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Tried to 'save' those ...': PM rakes up Godhra train arson to accuse opposition of appeasement

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday brought up the 2002 Godhra train arson incident and accused RJD president Lalu Prasad of attempting to protect those responsible for the death of over 60 kar sevaks during the tenure of UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi. While addressing a rally at Darbhanga in Bihar, PM Modi attributed this to the opposition parties' practice of "appeasement politics". "It is because of this appeasement politics that the father of Bihar's 'shehzada' (allusion to Tejashwi Yadav) had tried to save those who were responsible for the Godhra train burning incident", said Modi, adding "after all, it was the rule of Sonia madam", referring to the UPA chairperson who was also the president of the ruling Congress. Modi further alleged that Lalu Prasad, who was the Railway minister at the time and has



since been convicted in fodder scam cases, set up an inquiry committee that produced a report exonerating the perpetrators of the crime. "He (Lalu Prasad), who has himself been convicted (in fodder scam cases), was then the Railway minister. He set up an inquiry committee and got a report made which exonerated those guilty of the horrendous crime. But the court threw the report away", PM Modi said. The Prime Minister also claimed that the opposition parties, collectively known as the INDIA bloc, are attempting to divert

reservations meant for SCs, STs, and tribals to Muslims. "The INDIA bloc is trying to divert reservations to Muslims. They are going against the views of Babasaheb Ambedkar and first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, neither of whom was in favour of reservations on religious lines", PM Modi claimed. PM Modi criticized Tejashwi Yadav for bringing up the "Hindu Muslim narrative" when discussing the Agnipath scheme, stating, "when we talk about the martyrdom of Captain Hameed, do we think of him as a Muslim?" He also

My tears show my empathy, not weakness: PM

NEW DELHI: PM Narendra Modi on Saturday fired back at Rahul Gandhi over his speech where the Congress leader gleefully suggested that the PM was distraught over the trends of polling so far and could even break down. Addressing a rally at Palamu in Jharkhand, Modi said that if he turns emotional it is only because he, having been born into poverty, empathises with the underprivileged and has an insight into what they go through. "My eyes well up with tears of joy when I meet the beneficiaries of welfare schemes. This can be understood only by those who have experienced poverty, those who have led a life of hardships. Can make no sense to those who have not seen their mothers coughing.

PM Modi a 'shahanshah': Priyanka Gandhi responds to 'shehzada' jibe for Rahul

NEW DELHI: Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra launched a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, labeling him 'Shahanshah' (king of kings) during a public rally held in Lakhani, Gujarat's Banaskantha Lok Sabha constituency. Her remarks came in response to PM Modi's recent jibe at her brother Rahul Gandhi, where he referred to him as 'shehzada' (prince). Addressing a public rally at Lakhani in Gujarat's Banaskantha Lok Sabha constituency to canvass for her party candidate Geniben Thakor, she also accused PM Modi of using the people of Gujarat for power and then forgetting them. "He calls my brother 'shehzada'. I would like to tell him that this shehzada walked for 4,000 kilometres from Kanyakumari to Kashmir to listen to your (people's) problems, met my brothers and sisters, farmers and labourers and asked how we can resolve their problems," she said. Addressing a



rally in Gujarat on Thursday, PM Modi had targeted Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, saying Pakistan was eager to make the 'shehzada' of the grand old party India's next PM as the country's enemies want a weak government at the helm. "On the other hand is your 'shahanshah', Narendra Modiji. He lives in a palace. Have you ever seen him on TV? Clean clothes with not a single speck of dust, not a single stray hair strand. How will he ever understand your hard work, your farming? How will he understand your problems, that you are overbur-

dened with inflation?" she said. In her speech, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also criticized PM Modi's governance, alleging that his policies have weakened the rights of the public, citing attempts to amend the Constitution and privatize government sectors. "When they say they want to change the Constitution, it means they want to reduce and weaken all the rights given to you in the Constitution. If you understand politics today, the biggest thing that Modi has done in the last 10 years is to weaken the rights of the public," she said. She questioned PM

Modi's decision to contest the Lok Sabha elections from Varanasi instead of Gujarat, attributing it to his detachment from the people of Gujarat, whom she claimed he had utilized for gaining power but subsequently forgotten. "Modi is surrounded by power and no longer recognises you. Why is he not contesting elections from here if he is not cut off from the people of Gujarat," she asked. She said Modi was contesting from Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh and not Gujarat because he is cut off from the people of Gujarat. "He used you, earned power, name and respect with your support and went on to become the prime minister only to forget you and cut himself off from you," she said. Gandhi also attacked Modi over his statement that Pakistan wanted to make Rahul Gandhi the next PM of India and use X-ray machines to steal 'mangalsutra' and gold belonging to the public when voted to power.

Jaishankar on Nijjar plot: Canada blames us, but shows no evidence

NEW DELHI: Foreign minister S Jaishankar said on Saturday that Canada never provides any evidence but blames India for crimes committed there, while a Canadian govt report — "Public Inquiry into Foreign Interference in Federal Electoral Processes and Democratic Institutions" — claimed Indian officials and proxies engage in a range of activities to influence Canadian communities and politicians, and that "India directed foreign interference activities" during the 2019 and 2021 general elections in Canada. Jaishankar's remarks come after Canadian police said they were looking at possible Indian links following the arrests of three Indian nationals for the killing of pro-Khalistan separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, designated a terrorist by India. Canada has "allowed organised crime, specifically from Punjab, to operate from there", the foreign minister said at a press conference in Bhubaneswar. "I just saw before coming in that three people have been arrested. They apparently are Indians with some kind of a gang background. We will wait for the police to tell us more. But normally, if you don't have a political agenda, if I say I suspect you, I will produce the proof," he said at a press conference. "We have never been given anything by Canada which involves the govt of India. In fact, we have repeatedly told you (the Canadian govt), if you have something, please give it to us," Jaishankar added. The Canadian report by commissioner Marie-Josée Hogue refers to Indian officials, including Canada-based proxies, engaging to influence Canadian communities and politicians.

1 IAF man dead, 4 wounded in Poonch attack

JAMMU: An IAF personnel died and four others were wounded Saturday evening following a gunfight that ensued when terrorists ambushed their trucks traversing a mountain road amid dense forest cover in Poonch district of J&K. The five men were evacuated to the nearest military hospital, where one of them died of his wounds. The attack prompted



army and police to launch a coordinated cordon and search in the area. "Military Engineering Services (MES) and IAF vehicles were targeted near a government higher secondary school in Sanai Sattar village of Poonch," an official source said. The convoy was en route to Sanai Top in the district's Surankote area, returning after some technical work on radars deployed in Poonch sector. "The

vehicles have been secured inside the air base in the general area near Shah Sitar," the source said. The attack is believed to be aimed at disrupting the polls in Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat on May 7. Security has been heightened for the elections and forces were conducting search operations in Poonch the past couple of days following inputs.

Unilateral measures won't alter ground reality: Jaishankar on Nepal's new note

Delhi **Contesting** Nepal's decision to introduce a new Rs 100 currency note featuring disputed Indian territories, EAM S Jaishankar said that New Delhi's position is very clear adding that Kathmandu unilaterally took some measures on their side. "I saw that report. I have not looked at it in detail, but I think our position is very clear. With Nepal, we were having discussions about our



boundary matters through an established platform. And then in the middle of that, they unilaterally took some measures on their side. But by doing something on their side,

they are not going to change the situation between us or the reality on the ground," said Jaishankar while interacting with professionals in Bhubaneswar on "Why Bharat Matters."

How Congress finally managed to untangle Amethi, Rae Bareli knot

NEW DELHI: It was not a minor coincidence that the day Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra entered Rae Bareli on Feb 20 was also the day Sonia Gandhi was elected to Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan, marking her transition in Parliament and creating a vacancy that was at the root of the tortuous brainstorming which ended with Rahul's nomination from Rae Bareli on Friday. Rahul's switch from Amethi to Rae Bareli and Kishori Lal Sharma's elevation from a constituency manager to candidate, all at the last moment, marked the culmination of cogitation in Congress that made aligning available options with political



objectives a Herculean task. In the end, Congress managed to land on its feet, as shown by the surge of emotion and support during the nomination in the patch of UP that once was known as the Gandhi family bastion, but has since morphed into a veritable challenge. Videos like all that turned the world upside down for Congress in the run up to Mandate 2024, the defeat in Decpolls in north India rekindled doubts among strategists who were eagerly waiting for wins in MP and Chhattisgarh to cement the party's claim in the twin seats. But within two months, as Rahul's yatra waded into the VIP pocket to a tumultuous welcome, Congress swung back from despair to hope. The assumption was

that Priyanka Gandhi Vadra would replace mother Sonia in Rae Bareli, while Rahul would contest a second seat from Amethi, after Wayanad. Simple as it sounded, it turned out to be a far more complicated task. Though the discussion spanned two months, it is learnt that neither of the siblings were keen to contest. Rahul had scrupled about the prospect of vacating Wayanad, which stood by him when he lost Amethi in 2019, while Priyanka apparently was against the idea of another Gandhi in Parliament, especially in the same. It was here that the Congress brass led by chief Mallikarjun Kharge started nudging the siblings.

5 students killed as SUV falls into gorge

Dehradun/Mussoorie : Five students from two private universities - DIT and IMS Unison - lost their lives while another is battling for life after the SUV they were in careened off the Mussoorie-Dehradun Road, plunging into a 60-metre gorge around dawn Saturday. Among the deceased were Hardiyansh Chandra, Tanuja Rawat, Aman Singh Rana, and Digansh Pratap Bhati. The students had gone to Mussoorie in Rana's car. At Mussoorie, they met up with their senior from college, Ashutosh Tiwari, 24, who was also returning with them to Dehradun and perished in the accident.

PMLA case shifted to another judge as accused cries 'ED bias'

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court has transferred a money-laundering case relating to Bhushan Steel from one judge to another after an accused in the case expressed lack of confidence in the judge as one of the accused claimed to have overheard him saying "ED matters mein kaun si bail hoti hai?" Principal district judge Anju Bajaj Chandna of Rouse Avenue court observed that "fairness and equality are hallmarks of criminal justice system" where judges are obliged to decide cases before them with impartiality, integrity, and by ensuring equality of treatment. In doing so, judges are upholding the rule of law, she said. "It is also one of the basic principles of administration of justice that justice should not

only be done but it should also be seen to be done," judge Chandna noted while agreeing to transfer the matter out of special judge Jagdish Kumar's court. The judge was dealing with an application by PMLA accused Ajay Mittal, who said he was apprehensive & cited the remark allegedly made by Kumar to his staff. Mittal's wife, a co-accused in the case, filed an affidavit that after the day's proceedings got over on April 10, judge Kumar passed the comment while in conversation with staff. The affidavit said that while she was watching the matter, and once the counsels had left, the court staff enquired about something and judge Kumar passed a comment ("Lene do date-in.

Guria village hitting headlines for 'Project Mala'

Prayagraj: Guria village located on GT Road between Varanasi and Allahabad has a story you might want to hear. Although, farming and carpet weaving are the main occupations of the villagers, the little dusty village Guria is hitting headlines for 'Project Mala', a program run for the elimination of child labour from the hand-knotted carpet industry, by providing education, mid-day meals and healthcare facilities for children in this carpet weaving belt. Primary school students are encouraged to be in their classrooms barefoot. They are also not referred to by their

family names. Both measures help them stay free of class, caste, societal, and sartorial pressures when in school.

Villagers here are happy to get an opportunity to educate their children. The school receives 500 applications for every 10 seats; however, the number of boy applicants exceeds girls. A couple of years ago, it was decided to open a nursery school for younger children. Once the notice went out, 300 boys lined up outside the school for admission and not a single girl child. The school then decided to make the class only for girls. Bi-

cycles are provided to students Standard VIII onwards to stem the dropout rate. The school has also created a girls' hostel. Slowly, some families are coming around. However, the battle to keep girls in school is as hard as ever. Parents want to get them married post middle school. Also, once girls reach puberty, parents are reluctant to send them fearing their safety, especially if they are from surrounding villages and have to walk quite a bit.

