

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Title Code - UPENG04488

NATIONAL ENGLISH DAILY

MORNING EDITION PRAYAGRAJ

Saturday 13 April, 2024

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

Constitution is Gita, Bible & Quran for our government: PM Modi

"Should a country like India, whose neighbours on both sides have nuclear weapons, think about eliminating nuclear weapons?"



Constitution, soul of nation, under BJP-RSS attack: Rahul

COIMBATORE: Congress MP Rahul Gandhi said BJP has unleashed an attack on the soul of the country, the Constitution, and sought to change it if it returned to office again. Launching a blistering attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a public meeting in Coimbatore on Friday, Rahul Gandhi said the 2024 Lok Sabha polls was not a normal election, but an ideological battle.

INDIA bloc of "telling lies in the name of the Constitution", Modi said: "Congress, which discriminated against SCs, STs and OBCs for decades, made Babasaheb lose elections, did not give him Bharat Ratna and tried to abolish the Constitution by imposing Emergency in country, is taking cover of the Constitution to abuse Modi." BJP candidate Kailash Chaudhary is locked in a triangular contest in Barmer, with Congress's

Ummedaram Beniwal and Independent MLA Ravindra Singh Bhati being the other two in the fray. In a veiled reference to the CPM manifesto, Modi said a party in the INDIA bloc had called for nuclear disarmament. "Should a country like India, whose neighbours on both sides have nuclear weapons, think about eliminating nuclear weapons? I want to ask Congress, on whose instructions is your INDI alliance working? On whose pressure does your alliance want to take such steps?" he asked.

EC tweaks rule, makes it easier for Kashmiri migrants to vote

NEW DELHI: Kashmiri migrant voters based in Jammu and Udhampur districts of J&K would no longer be required to fill up 'Form M' to vote in the Lok Sabha polls with the Election Commission ordering changes to the existing voting scheme for displaced people, fulfilling their long-standing demand. Earlier, the filling of 'Form M' was mandatory for displaced voters from the Valley ahead of every Parliamentary and assembly election in Jammu and Kashmir. As for the migrants residing outside Jammu and Udhampur, they would continue to be required to submit 'Form M' but can now self-attest the certificate to be appended to the form. Earlier, this certificate was required to be attested by a gazetted officer. The two decisions - aimed at facilitating voting by Kashmiri migrants displaced from the Valley - were taken by EC at its full commission meeting on Friday. Prior to this, the J&K chief electoral officer has submitted his comments on the issue - raised in various representations received from Kashmiri migrant groups, projecting the difficulties they face in filling 'Form M' in every election - after due consultation and in full agreement with the political parties. According to the new arrangement announced by the EC on Thursday, the Kashmiri migrant electors in various camps or zones at Jammu and Udhampur, instead of having to fill 'Form

Congress takes 'malnutrition' dig at PM after non-veg remark

NEW DELHI: Making light of PM Narendra Modi's accusation that opposition leaders are eating non-veg food during auspicious period, Congress on Friday said it does not track the nutrition of political leaders on a monthly basis like he does, but is focused on tracking the growing malnutrition among children under Modi's watch, which is among the worst in the world. It said the PM shows his "sick



mindset" on a daily basis and his "non-stop politicking is infantile and tiresome". AICC spokesman Jairam Ramesh said nutrition data points among children have taken a worrying turn over the years, but the Modi govt turned down a Rs 4,000 crore scheme to include

breakfast in the mid-day meal programme for school going children because of lack of funds. "Anaemia is caused by several factors, including iron deficiency, inadequate diet, and other nutrient deficiencies. Between 2015-21, anaemia in children under 5 increased by nearly 10 percentage points. Among women aged 15-19, the prevalence of anaemia increased by 9.2%.

