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

## PM Modi's salvos likely part of bigger attack on Congress manifesto's 'equity' section

**'Congress plans to install Muslim reservation - not just in education and jobs but also in healthcare'**



**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi's focus Tuesday on Congress's efforts to introduce quota for Muslims marks a significant escalation of BJP's "appeasement" charge against the opposition party. PM fired the "Muslim quota" salvo while addressing a rally at Tonk-Sawai Madhopur in Rajasthan - his last engagement in the state for Lok Sabha polls - and said Congress has for long made separate efforts to implement Muslim quota despite the prohibition laid down on "Babasaheb mbedkar's Constitution" on religion-based reservations. The attack came even as Congress was

still angrily protesting against PM's remark at Banswara, also in Rajasthan, on Sunday that Congress's pitch for "redistribution of assets" was part of a plan to take away assets from people and distribute among people who, going by his predecessor Manmohan Singh's 2006 speech at the National Development Council, can only be Muslims. While Election Commission has started an inquiry into Congress's complaint that that Banswara speech was communal and, therefore, violative of the 'model code of conduct', PM Modi repeated the charge and rebutted Congress's

about Singh's statement having been distorted, saying, "I was present at the meeting of the NDC." Going by indications, the PM's consecutive volleys could be part of a larger offensive against the "equity" section of the Congress manifesto for allegedly seeking to create an opening for Muslims not just in jobs and education, but also in healthcare, public contracts, skill development, even sports - something which might push the electoral contest from now on to the "secular-communal" terrain. Highlighting extracts from the "equity" section of the Congress manifesto, BJP said that it implied Muslim reservation.

"Point 3 of the Congress manifesto says 'encourage' minorities to take full advantage of opportunities but Point 6 says 'ensure' minorities receive 'fair share' on exactly the same issues as mentioned in Point 3," a senior BJP leader said and added, "if Congress manifesto had limited itself to just 'encourage', then it would have been OK. But how will Congress ensure? Such language is employed when the intent is to back the promise with legislative action." Congress manifesto in "equity" section says that it will do socio-economic census (different from caste census) and then basis this it will strengthen affirmative action (Point 1). Same section also says in Point 2 that the 50% limit on reservations will be raised. "Read together, only one conclusion follows. Congress plans to install Muslim reservation - not just in education and jobs but also in healthcare."

## 'My mother sacrificed ...': Priyanka hits back at PM Modi's 'Mangalsutra' remark

**NEW DELHI:** Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi on Tuesday hit back at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Mangalsutra will not be safe under the Congress rule" remark, stating that her mother (Sonia Gandhi) "sacrificed Mangalsutra" for the nation. "My mother's 'Mangalsutra' was sacrificed for this country," the Congress leader said referring to her father Rajiv Gandhi's assassination in the Sriperumbudur bomb blast in 1991. PM Modi, who has unleashed a relentless attack against Congress over its manifesto, at a rally in Aligarh had said that the grand old party if voted to power would take away the assets of people and redistribute it. Hitting out at PM Modi's claims, Priyanka Gandhi at a poll rally in Karnataka said, "What talks are



happening in this country? Two days back there were speeches that Congress wants to snatch your 'Mangalsutra'. This country has been free for the past 75 years, and 55 years Congress was in power. Did Congress ever snatch your gold or 'Mangalsutra'?" In a piercing attack on PM Modi, Priyanka said, "When there was war, Indira Gandhi (her grandmother and former prime minister) donated her gold." "My mother's 'Mangalsutra' was

sacrificed for this country," referring to the assassination of her father and former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi by terrorists. "Had Narendra Modi understood the importance of 'Mangalsutra', he would not have spoken such unethical things," she added. The entire controversy erupted after PM drew a link between the Congress party's pitch for redistribution of resources in its manifesto and his predecessor Manmohan Singh's December 2006.

**'Ideology matters, netas shouldn't switch parties for personal gains'**  
**Kottayam:** Mary Philip, still sharp and sprightly at 79, has never missed voting in an election, whether for panchayat or Parliament, since she was 18. The matriarch of Padinjare Muthoottil family in Arumanoor, a village 15km from Kottayam town and part of the Kottayam Lok Sabha constituency, Mary diligently keeps track of political and social developments in the country, mainly through newspapers and television.

## Why Supreme Court's nine-judge bench needs to interpret Article 39(b)

**NEW DELHI:** A nine-judge bench of the Supreme Court on Tuesday commenced the process for interpretation of Article 39(b) of the Constitution to determine whether this directive principle of state policy provision allows govt to treat and redistribute privately owned properties under the garb of "material resources of the community" for greater common good. The interpretation by a bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices Hrishikesh Roy, B V Nagarathna, S Dhulia, J B Pardiwala, Manoj Misra, R Bindal, S C Sharma and A G Masih stems from Justice V R Krishna Iyer's dissenting view in Ranganatha Reddy case of 1977 that community resources included private properties and the conflation of the two in later judgments, leading to the matter being referred on Feb 20, 2002, for interpretation by a nine-judge bench. Article 39(b) provides that the state shall direct its policy towards securing "that the ownership and control of the material resources of the community are so distributed as best to subserve the common good". Senior advocates Devraj, Zal Andhyarujina and Sameer Parikh argued that community resources could never include privately owned properties. Arguments will continue on Wednesday. The advocates termed Justice Iyer's view a reflection of his Marxist socialist ideology which had no place in a democratic country governed by a Constitution giving primacy to fundamental rights of citizens. Though the question is old, it is reverberating in current politically-surcharged atmosphere after Rahul Gandhi's speech at a public meeting on Saturday where he said, "First, we will conduct a caste census... to know the exact population and status of backward castes, SCs, STs, minorities."

## Both guns used in Salman Khan house firing recovered from Tapi river

**MUMBAI:** The Mumbai crime branch probing the April 14 firing on actor Salman Khan's house has recovered the second gun, along with two magazines containing 17 bullets, that the alleged shooters threw in the Tapi river in Surat in their attempt to cover their tracks. The first gun was found earlier in the river on Monday. The recovery of both the illegal country-



made pistols from the riverbed, which in some places was 20m deep, was made with the help of Dubai-based Envitech Marine Consultants, which had earlier helped investigators recover the alleged weapon used in ratio-

Dabholkar's murder and had offered its services in tracing MBBS student Sadichha Sane, who went missing from Bandra Bandstand in Nov 2021. The crime branch's unit 9 team, led by inspector Daya Nayak, reached Tapi river along with one of the alleged shooters, Vikas Kumar Gupta, who showed them the railway bridge from where he and his accomplice.

## High court restrains Lokpal action on properties tied to Shibu Soren

**NEW DELHI:** The Delhi high court Tuesday restrained Lokpal from taking any action till May 10 on a CBI report on its investigation into two properties of Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), allegedly linked to party president Shibu Soren. Justice Subramonium Prasad also issued notice to BJP MP Nishikant Dubey, who had filed the complaint before Lokpal, on JMM's petition challenging the



ombudsman's March 4 order directing CBI to probe the two properties. After hearing the submissions of JMM's counsels Kapil Sibal and Arunabh Chowdhury, HC permitted CBI to submit its report to Lokpal, but directed that no further steps will be taken by the anti-corruption ombudsman till the next hearing. The senior advocates submitted that the two properties belonged to JMM, not Soren.

## People who cannot maintain peace don't deserve polls: high court

**KOLKATA:** People unable to maintain peace during a six-hour celebration don't deserve elected representation, Calcutta high court asserted Tuesday, while expressing dismay over clashes in Murshidabad district of Bengal during Ram Navami festivities on April 17 that left at least 19 wounded. Chief Justice TS Sivagnanam and Justice Hiranmay Bhattacharyya held that Lok Sabha polls scheduled for May 4 and 13 in the region should be countermanded. "If people can't live in peace and harmony, we will countermand the elections... If two sects of people are fighting like this despite the



model code of conduct in place, they don't require an elected representative," the CJ said. Capture (14) The bench made these observations while hearing petitions, including one by Muslim Rashtriya Manch (MRM), seeking an NIA or a CBI probe into the violence at Beldanga and Saktipur in Murshidabad. Clashes in Shaktipur occurred immediately after a Ram Navami procession passed by a local mosque. The CJ said that as per news reports, around 33 programmes were held on Ram Navami in Kolkata, but there was no untoward incident. Noting that both the petitioners were on the same page that no such incident occurred in those places in Murshidabad on Ram Navami earlier, the court asked whether outsiders were involved. The CJ questioned govt pleader Amitesh Banerjee

regarding events that triggered the clashes. Banerjee explained: "Some people walking down the streets found two flags hung in the area torn." To this, the judge remarked: "Lessons are never learnt. It is possibly because of elections." He highlighted that Ram Navami celebrations in 33 places in Kolkata proceeded peacefully. The govt pleader detailed the timeline of the clashes, saying they occurred in two phases - on April 12-13 and on April 17. He noted that prohibitory measures were imposed, but violence erupted again on April 17, prompting CID intervention in the investigation.

## MVA brass shares stage in Amravati

**AMRAVATI:** Twenty-four hours after Election Commission slapped a notice on Uddhav Thackeray for use of 'Jai Bhavani' in its anthem, the Shiv Sena (UBT) president defied the poll panel by vigorously chanting the slogan at a packed Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) meeting at Amravati -- the first mammoth show. of strength on one platform by all three partners for Congress' Balwant Wankhade against BJP candidate Navneet Rana. The rally at Dyaneshwar Hall on Monday witnessed the presence of top MVA leaders, including Uddhav Thackeray, Sharad Pawar, Mukul Wasnik and Anil Deshmukh, marking their first joint appearance since the rollout of the seven-phased Lok Sabha polls.

## Australian journalist alleges visa denial, amid poll coverage dispute, govt denies

**NEW DELHI:** An Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) journalist has alleged that India denied a visa extension to her, forcing her out of the country, because she "crossed a line" in her reporting of a documentary on the alleged involvement of Indian agents in killings abroad. ABC's South Asia bureau chief Avani Dias had produced the documentary — Sikhs, Spies, and Murder — which India got YouTube to block last month. Indian govt sources, however, said the ABC journalist's contention that she was not allowed to cover elections and compelled to leave the country is "not correct, misleading and mischievous". They said Dias was found to have violated visa rules while undertaking her professional pursuits.

Despite this, on her request, she was assured that her visa would be extended for coverage of the general elections, they added. Australian journalist says forced to leave, govt denies allegation. The ABC journalist's previous visa was valid until April 20, 2024. She paid the visa fee on April 18, one day before her "sudden departure", and on the same day, her visa was extended until end-June, the sources said. She, however, chose to leave India on April 20 and at the time of her departure Dias held a valid visa, and her visa extension stood approved. "Her point about not been given permission to cover elections is also factually incorrect. Coverage of election activities outside of booths."

# Lotus will bloom once again: Swatantra Dev

PRAYAGRAJ: Uttar Pradesh cabinet minister Swatantra Dev on Tuesday said that the Bharatiya Janata Party is heading for a one-sided victory, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will once again form the government at the centre. The convenor of BJP's five-member election steering committee for the Lok Sabha elections-2024, Swatantra Dev, said that before 2014 when PM Narendra Modi formed his government, bombs used to rock the country, be it at temples, hotels, or the Parliament, and attacks took place even on our soldiers. He said that people could not live peacefully at the time, in stark contrast to today when not only there is peace and better law and order, but also the poor, in their crores, are getting pucca houses, regular power, gas, and water connections, toilets, and even Ayushman health cards



that guarantee free treatments for ailments up to Rs. 5 lakh.

Singh was in Prayagraj to address the BJP's Lok Sabha social media volunteers' conference organised at the George Town central election office of its Phulpur candidate, Praveen Patel.

Talking to mediapersons, Singh said

that every section of society had become stronger since the Modi government came into power in the centre in 2014 and the lotus would bloom again. "Law and order is very strong under the Yogi Adityanath-led government in the state, which is a stark contrast to the situation earlier when criminals ruled the roost,"

he added.

Coming down hard on the Congress, Swatantra Dev said that the Congress has only looted the poor. "Whenever the Congress, SP, and BSP came to power in the state, it was only to loot. Today, no one is sleeping hungry under the BJP government's rule. We have undertaken develop-

ment on a large scale. This time also, the BJP will emerge victorious, and the Modi government will be formed at the centre," he said, while dismissing the Samajwadi Party as a party of regionalism, familism, and casteism.