Rani (name changed) was 8-years-old when her father, a local weaver, allowed her to pursue her

education. 8 years later, she cleared her class 10th Exam, only to have her dreams of being a journalist crushed! She was pulled out of school so that she could get married. In anger and disappointment, she eloped, but was brought back and forcibly married to a young man in the village, who is illiterate. She is almost 19 now with little hope of ever making it on her own. A beginning, a dream, an ambition... a step towards the future with minor spelling hiccups.

The school generates earnings for local carpenters who make and maintain the school furniture. They

mostly work in one part of the schoolyard. Local tailors are also hired to make school uniforms. They have a small workspace within the school.

The erratic electricity supply discourages none. Everyone turns up as per schedule. Local teachers are hired as staff and then trained under Project Mala volunteers to hone their teaching skills and to be sensitive to the children's development needs. It is heartening to see how aware both boys and girls here are. Most of the girls want to become teachers and doctors, while the boys, engi-

neers. Very recently, another bright student, when she passed out of school, her parents wanted her to get married. She came to the school for help, and the teachers intervened. Today, she is pursuing a degree in the Sciences stream in Allahabad.

Despite the odds, it is worth a mention that even the remotest of villages in the Allahabad district is undergoing a wave of change. From extreme poverty to opportunities like this, most children now have aspirations of a career so that they are self-reliant and can look after their families.

Rise in mercury raises heat stroke scare

PRAYAGRAJ: At a time when the mercury is hovering above 43 degree Celsius mark, the chances of heat stroke have gone up manifold. A person can fall severely ill in such extreme weather conditions. It is therefore, necessary to take extra care during summer season to avoid falling prey to heat stroke. Experts say that the people who travel in sun mainly due to office work are likelihood of falling ill. Thus, they should take extra care of themselves. The water intake in such a weather should increase and one should drink

at least 10-12 glasses of water each day. Apart from heat stroke, skin related ailments like skin burn, rashes etc also take place during the time when the mercury is staying above 43 degrees mark.

People should wear dresses that cover their body parts including hands, neck and face to avoid sun burn or skin related ailments. Heat stroke, also known as heat hyperpyrexia, occurs due to overheating of the body during summers. This may also occur in people who are not habitual to hot humid

environment or hot sunny season.

According to experts, certain people, who lack sweat glands, are more prone to heat stroke. While, unsuitable clothing and poor eating and living conditions always increase the risk. People who are exposed to sun for longer period and lack sweating, may develop body temperature as high as 105 degree Fahrenheit, which is also known as summer-fever. Due to abnormal rise of body temperature, the central nervous system and brain may get commonly. The people

can faint even. Thus, there is a dire need in such a season to drink lots of water.

The recent records of the Outpatient Department (OPD) of the district hospitals show that there is a sudden spurt in the number of patients coming for treatment of heat-related diseases, including heat stroke. According to the doctors, around 30% increase in patients with heat related diseases has been reported in the past one week when mercury had crossed 40 degree Celsius mark.

The Met department also stated that the hot

winds (loo) have started blowing across the city which, though are not good for the people, but will add sweetness to the musk melons. The streets wore a deserted look on Thursday afternoon as most of the people preferred to stay indoors.

The people moving on roads had to bear the brunt of hot winds blowing at a speed of 3.2km/hr. Most of the people moving on roads were seen covered their faces to protect themselves from extreme heat. Col drinks and mango 'panna', ice-creams etc sold like hot

cakes on the hot sunny afternoon. The ice cream vendors also had a good time as people preferred eating ice creams to keep them cool. The shops selling ice golas, mango shakes, 'Bael ka sharbat' also witnessed rush of the working executives, medical representatives and others who were out in sun. The extreme weather condition even forced the stray cattle to look out for shades under trees. Meanwhile, in view of hot weather conditions, several people have arranged potable water outlets at various places in the city.

Ayushman gives new life to a young man

Varanasi. It is said that doctors are also gods on earth. The doctors of Highway Inn Hospital have proved this saying true. Senior orthopedic specialist Dr. AK Rai while talking to journalists on Saturday said that Shahid Jamal, 22 years old, resident of Mohalla Bhekhdampura, behind the station, is from Mau. He has been bedridden for the last 12 years because both his hips were jammed, both knees were jammed, both ankles were jammed, Jamal was always bedridden like a wooden stick. Mr. Rai told that Jamal longed to walk, the right knee was not jammed, the rest was jammed from its place to another place. His operation was a tough challenge even for the experts of the world's joints, all this happened after the injury. Mr. Rai told that this happens in a disease called arthritis and



ankylosing spondylosis, but not to this extent. Mr. Rai said that making this patient stand was no less than a Herculean effort, after 6 complex operations one after the other, the patient is able to stand after 12 years. Mr. Rai said that the patient said that 7 lakhs were spent there but he could not pay the amount but the patient could not get treatment due to Covid at that time.

In 2017, he went to BHU before AIIMS, in the meantime he could not get the operation done, the patient kept on taking medicines and remained on bed, the condition worsened day by day. Whereas the patient needed a complex operation. AK Rai said that the patient met us in PGI Azamgarh but this facility is not available in PGI Azamgarh and there is no arrangement to see the patient after treatment and operation and he needs a single room which is not available in Ayushman Bharat. Therefore, he got admitted in Highway Hospital, Amra, Chauraha, Chitaiapur, Chunar, Road, there is provision of Ayushman there. Mr. Rai said that on 27 April, the patient stood and walked 10 years after the operation, although he had suffered the injury 6 years ago. The patient was admitted under Ayushman Bharat on 20 February 2024. Mr. Rai said that the first operation of total hip replacement was done on 4 March 24, the second operation on 13 March, the third operation of total knee operation on 23 March, the fourth total knee operation on 6 April 24 and the fifth - B/L Ankle on 24 April.

Dy CM Brijesh Pathak welcomed at Varanasi Airport

Varanasi: Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Brijesh Pathak reached Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport in Babatpur on Saturday on his election tour. State government minister Dr. Dayashankar Mishra 'Dayalu', BJP leaders Shailesh Pandey, Pawan Singh, former MLA Ravindra Nath Tripathi etc. received the Deputy Chief Minister at the airport. The Deputy Chief Minister talked to the Minister of State and BJP leaders for some time. After this he left by road to attend the meeting organized in Bhadohi.

Librarian posts vacant in govt colleges for over a decade

Prayagraj: At a time when the state government is taking initiatives to improve the quality of teaching in higher education institutions, over 300 librarian positions have been lying vacant in government and government-aided degree and postgraduate colleges for over a decade.

In the absence of regular librarians, the duties are performed by either teachers or clerks. The hardest impacted are the state's 321 government-aided degree colleges, where over 200 librarian positions are currently vacant. Previously, managers of the colleges concerned used to select librarians at their level.

"According to the Supreme Court rulings, librarians have been provided the pay scale set by the

UGC from January 1, 1986, and college administrations are not permitted to make appointments to jobs receiving UGC pay scales. As a result, on May 13, 2009, the state government prohibited the appointments of librarians at the level of managers at these colleges," informed the principal of a government-aided degree college.

Following that, the duty for appointing librarians at government-aided degree colleges was delegated to the Prayagraj-based Uttar Pradesh Higher Education Services Commission (UPHESC) at a state cabinet meeting in November 2012.

"However, the Directorate of Higher Education has not requested requisition of empty librarian positions

from institutions since then, nor has the recruitment process kicked off," the principal claimed. Even state higher education department officials admit that, in addition to the 200 or so librarian positions that are empty at government-run degree schools, more than 100 librarian positions are vacant in 170 government degree colleges located around the state.

"At the moment, librarians work in just 36 of the 170 government-run degree colleges in Uttar Pradesh. Even librarian positions have not been created in almost two dozen colleges, and more than 110 colleges do not have regular librarians. The appointments in these cases would be made through the Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission

(UPPSC). However, after 2005 and 2008, the commission did not issue any advertising for the recruitment of librarians in these institutions," the authorities explained.

Secretary of UPHESC, stated that the recruitment process could not begin due to non-receipt of requisition regarding vacant posts of librarians from the UP Directorate of Higher Education.

Suresh Kumar Tripathi, former MLC stated, "On the one hand, we have competent librarians looking for jobs in UP, while on the other hand, we have institutions starving for librarians to run their libraries professionally. I request the state administration to quickly hire librarians to fill all vacant positions."

COLORS rib-tickling show 'Laughter Chefs Unlimited Entertainment'

Varanasi: A platter full of laughter garnished with cooking mishaps will be served to the audience, leaving them craving for more! COLORS announces its latest show, 'Laughter Chefs Unlimited Entertainment'. Guaranteeing

full-on entertainment, this new show reunites your favourite TV actors, who will spill the beans about their lives, serving their hilarious chemistry, antics, and quirks to viewers at dinner time. More than just a culinary journey of recipes, the offering is an entertainment feast for the family, where 13 popular stars will cook up the best stories, even if they may not be the best chefs. From kitchen newbies to cooking enthusiasts, these celebrities will lay out the unique flavours, stirring up the laughter. Leading the charge as the host is none other than the

queen of comedy herself, Bharti Singh. With her sharp wit and sense of humour, she'll ensure that the laughter never simmers, keeping the audience in stitches from start to finish. Joining the star-studded ensemble is Celebrity Chef

Coach - Harpal Singh Sokhi, who will lend his expertise through the kitchen chaos. This eccentric kitchen will be graced by fan-favourite celebrities such as Krushna Abhishek - Kashmera Shah, Vicky Jain - Ankita Lokhande, Rahul Vaidya - Aly Goni, Reem Sameer Shaikh - Jannat Zubair, Karan Kundrra - Arjun Bijlani, and Sudesh Lehri - Nia Sharma.

Brace yourselves as entertainment mein ubaal aane waala hai, TV par bawala aane waala hai. 'Laughter Chefs Unlimited Entertainment' will air soon on COLORS!



Fungal, bacterial skin allergy cases up

Prayagraj: With summer season at its peak, skin allergies including photo-dermatitis and fungal infections have started troubling city residents. Dermatologists in city hospitals say while there has been a jump of 10-15 times in photo-dermatitis cases, the number of fungal infection cases too has increased by about 10 times in the hospitals. Experts say whereas photo-dermatitis is caused due to prolonged exposure to ultra-violet rays of the sun, fungal allergies are caused by sweating in the hot weather.

"Since summer has already begun, there has been an increase in the number of patients seeking consultation for skin allergies at our clinic. Nearly, half a dozen patients come to our clinic on a daily basis, out of which several cases are that of photo-dermatitis (the number on routine days in other seasons is usually one or two only), whereas the number of fungal infection cases has risen to 10-12 a day against 0-2 cases on routine days in other seasons. In the case of fungal allergy, there is an itchy disorder due to sweat. It mostly is witnessed in the foot, groins and arms area, whereas photo-dermatitis is because of exposure of the face and outer area of forearms to direct sunlight. In this infection, the affected area becomes reddish and later turns white," says skin specialist Dr. Naveen Kumar Yadav.

Other doctors echoed his views and claimed that though skin infections are prevalent in all age groups, it is more common in the extreme age groups, like children and the elderly, while skin allergies have mostly been reported in the young and middle-age groups. The extreme age group people cannot bear the allergies, so they are less prone to it, but as their immunity is less, they are easy prey to infections. The young and middle-age groups are more prone to allergic reactions because of increased exposure to sunlight.

Thrilling traffic park kicks off

Prayagraj: The traffic park of Sangam city has become high tech. Your own traffic park has also changed with time. It is said that if you do not change with time, then the times change you. Similarly, the traffic park also



changes with the times. Prayagraj Development Authority has transformed the Traffic Park to thrill the citizens with exciting games. Many types of exciting games are being played in this park along with Formula One race. The new avatar of this park is being liked by the people.

Night patrolling fails to instill fear among miscreants

Prayagraj: The active night patrolling by the police has failed to instill fear among the thieves who are now striking at will in the City. The police claims to be active in the streets during the night but without any positive results. Within the last few months the thieves had played havoc in the City especially in Dhoomanganj, Kotwali and Kareli areas but the police had not succeeded in tracing the thieves.