For 70 years, Congress pampered Article 370 like illegitimate child: Shah

LUCKNOW: Mounting a sharp attack on Congress over its handling of the Kashmir issue, Union home minister Amit Shah on Friday said the party "pampered" Article 370 like an "illegitimate child in its lap for 70 years". PM Narendra Modi abolished Article 370, and "Kashmir has been united with India forever; today, our tricolour is flying there with pride," he said, while addressing a poll rally in Moradabad. Shah slammed Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge for criticising PM Modi for talking about Kashmir while addressing rallies in other states. "Tell me, isn't Kashmir



ours? Kharge ji asks what do people of Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have to do with Kashmir," he said, asserting that "every child of Moradabad is ready to give his life for Kashmir". The home minister also raised questions on Congress's record in fighting terror, while crediting Modi for "eliminating" terrorism and Naxalism from the country. "When Congress

Beyond Tesla: Elon Musk, PM Modi to take up Starlink too

NEW DELHI: Tesla is not the only agenda when Elon Musk meets PM Narendra Modi, but figuring prominently in talks will be Starlink, the satellite communications business of his space company SpaceX. "The matter of Starlink will be taken up during the meeting between Musk and Modi, and the American businessman will apprise govt of the role and benefits of the satellite company in connecting far-flung areas and ensuring connectivity across difficult terrains," sources told. It's not that govt has not been working on Musk's proposal for satellite communications - something where OneWeb (where Sunil Mittal is one of the promoters) and Reliance Jio have managed to get licences from the



telecom department - but a "series of issues" resulted in delays in approval for the American company. "One of Musk's efforts will be to inform govt of the connectivity initiatives that have been made possible due to satellite communications. The company has many such examples where satellite communications have come in handy in difficult terrains or during challenging situations," one of the sources said. For example, Starlink had been used by Ukrainian troops for a variety of efforts,

including battlefield communications in the war against Russia (though there have been reports that Russian troops were also using Starlink, something denied by Musk). Starlink is a network of satellites in low Earth orbit, which can provide internet to remote locations, or areas that have had normal communications infrastructure disabled. Some of the policy decisions enabled by govt recently also give hope to companies, such as, Starlink to look at India favourably.

The new telecom law, that was approved by Parliament in December last year, provides for allocation of spectrum to satcom players through administrative method (without auctions), meeting one their key demands. The move had come as a shot in the arm for not only Starlink but others like Jeff Bezos' satcom venture Project Kuiper of Amazon. The latter is also in the process of applying for licence in India. "The companies, while studying the regulatory needs and requirements in India, are also waiting for clarity on spectrum allocation norms for satcom. Govt is yet to provide details on administrative spectrum allocation, and the price one would need to pay for it."

Biden says expects Iran to attack Israel soon, warns: 'Don't'

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden on Friday said he expected Iran to attack Israel "sooner, rather than later" and warned Tehran not to proceed. Asked by reporters about his message to Iran, Biden said simply, "Don't," and he underscored Washington's commitment to defend Israel. "We are devoted to the defense of Israel. We will support Israel. We will help defend Israel and Iran will not succeed," he said.



Biden said he would not divulge secure information, but said his expectation was that an attack could come "sooner, rather than later." He spoke to reporters at the White House after a virtual speech to a civil rights

conference Israel braced on Friday for an attack by Iran or its proxies as warnings grew of retaliation for an attack on Iran's embassy compound last week in Damascus that killed a senior commander.

Poland limits homework in lower grades

WARSAW: Ola Kozak is celebrating. The 11-year-old, who loves music and drawing, expects to have more free time for her hobbies after Poland's govt ordered strict limits on the amount of homework in the lower grades. The govt of PM Donald Tusk enacted the ban against required homework this month amid a broad discussion about the need to modernise Poland's education system, which critics say puts too much emphasis on rote learning and homework, and not enough on critical thinking and creativity. Under the decree, teachers are no longer to give required homework to kids in the first to third grades. In grades four to eight, homework.

IAF rescues injured jawan in 'dark night airlift' from Leh



NEW DELHI: In a swift operation that saw an IAF aircraft land in the high-altitude region of Leh using night-vision goggles, an Army soldier with a severed hand was evacuated to Delhi from a forward area in a "dark night airlift". The jawan underwent a complex nine-hour surgery at Army Hospital for "re-implantation" of his left hand. The soldier was stationed in Ladakh when his hand got severed while operating a machine on April 9. Fellow soldiers tied a band on his arm to stem the bleeding, put the sev-

ered limb in an ice bag, and rushed him to Leh's Military Garrison Hospital. "Doctors there stabilised the jawan's condition but recognised the need for specialised surgery, which wasn't available locally. Given a window of 8 hours for the surgery to stitch his severed limb, Army contacted IAF, which dispatched a C-130J Hercules aircraft from Hindon air base. The C-130J carried out a night landing at Leh airfield using night vision equipment to evacuate the jawan," an official said.