"Parties like SP and Congress have been rejected by the people, and I

can say with confidence that we will emerge victorious in a one-sided fight," he said. He said that BJP workers were actively working to strengthen the party and disseminate information about all the welfare schemes launched by the state and central governments to the people through social media.

Earlier, addressing BJP volunteers, Swatantra Dev Singh urged them to ensure the victory of party candidates including Phulpur candidate Praveen Patel. He said that the power of social media is evident worldwide today. During the social media conference, he urged party volunteers to dedicate all their efforts to ensuring the party's victory. He also provided insights into the intricacies of social media to the volunteers, expressing confidence that they would achieve BJP's goals through these platforms.

## Along with discharging their responsibilities, girls should also be aware of themselves: Anu Soni

Meja: On the occasion of Earth Day, Arogyam Hospital of Meja Energy Corporation organized a sanitary napkin distribution ceremony at Women's Polytechnic College, Meja. During this, 300 girls were given sanitary napkins to make them aware about menstruation and health. The chief guest of the program was Mrs. Anu Soni, President of Aparajita Mahila Samaj.

Made aware. During the program, Mrs. Anu Soni interacted with the girls present and made them aware that along with discharging our responsibilities, we all have to be conscious about ourselves and by being conscious about



our health, we can create a healthy and strong society. Have to build. Appreciating the continuous efforts being run by Major Urja Nigam's Arogyam Hospital, he also said that Major Urja Nigam has always been committed to the empowerment of women and reflecting the same commitment, Arogyam Hospital has, from time to time, has been organizing health camps and programs to increase awareness and will continue to do so.

In the program, Dr. Manisha Pandey, Chief Medical Officer of Arogyam Hospital, interacted with the girls and answered all their questions and made them more aware, in which she mainly told everyone about menstrual health and how our awareness and small efforts. Can save us from many major diseases. Along with this, he also told how by being environment friendly we can destroy all the sanitary napkins. During the program itself, while celebrating Earth Day, he made everyone aware about environmental protection and eco-friendly bags were also distributed. Representatives of Arogyam Hospital, representatives of Aparajita Mahila Samaj, representatives of HR department, girls and all the staff of the college were prominently present in the function.

## Cases of skin disease increase in scorching heat

Prayagraj: The scorching heat has not only taking a toll on citizens health but is also damaging the skin too. There has been spurt in number of patients visiting OPD at Government hospitals, as 30 to 40 out of 150 cases are against skin diseases like sun-burn, melasma (a dark skin discoloration that appears on sun-exposed areas of the face) Photomelanosis (a change in pigmentation because of sun exposure, which can make the skin have dark patches, with temperature crossing 40 degree mark and intense heat wave during peak hours of day, it becomes difficult to throb outside and at times even covering the exposed body part do not provide relief from the heatwave.

Dermatologists claim that there has been sharp rise in the number of patients suffering from various skin problems. "Due to excessive heat conditions and environment pollution, patients are complaining against skin diseases rashes, ache on the face as well as your back, tanning, skin infection and sunburn", said a dermatologist at TB Sapru Hospital.

## Initiatives by Satya Bharti Schools in Uttar Pradesh on Earth Day

Lucknow: Earth Day Celebration at Bharti Airtel Foundation's Satya Bharti Schools was a vibrant event where students and teachers engaged in activities to raise awareness and advocate for environmental consciousness. The day featured street plays, community initiatives, special assemblies, and competitions centered around the theme 'Planet VS. Plastics', to deepen understanding of environmental responsibilities and foster community spirit. Additionally, students engaged in tree plantation activities and depicted visions of a greener future through art. These initiatives at Satya Bharti Schools aim to instill a lasting commitment towards environmental stewardship in both children and the community, inspiring them to make a collective positive impact on the environment.



## Premier Energies Ltd files DRHP with SEBI to raise over Rs. 1.5k cr

Varanasi: Premier Energies Limited, India's second largest integrated solar cell and solar module manufacturer (in terms of annual installed capacity of 2 GW and 3.36 GW, respectively) as per a Frost & Sullivan Report, as of March 31, 2024, has filed the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) with capital markets regulator, SEBI to raise more than Rs. 1,500 crores through an initial public offering (IPO). According to the draft red herring prospectus, the Initial Public Offering of the Hyderabad-based company consists of a Fresh Issue of equity shares aggregating up to Rs. 1500 crores and an Offer for Sale of up to 2,82,00,000 Equity Shares by the Selling Shareholders. Under the offer for sale component, South Asia Growth Fund II Holdings LLC will divest 2,38,46,400 equity shares and South Asia EBT Trust will divest 1,53,600 equity shares and promoter Chiranjeev Singh Saluja will sell 42,00,000 equity shares.

The company, in consultation with the BRLMs, may consider a Pre-IPO placement of specified securities for up to Rs. 300 crores. If the Pre-IPO placement is undertaken, the fresh issue will be reduced to the extent of such Pre-IPO placement. Premier Energies Limited which was established in 1995 by Surender Pal Singh Saluja, Chairman and Whole-Time Director, proposes to utilize the Net Proceeds of the Fresh Issue towards investment worth Rs. 1168 crores in its subsidiary, Premier Energies Global Environment Private Limited (PEGEPL) for part-financing the establishment of a 4 GW Solar PV TOPCon Cell and 4 GW Solar PV TOPCon Module manufacturing facility in Hyderabad, Telangana and the rest towards general corporate purposes.

## B'day of minister Nandi celebrated

PRAYAGRAJ: Today, all the senior and junior god-like workers of the Bharatiya Janata Party Chowk Mandal celebrated the birthday of Honorable Minister and MLA Shri Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi ji at Sulaki intersection in Bahadurganj by applying Tilak on it with joy and feeding him sweets and wished for the long life of the Honorable Minister. I prayed to God for his health on this occasion. I also give special thanks to all the people present on this occasion. Sumit Vaishya Mandal President Chowk Vice President Atul Khanna ji General



Secretary Manmohan Mishra ji Shambhu Sharan Srivastava ji Gaurav Mishra ji Ajay Singh ji Anup Agarwal ji Bachpan Gupta ji Saurabh Mehta ji Anoop Mishra ji Vijay Gupta ji Mayank Agarwal ji Mukesh Srivastava ji Ajay Srivastava ji Pradeep Pandey ji Kesarwani ji Rajkumar Kesarwani Roshni Agarwal ji Lata Upadhyay ji Reena Kesarwani ji Reena Srivastava ji Madhukar Pandey ji Vimlesh Gupta ji Ajay Vishwas Gupta Ji Vinod Sandal Ji Srivastava Ji Akash Chaurasia Vikal Ji Lokendra Pratap Singh Ji Me Bhardwaj Ji

## BJP's Neeraj Tripathi embarks on whirlwind tour for voter connect

PRAYAGRAJ: BJP candidate from Allahabad Parliamentary Constituency 52, Neeraj Tripathi, today addressed the party workers at the Central Election Office, Rampur after holding public meetings at dozens of places including Mungari, Diha Bazar, Chharai Square, Bendau, Babura, Basahi, Semrah, Panasa, Bhagesar in Karchana Assembly Constituency. After participating in the Hanumant Janmotsav procession in Kitganj, he said that the double engine government of the Center and the State worked for the upliftment of the entire society without any discrimination. Along with providing good governance, the BJP gov-

ernment also attacked corruption and put the corrupt behind the bars, due to which all the opposition parties are now unanimously opposing the BJP, but the public likes the work of Modi ji and Yogi ji. I have made up my mind to form the BJP government at the Center for the third time because whatever promise was made by the BJP, it was fulfilled with full honesty. State Cabinet Minister and former State President Swatantra Dev ji spoke to the officials at Rampur Central Election Office, Allahabad Parliamentary Constituency about the progress so far and Giving special guidance for further action plan, he said that Dr.



Shyama Prasad Mukherjee and Pt. The India of Deendayal Upadhyay ji's dreams will soon become a world leader in which god-like workers like you play the most important role.

District President Mahanagar Rajendra Mishra and Vinod Prajapati Yamunapar, describing the workers as the architects of

the victory, encouraged the workers present and assured the leadership that the people here will ensure the important role of Allahabad in the Parliament by making Neeraj Tripathi win with a huge majority. According to Media in-charge of Allahabad parliamentary constituency, Devendra Nath Mishra, Lok

Sabha candidate Neeraj Tripathi and MLA Karchana Piyush Ranjan Nishad were welcomed with great warmth in the Karchana assembly constituency. People's enthusiasm was visible in today's program. Lok Sabha in-charge Manoj Jaiswal, convener Shivdutt Patel, assembly convener Rajesh

Shukla, assembly in-charge Ramesh Dwivedi Mandal, in-charge Arvind Shukla Mandal. President Ajay Singh Block Chief Karchana Kamlesh Dwivedi Chaka Block Chief Anil Ji Padum Jaiswal Media Incharge Shivendra Mishra Rajendra Tiwari Lallu Patel Rajesh Sharma, Vaibhav Srivastava, Yashvikram Tripathi Indresh Pandey Kamlesh Singh Mukesh Shukla VijayBharatiya Anuj Tripathi Prem Gautam Hadaynarayan Surendra Ji Ashok Ji Rajat Jaiswal Ashwini Dubey Alok Sharma Mukesh Chandra Mishra, Ashok Kumar Agrahari, Ashok Pandey and many village heads and Kshetra Panchayat members were present.

## Echoes of the Past: Shastri Bridge's Struggle for Survival

Varanasi: The Shastri Bridge, a symbol of strength since the 1970s, has faced numerous challenges over the years. From enduring floods to frequent repairs to facilitate smooth transportation, it has stood as a testament to resilience. However, its greatest challenge yet looms ahead: the risk of overloading. However, the government gives the green light to a new six-lane bridge, allowing the old structure creeks to retain their significance in the face of the current bustling traffic.

Continuous overloading has turned the Shastri Bridge into a significant threat, necessitating the establishment of active monitoring posts to ensure its safety. Immediate action is imperative in this regard.

There's no denying that the government is actively focused on the development of foundational structures. Consequently, development and connectivity in the region are on the rise. However, the success of

development projects heavily relies on vigilance and timely maintenance to ensure the longevity and safety of crucial assets. Shastri Bridge in Mirzapur is also one such property. Regular bridge inspections are necessary to keep its structure secure over the



long term.

Considering the current condition of Shastri Bridge, commuters are strongly advised to consider safer alternatives such as NH2 (currently named NH19), leading towards the Varanasi toll. This alternative route provides a reliable option for travellers seeking to avoid the overloaded Shastri Bridge, ensuring the

safety of themselves and their loved ones.

The Shastri Bridge over the Ganga in Mirzapur is currently facing the challenge of overloading, despite undergoing several repairs. This raises serious concerns about the safety of the bridge itself and the

lives of those who use it.

The bridge, constructed in 1976, is now nearly 50 years old and has undergone three repairs. In the year 2021, the bridge was repaired for Rs 4.62 crore. The repairs included the replacement of bearings and beam grouting. Additionally, the work of carbon fibre wrapping and cable grouting has been com-

pleted on 28 bridge spans (parts).

Mr. R.S. Upadhyay, the Project Manager of the Bridge Corporation, revealed that according to the load testing report for 2021, the traffic was deemed safe as per standards. Despite all efforts, a malfunction occurred within four months. The result was that the movement of empty trucks was stopped. Eventually, in November 2022, the bridge was closed. Considering the situation, an additional budget of 77.48 crore was allocated for further repairs, and the restoration commenced in June 2023. After five months of work were completed, the bridge reopened on November 23, with previous issues reportedly resolved. However, concerns persist regarding the bridge's long-term maintenance and safety. Even now, overloaded vehicles continue to move on the bridge without any proper inspection, posing a serious risk to the safety of the bridge and its users.

## Guardians of the Ganga: The Battle for Shastri Bridge

Mirzapur: Mirzapur's Shastri Bridge, sprawling across the vast expanse of the Ganges, has faced the challenges of monsoons and traffic for several decades. But now comes the time when the bridge finds itself grappling with the issue of overloading. The overloading of trucks is making this bridge weaker gradually. However, engineers are actively working to reinforce the bridge, striving to save this lifeline of the city. As the sun sets in Mirzapur, they start guarding and also help all the people crossing the bridge find a safe path.