The continuous and regular thefts in the City, suggests that the thieves are now operating in a more organized manner. Earlier, the theft incidents used to take place once in a while but now the thefts are the order of the day. The thieves are now well equipped with modern tools and equipment and can break any security lock. The burglars are now also smart enough to cut the wires of CCTV cameras before they enter the shops or the houses. The thieves conduct reconnaissance of their targeted house and dig out information about the family routine before they carry out the theft. The involvement of old domestic helps of the families has also been found out in the thefts in some of the worked out cases which reveals that the thieves are now more organized and professional. They not only use modern tools of burglary but also derive information about the house.

The thieves are now also using big vehicles to carry their booty. The police teams patrol on the main roads but do not bother to enter the narrow streets and lanes which provide the burglars a golden chance to carry on their task without being noticed. Moreover, the police pick up the old thieves of their area in a bid to work out the thefts but leave the drug addicts, gamblers and other bad characters who may be involve in thefts in some or the other ways.

Nominated for Academic Council of Dr. Devesh Sagar University's ODL

Prayagraj: Dr. Devesh Ranjan Tripathi, Associate Professor working in the Department of Management Studies of Uttar Pradesh Rajarshi Tandon Open University, Prayagraj, was nominated as a member of the Academic Council constituted for the systematic operation of the Institute of Distance Education of Dr. Hari Singh Gaur Central Univer-

sity, Sagar. Has gone. On the approval of the President, Dr. Tripathi has been nominated by Professor Neelima Gupta, Vice Chancellor of the Central University. His tenure will be for 3 years. Dr. Anil Singh Bhadauria, co-in-charge of Distance Education Awareness Cell, expressed happiness over his achievement and said that this will further increase the popularity of



distance education. Dr. Tripathi has been working in the field of distance educa-

tion for almost 20 years. His 47 research papers have been published in national and international research papers and magazines. He has participated in 56 national and international symposia and seminars.

He has written five books related to management subjects. He has written textbooks on more than 50 subjects for commerce and man-

agement students studying in distance education, which have been published by the Open University. Under the direction of Dr. Tripathi, many students are doing research on important subjects. Along with this, Dr. Tripathi is also a member of various regulatory committees of Indra Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi, Kanpur University, Agra University, Sagar University and Rajarshi Tandon Open University. It is noteworthy that Devesh Ranjan is the son of late Kaushal Kishore Tripathi, a renowned educationist of Prayagraj and former principal of Colonelganj Inter College. Dr. Devesh said that he will always be ready for the development of distance education.

Rally taken out under voter awareness campaign

Prayagraj: With the aim of increasing voter participation in Lok Sabha elections-2024, to spread awareness messages related to ethical voting and elections to the people, Bethany Convent School Naini Prayagraj was organized under the SVEEP program.

The main objective of the voter awareness campaign organized at Bethany Convent School was to make the youth there aware and to provide them with information related to the importance of voting, election system, Voter Helpline App, 1950, Suvidha App, C-



Vigil App and other information related to elections.

Along with this, efforts are also being made to make their parents aware through young voters. During this, competitions like voter pledge oath, painting competition, quiz competition, street play, poster making etc. were organized in the voter awareness program.

All the students participated enthusiastically and ensured their positive participation in the great festival of democracy. The chief guest of the program was Chief Development Officer

Shri Gaurav Kumar, he talked to the students and informed them about the importance of vote and election in democratic India and also administered the oath.

The program was presided over by District School Inspector Mr. P N Singh. Principal Sister Doctor Shamita expressed her gratitude. The program was conducted by Prabhakar Tripathi. Assistant DIOS LB Maurya and Dharmendra Singh, teachers Mohammad Sabir, Deepak Kumar, Preeti Mishra, Nazia Khan, Brijesh Srivastava, Hasbin Ahmed were present in the program.

Seminar held on moral values and principles of education

Prayagraj: A seminar on moral values and principles of education was organized in St. Joseph's College on Saturday. This event was organized by The event was organized under the able leadership of NB. Lawrence Chairman of the Commerce Department. with thunderous applause in the college's much-loved HOGAN Hall with the chief guest being Kevin Tressler, an alumnus of the college and a multi-talented personality who is known for his work on ITW Playworks Media and Entertainment. He was also the advisor of the Kitmake and



Inare company, he had done post graduation from Delhi University. He was welcomed by the college principal Thomas Kumar by presenting him a bunch of flowers. S. Simon of Commerce Department, Dr. Vishnu Deb were present in the welcome. The seminar was conducted by the students of class 12th. Joshua Benjamin did it, student leader Moses read the Bible and prayed for the welfare of the world, after that the chief guest in his energetic speech said that it is necessary to set goals for education, use your previous experience and self-confidence to achieve the biggest goal. According to him, teaching should be based on ethics, teaching policy should be dignified and discipline should have utmost importance in teaching policy. Apart from the Principal of the college, Administrator A Magavan, Chief Coordinator Jyoti Dubey and senior teachers of the college should be present in the program.

Growing clamour for green space with residences

Prayagraj: The growing clamour for green space within their residences is rapidly catching up among residents. The idea for developing green space within the house is to seek comfort and relief from scorching summer heat which makes life deplorable for citizens during power cuts. However, people adopting gardening as a hobby during summer season need to learn some basic rules, which will go a long way in keeping their green space alive.

"Over watering the plants or the lawn during summer is the most common mistake that people commit, as far as longevity of the plants is concerned. Each plant has different needs; one should water plants sensibly and in the evenings, so that it keeps the plants moist overnight. Classifying the plants is one of the elementary factors, if the plants are arranged according to the amount of sunlight they need, things can be lot easier for the caretaker of the garden" said Kailash Sharma.

Indoor plants, half shade plants and full shade plants are the three major classifications for household plantation. Half shade and full shade are two types of plants which need sunlight for their survival, although the difference between them is that half shade plants need only a definite amount of shade, and full shade may need an enclosure where only nominal amount of sunlight enters. "One should keep full shade plants inside a net shade in summer and should move half shade plants to the shaded parts of the garden, as summer heat may pose danger to them and over exposure to the sun may even destroy them. Organic manure is also the key to keep moisture stored for a long time," he explained.

Another nursery owner said "Watering should be done only when the sun's heat is not at its peak, that is before 9 am, or when it is fading that would be after 5 pm. One should completely avoid cutting plants or shaping them during the summer. As far as lawn cutting is concerned it should be done in the evening and the lawns should be watered immediately after it's mowed." He further added "chemical fertilizers are a complete no-no during summers and only old animal manure should be used during this season. Also, one should clean the lawn thoroughly after it's mowed, as the leftovers of the lawn may kill the living grass."

Salaried class beware: First week of every month lucrative for looters

PRAYAGRAJ: There is no doubt that the first week of the month has a big attraction for highway robbers on bikes. This is the time when people collect arrears or go to banks to get their pension money or withdraw money for monthly expenses. Employers also go to banks to withdraw salary funds for their staff. In short, bank transactions of the recurring nature are at their peak in the first week of every month. That could explain why roadside snatchings are so common round this time of the month. It would seem that the robbers keep an eye on who all are visiting a bank. They have an intricate grass root network of informers, who provides tip off, when a man moves out of the bank, with the presumption that he has withdrawn money. On mobile phones the crooks can inform each other about it and plan their move.

Several cases have occurred in the first week of last month when women reporting cases where a man zoomed past on a motorbike, hit them and snatched their purses, an officer said. He called it a "terrorising" crime for women. That sense of panic has been quelled to some extent, with habitual offenders wary of an arrest owing to the spate of arrests. However, a desperate citizen called up on phone and said: 'If all road crimes are being committed by criminals on bike, and if cops cannot catch them, should they not be put off the roads at least during the first week of every month?' He says, 'Can't the Government put a limit on the speed of the bikes at the manufacturing stage itself, fixing the limit at 40kmh?'

Kavita Tripathi's public relations in City South

Prayagraj: Kavita Tripathi did public relations in the city South in Chowk area of Prayagraj. BJP media in-charge Gopal Ji Malviya told that under the leadership of Mahila Morcha city president Shikha Rastogi and General Secretary Rita Singh and Mahila Morcha Mandal President,



52nd Lok Sabha Allahabad, wife of BJP candidate Mr. Neeraj Tripathi, Mahila Morcha State Minister Mrs. Kavita Tripathi and daughter. Public relations of Shivangi Tripathi ji appealed to vote for Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji in all the areas from Kotwali to Rani Mandi, Khushhal Parvat Gujarati Mohalla and Atarsuya and also requested to make Lok Sabha candidate Neeraj Tripathi victorious with huge votes. In the Jan Sampark Yatra, all the sisters of Mahila Morcha, Chowk Mandal President and former Mandal President Dinesh Vishwakarma ji, Councilor Sunita Chopra ji along with all the godlike workers were present. Everyone appealed loudly and enthusiastically to the people to vote for Modi ji. Preeti Sahay Chhaya Shukla Mona Bhatnagar Hemlata Verma Shashi Seth Sangeeta Kesari Kiran Kesari Meena Kesarwani Manju Gautam Mahila Morcha workers were present in large numbers.

Amarnath Maurya filed nomination from Phulpur

Prayagraj: Amarnath Maurya, candidate of India Alliance from Phulpur parliamentary constituency, filed his nomination from Phulpur parliamentary constituency at 2.45 pm on Saturday. Maurya proponent reached the Collectorate along with Soraon MLA Geeta Pasi and Phulpur Assembly candidate Mujatba Siddiqui and other leaders and filed nominations in two sets. Before this, he left his residence in Pritam Nagar in a safari vehicle with huge supporters. People welcomed him everywhere. During this, he garlanded the statues of Ambedkar at



High Court intersection and Lohia at Civil Lines intersection and other great men. After the nomination, he reached the Georgetown SP office and said among the workers that this election is to save democracy and the Constitution. Former MLAs Anugrah Narayan Singh, Sai Iftikhar, Lallan Rai, Pradeep Anshuman, Kishore Varshney, Suresh Yadav, Ansar Ahmed, Fuzail Hashmi, Harikesh Tripathi, Dan Bahadur Madhur, Shivmurthy Yadav, Manoj Pandey, Parvez Siddiqui, Doodh Nath Patel etc. were present.

Why 2024 Is a Repeat of 2004, explains Shekhar Bahuguna

Prayagraj: Bahuguna scion, Shekhar Bahuguna accompanied India alliance candidate Amarnath Maurya during filing of nomination on Saturday. After the nomination process, Congress leader Shekhar Bahuguna briefly interacted with mediaperson and while retorting to a query predicted - 2024 Is a Repeat of 2004. He explained his assertions in 10 points, which are as follows.

1) The voter is fed up of lies, spin-doctoring and subpar propaganda. They trust no one. But after ten years in power, the trust-deficit with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is highest.

2) There is a huge fatigue factor with Narendra Modi; the standard accusations of dynasty, appeasement and corruption tag are not working at all, as people see the same in the BJP and probably worse. Strange as it may sound, he is both the BJP's asset and a liability.

3) The anti-Muslim/minorities polarisation of Modi is not working and has further damaged his credibility. The crude, vulgar and cheap potshots have angered the sensibilities of the common Indian or at least left them extremely dismayed.

4) Modi/BJP thought that the 2024 election was done and dusted after the consecration ceremony of the Ram Temple. But barring a few pockets in north-

ern India, the feel-good factor is having negligible impact as an electoral factor. India has moved on to bread-and-butter issues - the BJP's Achilles heel - unemployment and inflation etc.

5) The arrogance of power led to Modi announcing a sure-shot victory of 370 seats; this has led to a counterwave in support of the underdog,



the Congress/INDIA alliance. The voters don't like to be taken for granted, especially when the incumbent has actually underdelivered, and the alternative, despite its problems, seems more sincere.

6) Modi made a strategic blunder in throttling the Congress's bank accounts, arresting Arvind Kejriwal and threatening the opposition. That has since become the national narrative of the 2024 elections; fear and hate is being seen as Modi's legacy, two very powerful human emotions.

What started out as a funny description has now become the BJP's political brand: It is a washing machine. Every Indian knows and castigates the politics of vendetta. The ED/CBI/Income Tax trimurti abuse is the albatross around the BJP's neck. The electoral bonds scam drove a huge nail in the coffin.

