes and give victory to JJP. The JJP candidate said that he believes in working rather than talking and it is my duty to serve the public selflessly throughout my life and I will continue to do so.

## Sarveshwar Foods Ltd Launches Free certified Sona Masuri Paddy Seeds Distribution Initiative in UT of Jammu & Kashmir

**Chandigarh:**

Sarveshwar Foods Ltd. has announced a pioneering initiative aimed at supporting farmers in the Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory through free distribution of certified Sona Masuri paddy seeds, known for their high quality and yield potential, to farmers across the region. Sarveshwar aims to empower the farming community by providing the seeds of export-oriented rice varieties. Free distribution of certified seed of Sona Masuri paddy will be

done at Sarveshwar procurement facilitation center under this program.

This initiative reflects Sarveshwar Foods' dedication to empowering local farming communities and promoting agricultural development in the area. In light of the economic challenges confronting farmers in Jammu & Kashmir, Mr. Rohit Gupta, Chairman of Sarveshwar Foods Ltd, has announced a compassionate initiative. Under the supervision of the Agriculture Specialist team,

Sarveshwar has resolved to distribute paddy seeds free of cost. This distribution will specifically target non-basmati growing areas of Jammu. The primary aim of this program is to extend support to the farmers, prioritizing their welfare and interests in the state. Sona Masuri Rice is a variety of medium-grain rice mainly grown in Southern India. One of the unique features of Sona Masuri rice is its ability to absorb flavors and spices easily, making it an ideal ingredient for prepar-

ing a variety of Indian dishes. Additionally, it has a lower glycemic index compared to other varieties of rice, making it a healthier choice for people with diabetes. Sona Masuri Rice, due to its increasing popularity, is also finding its position in the international market, mostly exported to countries with a large Indian diaspora. The distribution will benefit around 1000 farmers across various regions, including Paragwal, Mirpur, Garkhal, Akhnour East, Panjtoot.

## The Foundation and India Impact Sherpas Release a first-of-its-kind report on Systems Change in the Indian context



**GURUGRAM:** The Convergence Foundation, in collaboration with India Impact Sherpas, released their seminal report titled, 'Systemic Impact Exemplars: Unique Approaches Towards Solving India's Development Challenges.' This report aims to identify and learn from organizations that have achieved significant impact by adopting the systems change approach. These organizations—System Support Organisations (SSOs)—work in close

collaboration with governments at the Centre as well as State levels, to create impact at a large-scale. In addition to working with the governments and aiming for impact at population scale, systems change involves solving the problem at the root cause; no quick fixes or band-aid solutions. The report profiles 20 of India's leading SSOs, shedding light on their innovative strategies and impactful initiatives. By showcasing real-world examples, the report seeks to inspire and inform other non-

profits, providing valuable insights into what works in the Indian context. At the launch event, Vini Mahajan, Secretary, Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, commended the work and contributions of the 20 organizations profiled in the report. "Nonprofit organizations that have adopted the system change approach by implementing scalable pilots and working meaningfully with governments can contribute to large-scale change," she said.

## Cong to review 'anti-people laws', says Ramesh, mum on CAA repeal

**NEW DELHI:**

Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh on Friday said the party's position on Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) was clearly stated in its manifesto where it promised to "review and change all anti-people laws" brought by BJP govt. However, he refused to explicitly say whether the contentious law would be repealed. Senior Congress politician P Chidambaram had said last month that CAA would be scrapped once the INDIA bloc was voted to office. Notably, CAA did not find a mention in the party's mani-



fest, which was drafted under Chidambaram's chairmanship. Asked whether the party would repeal CAA, Ramesh told, "I am not commenting on what Chidambaram said. What he said is his personal view. I am going by the manifesto approved by him as chairman of the committee and approved by Congress prez and

the party's working committee. I am stating the party position. The word CAA does not figure in the manifesto." He, however, said Congress believed that making religion the basis of reservation and citizenship was unconstitutional. "We opposed CAA in Parliament on the ground that it gives citizenship on the basis of reli-

gion. Our Constitution doesn't provide for reservation or citizenship on the basis of religion," Ramesh added. Congress manifesto said, "We promise that all anti-people laws passed by the BJP-NDA without proper parliamentary scrutiny and debate, especially those relating to workers, farmers, criminal.