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# Abhishek conducted with 108 litres of milk, curd, ghee, honey, juice and Panchamrit

## Mahant Balbir Giri Ji Maharaj of Baghambari Math performed worship

Prayagraj: There was a flood of faith in the Lete Shri Bade Hanuman Temple located on the Sangam bank of Yagraj since Tuesday morning. On the occasion of Hanuman Janmotsav, thousands of devotees from distant states came to see and worship Hanuman ji. Mahabhishek of Shri Bade Hanuman ji was performed on Udaya Tihti Purnima of Chaitra Shukla Paksha. Mahant Balbir Giri Ji Maharaj of Baghambari Math anointed Hanuman ji with milk, curd, ghee, honey, juice and Panchamrit. There was a devotional atmosphere in Sangam city on the birth anniversary of Mahabali Hanuman, the incarnation of Lord Shiva, an ardent devotee of Lord Shri Ram. The queue of devotees had started forming since

early morning. As soon as the curtain opened, the devotees saw Bade Hanuman ji. The Mahabhishek of Shri Bade Hanuman ji started at ten in the morning. Mahant Balbir Giri Ji Maharaj of Baghambari Math performed Mahashringar and Mahabhishek in a grand manner.

The Mahabhishek lasted for two hours: In the presence of 51 Brahmins and Acharyas and chanting of mantras, Mahant Balbir Giri Ji Maharaj of Baghambari Math performed Abhishek with 108 liters of milk, 31 liters of curd, 11 kg of cow ghee, 11 kg of honey, 11 kg of juice and 51 kg of Panchamrit. Will go. Balbir Giri Ji Maharaj first offered flowers to the Lord. After this,



Abhishekam was done with water, milk, curd, ghee, honey, sugarcane juice, Panchamrit, Ashwagandha, rose and Ganga water.

Abhishekam took place from 10 am to 12 noon. Amazing enthusiasm was seen among the devotees also. During this time the

temple complex kept resonating with the chants of Shri Ram.

The entire temple complex was decorated with at-

tractive flowers. At the same time, pandal arrangements were made for the devotees. Puri Sabzi Bhandara was also started in the temple premises in the morning itself. At the same time, at 4.30 pm, Mahant Balbir Giri Ji Maharaj performed the Maha Aarti of Shri Bade Hanuman and after that, Sunderkand was recited in the temple complex. There is a unique temple in Prayagraj. Mahant Balbir Giri Ji Maharaj told that this is the only temple in which Hanuman Ji is in a lying posture. Are in. The statue of Hanuman ji installed here is 20 feet tall. This is a unique temple built on the banks of Sangam. It is believed that the entire virtue of Sangam is completed only after the darshan of Hanuman ji.

## ICAR Publication Exhibition at SHUATS on April 25-26

Prayagraj: Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Publication Exhibition will be organized in the Central Library of Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences (SHUATS), Naini Prayagraj on 25-26 April, 2024.

Giving this information, Librarian Christopher Sudhir



George said that the exhibition will be inaugurated on April 25 at 9.30 am by Pro Vice Chancellor (Administration) Prof. Biswaroop Mehra. He said that the objective of the exhibition is to showcase the latest publications and research in the agriculture sector so that students, researchers and faculty can be benefited. A provision of 10 percent discount has also been made for students in the exhibition.

## Neha Verma gets PhD degree for research on mathematical model on cancer treatment

Prayagraj: Neha Verma, a research scholar of SHUATS, Prayagraj was awarded the PhD degree for successfully completing her research in Mathematics. Neha Verma completed her research on mathematical models and various parameters on Mathematical Modelling for cancer treatment. The external examiner in Neha Verma's PhD viva examination was Prof. Dr. Philip. In her examination Ph.d. Guide Dr. Bhavana Ghosh, Head of Department Prof. Dr. Ajit Paul, Prof. Dr. Anshika Shukla, Prof. Rajiv Khare etc. were present. Neha Verma gave the credit for the success of her research to her research guide Dr. Bhavana Ghosh.

## Two hardened criminals post-encounter

Prayagraj: In a police encounter, 02 inter-district vicious accused were arrested by the joint police team of Nawabganj police station, Soraon and SOG Gangapar. 02 illegal country-made pistols, 8 cartridges, 02 spent cartridges, 01 motorcycle and 01 truck were recovered from their possession. Police recovered the stolen truck on the indication of criminal Dilshad. In big success in its operation to flush out criminals, the Prayagraj police early on Tuesday nabbed two hardened criminals after a gun battle. The police encounter took place between the Nawab Ganj Police, under the direction of DCP Abhishek Bharti and the notorious miscreants.

The police were checking in Shringverpur when two people riding on a bike started running away after seeing the police, when the police chased them, the miscreants opened fire on the police. In retaliatory firing, the police bullet hit the leg of one of the miscreants and both were caught. The injured criminal was identified as Maseed Khan, who is from Pratapgarh, while the second criminal caught was Dilshad Khan, who is from Mauima. A pistol and some cartridges have also been recovered from them. The police are interrogating the criminal duo.

## Rain, hailstorm in trans-Yamuna areas

Prayagraj: There was hail along with rain. Along with rain, hailstorm also occurred in many areas including the industrial city of Naini. There is a possibility of further increase in humidity due to light rain in the sultry summer.

## Half-burned body found

Prayagraj: A half-burned body of an unknown man was discovered in the bushes at the Bela junction of the Karchana police station area, causing alarm in the region; police arrived and began an investigation.



## Northern Football Academy trounces Oppn

Prayagraj: Under the auspices of Northern Football Academy, in today's match of Under-14 boys category in the "Goal" football competition at the football ground of Vishnu Bhagwan Public School, Jhalwa, Northern Football Academy registered its first victory by defeat-



ing Naini Boys 2-0. At half time NFA were leading by a solitary goal. According to the chief instructor of the academy, Indranil Ghosh, Shaksham Oraon scored the first goal with a single attempt and the second goal was scored from a pass from Shaksham by Rudransh. Saksham Oraon got the Player of the Match award. Till now all the teams have played a total of two matches in which Vishnu Bhagwan has 6 points, Northern Academy has 4 points, Phaphamau FC has one point, Naini FC has zero points.

## Bengali community contributed immensely for growth of city

Prayagraj: The city boasts of a vibrant Bengali community, enriching the socio-cultural milieu here for over 270 years by contributing immensely in the field of literature, culture, judiciary, journalism and celebrating festivals like Durga Puja. They have also added to the development of the city by setting up educational and cultural institutions. Between 1860 and 1870, Bengalis settled in Lukerganj, George Town, Tagore Town, Allenganj, Lukerganj and Colonelganj. These five places are now counted among the posh localities.

"During this period, the Auditor General Office, Allahabad High Court, Government Press and other government offices were either in the process of being established or were established, thus generating employment opportunities for English speaking Bengalis," general secretary of Bengali Welfare Association, Pronob Kumar Roy said.

Although Bengalis have now settled in other parts of the city and even satellite areas like Naini and Jhansi but their forefathers settled at Lukerganj, George Town, Tagore Town, Allenganj, Lukerganj and Colonelganj, he added.

He said that there were four persons who helped in giving Bengali community

its identity. They were Chintamani Ghosh, who established Indian Press, which published around 100 books of Rabindra Nath Tagore, including Nobel Prize winning Gitanjali. Maya Babu established MitraPrakashan which were till late 1990s publishing books like Manorma, Maya, ManoharKahaniyan among others. TK Banerjee was the owner of AH Wheelers, Khetresh Chandra Chattopadhyay was engaged in social work and Tushar Kanti Ghosh founder and owner of Northern India Patrika and Amrit Prbhat newspapers. Apart from them, there were legal luminaries in Allahabad High Court.

In the field of education, the community contributed immensely by establishing JagatTaran Education Society which started with a primary school and now has a degree college along with an intermediate college. Similarly, Colonelganj Inter College, Indian Girls' College and Anglo Bengali Inter College have also established themselves in the field of education."The Bengali community has added new dimension to the Durga Puja celebration. The community made the celebration a public affair by forming Colonelganj and Attarsuiya Barwaris (worship in open). Now even Muslim sculptors are making the idols.

## Shekhar Bahuguna outlines how voters' lack of interest in Phase 1 affects Modi

Prayagraj: Congress leader Shekhar Bahuguna had hit the campaign trail from Western UP and claims that low voter turnout in first phase is being analysed as tangible evidence of the absence of any wave and deepening voter fatigue. "There is no pull factor," he asserted.

He said, while responding to the voting pattern, "BJP's Graph: South Mein Saaf, North Mein Half! 'Here's what we know after the first phase of voting: In the first

phase, voting was held on 102 seats in 21 states. Ground reports clearly show the INDIA coalition far ahead of BJP. We have swept Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra, and performed strongly in Bihar, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh. The BJP's performance in key states has been remarkably poor. The BJP leadership is in panic due to these trends - the PM's tweet is an indication of the desperation in their camp. BJP candidates have openly admitted that they will have to work hard this time because there is no Modi hawa. The PM has been uninspiring in his campaign speeches and interviews. His attacks on INDIA are tired and jaded, and often bordering on the ab-

surd. The PM has been unable to set the agenda for the election. The rhetoric around '400 Par' and amending the Constitution have backfired on the ground. Congress Guarantees, backed by the strong performance of our State Governments, are gaining traction across the country. The undercurrent is gaining strength. A wave is now brewing!"

"The low voter turnout is being analysed as tangible evidence of the absence of any wave and deepening voter fatigue. There is no pull factor; issues dominating the electoral discourse have spread cynicism. While BJP leaders believe the opponents have given up, presuming that Modi is invincible, opposition leaders say people are fed up with Modi brand of politics based on diversionary ploys and irrelevant issues, where their core concerns are invariably pushed aside. The BJP supporters aren't motivated enough; they are unable to convince the voters to ignore high prices of essential commodities. Youth are angry because of unemployment. Farmers are livid. It finally looks like an election that will bring change," he added.



## Cool melons, clay pots see huge demand

Prayagraj: As mercury level is increasing steadily, people are finding their own way to beat the heat. What tops their list is the cool watermelons and mouth-watering lassi. Followed by clay pots and water coolers.

The sight of melons across the city is in itself a thirst-quencher. The hot summer has come as a blessing for watermelon vendors too, who are making a brisk business. Raj Kumar, who has been selling watermelons for ten years now, said they see sales of about 60 tonnes in

this four-month season.

People seem to love this melon which has several health benefits. Some say that they buy one melon at a time so that it won't go waste. Nutritionists too give their stamp of approval for melons. Watermelons are good sources of vitamin A and C and provide potassium and fiber. Consuming melon rejuvenates a person," said a doctor.

Apart from fruit, it is the clay/mud pots which are in demand. Known as poor man's refrigerator, these pots come in different sizes

and designs. Irfaan, a potter said, pots made with clay keep water cool and consuming such water is healthy too. We have different sizes of pots -- from 5 litres to 20 litres --- ranging from Rs 50 to Rs 250 per pot.

As for refrigerators and water coolers, Suresh, owner of an electrical shop in Johnstonganj said, "As this year, summer is severe, we are expecting the sale of around 1000 refrigerators and around 500 air-conditioners. We have already sold around 200 refrigerators and 500 coolers in the

last one month. Compared to last year, the sale is good this year."

Manju, owner of a cold drink house, said there is great demand for soft drinks, ice-creams, butter milk and lassi. On an average daily, I sell about 22 cases of soft drinks and 20 litres of buttermilk," he said.

With spurt in mercury of cooling appliances, vegetables or fruits have soared up but even that of earthen pots increased. Though earthen pots still remain favourites among citizens due to its natural cooling ef-

fects and cost effective nature this year one has to think twice to purchase it. Taking benefit of scorching summer which has forced citizens to take steps in order to tackle the extreme heat condition. Potters have doubled price of earthen pots.

The pots which were available for Rs. 20 to 50 are now being sold from Rs. 30 to 100 much to the shock of buyers. Worse effected are students who cannot purchase refrigerator and chilled water bottles every day to quench their thirst.