Village thrives, survives on buffaloes

PRAYAGRAJ: Whether or not this small village, 35 kilometers from the city, owns the proverbial stick, it surely owns the buffaloes, lots and lots of them. All 3000-odd residents of this village deal in buffalo trade, each house having a wide variety of milch cattle, from the popular Murrah variety to Surti and Jaffarabadi. On any given day, buyers from different parts of Prayagraj and many other districts can be seen striking deals and buying buffaloes here. Welcome to Payagipur, in Saidabad development block, which is better known as 'village of buffaloes' and draws buyers from across the state. No one knows exactly when people began trading in buffaloes here, but the village has emerged as a prime supplier of quality buffaloes for the region for around three decades now. "You can find Murrah,

Nili Ravi, Surti, Jaffarabadi and Bhadawari breeds of buffaloes, for which one would otherwise need to travel to Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat and Maharashtra. Murrah variety remains the top choice and fetches anywhere from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 1.5 lakh," said Sangam Lal Pasi, a buffalo trader from the village.

The village residents say that they owe their prosperity to the high-end breed of milch cattle which draw buyers from across the state. "The income from the trade in buffaloes has enabled the villagers to construct pucca houses embellished with all basic amenities and also buy land for farming and own tractors and tube-wells," said Vijay Pasi, the village pradhan.

"Money from buying and selling buffaloes has helped us afford good education for our kids also," he said. "Today the village at-

tracts buyers from various districts like Bhadoi, Jaunpur, Varanasi, Pratapgarh, Mirzapur and

villages and cattle markets of Haryana and Punjab, and then sell them a year or two later as they mature into

ber to buy calves," said Rajesh Patel, one of the villagers with 20-odd buffaloes. "We buy calves for Rs

40,000 to Rs 1.5 lakh each," he added. "We have around 2,500 buffaloes of varying ages in the village at any given moment. Two thousand litres of milk is produced every day which is sold and utilised locally," said Pappu Patel, another local trader.

Many other traders like Ganga Prasad, Ram Singh, Ram Charan, Lalji and Radheshyam however rued lack of government support to further promote the trade. "Contrary to popular belief, rearing a buffalo calf into a healthy milk-giving buffalo is a tough task and needs good investment. We have to hire private veterinary doctors, bear the cost of medicines and vaccines besides fodder and other care annually and an entire family of the trader has to remain involved. A small vet centre here in the village would be a great help," they maintained.



Kaushambi, among others, with annual buffalo trade in the village believed to be worth around Rs 4 crore," he added. The villagers buy healthy and good breed buffalo calves from select

healthy milch cattle, helping them make big profits.

"Every year the buffalo traders in small groups head to different villages and markets of Haryana and Punjab in October-Novem-

ber to buy calves," said Rajesh Patel, one of the villagers with 20-odd buffaloes. "We buy calves for Rs 40,000 to Rs 1.5 lakh each, depending upon the breed and the quality and then transport them in trucks to the village. After proper care and nurturing, these buffaloes sell anywhere between Rs

Five bighas of wheat burnt due to short circuit, farmers disappointed

Koraon: Last Thursday, five bighas of wheat crop was burnt to ashes due to a short circuit fire in Tudiya village of Koraon police station area. According to the information received, a fire broke out in the field of Ayodhya Prasad Mishra, son of Pradumna Mishra due to the spark of a short circuit and within no time the crop of five bighas was destroyed. The fire department was informed about the incident but due to lack of road to the field, the fire brigade could not reach the spot and by the time the fire in the said crop was controlled with the help of the villagers, it was too late. The crop grown through hard work is snatching away the food from the farmers' mouth due to short circuit due to the dilapidated electrical wires installed in the area due to the negligence of the electricity department. Despite the reduction of all such incidents, the responsible officials of the electricity department prove to be unable to replace the dilapidated electric wires and poles installed in the area.

Atiq's benami property unearthed, four booked

Prayagraj: The Prayagraj police have filed a case against four aides of slain mafia Atiq Ahmed for allegedly pressurising a fourth-class worker, in whose name Atiq had purchased property worth crores of rupees, to transfer the property. The police have booked the four, namely, Javed Khan, Kamran Khan, Faraz Ahmed Khan and Shahnaz Khan. Atiq had reportedly purchased benami properties worth crores of rupees in the name of Shyamji Saroj, a Nawabganj resident, who used to work for the mafia don.