## 1.3 crore mutual fund accounts on hold owing to insufficient KYC

**Delhi:** KYC registration entities report 1.3 crore mutual accounts 'in hold' due to incomplete KYC. This is because people gave non-Aadhaar and non-OVDs during KYC registration. From April 1, 2024, SEBI will prohibit mutual fund transactions for investors having 'on hold' KYC status. This involves buying or redeeming mutual fund units. "After many investors' KYCs were still unupdated with PAN and Aadhar and the linkages were missing, KYCs had to be reclassified. Several of these KYCs used utility bills (electricity, telephone), bank account statements, etc., which Sebi no longer accepts." The report added, "7.9 crore investors (73%), have valid KYC. About 1.6 crore registered investors have limited investment access, and 12% can't manage their demat accounts and MF folios." KYC-verified status:.



## Hooda gets 7 of 8 Cong Haryana votes



**Delhi:** The Congress's list of eight Haryana Lok Sabha candidates revealed included at least seven allies and supporters of former chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda. The Congress is running nine Lok Sabha seats in Haryana but has not yet chosen a Gurgaon candidate. The opposition INDIA bloc's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has declared Sushil Gupta as their Kurukshetra candidate per the seat agreement. Hooda's son and Raja Sabha MP Deepender Singh Hooda will again run

from Rohtak, while Kumari Selja will run from Sirsa. Selja faces former Haryana Congress president and BJP candidate Ashok Tanwar in Sirsa. Deepender will challenge BJP MP Arvind Kumar Sharma. Sharma narrowly defeated Deepender by 7,500 votes in the 2019 Lok Sabha election. The Congress unexpectedly nominated youth leader Divyanshu Budhiraja to challenge former chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar in Karnal Lok Sabha. Budhiraja is Punjabi like Khattar.

The Congress replaced Shruti Choudhry (granddaughter of previous CM Bansi Lal) with Rao Dan Singh in Bhiwani. Mahendragarh Lok Sabha. Rao is Hooda-friendly. The Bansi Lal family has traditionally lived in Bhiwani. However, the party appears to have revised its tactics by standing an OBC candidate against Jat-majority BJP MP Dharambir Singh. Despite public expectation, the Congress did not field Brijendra Singh from Hisar.

## Agra politics are Dalit-dominated

**Delhi:** Politics, history, and tourism mix in Taj Mahal. The monument symbolizes the city's previous splendor, but Dalit influence shapes contemporary politics. Agra is known as the 'Dalit capital of northern India' due to its 25% SC population. BJP has ruled this region since 2009, with former Union minister Satya Pal Singh Baghel in charge. Party fielded him again. This stronghold illustrates the region's complex Dalit politics. BJP organized the 'Anusoochit Jaati Mahasammelan' to highlight Dalit politics' influence on Agra's politics. The convergence of

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav and Congress' Rahul Gandhi in Agra emphasizes Dalit voter outreach. Their united demonstration during the 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra' addressed Dalit welfare concerns to get support. As part of the seat-sharing mechanism in India, SP fielded shoe baron Suresh Chandra Kardam, a former BSP worker. Since its 1984 founding, the Mayawati-led BSP has failed to win this SC seat. BSP nominating Pooja Amrohi as its Agra candidate shows a renewed push to challenge the political system. Pooja is the daughter

of former UP Raja Sabha member Satya Behan, a Congressman. The city's footwear market supremacy, which employs Dalits and Jatavs, highlights economic undercurrents shaping political inclinations. Past assembly elections have reflected these changes. When Mayawati became CM in 2007, BSP won six of nine Agra assembly seats. Even without her, it won six of nine in 2012. BJP won all nine seats in 2017, with BSP second in seven. It happened again in the 2022 assembly elections. BR Ambedkar's 1956 last speech underscores