However, Abhimanyu a

hostler maintained that though earthen pots are costlier this year one has no option but to purchase clay pots. A seller of earthen pots at Colonelganj said that price rise is the main reason behind increase in costs of pots.

He added that despite doubling the cost earthen pots still remain a hit among citizens and are demanding clay utensils more than other items. Another customer asserted that apart from good taste which clay pots water has, it quenches thirst better than filters and refrigerators.

## 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 house-

hold 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."

## Editorial

### Will heatwave lead to a drop in voter turnout during Phase 2?

Temperatures are rising and it is amid this unpleasant weather that India is heading to the second phase of its general elections. The Lok Sabha polls are being held in seven phases, with the counting of votes on 4 June. Extreme heat is being blamed for the low voter turnout in the first phase of polling on 19 April when 102 Lok Sabha seats spread across 21 states and Union Territories voted. A dip of 4.4 per cent was recorded in these seats, as the voter turnout stood at 65.5 per cent this year from 69.9 per cent in the 2019 general elections. As 13 states and Union Territories go to polls on 26 April in the second phase, will the heatwave impact the voter turnout?

#### Which states are going to poll?

The second phase of polling will cover 89 constituencies in 12 states and one Union Territory. Kerala's all 20 Lok Sabha seats, 14 in Karnataka, 13 in Rajasthan, eight seats each in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, seven in Madhya Pradesh, five each in Assam and Bihar, three each in West Bengal and Chhattisgarh and one each in Tripura, Manipur and Jammu and Kashmir.

#### Are there heatwave predictions?

There is a heatwave warning for parts of four states – West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka – going to polls in the second phase. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast, hot and humid weather is expected in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Konkan, Goa, Coastal Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe.

"Heatwave to severe heatwave conditions likely to prevail in some pockets over Gangetic West Bengal and in isolated pockets over Odisha; heatwave conditions in isolated pockets over Uttar Pradesh, sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar, Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam, Rayalaseema, Telangana and interior Karnataka," as per the IMD. Speaking to NDTV, Dr Naresh Kumar, senior scientist at the IMD, said that the weather agency has issued a red alert for West Bengal for the next three days.

"Temperatures in Bihar will exceed 40 degrees Celsius. A heatwave is expected in eastern Uttar Pradesh after 24 hours and in western Uttar Pradesh after two days. The temperature will remain hot and humid in Kerala too," he said.

The IMD previously warned that heatwaves lasting 10 to 20 days, unlike the normal four to eight days, are expected between April and June. Heatwaves lasting 10 to 20 days, unlike the normal four to eight days, are expected between April and June. AP File Photo Gujarat, central Maharashtra and north Karnataka are most vulnerable to heatwaves, followed by Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, north Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, as per the IMD.

#### What is the EC doing?

A day back, the IMD Director General, Mrutunjay Mohapatra, assured the Election Commission of India (ECI) that heatwave is not a major concern for the second phase of elections. The ECI Monday (22 April) formed a task force consisting of officials from the IMD, the poll body, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to assess the impact of heatwave and humidity five days before each phase of polling. This came after the election commission held a meeting with the IMD and representatives of the Union Health Ministry to comprehend the developing weather situation and discuss mitigation measures. india general elections People crowd a polling booth to vote just before the polling ends during the first round of polling of India's national election in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, on 19 April 2024.



# The remarkable rise of Biharis in Delhi: From cheap labour to influential vote-bank

The selection of Bihar candidates for the Lok Sabha polls from Delhi by both the major formations – Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Aam Aadmi Party-Congress alliance clearly indicate that Purvanchalis, rather Biharis, have become a major political entity in the national capital. Today, they are not just at par but more influential than other major electoral blocks like that of Punjabis, Vaishyas, Gujjars, Jats and minorities. Numerically, the two formations together have fielded two Vaishyas, two Gujjars, two Punjabis, one Jat, three Scheduled Caste (two from reserved seats) and four Biharis. The emergence of the Purvanchalis/Biharis as the most influential electoral community is a story of a long journey of struggle and perseverance. During the watershed Assembly election in Delhi in 2013, the then Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit was looking forward to a fourth term. The confidence emanated from the development overhaul she carried out during the 2010 Commonwealth Games. Though the Congress government at the Centre was mired in allegations of corruption, Dikshit felt assured of steering clear of it. However, then Congress member of Lok Sabha from West Delhi, Mahabal Mishra, had warned Dikshit



about an impending defeat and had suggested to her that she could gamble by giving a large chunk of tickets to the party workers from Purvanchal (migrants from east UP and Bihar). Dikshit, who was never comfortable with Mishra, saw it as a ruse on the part of the Purvanchali leader to create a claim for himself as a rival to her. As the results came out, she was dismayed that her development drive was drowned in the cacophony let loose by the Anna Hazare movement, whose product is the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). The arrival of Arvind Kejriwal and the AAP marked the beginning of a new genre of politics. During the past three decades, Delhi has undergone a deep demographic change. The migrants arriving in the city, which is North India's El Dorado, have given a new character to its social and cultural life. From being

poor tenants in the unauthorised colonies, they are now proud holders of plots but have been fighting with successive governments for the assertion of their civic rights. Their struggle has not been limited to the recognition of their housing plots. They eke out a living fighting various forces of corruption aka government. The Congress and the BJP all those years instead of holding their hand depended on poll malpractices, exploiting their poverty to get their mandate. The migrants from the eastern districts of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and some districts of Madhya Pradesh bordering these areas for long looked for a role in the politics of the national capital. When Kejriwal, during the campaign in 2015, said to accept liquor and money from the Congress and the BJP but vote for him, he showed that he had his ear to the ground. In that poll,

the AAP had put up Purvanchali candidates in 15 out of 70 seats and they all romped home. Today, Mahabal Mishra is AAP's candidate from West Delhi. His son Vinay is an AAP MLA from their traditional Dwarka seat. For the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, for which voting is scheduled in Delhi on May 26, the BJP has fielded one Bihar candidate Manoj Tiwari, the sitting MP from the North East Delhi seat. AAP-Congress has fielded three Biharis – Kanhaiya Kumar from North East Delhi, Somnath Bharti from the New Delhi seat and the veteran Mahabal Mishra from the West Delhi seat. While Kanhaiya Kumar and Manoj Tiwari are imports into the capital's politics, Mahabal Mishra and Somnath Bharti have grown politically in the national capital. One may recall that Mahabal Mishra was the first Bihar to win an electoral battle, winning a seat as a corporator from Nasirpur in Outer Delhi in 1996.

Though before him, a Purvanchali, Lal Bihari Tiwari had won Assembly polls from the East Delhi seat of Ghonda and become a minister in the state BJP government. Later, Tiwari won three consecutive Lok Sabha polls in 1997 (bypoll), 1998 and 1999. However, there is a marked difference in the

politics of Tiwari and the present-day Bihar politicians in the capital – from meek submission to that of aggressive assertion. According to the data released by the Election Commission, Delhi has a total of 1,47,42,145 voters – 79,98,652 male, 67,42,330 female and 1163 from the third gender. This is up by about 6.5 per cent from 1,38,46,482 in 2019. According to estimates, 33.5 per cent of the total 1.48 crore voters across the seven Lok Sabha constituencies are Purvanchalis. Their presence varies from 24 per cent in Chandni Chowk to 41 per cent in East Delhi. On the North East Delhi seat, they constitute 40 per cent of the votes, while they account for 37 per cent of votes in New Delhi, 34 per cent in West Delhi, 31 per cent in North West Delhi and 27 per cent in South Delhi. Today, there isn't a constituency in Delhi where the 'Chhath' festival of Bihar is not celebrated.

But will the Biharis vote as a bloc or would have ideological preferences depending on their allegiance in the home state? This is something which the political parties, especially the BJP, would be accountable for. There are two other crucial seats – New Delhi and West Delhi, where the BJP needs to crack the Bihar pot to sail through.

## West Asian 'brinkmanship': Why Iran, Israel avoided crossing red lines

Rewriting the rules of engagement is challenging, but undoubtedly both Iran and Israel have made a symbolic statement and managed the escalation cycle wherein they have played to the gallery as far as their domestic audience is concerned. On April 14, Iran launched its first direct military offensive against Israel. The attack consisted of over 300 Shahed drones, cruise missiles, and ballistic missiles. The launch was detected immediately, and the Israeli forces on high alert had approximately two hours of response time before the drones reached Israeli airspace.

The strike was then taken apart as it moved across the Middle East by members of the US-led Middle East Air Defence Alliance, which included jets from the RAF, the Jordanian Air

Forces, and the US Air Force. Most of the surviving munitions were then intercepted by Israel's Air Defence Systems, which include the Iron Dome, David's Sling, and Arrow 2 and 3. At least five penetrated through these defences and struck targets in and around an Negev Desert. These five hits resulted in no casualties and caused only structural damage. The world was on edge, and there was danger that a threatened Israeli retaliation would result in a regional, if not wider, conflict. Crude prices spiked, markets dropped across the globe, and gold reached new heights. For India, one of the major dangers of escalation was the blocking of the Straits of Hormuz, as it would result in disruption of both crude and

natural gas. The Israeli reaction took place within the week. On April 19, they struck a military airbase near the city of Isfahan, and Iranian officials also claimed to have shot down small drones near the northern city of Tabriz, but this was downplayed. Isfahan Province, in the centre of Iran, is home to significant Iranian military infrastructure, including a large air base, a major missile production complex, and nuclear facilities. As per reports in the Jerusalem Post, the Israelis were targeting an air defence radar site near Isfahan that's part of the protection of the Natanz nuclear facility. The choreography of missile strikes once again ensured that there were no casualties and, moreover, no targeting of Iranian nuclear facilities.

## It's time India told the West: 'Mind your own democracy'

When prejudiced opinion posts masquerade as journalism, it violates one of the four foundational pillars of democracy. As mainstream media is pivotal in shaping popular perceptions and helps the voter make informed choices in an election year, much of the Western observers' anti-India blitzkrieg must be discounted by the discerning voter due to its inherent bias and colonial mindset. A free, fair and thriving multiparty democracy is at work at the scale of 970 million, as Indians ready to exercise their franchise in the general elections. Stunningly ignoramus and half-informed foreign scribes that write for global media outlets, West's India watchers, activists and NGOs are on overdrive to undermine the integrity of the Indian democratic process.

The woke brigade of journo who anoint themselves as upholders of liberal democracy are completely disconnected from the vox populi of the voting nation. Their feedback loops are through proxy, based on what they hear and perceive, and not by touring the expansive electoral terrain. The voter-on-the ground, primarily comprising rural and urban middle classes, neither read the likes of The Economist, New York Times, UK Guardian, Chatham House, Le Monde France, La Croix International Catholic News etc., nor hear the views on BBC, CNN or Bloomberg. Besides, in a country with 80 per cent of the population comprising Hindus, the resurgence of Hindu nationalism renders the opinions of the elitist Western collective as redundant and powerless to influence or impact India's electoral outcomes. For too long, international institutions of the West have held sway in determining



the pecking order of 170 nations, whether it is in determining their sovereign credit ratings or democratic credentials. In proportion to India's growing heft, and being the largest democracy, it is a step in the right direction that India has set in motion the process of redefining the codes for an alternative 'Global Standard for Elections', and creating its own metrics of gauging the democracy ratings index in collaboration with the Observer Research Foundation. Much has transformed during Modi's decadal tenure. India has indeed emerged as the nation of the decade, and a critical player in just about every issue pivotal to playing peace-maker on geo-political tensions, or issues facing the planet. India's inclusive economic growth under Modi and its expanding global ascendance has made it a formidable global power. It is therefore no surprise that Modi as the front runner is poised for a successive third term, and is expected to return in a stronger avatar in 2024. Should that happen, the pace of economic reforms and saturation of flagship schemes is expected to accelerate. An industrial prime minister helming the fifth largest economy is an intimidating prospect for the US and Western nations, as the more the axis of economic power steadily shifts towards India, one expects negative news blitzes from foreign soil to further intensify.