In absence of effective mechanism, irregularities galore in madarsas

PRAYAGRAJ: The motive of giving grants and aid to the madarsas was to provide not only religious but also to impart professional skills to the poor children of minority community. However, most of the madarsas which have mushroomed not only in the district but throughout the state have become a means to get monetary benefit from the government. The madarsa management which often consists of the members of the same family are involved in several irregularities and corrupt practices.

The government is spending crores of funds for the quality education in the Madarsas which are given grants and aid both by the state and the central governments. However, taking the advantage of the loose points and the official apathy, the Madarsa owners are exploiting the teachers and the other employees. The employees and teachers are not only exploited financially but they are also forced to do the private works of the Madarsa owners.

Currently there are hundreds of Madarsas in the district which are being run by different societies formed by members of the same family. The Madarsas are given grants and aid by the state government through the Minority Welfare Department. The Management of the Madarsa have the powers to appoint the teachers and the other employees for which they take Rs 2 to 5 lakhs in return of the appointment, some sources informed on the condition of anonymity. However, even after giving the cash for job, the exploitation of the Madarsa employees does not stop. The employees had to give

20 to 30 per cent of their salaries every month to the Manager to ensure their employment at the Madarsa goes on without any hiccups. The employees are forced to give the percent of their salaries since the Manager had the power to cancel the employment of the Madarsa teachers and other employees, sources informed.

The employees are also demanded money to meet the other expenses at the Madarsa and are also harnessed for the personal works of the Madarsa Management members. In a madarsa situated at Saidabad, anomalies in mid day meal has also been reported. The meal is prepared only five or six times during the month while on paper the management shows the meal everyday. The number of children in the madarsa is often far lesser than shown on the paper. The management is involved in the embezzlement of the scholarship and the mid day meal expenditure by showing more number of students studying in madarsas, informed some madarsa teachers on the condition of anonymity.

The officials at Minority Welfare Department do not bother to regularly inspect the Madarsas and the quality of education provided there. Sources further claimed that even if there is an inspection, the team is paid to turn a blind eye towards the irregularities at the Madarsas. There are several touts and middlemen who provide different jobs in Madarsas in return of a hefty amount, sources further added. All efforts to reach out to district minority welfare officer turned futile as he declined to comment on the issue.

GROUNDWATER LEVEL 8 blocks, City areas in 'dark' zone

PRAYAGRAJ: In view of the depleting ground water level, both in urban as well as rural areas of Prayagraj, the district administration has undertaken several measures to ensure that all the 23 blocks of the district as well as the main city remain under 'safe' category in terms of the water level.

Owing to the sustainable efforts, the situation of ground water level in as many as five rural blocks of the district has improved. These blocks, which were earlier under the critical category, are now under safe zones. The blocks are Holagarh, Mauaima, Chaka, Bahadurpur and Dhanupur. The groundwater crisis in the district has always been catered to by the district administration, and the efforts of the past two decades have shown positive results. From initiating action which would enhance the level of underground water by digging more ponds to collect rainwater, the administration has paid much attention to make common man, especially village folks, more aware in respect to increasing underground water

level.

As of now, eight blocks of the district, which has 23 blocks, and the city area are under the 'dark' zone category. A 'dark' zone area means any district, town, village or tehsil where the groundwater is lower than the average level and has been declared as the dark zone area by the state government concerned or the Central government, as the case may be. According to former head of the department of Geography, Allahabad University, Prof AR Siddiqui, "The unabated extraction of underground water in the city and an imbalance between the amount of water extracted as compared to recharge of the same is scary and steps have to be initiated to address the problem within the limits when it's not too late. See for yourself, the number of water bottling plants that have mushroomed in the city in the past one decade, the picture will be clear to you."

As per the 2013 report of the underground water department, the five blocks of the districts, i.e., Holagarh, Mauaima, Chaka, Bahadurpur and Dhanupur were under

a dark zone where the groundwater was falling sharply, and the water recharge was very less as compared to extraction. However, after a proper work plan was put in these blocks, there has been improvement and gradually locals have started to see the change.