7) The Congress manifesto has become the talk-

under the skin of Modi and the BJP. For long maligned and vilified through a misinformation/disinformation campaign by the BJP IT cell, his two successful Bharat Jodo/Nyay Yatras have transformed his image and confidence. Modi may still sound bombastic on a teleprompter but he comes across as a petty theatrical performer; Rahul, no matter what his critics say, is refreshingly authentic. People like him, they trust him. In 2014, every time the Congress attacked Modi, the latter gained. Now the more the BJP mocks him, the higher goes Rahul's graph. It is a dramatic reversal.

9) Have you noticed how little the BJP talks of the first-time voters? Because Gen Z is more tuned to political realities; they are deeper into issues like governance, inclusiveness, climate change, mental health, social media regulation, jobs etc. The youth are not getting conned by the TV hype or WhatsApp University forwards. The millennials have borne the brunt of many economic crises, political upheavals, globalisation backlash, fake news and authoritarian leaders, and allowed themselves to be seduced by the PR and publicity. They misconstrued leadership to be tough and hard even at the cost of freedom of expression. Gen Z has challenged that. And that will have a huge bearing in this election.

8) Rahul Gandhi has got

Two accused shot and arrested post-encounter Charged with kidnapping and killing of farmer

Prayagraj: Three accused of murder of farmer Lalmani Patel (32), who was kidnapped from a wedding ceremony in Tharwai, were arrested after an encounter on Friday late night. Two of them, Ajay Patel and Dilip Patel, were injured in the gun battle with the cops and have been

admitted to SRN Hospital.

Apart from the Etios car used in the incident, two pistols and cartridges have also been recovered from their possession. The police were busy interrogating the third accused arrested till late at night. DCP Ganganagar

Abhishek Bharti said that the police were engaged in checking near Malak culvert in Tharvai on Friday night when some people were seen coming in a car. When signalled to stop, they increased the speed of the car and started firing. When the police team intercepted the car and stopped it,

three youth in it got down and started running away. They also fired at the police team. In retaliatory firing, two miscreants were shot in the legs and fell on the ground. The accused during interrogation revealed his name as Vikas Pasi, resident of Ismailganj Tikri.

CDO kicks off voter awareness campaign with active participation of students

Prayagraj: With the objective of increasing voter participation in the Lok Sabha Elections-2024, spreading the message of ethical voting and election related awareness to the masses, a sweep program was organized at Bethany Convent School, Naini Prayagraj. Organized at Bethany Convent School The main objective of the voter awareness campaign was to make the youth there aware and to provide them information about the importance of voting, electoral system, Voter Help

Line App, 1950, Suvidha App, C-Vigil App and other election related information. Efforts have to be made to make their parents aware through this medium also. During this voter awareness programme, voter pledge, painting competition, quiz competition, street play, posters making etc. competitions were organised. All the students participated enthusiastically and ensured their positive participation in the great festival of democracy. The chief guest was Chief Development



Officer Gaurav Kumar. He spoke to the students and informed them about the importance of voting and elections in democratic India and also administered the oath. The program was presided over by District School Inspector P N Singh. Principal Sister Dr. Shamita expressed vote of thanks. Assistant DIOS LB Maurya and Dharmendra Singh, teachers Mohammad Sabir, Deepak Kumar, Preeti Mishra, Nazia Khan, Brijesh Srivastava, Hasbin Ahmed were present in the program.

Editorial

How Biden's xenophobia, low-growth charges fall flat on India

President George W Bush was famous for his quite often hilarious gaffes, but he has been receiving steady competition from the 81-year-old President Joe Biden. The latest Biden pronouncement may be more by way of a clumsy and ill-informed analogy gone wrong. Luckily for him, his presidential election rival, the almost 78-year-old Donald Trump, makes quite a few bloopers too.

Republican contender, former President Donald Trump, may be tough on Mexican immigrants with his infamous, if not too effective, border fence and wall, but Democrat Joe Biden, the incumbent president, is in harmony with the Democratic Party pro-immigration stance. This even in the face of internal advice that he should tough talk on the same border issue. Of course, hordes of poor and largely illiterate illegal immigrants in 2024 who don't speak English are not as welcome as they were in the 1870s. In the 19th century and before, immigrants, largely from Europe, slaves brought in from Africa, and some immigration from China, helped to populate the vast country. They threw out the British colonists, pushed back the French and Mexicans, subdued the native Red Indians, built the engines of growth, and even fought a civil war amongst themselves. Immigrants, many originally poor and persecuted in their erstwhile home countries, have been a crucial feature of American DNA. This is what Biden meant, but perhaps he should have stopped right there. Immigrants into America are known and lauded for their hard work, ingenuity, and grit, and Biden was addressing a crowd of mostly Asian Americans. More recently, the brilliant IIT educated ones from India, its 'brain drain' and America's gain, have been most useful in building America's preeminence in IT, other technology, and commerce. Scores of Indian-origin CEOs of marquee companies on the Nasdaq and S&P 100 indices have led to the joke that you can't be CEO in America if you aren't Indian. It is a complete makeover of the earlier American image of India as a land of teeming poverty, with tigers, snake charmers, and fakirs thrown in. President Joe Biden, keen to distinguish his candidature from that of Donald Trump, decided to praise immigrants at a campaign reception fundraiser. On the campaign trail for Biden 1.0, he had vowed to enact legislation to make the immigration process more 'humane' in contrast to President Trump's mostly intended, but not implemented, harsh measures. This time, too, Trump is speaking of deportations.

However, as president, Biden could not make much progress on immigration legislation without bipartisan support because of surges of illegal immigration at the southern border. And calls, certainly from Republicans, but even from Democrats, to seal the border and crack down on asylum seekers. Some went so far as to call for banning asylum altogether. But the consensus is that, at this fundraiser, Biden let his analogies run away with him. Biden said American allies and partners Japan and India are struggling economically 'because they're xenophobic'. He included 'frenemy' China and combatant Russia in the illustration as well. Japan is opening up to a cautious immigration policy as it grapples with its diminishing and ageing population, and its economy has been showing signs of recovery from a 25-year-long recession. It is keen, however, not to import terrorism and other social upheavals into its very well-ordered culture. India is the most populous country in the world, with 65 per cent of its people under the age of 35. It is the fastest-growing major economy in the world, with 6-7 per cent GDP growth per annum, and harbours, willy-nilly, nearly 50 million illegal immigrants, mainly from Bangladesh and Myanmar. These immigrants have not been rounded up and deported in the main.

Global strategic oil storage: China is stockpiling, India must boost reserves

In late 2023, China created a new 31.5 million-barrel strategic oil storage facility at the eastern Chinese port of Dongying. The heavy purchases of Russian crude oil have found their place there. Is it hedging for a future oil price surge or building stocks for a future conflict is being speculated. China currently holds roughly 511 million barrels of Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR), which corresponds to less than 50 days of Chinese petroleum imports.

Petroleum products continue to be strategic assets that are still the drivers of all transportation, significant electricity production, and many industrial processes. Petroleum and gas reserves are nature's blessing to only a few select regions of the world. Most large economies in Europe, China, Japan, and India, among others, are major importers of petroleum products. Global strategic petroleum reserves refer to crude oil inventories (or stockpiles) held by the government of a particular country, as well as private industry, to safeguard the economy and help maintain national security during an energy crisis. Strategic reserves are intended to be used to cover short-term supply disruptions. The Ukraine war once again emphasised the need for logistic supply chain man-



agement and how disruptions can upset any country's strategic and tactical intentions. They also impact the day-to-day lives of the citizens. The disruption of electric power, petrol, and gas in winter 2022 in Europe and Ukraine was severe. American sanctions on Iranian and Russian oil have greatly upset demand and supply dynamics. The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) often operates as a cartel to control production and thus influence prices. There is thus a need for all importing nations to not only broaden the basket of sourcing countries but also to build their own strategic storage capacities.

Global Petroleum Reserves
The world consumes roughly 100 million barrels of crude oil per day. This translates to 36.5 billion barrels per year. The proven global oil reserves currently are nearly

1,650 billion barrels, and that will last nearly 45 years. For the last one decade there has been no addition to known oil reserves. Major countries with percentages of reserves are Venezuela (18.2 per cent), Saudi Arabia (16.2 per cent), Canada (10.4 per cent), Iran (9.5 per cent), Iraq (8.7 per cent), Kuwait (6.1 per cent), UAE (5.9 per cent), Russia (4.8 per cent), Libya (2.9 per cent), United States (2.1 per cent), China (1.5 per cent), India (0.29 per cent), and Pakistan (0.021 per cent), among many others.

Global Strategic Petroleum Reserves

The International Energy Agency (IEA), a group of 31 countries, requires members to hold strategic reserves equal to 90 days of the previous year's net imports, though commercial stockpiles can be included in that total. Only net-exporter members of the IEA are

exempt from this requirement. The forward commercial storage agreements allow oil-exporting countries increased flexibility in commercial storage and allow petroleum to be stored within an oil-importing country. Such reserves remain technically under the control of the oil-exporting country. In 2022, approximately 4.1 billion barrels of oil were held in strategic reserves by IEA member states, of which 1.4 billion were government-controlled and the remainder were held by private industry. The US, China (non-IEA member), and Japan are leading crude oil consumers and maintain the largest SPR. Many other non-IEA countries have started working on their own SPR.

China's Strategic Petroleum Reserves

China has the second largest storage, at 511 million barrels. China's daily consumption is around 12 million barrels of crude. Thus, their SPR is equivalent to between 40 and 50 days of imports. China eventually wants to raise the figure to 90 days of reserve. Russia has been the major supplier to China of late, contributing as much as 2.14 million barrels per day, overtaking Saudi Arabia. Russian oil was substantially discounted due to Western sanctions. Stockpiling partly insulates Beijing from the supply chain and pricing

dynamics. Also, larger stocks will be required for a possible Taiwan Strait conflict that could result in a military blockade or economic or trade sanctions. China has also secured supply chains through pipelines from Russia, the trans-Myanmar oil and gas pipeline, and from central Asia, predominantly Turkmenistan. Simultaneously, China is rapidly shifting to electric vehicles and is not only building lithium stocks for batteries but has also acquired processing facilities and mines, including overseas. Investment bank UBS estimates that China might control a third of all global lithium supplies by 2025. The US SPR is the world's largest, with an authorised maximum capacity of 727 million barrels. The reserves are kept in salt caverns located at different locations along the Texas and Louisiana Gulf Coasts. The US consumed an average of about 20.01 million barrels of petroleum per day. It was a net petroleum exporter of 1.64 million barrels per day in 2023. It thus has the capacity to play around with the SPR. The US government has historically tapped into its SPR following man-made accidents, economic crises, and natural disasters, though it has also sold and loaned crude oil from the SPR to other nations at times.

Rafah offensive and war in Gaza

A girl walks next to a tent sprayed with a message in solidarity with pro-Palestinian university students, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestinians, in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip, May 2, 2024. Image: REUTERS

The war in Gaza is due to complete seven months on May 7, marking the longest war in Gaza since Israel's voluntary vacation of Gaza in 2005. Contrary to expectations, borne more out of Israel's enormous military superiority against Hamas as well as past conflicts in Gaza, the conflict has not ended swiftly. During this time, however, Israeli strikes have flattened Gaza to the ground, making it completely uninhabitable, perhaps for decades. The stench of death and decay overwhelms the thin strip straddling

the Mediterranean Sea, with estimates of over 34,500 deaths, including 13,000 children, and over 77,500 injured and maimed for life. Medical aid, food, and water have been severely restricted, and most international aid agencies, including UNRWA as well as WCK (World Central Kitchen), have been targeted and prevented from delivering lifesaving aid. Despite a UN Security Council resolution of March 25 calling for an immediate ceasefire and the unconditional release of hostages, neither of the warring parties has been able to come to a common understanding.

In the midst of it, there was a period of dangerous escalation when an Israeli strike on April 1 targeted the Iranian Consulate building in Damascus, Syria, resulting in the

deaths of seven members of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), including General Mohammad Reza Zahedi, the senior-most commander in Lebanon and Syria. Outraged by the attack on its 'sovereign territory', Iran retaliated on April 13 with a massive and well-synchronised attack by drones and missiles. While most of the drones were intercepted mid-air, some of the missiles found their mark and struck the Negev desert. Negev is the air base from which Israel launched its F-35 fighters that attacked the Iranian consulate in Damascus. Despite decades of hostility between Israel and Iran, this was the first time that Iran had launched strikes directly on Israel from its territory.