## Planting trees is a simple solution to counter air pollution

Planners and designers are reimagining cityscapes with verdant green corridors and tree-lined boulevards, weaving greenery seamlessly into the urban fabric. Image: Wikimedia Commons As Delhi grapples with yet another harrowing bout of air pollution caused by Ghazipur landfill fires, the city, especially its eastern part, finds itself ensnared in a blanket of toxic smog, pushing its air quality index to alarming levels again. With readings skyrocketing to several times the World Health Organization's recommended limit, the severity of the situation has prompted drastic measures, including school closures and restric-

tions on construction activities. This onslaught of pollution not only poses immediate health risks but also casts a long shadow over the residents' quality of life, with projections suggesting a staggering reduction of 10 years in life expectancy. Health experts equate breathing this hazardous smog to smoking a staggering 14 cigarettes every day. Laden with nanoparticles capable of infiltrating the lungs and bloodstream, this lethal smog poses a grave threat, fueling respiratory ailments and health complications. In the face of this crisis, the urgent need for effective solutions to combat air pollution has never been more evi-

dent. It is no news that the scourge of pollution has seeped into every facet of our lives - the water we drink, the soil we rely on for sustenance, and the very air we breathe. This dire reality confronts millions in bustling metropolises across the globe, where densely packed populations are disproportionately exposed to harmful contaminants. As these pollutants infiltrate our environment, they accumulate, magnifying in intensity as they ascend the food chain. With urbanisation advancing at breakneck speed and our demands on natural resources escalating, we stand close to tainting the very essence of our existence.

Clean air to fill our lungs, uncontaminated food to nourish our bodies—these are not luxuries, but fundamental necessities for our survival. Can we, in good conscience, stand idly by as our cities succumb to this relentless march of degradation? The time for action is now.

#### What is pollution?

Before we unpack why pollution occurs or how to mitigate it, it is vital to ask, what do we exactly mean by pollution in our cities. Pollution occurs when high concentrations of substances persist in the environment due to human activities or natural events, which have harmful effects to the environment.

## Missing from poll talk, Shiromani Akali Dal rakes up sacrilege this time

**JALANDHAR:** Having remained largely missing from public discourse this year, after being a core issue in the 2017 and 2022 assembly polls and 2019 Lok Sabha elections in Punjab, sacrilege cases and investigations into them have been raised again.

In a post on its official Facebook page on Sunday, Shiromani Akali Dal raked up the slow pace of investigations into cases of sacrilege of Guru Granth Sahib in Punjab in 2015, when SAD was the incumbent in Punjab along with BJP. Shiromani Akali Dal, which is now aiming to recover its lost base among the Sikhs, also hinted at Sirsa-based Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim's alleged involvement in the cases, even as it did not explicitly name him. In all these years, barring a couple of its leaders, the SAD had not been mentioning Dera Sacha Sauda or Gurmeet Ram Rahim



in connection with sacrilege cases. The party has also maintained that the SAD and its govt were unfairly targeted over the cases, even as they were not at fault. SAD posted that in the last two years, chief minister Bhagwant Mann had not given sanction for prosecution of the chief conspirator in sacrilege cases. It also posted a news clipping of a prominent Punjabi daily, which mentioned that the govt failed to give sanction to prosecute Gurmeet Ram Rahim and now it had also stopped responding to the issue. Akali Dal also

posted that the state govt was not properly following the cases already being pursued in courts. "Till now, culprits had been convicted only in the case pertaining to sacrilege at Gurusar Bhagta village, which were registered by SAD govt. Congress and AAP used the sentiments of Sikh community only for political ends," it said. "AAP government is colluding with culprits of sacrilege and is protecting them," it added. Bargari sacrilege and Behbal Kalan police firing of Oct 2015 were among the main issues along with drugs, illegal mining.

## BJP's aim is to defraud the public by making false promises and usurping power: Pradeep Choudhary

**Kaithal:** Haryana Pradesh Congress Committee member and former Chief Minister of Haryana Ch. Pradeep Kumar Chaudhary, a special supporter of Bhopendra Singh Hooda, alleged that even after the martyrdom of about 700 farmers, till date the BJP government has not given MSP of crops to the farmers. A law was not made to guarantee this. He said that during the 10 years of rule, neither the report of Swaminath Commission was implemented nor the income of farmers was doubled. For these ten years, farmers were treated step-by-step and the farmers' movement was subjected to lathicharge. So much atrocities were committed on the farmers that now the farmers will take their revenge in the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections. While talking to journalists at New Grain



Market Dhand, Congress leader Pradeep Chaudhary said that BJP's manifesto is a guarantee of Modi's lies and statements. The BJP government has been misleading the public for ten years. The BJP government has not done anything for the welfare of the people. Only in the name of development and employment has the work been done to confuse the public. The BJP government could not fulfill the promises made in the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha elections. Pradeep Choudhary said that the aim of BJP is only

to cheat the people by gaining power and instead of taking any step in the public interest, it is to change the Constitution of the country, so that no one can point a finger at their arbitrariness. Pradeep Chaudhary said that BJP is not contesting elections for the first time. The public gave BJP the chance to run the government for ten years, but the BJP government could not fulfill the promises made and all the promises have proved to be hollow. Even after running the government for 10 years, 83 percent of the youth are unemployed, so how can they guarantee employment, because BJP's promise of providing two crore jobs in a year has proved to be a mere statement. He claimed that the India Alliance will win 10 Lok Sabha seats in Haryana and a coalition government will be formed in the country.

## Pradhan's potshot at Naveen Patnaik 'double conch' clip sparks lungi ladaai

**BHUBANESWAR:** The humble lungi, a go-to dress for many Indian men at home, has suddenly got a life of its own ever since a video of chief minister Naveen Patnaik, dressed in a lungi and white, round-neck T-shirt, and holding cut-outs of BJD's conch symbol, was uploaded by the BJD as part of its 'Jodi Sankha (double conch)' campaign. Even as Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan criticised the video, terming it a mockery of a respectable person, it triggered a backlash with many BJD politicians dressing up in a lungi in solidarity with the chief minister. In the video, Naveen is seen urging voters to cast their ballots twice for the party's conch symbol in the simultaneous Lok Sabha and assembly polls. Responding to it, Dharmendra, at a public gathering in Laikera, which falls under Jharsuguda assembly seat and Bargarh Lok Sabha constituency, said, "You may have seen the video. There is a 'gumasta (agent)', making the CM do such odd things. He is an old man, respectable to all of us. At least he should have been made to dress properly. Should this happen?" Dharmendra added, "A handful of people are ruling Odisha. Odisha's control is no more in your hands. The CM is in video. His remote lies in the hands of non-Odia agents. It's a question of Odia identity. People of Odisha will give a decisive verdict against such a govt." In response to Dharmendra's criticism, BJD spokespersons Sasmit Patra and Swayam Prakash Mohapatra held a press conference and came wearing lungis. Strongly condemning the Union minister's comment, the BJD leaders asserted that the success of the 'Jodi Sankha' campaign has left him sleepless.

## BJP made Modi ji, someone from backward class, the PM; Modi appointed 35% backward and extremely backward MPs as ministers: Shah

**Chandigarh:** Amidst the heated atmosphere of Lok Sabha elections, Union Home and Cooperation Minister and senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader Amit Shah is holding back-to-back public meetings and road shows. Shah has entered the field with full preparations to ensure the victory of the Bharatiya Janata Party and make Narendra Modi the Prime Minister of the country for the third time. In this connection, Amit Shah addressed a huge public



meeting in Katihar, Bihar. In which he said, 'BJP made Narendra Modi ji of extremely backward caste the Prime Minister, Modi ji has made 35 percent backward and extremely back-

ward MPs ministers. After becoming Prime Minister, Modi worked to give constitutional status to the OBC Commission. Further, 27% reservation has been provided to the OBC community in all the services of the central government. Whereas, on the other side was the Congress party, who have done injustice to OBC (Other Backward Classes) for years. They suppressed the Kaka Kalelkar Commission and the Mandal Commission report.' It is well known that since

becoming the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has dealt a severe blow to nepotism, casteism, and appeasement in the country. On the other hand, the Congress party and its associate Lalu Yadav keep giving the slogan of 'Garibi Hatao'. But despite all this, poverty could never be eradicated. In the last 10 years, Prime Minister Narendra has worked to provide five kilos of free food grains per person per month to more than 80 crore people of the country.

## Supreme Court says Patanjali apology in newspapers should be of same size as its advt.

**NEW DELHI:** Hearing a case on misleading advertisements by Patanjali Ayurved, the Supreme Court of India on Tuesday said that the Ramdev-owned company's public apology in newspapers should be of same size in which it advertises its products. Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Ramdev, said that an apology has been published in newspapers. But the Supreme Court reprimanded him on why the apology was published yesterday only. The SC said that

FMCG firms cannot be allowed to take people of this country - particularly babies, children and senior citizen - for a ride as they are influenced by misleading advertisements and the Union government must wake up to this. Expanding the ambit of its proceedings on misleading advertisements which was earlier confined only to Patanjali Ayurveda products, the SC asked Centre on action it has taken against other FMCG companies for giving misleading advertise-

ments. The SC said that it was asking questions to the ministry of consumer affairs, ministry of information and broadcasting as co-respondents (in the case). State licensing authorities across the country will also be added as parties and they too need to answer certain questions, says Supreme Court. The SC also told Indian Medical Association (IMA) that while it was pointing fingers at Patanjali, four fingers were pointing at them.

## 5-time 'Best Parliamentarian' overcomes his big regret by clearing SSC at age 58

**PUNE:** Despite being decorated with the Sansad Ratna (Best Parliamentarian) award five times and Maha Sansad Ratna once, Shrirang Barne, the two-time Member of Parliament from Pune's Maval, had one regret - his 2014 and 2019 affidavit mentioned his educational qualification as "10th class fail". Not any more. The 60-year-old Shiv Sena MP who filed his nomination for the Maval seat for the third consecutive time on Monday proudly mentioned in his affidavit that he is now "SSC pass". "I had appeared for the SSC examination in 1980 but I failed in the science subject. Though I tasted success in politics, the failure in my 10th class exam had continued to haunt me for all these years. I appeared for the exam in the year 2022 and



cleared it," Barne told. He did not make this achievement public in 2022, like he did with Sansad Ratna awards. He waited for the right time and the right document - his third affidavit for general elections. During his younger days, Barne helped his father in farming and in 1997 he followed his elder brother, Hiranman Barne's footsteps to get into politics to become a corporator in Pimpri Chinchwad. He was active in Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC)

for over 15 years before Shiv Sena elevated him to the national level and he contested Lok Sabha in 2014 for the first time and won from Maval. He also won a second time in 2019 when he defeated deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar's elder son Parth. His close friends, amidst all his political success, the tenth failed tag bothered him. "When Barne went to Delhi as a Member of Parliament, he realised the importance of education.

## Belgians to organise Akhand Paath in the memory of Punjabi soldiers martyred in the WW I at their home and Chandigarh

**Chandigarh:** In the memory of the Sikh soldiers from Punjab who were martyred for the British Army in Belgium during the World Wars, a three-day long Akhand Paath is being organized in joint collaboration with Belgium based In Flanders Field Museum (Ypres) and Chandigarh based Sikhya Seekers from April 26. To mark the auspicious occasion of 325th anniversary of Khalsa Sajna Diwas, the museum management has announced to organize this religious ritual in its museum premises and Sector 34 Gurudwara Shri Guru Teg Bahadur Sahib from April 26 to 28 as an expression of respect and gratitude for the brave demised



souls. Sher Singh, Associate, In Flanders Fields Museum while virtually addressing the media from Belgium at Chandigarh Press Club emphasized that Belgians will always be grateful to those Sikh soldiers who bravely fought against the combined Central Powers of Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire in the First World War. Their bravery helped Belgium to save the nation from the

German occupation resulting the Belgian faction of the Allied countries won the WWI. "Ypres is an vital phase of Indian and Belgian history wherein unfortunately nearly 1.5 lakh Punjabi soldiers lost their lives in two major wars. The tales of their bravery will remain immortal in Belgium. This Akhand Paath is a tribute by the countrymen of Belgium on the holy festival of Baisakhi month," emotes Sher Singh.