## CAPSULES

### Harsimrat from Bathinda, ex-Cong MP Kaypee from Jalandhar are SAD candidates

**Delhi:** The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) named five additional Punjab Lok Sabha candidates SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal stated that his wife and sitting MP Harsimrat Kaur Bada would be the Bathinda candidate during his visit to Jalandhar to induct former Congress MP Mohinder Singh Kaypee. In Ferozepur, Sukhbir's party nominated Nardev Singh Bobby Mann. Newcomer Kaypee will run in Dalit-dominated Jalandhar Lok Sabha, while Ranjit Singh Dhillion will run in Ludhiana. Sukhbir nominated former cabinet minister Sohan Singh Thandal for Hoshiarpur, another Doaba reserved parliamentary constituency. Former Chandigarh deputy mayor Hardeep Singh Saini is running for the party. Our party is the only regional one battling divisive national parties. The SAD president said these parties want to divide communities and cause conflict. Former Congress MP Mohinder Singh Kaypee, 67, joined the SAD earlier in the day, jolting the party. Kaypee was welcomed into the party by Sukhbir in the afternoon at his Jalandhar home. Sukhbir named Kaypee the Jalandhar reserved Lok Sabha candidate minutes after entering. Kaypee, a former PPCC president and three-time MLA, had been in touch with Sukhbir for days and attended many closed-door meetings since the Congress denied him the ticket. He ran in this Dalit-dominated parliamentary segment, but the Congress chose former chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi.

## Centre removes 5-month onion export restriction

**Delhi:** To relieve onion producers, especially in Maharashtra, the Centre permitted the shipment of nearly one lakh tonnes of the kitchen staple to six neighboring countries: Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Bahrain, Mauritius, and the UAE. The Centre has also

allowed the export of 2,000 tonnes of white onions grown for Middle Eastern and European markets. For onion exports to these nations, National Exports Ltd. (NCEL) sourced domestic produce through an e-platform at L1 (lowest quoted) rates, according

to the ministry of consumer affairs. NCEL is given to the destination country's government-nominated agencies at the stipulated rate on a 100% advance payment basis. In 2023-24, kharif and rabi crops were expected to be lower and foreign demand.

## YSRCP manifesto: Rythu rise, Vizag executive capital

**Delhi:** YSRCP supremo YS Jagan Mohan Reddy vowed to boost Rythu Bharosa farmers' annual financial aid to Rs 16,000 from Rs 13,500 and Amma Vodi women's benefit for sending their children to school to Rs 17,000 from Rs 15,000. Jagan released his party's manifesto, which included some adjustments to the 2019 manifesto's 'Navaratnalu' promises and was renamed 'Navaratnalu Plus'. After taking power, YSRCP pledged to establish



Visakhapatnam the executive capital, Amaravati the legislative capital, and Kurnool the judicial capital. It pledged to maintain all welfare programs. Jagan

vowed not to make unattainable promises. "Political parties should not make empty pledges that harm the poor. The party committed to raise the welfare pen-

sion to Rs 3,500 from Rs 3,000. He said the welfare pension will rise by Rs 250 in January 2028 and Rs 250 in January 2029 to Rs 3,500.

Jagan did not waive farmer loans despite party officials and cadre's appeals, considering the exchequer's burden. He pledged to expand self-help group interest-free loans to Rs 3 lakh from Rs 1. The chief minister also pledged to offer YSR Cheyutha financial help to women aged 45-60 for five years.

## Vadra's poll entry plan for Amethi

**Delhi:** Robert Vadra, the husband of Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, the general secretary of the Congress, has once again expressed his intention to run for the Lok Sabha from the Amethi seat. He has cited "widespread support from people" for his decision to enter politics. After completing Ganga aarti at Triveni Ghat, Vadra addressed the media in Rishikesh and stated, "I have been engaged in Amethi since 1999 and played a part in the 2004 elections when Sonia ji won the seat. The people there have always wanted me to visit and have a great



affection for me." Vadra also made fun of Smriti Irani, the current Amethi BJP MP. "The electorate is calling for change because she (Irani) has not lived up to the promises she made to the people of Amethi. In Parliament, she also turned to

unfounded accusations against me in an attempt to get attention, but I publicly challenged her on social media to provide evidence for her assertions. "I'm extending this challenge once more," declared Vadra.