Donald Trump on trial: Justice or witch hunt?

What a sight to behold! Once the world's most powerful person, who strode majestically on the world stage, is now sitting sullenly in a New York court as an accused in a criminal trial. If convicted, he can be imprisoned for up to four years and be debarred from holding a public office for life. Of course, I am referring to former President Trump. So, has the ethos of democracy and the rule of law finally prevailed? Let's hold judgement pending a deeper dive.

But first, the atmospheric and optics. Naturally, the high-octane spectacle has the country riveted and divided. Depending on your political affiliations, you're either enraged or elated to see the spectacle of Trump flitting across the nation from courtroom to courtroom to defend himself in numerous civil and criminal cases, some quite serious. The hardcore Republicans, comprising under 30 per cent of the electorate, fall into the first category and firmly believe that their leader is being subjected to vendetta. Trump accuses the current administration of orchestrating a 'witch hunt' ad nauseum. The Democrats, on the other hand, see it as his comeuppance and are eager to see him behind bars. Meanwhile, the media is having a field day. Cameras are not allowed in American courtrooms, though artists can draw sketches and reporters can cover the courtroom

proceedings. Lurid details of the trial hog the limelight, with substantive parts relegated to the margins, at times. Trump's alleged scowls, naps, jury and witness intimidation, as well as the daily barrage of media statements, complaints, innuendoes, social media posts, and name-calling, provide enough grist for the mill.

Nothing is off-limits for Trump. He has roasted practically every judge, prosecutor, and witness just for doing her/his job and has hitherto been getting away with it. Any other defendant would have been hauled up for contempt of court many times over. But as is his wont, he went a bit too far in the ongoing 'hush-money' criminal trial in New York, presided over by Judge Juan Merchan. The case stems from Trump's alleged dalliance with porn star Stormy Daniels and Playboy model Karen McDougal in 2006, which is not illegal in the US. However, in 2016, in the midst of his presidential race against Hillary Clinton, Daniels threatened to go public with the story, which could have caused irreparable damage to his campaign and presidential prospects. McDougal's counsel, too, sought to have the story published. Trump's associates then embarked upon a so-called 'catch-and-kill' practice to hush up such stories by paying off the women and buying their silence. Daniels received \$130,000 from Michael

Cohen, Trump's former lawyer and confidant, which was reimbursed to him as 'legal fees' by falsifying the business records. McDonald received \$150,000. Meanwhile, the candidate maintained his innocence in public by completely denying the stories, stating that he was being viciously attacked with smears and lies.

The prosecutors see this as a criminal act, especially as it led to tax evasion and suppression of information, preventing the American voter from making an informed judgement. Numerous legal experts are not convinced and opine that the case is weak. The Trump legal team tried hard to delay the trial until after the elections or have it shifted to another city. They have been successful in most of the cases, including three prospective criminal trials involving unlawful possession of classified documents by Trump even after demitting office and an attempted insurrection on January 6, 2021, to overturn the people's mandate. His lawyers took the stand that their client could not get justice in the Manhattan Court in New York, a bastion of the Democratic Party. They further alleged that Judge Merchan's daughter had a business relationship with the Biden administration, and hence there was a conflict of interest. They demanded that the judge must recuse himself.

How frontier highway in Arunachal is India's strategic asset

The 1,700 km-long frontier highway along the McMahon Line connecting the border districts of Tawang, East Kameng, Upper Subansiri, West Siang, Upper Siang, Dibang Valley, Lower Dibang Valley, Anjaw, and Changlang in Arunachal Pradesh adjoining Tibet and Myanmar is a geostrategic milestone. Image: Facebook

The work-in-progress frontier highway in Arunachal Pradesh is a strategic asset for India. This project should have seen the light of day in the immediate aftermath of the Sino-Indian War in 1962. The Chinese intention was crystal clear then and even now. It is and was intended to expand territorially and exercise its hegemony

in the neighbourhood. India went through unwarranted procrastination over a few decades. This procrastination continued, which risked India's Himalayan border space. Decoding the prolonged indecision, S Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs, called it the era of diffidence. He characterises the current strength of India and its proactiveness, global importance, and determination to protect its border space, come what may, as an era of confidence. He gives credit to the diplomatic heft of India over the last ten years and its keenness to protect its interests and the interests of its friends. Inarguably, India is cautious but not afraid.

Protecting its interests is its top priority. Much against the Chinese irritations, India went ahead with its critical project of the frontier highway because it realised the safety of its border space was of great importance. The geostrategic gravity of this highway emanates from the Chinese brinkmanship in the eastern Himalayas. The Chinese geopolitical weight in the region became evident in the 1950s because, during this period, it annexed Tibet by force, which led to a massive migration of Tibetans, including His Holiness Dalai Lama, to India. Following this geopolitical tension, the Sino-Indian War in 1962 unsettled the region. The Chinese territorial

appetite was amplified, and behaved like a regional hegemon. Salami slicing (incremental territorial expansionism), border skirmishes, and cartographic redrafting became its preferred tactics to keep the tension in the region brewing. Beijing's expansionist streak has recently been seen in Doklam, Galwan, Tawang, etc. This was responded to in equal measure. For India, territorial integrity is paramount. This resolve is shown in action under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The 1,700 km-long frontier highway along the McMahon Line connecting the border districts of Tawang, East Kameng, Upper Subansiri.

The vibrant rich festival of Rongali Bihu is all set to illuminate the Pragjyotishpur Society

The vibrant and culturally rich festival of Rongali Bihu is all set to illuminate the Pragjyotishpur Society in Sector 10, Plot 7, Dwarka, on the auspicious day of April 13, 2024. With its roots deeply embedded in Assamese tradition, Rongali Bihu marks the onset of the Assamese New Year and the arrival of spring, symbolizing rejuvenation and prosperity. Preparations for the grand celebrations are in full swing, infusing the air with anticipation and excitement. The residents of Pragjyotishpur Society are bustling with energy as they meticulously plan every aspect of the event, from traditional attire to cultural performances and culinary delights. The vibrant colors of Assamese culture will adorn the society, echoing with the rhythmic beats of dhols and the melodious tunes of Bihu songs. Traditional

PRAGJYOTISHPUR CGHS DWARKA
celebrates
Rongali Bihu
13th April 2024
6:30pm onwards

BIHU DINNER CONTRIBUTION:
Below 5 years – FREE
5 to 10 years – ₹400 per person
Above 10 years – ₹500 per person

We sincerely invite donations of minimum ₹2000 (no complimentary dinner coupons)

PAYMENT MODE:

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Sanjeev Bora Bijoy Boruah Jayanta Kalita Prantik Hazarika
9810502282 7678479349 9810798763 9899984688

dances such as the Bihu dance will captivate the audience, showcasing the rich heritage of Assam. Furthermore, the aroma of delectable Assamese cuisine will tantalize the taste buds of attendees, featuring delicacies like pitha, laru, and various assortments of sweets. Rongali Bihu

celebrations at Pragjyotishpur Society promise to be an immersive experience, uniting residents and guests alike in the spirit of joy, camaraderie, and cultural appreciation. It's a time to cherish traditions, foster community bonds, and welcome the new year with open arms.

ONE DESPERATE THIEF ARRESTED BY THE TEAM OF PP TILAK VIHAR PS TILAK NAGAR

The diligent team of Police Post Tilak Vihar under Police Station Tilak Nagar has done commendable work by arresting active one active snatcher cum autolifter namely Rahul s/o Prem Pal along with the recovery of two stolen/snatched mobile phones, one stolen motor cycle and two stolen scooties. With this, five cases of theft have been solved. INFORMATION, TEAM AND APPREHENSION ON 12.04.2024, a case regarding the theft of a motorcycle was registered at PS Tilak Nagar. A team comprising HC Raj Kumar and HC Dharmveer, under the leadership of SI Naresh, IC PP Tilak Vihar, and under the supervision of SHO Tilak Nagar and ACP/Tilak Nagar, was formed to apprehend the accused person. On 19.04.2024, information was received that a person with a stolen motorcycle would arrive from Kesho Pur Mandi. Upon this information, a trap was laid. At approxi-



mately 9:30 PM, a person arrived on a motorcycle. The informer pointed out and informed that this was the person about whom he had provided information. Immediately, the team swung into action and apprehended the accused person. Upon checking the motorcycle's details, it was found to be stolen in the aforementioned case. During the inquiry, the identity of the accused person was revealed as Rahul, son of Prem Pal, resident of Sikari Batta, Shyam

Nagar, Tilak Nagar, Delhi, aged 24 years. A cursory search of his person revealed two stolen mobile phones. Upon sustained interrogation, two more stolen scooters were recovered based on his information. RECOVERIES: 1. Two Scooties. 2. One motorcycle. 3. Two mobile phones. WORKED-OUT CASES: 1. E - F I R No. 010423/24 u/s 379 IPC PS Tilak Nagar. 2. E - F I R No. 3355/24 dt. 06/02/2024 u/s 379 IPC PS Tilak Nagar. 3. E - F I R No. 19312/2023 dt. 28/06/2023 u/s 379 IPC PS Dabri. 4. E - F I R No. 80033737/2024 u/s 379 IPC PS Mehroli. 5. E - F I R No. 80031962/2024 u/s 379 IPC PS Okhla. ACCUSED PERSON: Accused Rahul s/o Prem Pal R/o Jhuggi No. S-111, Sikari Batta, Shyam Nagar, Tilak Nagar, has studied up to 5th standard. Due to poor economic condition of the family, he came in contact of bad elements and got involved in criminal activities.

CAPSULES

Vishal Mega Mart selects ICICI and Kotak for a massive IPO

Delhi: According to persons acquainted with the situation, Indian grocery chain Vishal Mega Mart Pvt has chosen banks as it moves forward with a planned IPO in Mumbai this year. These individuals, who wished to remain anonymous due to the confidentiality of the discussions, stated that Vishal Mega Mart selected Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd and ICICI Bank Ltd to assist in setting up a share sale as early as the fourth quarter of this year. According to the persons, Partners Group Holding AG and Kedaara Capital, two private equity firms that hold it, would be able to reduce their ownership stakes through the IPO. The people claimed that other banks will probably be brought on board to work on the IPO. According to them, the Gurugram-based business might raise anywhere from \$850 million and \$1 billion through the IPO. Partners Group, Kotak, ICICI, and Vishal Mega Mart did not immediately respond to requests for comment made outside of business hours, while a spokesman for Kedaara declined to comment. In 2018, investment firm TPG Capital sold Vishal Mega Mart to Switzerland-based Partners Group and India-focused private equity firm Kedaara for an undisclosed sum. Food and groceries, fashion and general products, and private labels are all available at Vishal Mega Mart. Because of its potential for expansion, India has become a burgeoning market for deals, especially initial public offerings (IPOs).

Adani Group will buy My Home's TN cement business for 414cr

Delhi: Ambuja Cements, owned by Adani Group, agreed to buy My Home Group's cement grinding mill in Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu. The 1.5-MTPA cement grinding machine was acquired for Rs 413.75 crore. Ambuja Cements told the stock exchange it will use internal accruals to acquire. Ambuja will increase its southern Tamil Nadu and Kerala coastal presence with the acquisition. The Adani Group now has 78.9% of cement capacity after this acquisition. "We are pleased to announce this acquisition, strengthening our regional presence," stated Adani



Group CEO Cement Business Ajay Kapur. "In addition to the infrastructure and geographical advantages, Ambuja Cements will also inherit the existing dealer network and retain current

employees, facilitating a smooth transition and enabling the rapid ramp-up of utilisation." Ambuja Cements will use its coastal position and marine infrastructure and equipment to

Zomato doubles its platform charge to Rs 5 in a year

Delhi: Based on information found on the company app, Zomato has raised its platform fees—a cost charged to consumers as part of food delivery orders—to Rs 5. Zomato did not answer any questions. Businesses are taking advan-

operate efficiently and produce high-quality products. The Tuticorin unit, on 61 acres near the port, has a long-term fly ash supply deal. Ambuja Cements gains southern market access and a dealer and employee.