## In Patanjali fallout, FMCG companies under SC lens for misleading advertisements

**NEW DELHI:** Expanding the ambit of its proceedings on misleading advertisements beyond those for Patanjali Ayurveda prod-



ucts, Supreme Court on Tuesday sought response from the Centre and states on actions taken against other FMCG companies for luring people with deceptive promotions to consume their products. A bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Ahsanuddin Amanullah also decided to examine the unethical practice of doctors prescribing expensive and unnecessary medicines to patients for some consideration and asked the Indian Medical Association, the petitioner in the contempt case against Patanjali Ayurveda and its promoters, to put its house in order and sought response on action taken against erring doctors. IMA itself has been criticised in the past for endorsing products of big pharmaceutical companies. "What are you doing to rein in those members of your association in the allopathic field is a question we need to ask you too," the bench told senior advocate P S Patwalia who was appearing for IMA. "This is not going to be all just that there are FMCGs, there are you and your members who are prescribing medicines on the strength of recommendations made for which there is valuable consideration... If that's happening, why should we not turn the beam at you?" The court said FMCG firms cannot be allowed to take people of this country "for a ride", particularly babies, children and senior citizens who consume their products.

## PM Modi's 'redistribution of wealth' attack: What Manmohan Singh had said in 2006



**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Modi, in his past few election speeches, has been relentless in his attack against the Congress over its manifesto promise of a "nation-wide socio-economic and caste census." PM Modi has accused the grand-old party of having "plans to redistribute wealth".

The Prime Minister set the tone for this mega attack last Sunday at an election rally in Rajasthan where he linked Cong's manifesto plans with a 2006 statement of former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on giving priority to minorities on nation's resources.

Citing Manmohan Singh's 2006 speech, PM Modi has claimed that Congress, if voted to power, will take away people's wealth and redistribute it among the Muslims. "Earlier, when their (Congress) government was in power, they had said that Muslims have the first right on the coun-

try's assets. This means to whom will this property be distributed? It will be distributed among those who have more children," PM Modi had said at the Rajasthan rally. Since then, the Prime Minister has repeated this charge at all his election rallies. "They have set their sights on your hard-earned money and property. Congress's shahzada' (prince) says if their gov't comes to power, they will investigate who earns how much and has how much property, how many vehicles, your fixed deposits. Not only this, their gov't will take over property and redistribute it. This is what their election manifesto is saying..." he said at a rally in Aligarh.

Reiterating his comments, PM Modi again on Monday said, "Your Mangalsutra will not be safe under Congress rule," adding that Congress and INDI alliance have their eyes on the people's earnings and property. He made similar allegations on Tuesday at a rally in Rajasthan. "I have put forth the truth before the country that Congress is hatching a deep conspiracy to snatch your wealth and distribute it among the 'select' people," he said. Reacting strongly to PM's onslaught, Congress lodged a complaint with the EC seeking cancellation of PM Modi's candidature and stating that "this is not a candidate who will be silenced by a simple censure".

Calling PM Modi a "serial offender", Congress said that he attacked the dignity of the Constitution by violating the principle of secularism which is part of the basic structure.

## Bon voyage: Air India's Boeing 747, takes off last flight from Indian air base

**NEW DELHI:** Once known as Queen of skies, Air India Boeing 747 on Monday flew out of Mumbai's international airport. The aircraft which once ferried Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Prime Minister and VVIP's took its last flight from Mumbai base marking the end of an era. The plane was used for long international flights. The aircraft is off to Plainfield in US, where it will be dismantled and be stripped for parts. There are four Air India Boeing 747's, the last of which ceased operations four years back. Air India

received delivery of its first Boeing 747 aircrafts on March 22, 1971. The pilots while taking its final flight off Indian base performed a "Wing Wave" which is an aviation tradition for retiring or concluding flights. Airlines across the world are replacing the Boeing 747's with much better and more efficient jets. According to a report the four Boeing 747-400 airplanes have found a new owner - US-based AerSale, a supplier of aftermarket commercial jet engines and parts. The last flight of Air India 747's was in 2021, since then, they've been

parked at Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport. Nomadic Aviation Group managing partner Steven Giordano told: "A local team of Engineers from the Air India MRO facility and on-site technical representatives for Aersale (the purchaser) have been getting the aircraft ready for flight for several months with inspections, engine runs, and return-to-service actions. The aircraft have been de-registered and placed on the FAA (United States) registry. An FAA Designated Airworthiness.

## New variant of medium-range missile tested

**NEW DELHI:** India on Tuesday tested the new variant of a medium-range ballistic missile (MRBM), which was conducted by the tri-Service Strategic Forces Command that handles the country's nuclear arsenal. Defence ministry said "user launch" by



SFC "has proven the operational capability"

of MRBM & "validated new technologies", without specifying the exact kind of missile it was. Sources said it was likely to be "land version" of B-05 or K-15 submarine-launched ballistic missile. Arihant, India's first nuclear-powered submarine is equipped.

## CAPSULES

### 'Saale sahab kya karenge': Smriti Irani takes a dig on Rahul Gandhi amid buzz over Amethi candidacy

**NEW DELHI:** As the Congress delays its candidate announcement in Uttar Pradesh's Amethi, incumbent BJP MP Smriti Irani has targeted Rahul Gandhi and his brother-in-law Robert Vadra. Irani said that in her five years in office, she accomplished more for the constituency than Gandhi did in his 15-year tenure. These comments came after speculation stirred by Vadra's potential candidacy for the Amethi seat, traditionally held by the Congress and won by Irani in 2019. Amethi is scheduled to vote on May 20 during the fifth phase of the Lok Sabha polls. In a jocular tone, Irani remarked to a gathering in Amethi, 'Jijaji ki nazar hai, saale sahab kya karenge. (brother-in-law is eyeing the seat, what will he (Rahul Gandhi) do?) There was a time when people travelling in buses would leave their handkerchief to mark their seat so that no one sits on it. Rahul Gandhi will also come to mark his seat with a handkerchief because his brother-in-law is eyeing this seat.'

"Has this ever happened? Just 27 days left for the election, yet the Congress has not announced its candidate. Such arrogance. What I could achieve in five years for Amethi, Rahul Gandhi could not accomplish in 15," Irani added.



## Why NCP (SP) is finding it difficult to blow its trumpet

**PUNE:** The NCP (SP) has been campaigning hard to make its new symbol of a man blowing a 'tutari' reach voters before polling, but it has a new battle on its hands: independent candidates in the state are opting for a symbol that sounds similar to its official symbol in Marathi. The Election Commission of India (ECI) allotted the 'man blowing turha' - the turha is a traditional instrument and is called tutari in Marathi - as the poll symbol for NCP (SP). The party has been urging people to vote for 'tutari' and its sitting MP Supriya Sule,



who is seeking a fourth term from Baramati Lok Sabha seat, raises the slogan 'Ram Krishna Hari Waajva Tutari' while campaigning. Party office-bearers claimed that the ECI had allotted a symbol of the trumpet to inde-

pendent candidates in some constituencies in the state and called it 'tutari' in Marathi, which will confuse voters. Independents from Baramati, Satara and Madha constituencies were allotted the 'tutari' symbol and NCP

(SP) has fielded its candidates from all three seats. Sule's election representative Laxmikant Khabiya lodged a complaint with the ECI after an independent candidate from Baramati was allotted the 'tutari'. "Tutari is a word from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's era while trumpet is a musical instrument used in bands. It can never be translated to mean 'tutari' in Marathi. Since both symbols are similar, we have requested the ECI to take appropriate action and avoid confusion among voters.

## BJP may bench Brij, Poonam & Jamyang Namgyal

**NEW DELHI:** Three prominent BJP faces, including controversial Kaiserganj MP and former WFI president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, Mumbai North Central MP Poonam Mahajan and her Ladakh counterpart Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, are likely to be benched. Party sources indicated that Singh's wife Ketki Devi Singh, who served as an MP from Gonda for two years (1996-98) could replace him as BJP nominee, although a final decision is on hold in view of the sexual assault case expected in the last week of the month. Sources



said although the former WFI president was adamant on contesting the polls again, he has been advised to pause his claim until a decision in the case lodged against him by woman wrestlers. Besides, sources argued, Ketki Devi's candidature would be seen as a boost to women leadership, one of the party's key poll planks.

A Delhi court last week deferred its order on framing of charges against Singh. Six women wrestlers have accused him of sexual harassment - an allegation he has denied vehemently. The matter was deferred after Singh moved an application before the court seeking further probe into reports of his presence at the WFI office

on September 7, 2022. He also said the prosecution's analysis of call detail records had shown that one incident of alleged sexual harassment took place on a day when he was not present in the country. However, the chances of Mahajan and Namgyal seem bleaker as per party sources, who attributed the likely exclusion to their "non-performance" as MPs and "negative feedback" from their constituencies. Polling on all three seats is scheduled in the fifth phase on May 20, for which last date to file nominations is May 3.

## IIT graduates are landing salary packages below 10 lakh this year

**MUMBAI/DELHI:** The pursuit of high-paying jobs has hit a roadblock this placement season at the premium Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs). With companies scaling back on hiring and offering lower salary packages, students at the tail-end are being offered annual packages below Rs 10 lakh. Organisations that would usually pick half-a-dozen students have picked one or two at best, forcing colleges to reach out to more companies. And many of those are offering annual compensation of Rs 10-15 lakh. Students who have bagged campus jobs at what they believe is a lower pay scale, are still in the market looking for better prospects on job portals and travelling cities to attend job fairs and interviews.



"The global economic slowdown has significantly impacted the campus placements for the 2024 graduating batch of IIT Indore. The reduced hiring numbers of recruiters compared to the previous year have resulted in a challenging placement season. To offset the impact, IIT Indore has taken early steps by tapping into alumni networks and has broadened its pool of potential employers, including PSUs," said Professor Suhas Joshi, director, IIT Indore. A student at IIT Bombay said, "Companies that till last year picked 5 to 8

students are picking 1 or 2 this year. Several are still not yet hired. From coaching classes to start-ups, some have recently been picked for salary packages of Rs 60,000 to Rs 80,000 in phase 2." Another student from an IIT-Kharagpur said, "Spectrum Technologies offered Rs 3.6 lakh for trainee engineers and Rs 6 lakh for trainee design engineers. Startoon Labs and Gem Machinery offered Rs 5.5 lakh annually. Skyroot offered Rs 5 lakh. Sri Chaitanya and Next Education offer Rs 4.8 to 6 lakh per annum."

## 'Glaciers melting at unprecedented rates in Indian Himalayan region'

**BENGALURU:** The Himalayan mountains, often called the "Third Pole" due to their vast glaciers and snow cover, are highly vulnerable to global climate change impacts both physically and societally. Isro Monday said that new research analysing decades of satellite imagery has revealed that glaciers across the Indian Himalayan region have been melting at alarming rates, leading to the significant expansion of glacial lakes. Research conducted worldwide has consistently shown that glaciers across the globe have been experiencing unprecedented rates of retreat and thinning since the onset of the industrial revolution in the 18th century. "...This retreat



leads to the formation of new lakes and the enlargement of existing ones in the Himalayan region. These bodies of water, created by the melting of glaciers, are known as glacial lakes and play a crucial role as freshwater sources for rivers in the Himalayan region. However, they also pose significant risks, such as Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs), which can have devastating consequences for communities downstream," Isro said in a

statement on Monday. For the research, Isro used satellite data from 1984 to 2023, which shows that of the 2,431 glacial lakes larger than 10 hectares identified in 2016-17 across river basins, a staggering 676 lakes have grown markedly since 1984. This includes 130 lakes within India — 65 in the Indus basin, seven in the Ganga basin, and 58 in the Brahmaputra basin. The changes have been drastic, with 601 of the expanding

lakes more than doubling in size. Ten lakes grew 1.5 to 2 times larger, while 65 expanded 1.5 times. The analysis found many of the bulging lakes at higher elevations, with 314 between 4,000-5,000 metres and 296 above 5,000 metres. The glacial lakes are categorised based on their formation process into four broad categories.

s, namely Moraine-dammed (water dammed by moraine), Ice-dammed (water dammed by ice), Erosion (water dammed in depressions formed by erosion), and other glacial lakes. "Among the 676 expanding lakes, the majority of them are Moraine-dammed (307).