### The 48-person MVA list contains no Muslims

**Delhi:** A day after Arif Naseem Khan resigned from the panel of campaigners, Congress chairman and party candidate from Mumbai North Central Varsha Gaiwad met the former minister at his office.

The star campaigner, however, defended his decision. "There is a great deal of anger among Muslims and other minorities in North India for not even one Muslim candidate being nominated for the 48 seats the MVA is running for.

## Election Commission urges AAP to change Lok Sabha campaign



**Delhi:** The Election Commission of India (ECI) directed the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) to amend its Lok Sabha campaign song according to the Advertising Codes under the Cable Television Network Rules, 1994 and ECI guidelines and resubmit for approval. The statement "jail ke jawaab me hum vote denge" depicts a violent mob carrying Arvind Kejriwal's prison portrait, cast-

ing doubt on the Judiciary. ECI stated that the advertising violates ECI Guidelines and Rule 6(1)(g) of Programme and Advertising Codes under the Cable Television Network Rules, 1994 by repeating the phrase many times. Senior AAP leader Atishi told a press conference, "It is probably the first time that the EC has imposed a ban on a party's campaign

song." She told the EC the song denigrates the ruling party and investigation institutions. "The song does not mention the BJP or violate the Model Code of Conduct. Actual videos and situations are included, she said. Ms. Atishi, a Delhi minister, accused the EC of ignoring BJP poll code infractions. "BJP dictatorship is right. However, discussing it is improper.

## Ramayan Actor Explains Why He Left Meerut For Mumbai Post-Polls

**Delhi:** Shirt and trousers replace kurta-pyjama on campaign. The BJP scarf is replaced by a cap. Shoes replaced sandals. Arun Govil, BJP's Meerut candidate, is leaving Uttar Pradesh for Mumbai after a month. The actor-politician, who played Ram in Ramayan, topped the trending list Congress' UP chairman Ajay Rai calls this a "parachute politician". "After the elections, Meerut BJP candidate Arun Govil went for Mumbai the next day. He may have struggled in public "Rai claims in a Hindi X post. The 66-year-old lawmaker clarified that he was going to Mumbai on party directives. My esteemed Meerut



voters, sisters, brothers, and workers, Hello. Completed election. I appreciate your love, support, and respect. On the party's orders, I'm here in Mumbai to do my job "Mr. Govil wrote in Hindi on X. When the work is done, the politician will be among Meerut residents, but the party plans to send him elsewhere for election

campaigning. Another accusation against Mr. Govil is his ignorance of Meerut concerns. "When a journalist asked him about Meerut concerns during the election campaign, he was clueless. His response was to wait till the elections were completed before addressing the concerns "Mr. Rai said, "Most BJP leaders follow this

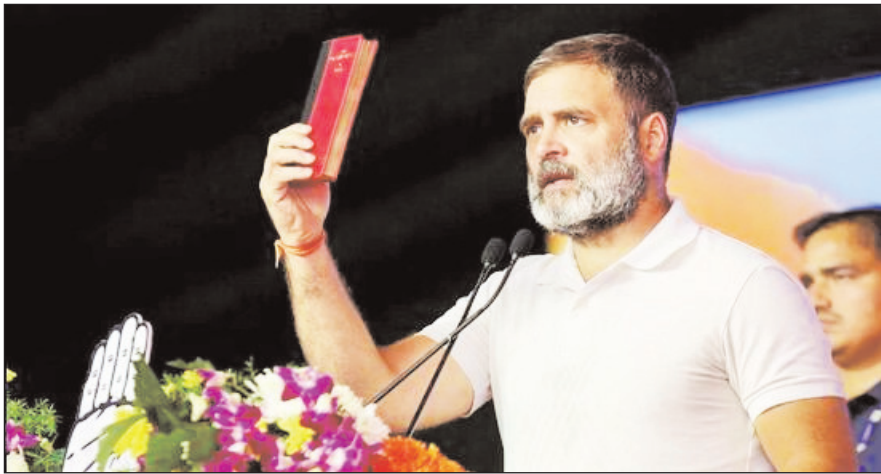
policy. They care nothing about people or the ground. They only support parachute politics. "Mr. Govil told a New Minute reporter he is "not exactly aware what kind of issues are prevalent here" in Meerut. Roads, energy, water, education, employment, and medical are the biggest issues everywhere, not just Meerut.