Apple may hire 5 lakh Indians in 3 years



Delhi:

Government sources expect Apple and its vendors to employ over 5 lakh Indians over the next three years. Apple's distributors and suppliers employ 1.5 lakh Indians. Tata Electronics, which operates two Apple plants, creates the most jobs. "Apple is employing more in India. Its vendors and components suppliers will employ five lakh people in the next three years, conservatively," a senior government officer told PTI. Apple would not comment on the forecast.

Apple wants to increase Indian output by five-fold to USD 40 billion (approximately 3.32 lakh crore) in 4-5 years. Counterpoint Research reported that Apple dominated the India market in revenue for the first time in 2023, while Samsung led in volume sales. The company reported that Apple surpassed

10 million units in shipments and topped revenue in a calendar year for the first time.

According to commercial intelligence platform The Vision, Apple's iPhone shipments from India increased nearly 100% to USD 12.1 billion in 2023-24 from USD 6.27 billion in 2022-23.

Over 10% of Tesla Workers Will Be Fired

Delhi: Tesla announced it would lay off more than 10% of its workforce to cut costs and two top executives left, indicating upheaval. The corporation lost 14,000 jobs amid rising competition and falling sales. At a crucial time for Tesla, Elon Musk's managerial moves and layoffs demonstrate his unpredictability. Musk has not detailed a plan to reverse a loss in car sales, and he appears focused on long-shot endeavors like a self-driving taxi rather than new models that might help Tesla compete with established carmakers and Chinese rivals. "As we prepare the company for the next phase of growth, it is extremely important to look at every aspect of the company for cost reductions and increasing pro-



ductivity," Musk said in an email reviewed by The New York Times.

"There is nothing I hate more, but it must be done," said Drew Baglino, a senior vice president who helped the company grow from startup to electric car leader, quit hours after the email. "I made the difficult decision to move on from Tesla after 18 years yesterday," Mr. Baglino wrote on X. Mr. Baglino is one of

three managers identified as top executives on the company's website besides Musk. "Someone has to take the fall for the sharp deceleration in deliveries growth, near record inventories, and declining margins and it wasn't going to be Elon," he said on X. Tesla also appeared to lose an executive vital to self-driving technology regulatory approval. Former Obama adviser Rohan Patel.

Apple pulls WhatsApp, Threads from China App Store

Delhi: The Chinese government ordered Apple to ban WhatsApp and Threads from its Chinese App Store for "national security" reasons. Apple said the Cyberspace Administration of China, which governs and censors China's severely limited internet and online content, ordered it to remove the two Meta apps. Meta owns Facebook. VPNs allow people to access WhatsApp and other foreign apps and websites even while China's Great Firewall prohibits them. If their iCloud accounts are outside China, Chinese Apple users can download WhatsApp and Threads. China's Communist party tightens internet control by censoring critical social media topics and monitoring



conversations. It advocated regulations to limit kids' online time. It was unclear what the administration's national security worries were. WhatsApp and Threads were removed before a US legislative vote on a bill that would require ByteDance to sell TikTok or be banned from the US market. Lawmakers have pushed to prohibit TikTok or transfer it from Chinese control, citing national security worries about China's impact on the American public and data retention.

HDFC Bank CEO tells investors transformation will bring rewards

Delhi: HDFC Bank CEO Sashidhar Jagdishan has asked investors to be patient during the bank's transition. He compared it to Mumbai's coastline road and promised benefits after the transition. Jagdishan remarked in an investor call after the bank's results that the firm wanted to sustain its deposit franchise. He noted that when faced with unreasonable pricing, like in the fourth quarter, the bank will slow down rather than use pricing to gain market share.

Paytm approved for UPI ID migration



Delhi: The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has permitted Paytm operator One97 Communications (OCL) to begin customer migration to a new PSP the bank controls. SBI, Axis, HDFC, and YES Bank will be Paytm's PSPs. Paytm users will need permission to use a new UPI ID with one of the four banks' UPI handles. Paytm may urge you to change your '@paytm' handle to a UPI handle linked to one of the banks listed (such as yourname@axis). Bank selection is available. This shouldn't affect UPI payments. Paytm will continue to transfer and receive money. This modification lets Paytm offer UPI services. A UPI handle update prompt may appear soon. To ensure uninterrupted UPI payments for customers and merchants, Paytm will transition users from its Paytm Payment Bank to Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, SBI, and YES Bank. Users with @paytm handles will migrate first. Users can continue offering UPI through partner banks with NPCI clearance. The Paytm app will let them make UPI payments from their bank accounts. Create bank-specific VPAs: Paytm now lets users set up VPAs with SBI, Axis, HDFC, and YES Bank. Your new VPA may be yourname@sbi or yourname@axis, depending on the bank.

More than 50% of patients face delay in discharge due to time taken to process mediclaim: Study

GURUGRAM : A new study from healthcare provider Pristyn Care found that 5 out of 10 patients face delays in discharge due to the time taken to process medical insurance claims. To alleviate the hassle experienced by health insurance policyholders, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) is likely to introduce a 100% cashless hospital network that will include both empanelled and non-empanelled hospitals. The study indicates that over 40% of individuals attribute delays in health insurance claims in India to hospital administrative processes, while 25% cite a lack of coordination between hospitals and insurance providers. Complex documentation procedures also significantly contribute to these delays. Furthermore, the survey underscores various challenges encountered by patient families throughout the insurance claims process, with nearly 4 out of 10 respondents reporting difficulties with customer support regarding the claims process. The study also found that 6 out of 10 individuals never initiated the health insurance claim process. Among those who did, 34% expressed dissatisfaction with the paperwork, while 40% faced challenges in receiving timely responses from their insurance providers. Roughly 3 out of 10 patients encountered discrepancies between pre-approved and final claim amounts. Additionally, around 38% of respondents reported that the discharge process took over 8 hours, with hospitals requiring a similar timeframe to process claims. Approximately 4 out of 10 individuals lacked clarity on their policy's terms and

conditions. Furthermore, about 18% expressed dissatisfaction with the communication received from their insurance providers regarding claim statuses.

Commenting on the findings, Dr. Vaibhav Kapoor, Co-founder of Pristyn Care, said, "There is a huge gap between the intended ease of cashless health insurance and the reality experienced by policyholders. Despite 75% of survey respondents having cashless insurance, a significant number still face challenges during the claim process. This creates additional stress for patients and families already dealing with a medical emergency. However, it's encouraging to note that insurance providers have already started digitizing and using tech to make the process quick and smooth.

With the blessings of the public and the hard work of the workers, we will hoist the flag of victory in the elections: Pala Ram

Kaithal: Jananayak Party's Kurukshetra Lok Sabha constituency candidate and famous social worker Pala Ram Saini said that he will represent the constituency in the Delhi Parliament by hoisting the flag of victory in the elections on the strength of the blessings of the public and the hard work of the workers. Will raise the voice of the public. Along with the workers, people of every section are also walking shoulder to shoulder with them and working hard continuously and appealing to the people to vote in their favor. Pala Ram Saini was addressing the people during election campaigning in various villages of the constituency. During this time, people from every section welcomed the JJP candidate at various places



by laying flower garlands and announced their support in the elections. Before this, Pala Ram Saini took blessings by offering prayers in the court of Baba Khatu Shyam in Sista Dham and the committee members honored Pala Ram by giving mementos. Social worker Pala Ram Saini said that Congress and BJP candidates will not be able to stand before the blessings of the public and the hard work of the workers and the public will reject the candidates of both the parties and make them victorious by voting in their favor. He said that he

is getting support from every section of the society in the Lok Sabha elections and in winning the Lok Sabha elections, people of every section including mothers and sisters will also have a big participation. Today, JJP's name is echoing on everyone's lips and during his tenure, former Deputy Chief Minister of Haryana, Dushyant Chautala has done record-breaking development work in the public interest across the state. The public is still getting full benefits of this. The public interest is completely safe in JJP only.

CAPSULES

TDP chief launches Praja Galam yatra, vows to end YSRCP's autocratic rule in the state

TIRUPATI: Former Chief Minister and Telugu Desam chief Nara Chandrababu Naidu launched the "Praja Galam" poll campaign amidst much fanfare at Palamaner in his home district of Chittoor on Wednesday and vowed to end the autocratic rule of the YSRCP in the state in the 2024 polls. Addressing an impressive rally at Palamaner, Naidu denounced the manner in which the YSRCP government neglected the irrigation projects in the water-parched and perennially drought-prone Rayalaseema region of the state. Telugu Desam founder and former Chief Minister NT Rama Rao had a vision to bring Krishna waters to address the drinking and irrigation water needs of the Rayalaseema region. "It was during the Telugu Desam Party regime in the state that various irrigation projects such as the Telugu Ganga, Handri Neeva, Galeru Nagari, etc., were taken up. While 90% of the works of the irrigation projects were completed by the TDP, the YSRCP government couldn't complete the pending 10% of the works in the last five years," Naidu lamented. "During the TDP regime between 2014-2019, about 62 irrigation projects were initiated, and 24 were completed. While the TDP spent Rs. 68,000 crore on irrigation projects across the state, Rs. 12,000 crore was allocated for the completion of irrigation projects in the Rayalaseema region alone. The Jagan Reddy government allocated only Rs. 2,125 crore for irrigation projects in the Rayalaseema region in the last five years, reflecting the government's lack of resolve for the completion of irrigation projects in the state," the TDP chief observed.

KARAM Safety acquires Midas Safety India to strengthen its leadership position (PPE) India

Faridabad: KARAM Safety, a leading global PPE player and fall protection solutions provider, is pleased to announce the successful acquisition of Midas Safety India, a prominent player in the hand protection safety products industry. This strategic move marks a significant milestone in KARAM Group's journey towards expanding its presence and enhancing its product offerings. The acquisition of Midas Safety India strengthens KARAM Group's position



as a market leader in the safety industry, combining KARAM's expertise in fall protection and personal protective equipment (PPE) with Midas Safety India's extensive portfolio of hand protection safety products. This synergy will enable KARAM Group to offer customers a comprehensive range of high-quality safety solutions to meet their evolving needs. The 25-year-old KARAM Group, with a turnover of INR 1000 crore, has acquired the operations of Midas Safety India having a top line of INR 110 crore through a slump deal. Hand protection prod-

ucts are a major revenue contributor to Midas Safety India which was established 16 years ago. Today, KARAM proudly carries out that tradition in delivering premier products under Midas's brands, Ninja®, Techtion®, Valpro® and Frontier®. The acquisition will be a good strategic and financial fit for KARAM Group and will open up significant market opportunities in the fast growing PPE market in India. KARAM Group is growing at a CAGR.

HC junks Cong substitute nominee's plea for Indore fight

INDORE: A division bench of Madhya Pradesh high court on Friday upheld a single-judge bench's order dismissing a plea by Congress' Moti Singh Patel for his candidature to be accepted as the party nominee for Lok Sabha elections after official candidate Akshay Kanti Bam pulled out of the poll race at the last minute. The Indore bench, comprising Justice SA Dharmadhikari and Justice Gajendra Singh, said Patel's application was "bereft of merit and substance". Patel had approached

the division bench after a single-judge bench of Justice Vivek Rusia on April 30 turned down his plea to overturn the rejection of his nomination by district election officer and to be allotted the Congress 'hand' symbol to contest polls. Indore votes in the fourth phase on May 13. Patel's candidature was rejected during scrutiny on April 25. Bam's papers were cleared as the 'approved Congress candidate', but he suddenly pulled out on April 29, the last day for withdrawal of nominations. It left Congress

without a candidate in Indore for the first time ever. Patel's counsel Vibhor Khandelwal contended before the division bench that the returning officer may have been right in rejecting Patel's nomination on April 26 since at that time he was not the approved Congress candidate and his form was not signed by 10 proposers. But in view of the proviso to sub-section (5) of Section 36 of the Act, the returning officer ought to have given a day's time to Patel to get signatures of 10 proposers and examine the nomi-

nation form the next day, he said. Since Bam withdrew his candidature, Patel's form should be scrutinised and accepted so that he can contest the election, Khandelwal contended. Election Commission counsel Mini Ravindran submitted that the writ petition itself is not maintainable, arguing that Supreme Court had earlier held that any interference by high courts entertaining petitions under 226 of the Constitution and issuing directions after commencement of the electoral process.