According to the 2017 report, bearing Chakka, the rest of the four have come out of the dark zone tag. The groundwater of Prayagraj city was also investigated as per the report of 2020, the city is now under dark zone. Two blocks, namely Bahariya and Chakka, are under critical zone while Bahadurpur, Dhanupur, Holagarh, Mauiyama, and Pratappur are all placed in critical zone category. According to executive engineer of the underground water department, Ravi Kant Singh, "Efforts to improve the underground water level in both rural and urban areas have been taken up on a large scale. The extraction of water in urban areas is more as compared to rural areas and the recharge is not matching the level of extraction."

CDO/Nodal Officer SVEEP flagged off voter awareness rally Sick and alcoholic HG's to be avoided during poll duty: DIG (HG) Suchari

Prayagraj: The message of voter awareness given through the rally made more and more people aware about voting in the voting to be held in the district on

taken out by Anganwadi workers and other people from Vikas Bhawan to Myohall intersection. Chief Development Officer/Nodal Officer Sweep Shri Gaurav

their homes and exercise their franchise on 25th May. He said that for a healthy and strong democracy, it is necessary for everyone to vote. All voters should participate



25th May under the Lok Sabha General Election 2024. To achieve this, various programs are being organized in the district. In this sequence, on Friday, a voter awareness rally was

Kumar flagged off the rally. On this occasion, the Chief Development Officer, while addressing the people present, said that in this great festival of democracy, everyone must come out of

in this great festival by exercising their franchise. On this occasion, Deputy District Election Officer Mrs. Pooja Mishra, District School Inspector Mr. PN Singh, District Program Officer Mr. Dinesh Singh, District Development Officer Mr. Bholanath Kanojia, State Referrer Dr. Prabhakar Tripathi and other officials along with a large number of Anganwadi workers were present.

Prayagraj: DIG Home Guard Santosh Kumar Suchari did video conferencing with the District Commandants of 30 districts of 8 divisions in view of the Lok Sabha elections. To ensure safe conduct of Lok Sabha elections 2024 - the objective is to transfer a large number of Home Guards volunteers to inter-provincial/district/inter-city level. It is to be informed that in the Purvanchal region, detailed instructions have been issued to Home Guards volunteers from 30 districts of 08 divisions of the state namely Prayagraj / Mirzapur / Varanasi / Azamgarh / Gorakhpur / Basti / Gonda / Ayodhya divisions from the video conferencing room of NIC Prayagraj regarding Lok Sabha election duty. In view of the scorching heat, DIG Home Guards instructed to provide medical kits to all Home Guards volunteers. Detailed instructions were given regarding turnout etc. of Home Guards volunteers. During the elections, instructions were also given regarding generator, tanker, drinking water, medical, electricity, charger point, toilets etc. at the residential accommodation site of Home Guards volunteers. On the occasion of Lok

Sabha elections 2024, instructions were also given to update the insurance and nomination forms etc. of the duty Home Guards volunteers. On the occasion of Lok Sabha elections, instructions were given not to send sick, alcoholic and undisciplined Home Guards volunteers on inter-district and inter-state duty. Home Guards volunteers de-



ployed on election duty were also instructed to pay 40 percent advance duty allowance through their accounts. On this occasion, DIG Home Guards Santosh Kumar, Divisional Commandant DD Maurya, District Commandant Prayagraj Amit Kumar Pandey, District Commandant Vinod Kumar Dwivedi, Upendra Nath Ojha, Sunil Kumar Yadav, Indra Narayan Pandey etc. were present in the video conferencing room of NIC.

Actress Shruti Chaudhary talks about struggles of women after minor marriage

Varanasi: Colors' Mera Balam Thanedar is winning the hearts of the audience with the story of minor bride Bulbul (played by Shruti Chaudhary) and police officer Veer (played by Shagun Pandey) as they try to build a foundation of trust and deal with the complexities of their married life despite their differences. Garnering love for her character, Shruti Chaudhary is breaking away from conventional ways and bringing alive the role of Bulbul. As per the story, Bulbul is asked to have a child to correct a dosha in her kundali. She says that while doing this particular scene, she realised the pain that women feel when they are asked to have a child to solve any problem. She says that she was a little nervous while doing these scenes as being a woman, she could understand it. She also said that women should stand up for themselves and speak up for their rights. Playing the role of Bulbul, Shruti Choudhury says, "It is a sad reality that women are often expected to become 'mothers' immediately after marriage. I believe families should understand that women have aspirations beyond starting a family, and should respect that."