### Congress Leader: "Not Joining Another Party" Regarding Leaving Delhi Unit

**Delhi:** Arvinder Singh Lovely made it clear that he is not planning to join any political party. Lovely resigned as the Delhi Congress chairman Mr. Lovely stated that he merely left his position in protest of Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party, not because he had abandoned his basic Congress membership. Mr. Lovely had brought up the imprisonment of multiple AAP ministers in relation to corruption matters in a letter to Congress chairman Mallikarjun Kharge. Nevertheless, for the Lok Sabha elections, the Congress forged a coalition with Arvind Kejriwal's party. He said that he was leaving the position because he was unable to defend the rights of the Delhi Congress workers.



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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

## Candidates in Gurgaon ramp up campaigns

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

the travel between Gurugram and Sohna to 20 minutes. Improved connectivity and the Delhi-Mumbai expressway will make Sohna a residential and business hub, he said. Sohna would be connected to Nuh, Palwal, and Sonapat by the Orbital Railway

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

## The Delhi Unit of Prahari Manch held its inaugural literary seminar

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



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

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

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

## Brij Bhushan's son replaced him in BJP

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



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

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

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

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

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

## Opening of the RB Perfect Mart Foundation's new office



**Delhi:** The RB Perfect Mart Foundation opened a new office in Jwalapuri, Delhi. CEO Brijesh Kumar, Director Rinku Bishen, Director Kaushal Singh, International Dancer Rahul, and Fitness Trainer Rinku Bishen were present. Children in need and those with talent will receive free instruction in dance, modeling, yoga, medita-

tion, singing, and other activities through this program.

With havan-puja, the same branch was established. Corporation Councilor Pappu Chhilwal and International Fitness Trainer Praveen Baghri were the principal guests on this occasion. Garlands of flowers were presented to each attendee. By danc-

## Bars until 4am? Nightlife may improve in Noida

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

## CAPSULES

### AICC spokesperson Radhika quits Congress for 'injustice'

**Delhi:** AICC spokesperson Radhika Khera resigned, citing that criticism of her visit to Ram Lalla in Ayodhya led to her denial of justice in the Chhattisgarh Congress office incident. Khera, the AICC's Chhattisgarh communication and media coordinator, tweeted her resignation letter to Mallikarjun Kharge on her 'X' handle. "Every Hindu reveres Lord Shri Ram's birthplace. Every Hindu considers his life successful after viewing Ram Lalla, yet some disagree.

The party to which I've dedicated over 22 years, working honestly from NSUI to AICC's media department "said. "I visited Ram Lalla in Ayodhya and received tremendous criticism today. The criticism of this wonderful act was so severe that I was denied justice in the Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress office "Khera stated. Khera resigned from her party position and primary membership.

### Raaj Kumar has joined the BSP to run for the New Delhi seat in the LS polls

**Delhi:** Raaj Kumar Anand, a former minister for Delhi, joined the BSP and declared he would run for the Lok Sabha from the New Delhi seat. Last month, Anand left the ruling AAP and resigned from the Delhi cabinet, citing a lack of Dalit representation within the group. "My respects go out to Baba Saheb Ambedkar. Anand declared, "I feel like I've returned to my party," during a press conference following his BSP membership.