At 11%, UP tops 2024 list of JEE (Advanced) candidates

NEW DELHI: Eleven per cent of candidates appearing for Joint Entrance Examination-Advanced (JEE-Advanced) 2024 — the gateway to 23 Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) — will be from Uttar Pradesh. An analysis of JEE (Main) qualification data also revealed that of the 2.5 lakh candidates who qualified to take the IIT entrance, more than 54% are from just six states and nearly 73% from 10 states. Moreover, though over 75% of the registered candidates opted to take both (Jan and April) sessions of the JEE (Main), which is also an entrance test for centrally funded technical institutions and others, just around 28% of them managed to improve their results in the second



sitting. JEE (Advanced) is considered one of the toughest competitive exams in India, where aspirants must first qualify among the top 2.5 lakh in the JEE (Main) and then compete for 17,000 odd seats in IITs. Uttar Pradesh (28,300+), Maharashtra (24,500+) and Telangana (24,100+) not only continue to dominate the results, these top three states also account for more than one-third (30.7%) of

the total candidates eligible for JEE (Advanced). There are 11 states which have more than 11,000 eligible candidates, which is close to 79% of the total candidates to have qualified. There are five states with over 21,000 candidates, which include Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan as well. A total of 14.1 lakh candidates registered for JEE (Main) this year of which over 75% appeared in both the sessions of the exam.

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-



festos, 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 religion. Our Constitution doesn't provide for reservation or citi-

zenship 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 justice, environment and forests and digital data protection will be thoroughly reviewed and changed."

Shouldn't have happened: Mahajan on Congress candidate's pullout in Indore

Former LS speaker Sumitra Mahajan expressed surprise over the last-minute withdrawal of nomination by Congress candidate from Indore, Akshay Kanti Bam, calling it unfair and unethical. Voters had the right to decide in a democratic set-up, she asserted. Bam had pulled out of the poll race on April 29, the last date for withdrawal of nominations, and joined BJP within hours, leaving Congress stunned. "People are calling me and asking me, 'what has happened Tai?'" Mahajan told Saturday. "This should not have happened. There was no need for this, as BJP's victory in Indore was a foregone conclusion," Mahajan said, hinting that she believed BJP was behind Bam's move. Indore is a saffron stronghold and Mahajan, now 81, represented the constituency eight consecutive times since 1989.

#Travel With Limca On An Exhilarating Exploration Of Your City

Panipat/Karnal: first sip of the ultimate thirst quencher, Limca, a layer of happiness envelops her, igniting a sense of excitement and curiosity. Energized by the refreshing taste, Triptii's journey takes an enchanting turn, setting out to traverse through the hidden gems of her city. From bustling markets to sizzling street snack shops, she uncovers the rich experiences, inspiring consumers to tour the city with a refreshing Limca. Expressing her excitement about joining the Limca family, Triptii Dimri said, "I am very happy and excited to be a part of Limca. Exploring new places and experiencing different cultures has always been my passion, and I am thrilled to encourage others to do the

same. Together with Limca, I look forward to embarking on this exciting journey of discovery." Ruchira Bhattacharya, Senior Director, Marketing – Hydration, Sports and Tea Category, India and South-West Asia Operating Unit at The Coca-Cola Company, said, "With its legacy of lime and lemony credentials, Limca has been rejuvenating consumers with its unique taste for 5 decades. We are thrilled to launch the #TravelWithLimca campaign featuring Triptii Dimri as our new Limca face. With this campaign, we hope to encourage people to get out there and discover the beauty of their own cities and refresh themselves with a chilled Limca! Mukund VML, Chief Strategy Officer, Studio X said.

GURUGRAM : Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (the "Company"), proposes to open the initial public offering of its Equity Shares on Wednesday, May 8, 2024. ("Offer") (The initial public offering comprises a fresh issue of Equity Shares aggregating to ₹ 10,000 million ("Fresh Issue") and an offer of sale of up to such number of Equity Shares aggregating up to ₹ 20,000 million by BCP Topco VII Pte. Ltd. (the "Promoter Selling Shareholder") ("Offer for Sale" and together with the Fresh Issue, the "Offer"). The Company proposes to utilize the Net Proceeds from the Fresh Issue, (i) to meet future capital requirements towards onward lending; and (ii) general corporate purposes. The Equity Shares are being offered through the Red Herring Prospectus dated April 30, 2024 ("RHP") filed with the Registrar of Companies, Karnataka at Bangalore ("RoC"). The



Equity Shares issued through the RHP are proposed to be listed on the Stock Exchanges being BSE Limited ("BSE") and National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("NSE" together with BSE, the "Stock Exchanges"). For the purposes of the Offer, the designated stock exchange shall be NSE. Amit Dixit, Head of Private Equity Asia, Blackstone, said, "The listing is a significant milestone for Aadhar Housing Finance Limited, and its transformation is a great example of what we do best: Building businesses that build India. We brought our scale, network, and best global practices to grow the business, and empowered the company in digitizing its processes, end to end from origination to collection. It has been a wonderful partnership, and we couldn't be more proud of where the business stands today." Mukesh Mehta, Senior Managing Director in Blackstone Private Equity, said, "It is rewarding to be a part of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited's mission to enable underserved Indians to own homes and play a role in the company's transformation and growth. Our priority has been to build through close.

CAPSULES

Rush at OPDs as heat soars, doctors sound dehydration-exhaustion alert

KOLKATA: The hot and discomfort weather conditions in the past few days are taking a toll on the health of Kolkatans, especially those who have to remain outdoors for hours. Even though none of the city hospitals have recorded any heat stroke cases so far, doctors are getting a good number of people with heat exhaustion and dehydration. Health experts have cautioned people to take all precautions when outdoors to avoid severe consequences.

"Because of such hot and humid weather, the people who are engaged in outdoor activities are prone to develop heat exhaustion when the body starts sweating a lot due to the rise of the core body temperature resulting in dehydration. Heat exhaustion makes the person feel weak, dizzy and thirsty. I have seen two to four such cases in the past one week, mostly middle aged men, probably due to their higher exposure to the sun," said internal medicine specialist Joydeep Ghosh of Fortis Hospital, Anandapur. opd

B P Poddar Hospital had tended to 14 persons in its emergency in the past three days, most of them down with extreme dehydration making them unwell while they were out in the sun. "37 patients came to our OPD with heat related issues. While most of them were middle-aged patients, some were school children. We had to admit two senior citizens because in addition to dehydration they had other issues like BP fluctuation and sodium, potassium imbalance," said Supriyo Chakrabarty, group advisor, BP Poddar Hospital.

Probe Shortage Of Medicines: Bharadwaj To LG

New Delhi: Health minister Saurabh Bharadwaj has written to lieutenant governor VK Saxena demanding strict action against officials responsible for the non-availability of medicines and consumables at Delhi govt health facilities. He also demanded a "time-bound inquiry" against them for misrepresenting facts and misleading govt on the issue. The letter was sent on Thursday in response to a story, 'Boy with broken arm turned away by hosps'. On April 1, an 8-year-old boy with a broken arm was turned away by two state-run



hospitals, Dr Hedgewar Aarogya Sansthan and Chacha Nehru Bal Chikitsalaya, a dedicated paediatric facility. While one hospital claimed it did not have cotton, the other said it had no orthopaedic doctor at the time to treat the boy. The boy's father, a guard with a monthly salary of

Rs 15,000, had to ultimately take him to a private hospital and pay Rs 13,000, including the doctor's consultation fees, which would have been negligible at a govt hospital. Chacha Nehru Bal Chikitsalaya, where Class II student Aditya Kumar was taken by his parents, has now started "emergency ortho" till

8pm on all working days. Until now, this facility was available from 9am to 4pm. Bharadwaj wrote about the health secretary misinforming and misleading the minister concerned about the availability of the items. Bharadwaj underlined that either the senior officers of health and family welfare were unaware of the actual situation or were not deliberately resolving this imminent crisis. He said he had directed the chief secretary and the health secretary multiple times to ensure the supply of medicines and consumables.

PAT Day 1 marked by shortage of question and answer booklets

Mumbai: As the Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT). School heads said despite sending details of the number of students appearing for PAT, the SCERT on Thursday, a number of schools complained of shortage of question-cum-answer booklets. On the very first day, schools had to take photocopies of the first language paper. The maths and third language English papers will be held on Friday and Saturday, respectively. The question papers were set by the State

highlighted the need for improved planning by the education department. Ganpule said, "Despite the challenges, teachers managed to distribute papers on the first day, albeit with additional effort and expense. The issue was more pronounced in remote areas and was exacerbated by a lack of manpower at the taluka level for distribution." Over one crore students are participating in these exams, which are part of the Strengthening

Teaching-Learning and Results for States project funded by the World Bank. The PAT aims to enhance the quality and governance of school education and includes a basic test followed by two comprehensive assessments. The mandatory test is to determine the learning outcome of students. It is based on second semester syllabi. Schools that incurred expenses on photocopying question papers last year said they are yet to receive reimbursement.

HC seeks status of criminal cases filed in 2020 Delhi riots

New Delhi: Delhi High Court on Thursday sought status of criminal cases registered following riots that broke out in the national capital in Feb 2020. A bench of Justice Suresh Kumar Kait and Justice Manoj Jain asked police to furnish details after noting that over 750 FIRs were registered in the aftermath of violence and the investigation in 273 was still pending. Communal clashes had broken out in northeast Delhi on Feb 24, 2020, after violence between citizenship law supporters and protesters spiralled out of control leaving at least 53 people dead and around 700 injured. The bench was hearing a public interest litigation by Jamiat Ulama-I-Hind seeking setting up of special investigation team (SIT) to hold an independent probe

into the riots. The petitioner's lawyer said that SIT should be set up at least in those cases where the stage of filing of chargesheet has not even come till now. "How much time will you take? That was 2020 and we have entered 2024...Total cases registered is 757; transferred to Crime Branch 62; number of cases chargesheeted 367; number of cases pending trial 250 and pending investigation is 273. Therefore, pending cases are 273 as on April 2. So many cases," said the bench, relying on the figures furnished. During the hearing, the court observed that the cases were registered in 2020 but several of them were still pending and asked the police the reason behind it. The petitioner had approached the high court in March 2020 seeking several

reliefs, including preservation of the CCTV footage of the riots in northeast Delhi. The PIL claimed that FIRs have not been lodged against persons responsible for the riots and alleged that the police is not accepting the complaint in which the accused are named and they are insisting to give a complaint against unknown persons. The court posted the matter for next hearing on April 29. We also published the following articles recently: 2020 Delhi riots: Court rejects Tahir Hussain's bail. Former AAP councillor Tahir Hussain's bail plea rejected by New Delhi court in the 2020 Delhi riots case due to prima facie true allegations. and UAPA provisions, including dismissal based on a larger conspiracy.

2 calves born in Kashi farm mark new start for Gangatiri breed

LUCKNOW: UP govt's Varanasi farm has become the country's first conservation centre to breed two high-merit Gangatiri cow calves using embryo transfer technology (ETT) and IVF. The two female calves were born on March 26 and 27. Gangatiri breed is native to eastern UP and Bihar. It got its name after Ganga as it is the belt along the river which is its natural habitat. The breed has low input costs and is resistant to many diseases. "Gangatiri is recognised nationally and has high significance as a source of livelihood to local farmers in the state," said Dr Neeraj Gupta, CEO of the UP Livestock Development Board. The ETT will help produce elite cows at a faster rate as a single mother can produce multiple high-merit progenies, he added. In the current case, four elite females at the farm were selected as egg donors. Semen from a high-merit bull was used to fertilise the eggs in-vivo (inside the body).



After about seven days, the embryos were flushed from the donor cows and transferred into four surrogate cows, which may not have been of high merit. However, only two pregnancies were successful, and two calves were born, said Gupta. The ETT is being extensively used for the improvement of indigenous cow breeds at var-

ious places as elite cows are used as egg and sperm donors. "This technique will increase the efficiency as well as productivity of Gangatiri bovine herds. It has huge potential to multiply the income of farmers," said Ravinder, principal secretary of animal husbandry, dairying and fisheries, and chairman of UPLDB.