SERB sponsored guest lectures held in Pharmacy Dept SHUATS

Prayagraj: Pharmacy department of SHUATS conducted guest lectures as a Scientific Social Responsibility under a Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) sponsored project. Dr. Purim Jarujamrus from Ubon Ratchathani University (UBU) of Thailand and Dr. Sameer Srivastava from Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology (MNNIT) of Prayagraj delivered guest lectures at this event. Dean Faculty of

Health Sciences and Principal Investigator of the SERB-sponsored project Prof Amita Verma welcomed all the guests and participants. Dr. Purim Jarujamrus elaborated on the recent development of nitrogen-doped carbon dots on microfluidics paper-based analytical devices for diagnosis and monitoring purposes. Dr. Sameer Srivastava encouraged participants to acquire a scientific approach to resolving various issues of real life.



Concluding remarks and a vote of thanks were delivered by Joina G Singh.

Direction for the event was provided by Prof Amita Verma. Dr Danish Ahmed,

Dr Vandana Gupta, Dr Udaya P Singh, Dr Pushpraj Gupta, Dr Vikas Kumar, Dr Deepika Singh, Dr Dinesh Kumar Patel, Anup Masih, Dr. Mahfoozur Rahman, Mohd Ibrahim Khan, Vinay Kumar Yadav, Kanika Patel and all faculty members were also present. Students of Pharmacy department, especially Ankit, Divyansh, Abhyanand, Gaurav, Subhash, Manish, Parul and Sameeksha actively and enthusiastically coordinated the event.

5 PILLARS OF JUSTICE

Cong to change the picture of nation with 25 guarantees

Prayagraj: Through a press conference today, Congress made the 'Nyaya Patra' issued by the All India Congress Committee for the Lok Sabha elections 2024 as especially relevant for Uttar Pradesh. Addressing the journalists at the Press Club today, former Congress Working Committee member and former MLA Anugrah Narayan Singh said that in the past years, the BJP's central and state governments have destroyed the social, political, economic and constitutional fabric of the country and the state. It has destroyed and marginalized the weaker sections of the society by depriving farmers of income, youth of employment and women of social security. He said that by handing over the country's resources to its few capitalist friends, the BJP's Modi government has dug a gap of economic inequality in the country which cannot be filled for decades. Referring to the

basic mantra of Congress 'Nyaya Patra', he said that Work, Wealth and Welfare i.e. employment, economic prosperity and public welfare are its basic elements. Highlighting Congress's Five Justices and 25 Guarantees, he said that under Youth Justice, educated youth will be assured their first permanent job of Rs 1 lakh annually through internship, while 30 lakh vacant posts of the Central Government will be filled without delay. To inspire self-employment of youth, a startup fund of Rs. 5000 crore will be created and the forms to be filled for jobs will be made free. Along with this, free education of students from class 1-12 will be ensured. Describing the Agneepath scheme as throwing the future of the youth on fire, he said that Narendra Modi himself wants to walk on the Rajpath along with his capitalist friends and is laying embers for the future of the youth through such



schemes. He said that as soon as Congress's come to power, this will be abolished and permanent recruitment will be ensured. Campaign Committee member Shekhar Bahuguna, while mentioning about giving priority to farmers, said that Congress has kept their questions paramount in its Nyaya Patra. He said that more than eight hundred

farmers have sacrificed their lives in the farmers' movement but the ruthless Narendra Modi government did not even accept their legitimate demand of MSP. Referring to Farmer Justice, he said that through this, Congress will ensure legal guarantee of minimum support price to the farmers of the country based on the recommendations of the Swaminathan

Commission, make the farmers' insurance scheme farmer friendly and settle their claims in a maximum of 30 days. And it will eliminate GST tax on basic agricultural inputs like agricultural equipment, fertilizers, seeds. Metropolitan Congress Committee President Pradeep Mishra Anshuman said on this occasion that Congress will ensure eco-

"Victory of India Alliance is a guarantee of justice"

Nadda anticipates BJP candidates' poll victory

Prayagraj: A delegation of party leaders welcomed BJP national president JP Nadda on his arrival at the Prayagraj airport on Friday. Nadda later left for Satna and Sidhi in Madhya Pradesh. Anticipating their victories in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls in advance, Nadda congratulated party candidates Neeraj Tripathi (Allahabad), Vinod Sonkar (Kaushambi) and Praveen Patel (Phulpur) on the occasion.