## Congress neta's 'disrespect' for statute gives PM Modi more ammo

**RAIPUR:** PM Narendra Modi on Tuesday said he would be a "shield for the Constitution" and attacked Congress over a remark by its South Goa candidate Captain Viriato Fernandes (retired) that the Indian Constitution was "imposed on Goa" after its liberation from the Portuguese rule in 1961. At a rally, Fernandes had said that while pressing for the demand for dual citizenship, he had explained to Rahul Gandhi in 2019 how the Constitution was 'imposed' on Goans. Attacking Congress at a rally in Chhattisgarh, Modi said: "A Congress candidate in Goa is saying that the Constitution of India will not work there. Isn't this a disrespect of Babasaheb? Isn't this a disrespect of the Constitution Babasaheb's Constitution is working in J&K." "This is a deliberate move to break the country.

## 'Congress considered itself greater than Lord Ram,' says PM Modi at Chhattisgarh rally

**NEW DELHI:** PM Modi on Tuesday launched a scathing attack on Congress and accused the party of considering itself "bigger than Lord Ram."

Addressing a rally in Janjgir-Champa in Chhattisgarh, PM Modi said, "Congress people used to taunt us; in every election we were asked when will the temple be built? We told them the date, time and even sent them an invitation, but they refused the invitation for the Pran Pratishtha ceremony."

He said, "Appeasement and vote bank politics are in the DNA of Congress. For appeasement, even if Congress has to snatch the rights of



Dalits, backward and tribals, it will not take even a second to do so."

PM Modi also criticized the Congress for its dynasty politics, saying that before 2014, a single family ran the government for nearly 60 years, either directly or through remote control. He called out the party's remarks about South India and Goa, deeming them an insult to India and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

"First the Congress MP from Karnataka said that South India will be declared a separate country and now the Congress candidate from Goa is

saying that the country's constitution does not apply to Goa, the country's constitution was imposed on Goa," the Prime Minister said.

During his address, the Prime Minister highlighted the BJP's role in fulfilling the hope of building a temple in Ayodhya, stating that the country had given up on this dream before the party took action. He emphasized that the BJP follows the mantra of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" and prioritizes the welfare of the poor, youth, women, and farmers.

## Rahul Gandhi not beyond reproach: Kerala CM backs Anvar

**NEW DELHI:** Anvar's remarks, which came three days before all 20 LS seats in Kerala vote in the second phase, received CM Pinarayi Vijayan's endorsement amid a backlash from Congress.

"Rahul Gandhi was bound to get a reply for what he said. He is not beyond reproach," the CM told reporters in Kannur, alluding to Rahul targeting him. Congress' K C Venugopal termed the attack "shocking and detestable", saying it amounted to "insulting Rajiv Gandhi, who sacrificed his life for the country". Congress MLA A P Anilkumar said Congress-led UDF had



made a remark that should never come from a people's representative," he said. The video of his speech is being aired on various (TV) channels... He not only defamed Rahul in his speech but also hurt the sentiments of millions of Indians by disrespecting the memory of former PMs Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi." Leader of the opposition V D Satheesan said chief minister Vijayan had been attacking Congress and Rahul Gandhi since the start of the election campaign, "based on an understanding with BJP".

lodge a complaint with EC and the state police chief. KPCC acting president MM Hassan demanded that police immediately file a case against Anvar, whom he called "the new avatar of Godse". "His words are deadlier than Godse's bullets that killed Gandhiji. Anvar

## Report on Adani investors exposes govt lies, says Congress

**NEW DELHI:** Congress on Tuesday alleged that with the stock market regulator's latest findings confirming offshore funds investing in Adani Group firms had violated norms, the lies of Modi govt and the corporate have been exposed. Claiming that "it's just the tip of the ice-

berg", the party said that a new INDIA govt will order a Joint Parliamentary Committee probe in June to bring out the "full extent of the loot." In what appeared to be a retort to the PM's remarks at an election rally, Congress MP Rahul Gandhi shared a video post on X with the

caption - "We will not make a govt of Adanis. One video in the post shows a snippet of PM Modi's speech where he says, "If Congress makes a govt, they will get a survey done of everyone's property and all the wealth that is there will be redistributed equally."

## CAPSULES

### Congress tried to snatch rights of SC/ST/OBCs: PM Modi

**JAIPUR:** PM Modi accused Congress on Tuesday of being "so steeped in vote-bank politics" that it wouldn't balk at snatching reservation from the SC and ST communities and passing it on to Muslims, "like it attempted to do through a pilot project in Andhra Pradesh in 2004 before seeking to extend it to the rest of the country". "Between 2004 and 2010, they tried to implement this plan in AP four times, but because of legal hurdles, and Supreme Court's vigil, they could not implement it," Modi said at a rally in Rajasthan's Tonk-Sawai Madhopur on the penultimate day of campaigning for the second and final phase of polling in the state this Friday. Videos "In 2011, Congress tried to implement this across the country - snatch the rights of SCs, STs and OBCs as part of its politics of appeasement. Jab humey mauka mila, toh humne jo pehla kaam kiya, unhone joh SC-ST se chheen karke Muslims ka quota nikala tha, usko humne khatam kar diya (The first thing we did after being elected was to scrap reservation for minorities that Cong had snatched from SC-ST)." Modi, who started his rally in Banswara last Sunday by linking Congress's manifesto with former PM Manmohan Singh's 2006 statement about minorities having first right to India's resources, iterated that the grand old party had "hatched a conspiracy to redistribute the country's wealth among a favoured few". Singh featured in the PM's speech a second time as the latter spoke of how Congress allegedly couldn't care less about "tinkering with Babasaheb Ambedkar's Constitution".

## Economic offences wing clears Ajit Pawar's wife in bank scam case

**MUMBAI:** The Economic Offences Wing has given a clean chit to deputy CM Ajit Pawar's wife Sunetra in the Rs 25,000 crore Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank scam case. There was no illegality involved in Jarandeshwar Sugar Mills Pvt Ltd taking on rent Jarandeshwar Co-Op Sugar Mill from Guru Commodity, EOW said in its closure report. However, ED, in its chargesheet, said Guru Commodity and Jarandeshwar Sugar Mills entered into a "paper transaction" to project the lease as gen-



uine. The EOW that probed the case had filed a closure report in 2020 but subsequently moved the court to reopen it to probe Ajit Pawar and his nephew Rohit Pawar, who were part of the MVA. The EOW then filed a second report in January this

year seeking closure of the case, saying there is no evidence to proceed against anyone in the case including Ajit Pawar, who is now with the Mahayuti. The report was made available now. The EOW also gave a clean chit to companies associated with

MLA Rohit Pawar of NCP (SP), saying his Baramati Agro was financially sound when it purchased the Kannad Sugar Mill and there was 'no diversion of funds.' It gave a clean chit to his party colleague-former minister Prajakt Tanpure too. The MSCB has 31 district central co-operative banks under its umbrella, mostly named after districts and headed by politicians. Between 2002 and 2017, MSCB granted loans to cooperative sugar factories and later auctioned the units, along with their lands, at throwaway prices.

## Excise policy case: Kejriwal, K Kavitha's judicial custody extended till May 7

**NEW DELHI:** The judicial custody of Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal and BRS leader K Kavitha was on Tuesday extended till May 7 by a Delhi court. The two leaders are in jail in connection with a money laundering case related to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam. Special judge for CBI and ED matters Kaveri Baweja extended their custody after they were produced before the court through video conference on expiry of their remand. The Enforcement



Directorate had arrested Kejriwal on March 21 after questioning him for over two hours at his official residence in Delhi. The ED has termed Kejriwal the "kingpin" and the key conspirator" of the alleged excise policy scam in collusion with other ministers of the

Delhi government, AAP leaders, and other persons. On Monday, the court had turned down an application moved by Kejriwal seeking permission to consult a private doctor of his choice daily for 15 minutes through video conferencing for his acute diabetes and fluctuat-

ing blood sugar levels. The court had also directed AIIMS to constitute a medical board to examine the chief minister and determine whether he needs insulin to control his blood sugar levels. Kejriwal had alleged he was not being administered insulin in jail leading to "alarming" rise in his blood sugar levels. The ED had earlier claimed that the AAP leader was consuming sugar-laden food like mangoes and sweets on a regular basis to create grounds for medical bail.

## EC studying complaint against PM Modi's speech

**NEW DELHI:** The complaint received by Election Commission against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech in Banswara, Rajasthan - in which he had cited Congress manifesto and an old speech of former PM Manmohan Singh to warn people that Congress would redistribute citizens' property to "infiltrators" with "more children" - is under consideration of the poll body, according to EC sources.



right to the country's assets". "It will be distributed to the infiltrators. Should your hard-earned money go to the infiltrators? Do you approve of this?" he had asked. Modi's remarks had the opposition up in arms with both Congress approaching EC seeking action against the PM for making communal remarks and unverified allegations against Congress. Even the CPM complained that Modi's remarks were aimed at driving a wedge between Hindus and Muslims. Sources said EC may need to look at Modi's speech from multiple angles - like whether it was a

jibe against a particular minority community and a communal appeal not to vote for Congress, or if he was simply bringing up an old speech of his predecessor and juxtaposing it with Congress's promises. "Singh's speech at the National Development Council meeting in 2006 had noted that Muslims have the first claim n resources...the speech is part of the records. Also, the comment on Congress manifesto - that property will be redistributed - seems to be with reference to the party's promise to hold a caste survey and reduce income inequality.

## Want 400+ seats for reforms, not to end reservation: Shah

**NAGPUR:** Union home minister Amit Shah denied on Tuesday claims that BJP would change the Constitution and abolish quotas if voted to power, saying "We want '400 paar'" to implement bold reforms to transform the nation. "BJP is committed to maintaining reservations for backward communities," he said at a rally in Akola. Appealing to people to vote for BJP nominee Anup Dhotre, Shah lashed out at the INDIA bloc for opposing construction of Ram Mandir at Ayodhya, and mentioned that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership the temple's foundation and construction were completed in five years. Shah also appealed to voters to press the EVM buttons with such force that the "cur-



rent" should reach Italy, a statement seen as a jibe about Congress's Sonia Gandhi. The Union home minister vigorously addressed allegations by Congress regarding BJP's stance on reservation. He highlighted several key reforms and measures taken by BJP govt, including nullification of Article 370 and introduction of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). He emphasised that these steps have been instrumental in

eliminating terrorism. Shah pointed out that when Congress was in govt terrorists from Pakistan often infiltrated and carried out attacks on Indian soil. However, during 10 years of Modi govt terrorism has been crushed and is being dealt with iron hand, he claimed. He also touched upon the sensitive issue of triple talaq. He stated that while Congress appeared to support the continuation of triple talaq, it was BJP that ultimately abolished it, thereby empowering Muslim

women and upholding their rights. Shah went on to list various schemes launched by BJP govt to improve the lives of the poor. He mentioned distribution of 5kg free rations to the poor, the construction of 12 crore toilets to promote sanitation, and the provision of 10 crore gas connections. Shah also highlighted the initiative to provide four crore households with drinking water taps, ensuring access to clean water for millions, and four crore houses to the poor under PM Awas Yojana. "If voted to power, we will supply LPG through pipelines," he said. Shah also spoke about the Wainganga-river linking project in Maharashtra, which is designed to irrigate four lakh hectares of farmland in Vidarbha.

## Rahul Gandhi to address meet on social justice today

**NEW DELHI:** Amid the slugfest between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Congress over the latter's manifesto, the AICC brass led by Rahul Gandhi will Wednesday address a "samajik nyay sammelan" and speak on issues of social justice including caste census. Rahul Gandhi's elaboration on the Congress promise of OBC headcount and proportional reservation for SC/ST and backwards has the potential to put a more intense focus on the sensitive issues, even as it will be an opportunity to rebuff the PM over his claims about what the Congress manifesto has promised to the electorate. The day-long convention will be addressed by Rahul and some important leaders representing the backward classes like deputy CM of Telangana Bhatti Vikramarka, Ajay Yadav and Varsha Gaikwad. The issues for special discussion are "need for caste census".

## Records tumble as Lucknow Super Giants breach Fortress Chepauk

### NEW DELHI:

Australia's big-hitting Marcus Stoinis smoked a dazzling unbeaten 124 as Lucknow Super Giants chased down a steep 211 to pull off a famous win six-wicket win over Chennai Super Kings in Chennai on Tuesday.