Joyride? Man risks life travelling 400km on the train's roof

KANPUR: A man spotted lying on the roof of New Delhi-Gorakhpur bound Humsafar Express (12572) triggered panic at the Kanpur Central railway station on Tuesday. Investigation revealed that the man, identified as Dilip Kumar of Fatehpur, had travelled an astonishing 400km between Delhi and Kanpur by lying on the train's roof. The video of his bizarre act also went viral on social media. Fortunately, Kumar did not stand on the train's roof during the journey and got saved from getting electrocuted by the overhead wires, said GRP personnel. When the train entered platform 9 of Kanpur Central, passengers noticed Dilip on the roof of the B-11 AC coach of the Humsafar Express and raised an alarm. Deputy chief traffic manager Ashutosh Singh, assistant commercial manager railway Santosh Kumar Tripathi, station superintendent.

Indian warship helps Pakistani crew onboard Iranian fishing vessel in Arabian Sea

NEW DELHI: The Indian Navy responded promptly to a distress call and provided critical medical aid to a Pakistani crew member aboard an Iranian fishing vessel, Al Rahmani, said an Indian Navy spokesperson.

The warship, INS Sumedha, deployed for anti-piracy operations in the Arabian Sea, intercepted the fishing vessel on April 30, as per the Indian Navy's statement. A team from the ship, along with medical specialists, boarded the fishing vessel and administered medical assistance to the crew member. "In a swift response to a distress call, #INSSumedha, mission deployed for #antipiracy ops in the #ArabianSea provided critical medical assistance to an Iranian FV (with 20 Pakistani crew), for a near drowning case of one of its crew member," the spokesperson con-



veyed. The statement added, "Responding swiftly to the distress call, INS Sumedha intercepted FV Al Rahmani in early hours of #30Apr 24. Ship's boarding team & medical specialists boarded the FV & rendered medical assistance to the crew member, who was experiencing laboured breathing with active seizures." Following medical intervention, the crew member

regained consciousness and showed clinical improvement, as per the spokesperson. "Post medical management, the patient was oriented, conscious and relieved clinically. Relentless efforts by mission deployed units of #IndianNavy symbolises its steadfast commitment towards safeguarding and assisting seafarers operating in the region," read the statement.

55% Covidshield recipients had mild side effects: AMCH study

GUWAHATI: A study conducted by physician-scientists from Assam Medical College Hospital (Dibrugarh), supported by ICMR-recognised multidisciplinary research laboratory, has revealed that 55% of Covishield vaccine recipients experienced only minor side effects like fever and headache. These symptoms occurred within a week of getting inoculated with the first dose. Researchers confirmed no long-term adverse effects after a year. "In our study, we found that 55% experienced minor adverse events such as fever, headache, body ache and pain at the injection site. The remaining 45% of the recipients had no adverse events at all. After the second dose, only 6.8% showed minor adverse events following immunisation (AEFI). Most importantly, no participant showed any major adverse events during the entire one year period of study," said



associate professor of pathology at AMCH, Gayatri Gogoi, the principal investigator of the study done in Assam's Dibrugarh district. The major (serious and severe) adverse events were defined as disabling, rare life-threatening conditions that may lead to long-term problems.

'India is open & welcoming': EAM rebuts Biden's 'xenophobic' remark

NEW DELHI: External affairs minister S Jaishankar has rejected recent remarks by US Prez Joe Biden describing India as "xenophobic" and emphasised that the country has been open and welcoming to people from diverse societies. Jaishankar also refuted

the allegation that the Indian economy was faltering. Union minister said that the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) introduced by PM Narendra Modi-led govt showcases India's welcoming approach. On April 2, Biden had said the "xenophobic" nature of India, China,

Japan and Russia is responsible for their economic troubles and argued that America's economy is growing because it welcomes immigrants to its soil. He made the statement while campaigning for his re-election at Washington fundraising event.

CAPSULES

Man tears holy book, beaten to death in Punjab

Ferozepur: A youth was lynched by a mob after he was accused of tearing the Guru Granth Sahib at a gurdwara in Bandala village, Ferozepur district, Saturday. The mob allegedly beat Lakhwinder Singh to death on the spot. Apart from people visiting the gurdwara, locals also thrashed the youth. Lakhwinder was in his early 20s and lived in Talli Ghulam village. An FIR was registered at Arif Ke police station. Lakhwinder's father, Bakshish Singh, claimed his son was mentally upset and had received treatment in Delhi. After being beaten till he was unconscious, Lakwinder was taken to hospital where he was declared brought dead.

Nalsa verdict: '10 years later, why are trans people still at red lights?'

Shreegauri Sawant's petition led to the transformative Nalsa judgment, but a decade later, challenges persist in implementing transgender rights, including social welfare inclusion, reservations, and ID card struggles, hindering the community's progress. When Shreegauri Sawant petitioned the Supreme Court to recognise the rights of transgender people a decade ago, she did not have much hope. To her surprise, the Nalsa (National Legal Services Authority) judgment became the bedrock of her community's civil liberties in India — recognising the sex-gender distinction, creating a legal third gender category and issuing directives to state and central governments.

SIT takes JD(S) MLA HD Revanna into custody

NEW DELHI: Janata Dal (Secular) party leader HD Revanna has been taken into custody by Special Investigation Team (SIT) officials in Karnataka on Sunday.

The arrest is related to a kidnapping case filed against him at the KR Nagar police station in Bengaluru.

The action was taken based on a complaint lodged by the son of a woman who was allegedly "abducted and sexually abused."

In his complaint filed, the man said his mother worked as a housemaid at HD Revanna's home for six years before returning to her village, where she worked as a daily wage labourer. The man later discovered a video allegedly depicting



the sexual abuse of his mother by incumbent MP and Hassan Lok Sabha candidate Prajwal Revanna. He said that soon after the video was revealed, his mother went missing. He then filed a kidnapping complaint against HD Revanna and Babanna on Thursday night. The Holenarsipura MLA and

his associate were booked under Sections 364A (kidnapping for ransom), 365 (kidnapping with intent to cause harm), and 34 (common intention) of the IPC. The FIR, registered by KR Nagar police, also lists HD Revanna as accused number one and another man, identified as Babanna, as accused number two. Earlier in the day, the special court refused to grant interim anticipatory bail to the leader. Special Judge Santhosh Gajanan Bhat, who heard the matter for about two hours, rejected the interlocutory application (IA) filed in this regard along with the anticipatory bail petition filed by HD Revanna. (Details awaited)

'No shortage of ...': Jaishankar rejects

Khan's claim of India's role in Pak killings

NEW DELHI: External affairs minister S Jaishankar on Saturday dismissed former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's accusation of India carrying out killings in their country. In a column published in a UK daily, the imprisoned Pakistani politician claimed, "India has already admitted to undertaking assassinations inside of Pakistan and the international border with Afghanistan remains volatile..." Jaishankar, in response to Khan's article, stated that Pakistan has an

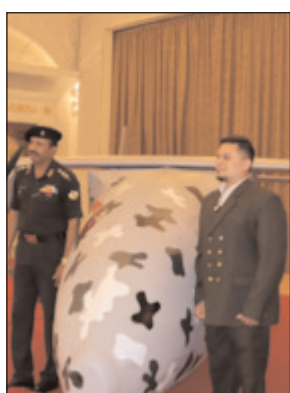
abundance of terrorists and individuals involved in criminal activities. He pointed out that reports suggest some individuals with a background in terrorism have died under unusual circumstances, and it is a matter that Pakistan needs to investigate. "What is happening in Pakistan, there is no shortage of terrorists and people involved in crimes out there. Now, from what we can see there are reports that some people who have a background in terrorism, some of them died in

pretty unusual circumstances. That is something they need to investigate," he said in Bhubaneswar.

The Union minister emphasized that Pakistan should first address the question of why there are so many terrorists within their borders and why the country is so protective of them. "First, they need to answer why there are so many terrorists in Pakistan. Terrorists are not very nice people. They could be doing things to each other. I am not entirely aware of the Khan article.

India's first indigenous bomber UAV unveiled in Bengaluru

BENGALURU: Flying Wedge Defence and Aerospace Technologies, an Indian defence and aerospace company, Friday marked a milestone in Bengaluru by unveiling the FWD-200B, pegged to be the country's first indigenous unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV). The FWD-200B is a



medium-altitude, long-endurance (MALE) unmanned combat aerial vehicle designed and manufactured entirely in India. With a payload capacity of 100 kgs, it can carry optical surveillance payloads as well as precision air-strike weapons, the firm said. Addressing the unveiling ceremony in Bengaluru, Suhas Tejaskanda, founder, Flying Wedge Defence, said the FWD-200B fulfils India's long-awaited dream of producing a combat UAV indigenously after years of

failed attempts by agencies like the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). "A key highlight is the massive cost reduction achieved. While an imported US Predator drone costs a staggering Rs 250 crore, the Indian-made FWD-200B will be available for just Rs 25 crores — a tenth of the cost," the firm said. Tejaskanda added that this demonstrated the company's commitment to self-reliance and positions India as a leader in cost-effective defence solutions. "With a 12-20 hour endurance, 200 kts/370 kmph max speed, and 200 km ground control station range, the FWD-200B is envisioned as the "nation's eagle eye" and an aerial shield against threats," the firm said, adding that its unveiling marks a major boost to India's Make in India.

Former Delhi Congress chief Arvinder Singh Lovely joins BJP

NEW DELHI: Arvinder Singh Lovely on Saturday joined Bharatiya Janata Party days after he resigned as the Delhi Congress chief.

Lovely had resigned from Congress state president citing the alliance with AAP as his reason. He said that despite Aam Aadmi Party accusing the Congress over corruption, the grand old party allied with them. "We have been given an opportunity to fight for the people of Delhi under the banner of BJP and under the leadership of Prime Minister," Lovely said. I have full hope and there is no doubt about it that the BJP government is being formed in the country with an overwhelming majority. In the coming days, the flag of the BJP will fly in Delhi too," he added. Lovely joined BJP in the presence of Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri and party's



national general secretary Vinod Tawde. Few other congress leader including cabinet minister in Delhi government Raj Kumar Chauhan also joined the party. "I want to assure you that your services will be utilized and will be utilized very effectively. Our party needs people like you. You are joining our family and I want to welcome you and congratulate you," Union minister Puri said. Further, while speaking to reporters after the press conference, Lovely referred to former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's speech where she had said that every drop of her

blood is dedicated to the nation. "Indira ji ne bola tha Mere khoon ka katra katra iss desh ke liye hai. Katre Katre se Tukde Tukde pe aagye hain (Indira had said that every drop of her blood is dedicated to the nation. Now they are reduced to Tukde Tukde gang)," said Lovely, adding that he started feeling like a misfit in the party. "I had resigned from the post of Delhi Congress president and after that, I met all my colleagues and thousands of Congress workers. All those people said that you should not sit at home and should continue fighting."

Jaleel to contest from Aurangabad, says Owaisi

Jaleel to contest from Aurangabad, says Owaisi Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar: Putting an end to speculations of Aurangabad MP Imtiaz Jaleel contesting the Lok Sabha polls from Mumbai, All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) president Asaduddin Owaisi on Monday announced Jaleel's candidature from Aurangabad again. Owaisi took to X and announced that his party's Bihar president Akhtarul Iman would be the party's candidate from Kishanganj (Bihar) and Imtiaz Jaleel would contest from Aurangabad.

Owaisi himself will contest from Hyderabad. During a media interaction in Hyderabad, Owaisi said: "In addition to these three candidates, party's state presidents in Maharashtra, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are working on finalising the number of seats to be contested. We will make an official announcement." When contacted, Jaleel said: "I thank the people of my constituency for letting me represent them in Parliament for five years. I did my best to raise the voice of the common people and fought hard against the wrong govt policies. Now, I will again approach people and if they feel I have done good work, then they would definitely stand with me. My initial two years as MP were lost because of Covid. Hope people will give me an opportunity to continue serving them." Jaleel, after winning the MLA elections in 2014, contested and won the LS elections against Shiv Sena's Chandrakant Khaire with a narrow margin in 2019 elections. He had openly expressed desire to contest the upcoming Lok Sabha polls from Mumbai. (North Central). Jaleel had cited communal violence on Thane's Mira Road during the Ram temple consecration, followed by civic body's action of demolishing several encroachments.