Addressing party leaders and workers, Nadda said, "BJP and its alliance partners are fighting the 2024 Lok Sabha elections to take India hundreds of years forward. This election will give new energy to the resolve of transforming the nation into a 'developed India' and for this all party workers should ensure that 'lotus' (the BJP's party symbol) blooms in all polling booths." He urged work-

ers to go to people and tell them about the achievements of PM Modi's tenure to ensure the party's poll victory. BJP media in-charge Rajesh Kesarwani said Nadda arrived at the airport from Delhi around 11 am and stayed there for around 15 to 20 minutes during which he inquired



about the well-being of workers and addressed them. Nadda then left for Satna and Sidhi in Madhya Pradesh. Former UP cabinet minister Narendra Kumar Singh Gaur, Prayagraj mayor Ganesh Kesarwani and BJP Prayagraj city president Rajendra Mishra were also in the delegation.

In absence of rules, no show-cause notice can be given to retired employees: HC

Prayagraj: The Allahabad High Court has held that in the absence of any rule or regulation in Uttar Pradesh Co-operative Society Employees Service Regulation, 1975 and Uttar Pradesh Rajya Sahkari Bhumi Vikas Bank Employees Service Rules, 1976, neither a show cause notice can be issued nor departmental proceedings can be initiated against an employee after his retirement.

While quashing the proceedings against the retired employee, Justice Neeraj Tiwari held that "in lack of provisions in rules and regulations, after retirement, no show cause notice or departmental proceeding can be initiated against any employee." The Court further held that once the show cause notice has been issued and no action has been taken by the authorities for a long-time, a fresh show cause notice for the same cause of action cannot be issued at very belated stage.

The petitioner was working as an Assistant Field Officer in Uttar Pradesh Sahkari Gram Vikas Bank Ltd. at Bhogaon Branch, Mainpuri till his superannuation in 2013. A show cause notice was issued to the petitioner in 2014 regarding recovery of Rs. 2,74,380/- from him. In his reply, the petitioner stated that there was no provision under the 1976 Rules to issue a show cause notice after his retirement. No order was passed on his reply.

After eight years, another show cause notice was issued to the petitioner for recovery of 50 per cent of Rs 6,47,187/-. Petitioner replied specifically stating that the Rules of 1976 did not provide for issuance of show cause notice to him after his retirement. Petitioner argued that his service was not pensionable and he was being paid gratuity retaining the amount of leave encashment and security.

Meeting held to discuss prevention of drought, drinking water, heatwave, and fire DM GAVE INSTRUCTIONS TO FILL PONDS BY APRIL

Prayagraj: Under the chairmanship of District Magistrate Shri Navneet Singh Chahal, a meeting regarding prevention from drought/drinking water/heatwave/fire was organized in Sangam Auditorium on Friday. In the meeting, the District Magistrate discussed about Bara, Meja and Koraon tehsils, which are highly affected by the drought/drinking water problem of the district, medical system (rural and urban areas), water supply in city and rural areas, testing of food items and medicines, prevention of animal diseases, drought. / In detail regarding the provision of food grains and other essential items for the people suffering from drinking water problem, filling of ponds and ponds, electricity supply system, fire fighting system, prevention from fire and wide publicity about disaster. discussed. The District Magistrate ordered supply of drinking

water through tankers to the villages most affected by drought/drinking water problem in Bara, Meja and Koraon tehsils, arranging for additional tankers to deal with fire situations, identifying tube wells and draining ponds/ponds. The concerned Sub-District Magistrate and Executive Engineer of Jal Nigam have been asked to fill it by the month of April.

For medical arrangements in rural and urban areas, maintaining adequate availability of chlorine tablets, essential medicines and ORS to protect against heat-related diseases, spraying of pesticides, bleaching powder and lime, for the patients affected by heat wave and fire. The medical department has been asked to arrange beds etc. Executive Engineer Jal Nigam has been directed to repair dilapidated and broken pipe lines, repair and re-boring of hand pumps and tube wells in the city



and rural areas.