It was Stoinis' maiden IPL century and his second in T20 cricket as it trumped an unbeaten 108 by CSK skipper Rituraj Gaikwad, stunning the fans at the MA Chidambaram Stadium. Lucknow looked in trouble at 88 for 3 after 11 overs but Stoinis put on 70-run stand with Nicholas Pooran, who hit 34 off 15 balls, and an unbeaten 65-run stand with Deepak Hooda to achieve victory with three balls to spare.

Stoinis reached his hundred in 56 balls as he and Hooda, who made 17 not out off six balls, secured Lucknow's second straight win over Chennai, replacing the five-time winners in



fourth spot.

Needing 17 to win in the final over, Stoinis smashed Mustafizur Rahman for a six and three fours, including one off a no ball.

As LSG pulled off a rare double over CSK, multiple records were broken and rewritten on Tuesday night:

\* With the famous win, Lucknow now hold the record of the highest successful chase at the Chepauk. The 211 which LSG hunted down, pipped CSK's record of 206 against Royal Challengers Bengaluru in 2012.

\* Stoinis (124\*) scripted history, breaking Paul Valthaty's (120\*) 13-year-old IPL record of highest individual scores in IPL run-chases.

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\* In 3 games before this at the venue this season, no team had managed to beat CSK. Courtesy a Stoinis show, LSG is the first team to breach Fortress Chepauk this season. The win is Lucknow's second over CSK in a span of 5 days. Last week at the Ekana -- the home of LSG -- KL Rahul and Co. pulled off an 8-wicket win over CSK.\* The chase is now LSG's third highest ever in the IPL. 213 vs RCB in 2023 and 211 against CSK in 2022 are the other two biggest chases for Lucknow.\*

With LSG scoring 87 in the last 36 balls, they are now fourth on the list of highest targets successfully chased. Rahul said their win

## Had to take a 'brave' call, says KL Rahul on sending Stoinis at No.3

### NEW DELHI: Big hitting Aussie all-rounder

Marcus Stoinis' pulled off a match-winning 63-ball-124 not out to out-muscle Chennai Super Kings at their den in an IPL thriller on Tuesday.

Stoinis' maiden ton in the league trumped Rituraj Gaikwad 108 not out as Lucknow Super Giants secured a rare double over CSK this season -- winning two in two against the 5-time champions. As Stoinis miracle secured a famous win for Lucknow, skipper KL Rahul was all praise for the all-rounder as he snatched a win in a game where the hosts were favourites.

Rahul, who once said strike-rates are over-rated in T20s, admitted that a total like 180 which was considered challenging might not be enough in the day and age of 'Impact Player'. "Very special (win), especially when it is a game like that. It felt like we were way behind the game in the chase. Just to pull off a victory feels special," Rahul said at the post-match presentation ceremony. Rahul said their win



against CSK in Lucknow had little context on a very different Chennai deck. "These were different conditions. They got off to a good start and put pressure on the bowlers. I didn't think it was a 210 wicket. "They batted really well. All credits to Stoinis. He was phenomenal to watch. It was not just power hitting, but was smart batting."

Sending Stoinis at No.3 was a smart move by LSG management and Rahul feels they had to take a "brave" call. "We wanted to be a lot braver as a team. We had three games, a couple at home, and some away where we couldn't go past 170. We needed

one power hitter in the top three. That was the thought process.

"I have also realised that T20 cricket has changed in the last couple of years -- 170-180 does not always cut it. You have to go harder in the power-play."

The Impact player gives you depth and that gives you more freedom. I have not played T20 cricket in a long time." Asked if Nicholas Pooran can play up the order, the skipper said save him and Quinton de Kock as openers, none of the other positions are fixed. "There is no set plan. Apart from the openers everyone is set to go at any point.

## CAPSULES

### Marcus Stoinis scripts history, breaks Paul Valthaty's 13-year-old IPL record

NEW DELHI: Marcus Stoinis etched his name in IPL history with a stunning performance, crafting the highest individual score in an IPL chase. With nerves of steel and impeccable timing, Stoinis showcased his batting prowess, guiding Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) to a stunning six-wicket victory over Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in their own den. With this knock, Stoinis eclipsed Punjab Kings, formerly Kings XI Punjab, batter Paul Valthaty's memorable innings of 120\* in 2011, also against CSK, to script history.

Stoinis remained unbeaten on 124 which came in 63 balls with the help of 13 fours and six massive sixes. Stoinis smashed an outstanding 56-ball century to trump skipper Rituraj Gaikwad's effort as LSG beat CSK by six wickets in Chennai. Chasing 211, LSG completed a record run chase at the Chepauk in 19.3 overs.

Highest individual scores in IPL run-chases  
124\* - Marcus Stoinis (LSG) vs CSK, Chennai, 2024  
120\* - Paul Valthaty (PBKS) vs CSK, Mohali, 2011  
119 - Virender Sehwag (DC) vs Deccan Chargers, Hyderabad, 2011

119 - Sanju Samson (RR) vs PBKS, Mumbai WS, 2021

117\* - Shane Watson (CSK) vs SRH, Mumbai WS, 2018 final

It was a second win for LSG over CSK in just 5 days. The win was also Lucknow's first ever at the Chepauk.

Stoinis anchored crucial partnerships throughout his historic innings, notably forming a pivotal 70-run stand with Pooran off just 34 balls.

## Not MS Dhoni, it's Gaikwad who becomes first CSK captain to...

NEW DELHI: Rituraj Gaikwad etched his name in the annals of Chennai Super Kings' history by becoming the franchise's first captain to score a century in the Indian Premier League.

Gaikwad's magnificent innings showcased his class and determination as he led from the front, guiding his team to a massive 210/4 against Lucknow Super Giants. MS Dhoni held the long-standing record for the highest individual score by a CSK captain in the history of the IPL. He scored 84 against Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the 2019 IPL. The right-handed Gaikwad got to his second IPL century off 56 and remained unbeaten on 108 laced with 12 fours and three sixes. The century



not only highlighted Gaikwad's exceptional batting prowess but also underscored his growing stature within the team. His milestone achievement resonated with fans and pundits alike, solidifying his position as a key player for the CSK and further elevating his reputation as one of the brightest talents in the IPL circuit. Gaikwad and Dube (66,

27b, 3x4, 7x6) added 104 runs for an entertaining fourth-wicket stand that gave steam to Super Kings innings after a rather subdued Power Play (49/2) and the middle passage. The batting in this iteration of the IPL has been all about scorching the ball far and wide but Gaikwad took a classic route, timing the ball through the gaps for fours. In fact, his first fifty contained no sixes but still he managed to maintain a strike-rate of above 180 during that phase. The fifty, the right-hander's 17th in the IPL, came off just 28 balls. The most spectacular shot that Gaikwad played on the night was a slice-cut off pacer Mohsin Khan that beat the point fielder for a boundary.

## 'Agarkar bhai select karo': Raina bats for inclusion of this CSK star in T20 World Cup

NEW DELHI: Former Chennai Super Kings stalwart Suresh Raina on Tuesday voiced a compelling plea to the BCCI chief selector, Ajit Agarkar, advocating for the inclusion of star CSK all-rounder Shivam Dube in the upcoming T20 World Cup squad.

Raina's impassioned appeal emphasises the significance of Dube's contributions and the value he brings to the team. Raina's advocacy suggests that Dube possesses the requisite skills and temperament to excel on the international stage, particularly



in the high-pressure environment of a global tournament like the T20 World Cup. Raina took to social media platform X to openly share his feelings, stating, "World Cup loading for Shivam Dube! @imAgarkar bhai select karo please," he wrote. The hard-hit-

ting Dube played a fine knock of 66 runs, which came in just 27 balls. Three fours and seven massive sixes peppered his blistering knock. It was Dube who fetched CSK's first six of the innings in the 13th over off Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) pacer

Marcus Stoinis. Dube seamlessly slipped into his six-hitting avatar, and pacer Yash Thakur bore the brunt in the 16th over when the left-hander smashed him for three successive sixes. In addition to his impressive hat-trick of sixes, Dube achieved a notable personal milestone during the match by surpassing the 1000-run mark for the CSK in the IPL. CSK skipper Rituraj Gaikwad (108, 60b, 12x4, 3x6) and Dube (66, 27b, 3x4, 7x6) added 104 runs for an entertaining fourth-wicket stand.

## India may not even travel to Pakistan for Champions Trophy

### NEW DELHI:

According to sources within the BCCI speaking to IANS on Tuesday, Team India might not participate in the ICC Champions Trophy scheduled for next year in Pakistan. There are discussions about potentially shifting the

venue for the event or considering a hybrid model. Additionally, the likelihood of a bilateral series with Pakistan in the near future appears slim. Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Mohsin Naqvi on Monday reportedly stated that they would consider the possibility of a bilateral series with India if India agree to send their team to Pakistan for the Champions Trophy.

However, sources in the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said, "Forget bilateral series... Team India may not even travel to Pakistan for the Champions Trophy. There might be a change of venue, s

hybrid model is also possible."

"The Indian board would need permission from the government for travel, currently our relations with Pakistan are not that good either," sources told IANS. "Champions Trophy is an ICC event, so it would be a tough call for India but nothing without the government's order/green signal. Bilateral series, I don't see in the near future, that's next to impossible." India and Pakistan last played a bilateral limited-overs series in 2012-13, when Pakistan visited India. Last year, India refused to send its team to play the Asia Cup in Pakistan and eventually.

## IPL is the best domestic T20 competition in the world by a long way: Ricky Ponting

NEW DELHI: Australian cricket legend Ricky Ponting showered praise on the Indian Premier League (IPL) on Tuesday, labeling it as the premier domestic T20 competition globally "by a long way."

Ponting emphasised that the IPL provides an exceptional learning platform for budding talents, citing young cricketer Jake Fraser-McGurk as an example. Ponting, who serves as the head coach of the Delhi Capitals, expressed admiration for Fraser-McGurk's remarkable performance. Despite Delhi Capitals' loss to Sunrisers Hyderabad in the match, Fraser-McGurk's explosive innings of 65 runs off just 18 balls caught Ponting's attention and earned him commendation. This acknowledgment from a seasoned figure like Ponting



underscores the significance of the IPL in nurturing and showcasing emerging talent on the global stage.

"There is no doubt about it that he (Fraser-McGurk) is a highly talented young man but he is by no means a finished product yet. There are a lot of things to improve in his game and there are not many better places to learn than IPL because it is the best domestic T20 competition in the world by a long way," Ponting

said. "The other day he made 65 off 18 balls but it is important he learns from that. He needs to make a 100 like (Yashasvi) Jaiswal did last night. "Top-order batsmen, when they get an opportunity to make big scores, they should go and get it, that's the difference between winning and losing games," the World Cup-winning Australian skipper added. Ponting emphasised the critical importance of execution across all

facets of the game, highlighting the need for a strong start, a lesson learned from Delhi Capitals' previous encounter against Sunrisers Hyderabad. In that match, DC chose to field first, but their bowlers faced a relentless onslaught from Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma, the opening pair for Sunrisers Hyderabad. Despite their best efforts, DC struggled to contain the opposition's batting momentum. SRH ultimately posted a formidable total of 266/7, securing a commanding victory over DC by a significant margin. "The important thing is to look back and understand what things worked for us and what didn't work. "We didn't play as well under pressure as we would have liked. We knew the way Travis and Abhishek will come out and play.

## Chennai Super Kings goes level with Somerset for elusive record in T20

NEW DELHI: Chennai Super Kings, the five-time Indian Premier League (IPL) champions, etched their name alongside Somerset in the annals of men's T20 cricket history by notching their 34th 200-plus total in a scintillating encounter against Lucknow Super Giants. Rituraj Gaikwad, displaying sublime form, orchestrated an unbeaten knock of 108 runs, while Shivam Dube added to the onslaught with a blistering 66. The electrifying partnership between Gaikwad and Dube propelled CSK to a formidable total of 210/4, captivating the yellow sea roaring in the stands.

The crowd was treated to a masterclass from none other than MS Dhoni, as the legendary wicket-keeper batsman graced the field and elegantly dispatched the final ball of the innings to the boundary.