The District Magistrate has asked the Chief Food Safety Officer, Designated Officer, Food Safety and Drug Administration to keep checking the fruits, sweets and other food items and medicines sold in the market and also to check the cleanliness of the kitchens of the restaurants. The District Magistrate has given necessary guidelines for timely vaccination of animals to prevent diseases like throat and foot and mouth,

and to prevent the poisoning of hydrocyanic acid caused by green fodder.

He has given necessary instructions to maintain the availability of food grains and other essential materials. The District Magistrate has asked the Sub-District Magistrate and District Panchayat Raj Officer to fill the ponds and ponds by the month of April, so that drinking water is available for irrigation and animals. The District Magistrate took information from the

Chief Fire Officer about the fire incidents that took place tehsil wise in the last year. Chief Fire Officer said that most of the fire incidents occur due to short circuit and gas cylinder, for the protection of which there is a need to make wiring according to the load and keep changing the pipe of the gas cylinder from time to time.

The District Magistrate informed the concerned Sub-District Magistrates, Superintending Engineer-

Power Distribution, Secretary Mandi in Bara, Meja and Koraon tehsils regarding the burning of crops, fields, barns and houses due to strong winds/storms, burning of stubble, electrical short circuits, breaking of high tension wires in the summer season. /In order to prevent fire, instructions have been given to replace overloaded transformers, dilapidated wires and to build a control room in the tehsil and to take necessary action to ensure that stubble is not burnt.

The District Magistrate has asked the Executive Engineers to keep traveling and reporting continuously. On this occasion, Additional District Magistrate Finance and Revenue Mr. Vinay Kumar Singh, Sub-District Magistrates, Additional Municipal Commissioner, Chief Fire Officer, District Development Officer Mr. Bholanath Kanojia and related officers were present.

Petition in All HC for potable water amid rising heat

Prayagraj: A PIL has been filed in the Allahabad High Court demanding the provision of potable water amid the rising heat in Prayagraj city. In this, a demand has been made to repair the damaged hand pumps and make the drinking water system smooth at various places.

The hearing date for this petition remains pending. Social worker Yogendra Kumar Pandey and others have highlighted in their petition that the current average temperature in Prayagraj has surpassed 40 degrees Celsius. However, there has been no provision made for drinking water in the city, nor have the damaged hand pumps been repaired yet.

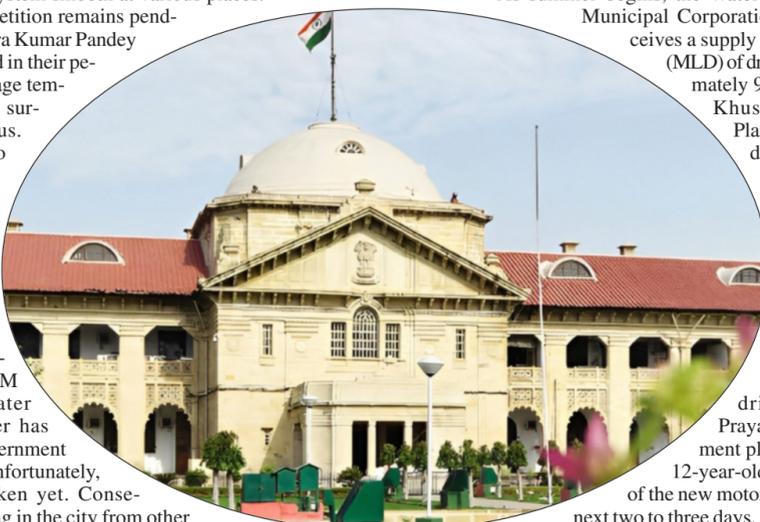
In addition, there has been a lack of arrangements for cleaning and refilling empty tanks, despite the existence of government-run schemes like JNRM and Amrit Drinking Water Scheme. A demand letter has been forwarded to the government regarding this issue, but unfortunately, no actions have been taken yet. Consequently, individuals arriving in the city from other areas are encountering significant difficulties as a result of these shortcomings.

Advocates Vijay Chandra Srivastava and Sunita Sharma have stated that in the Public Interest Litigation (PIL), Chief Secretary (Urban Devel-

opment), District Magistrate of Prayagraj, General Manager of the Water Department, Municipal Commissioner, City Mayor, and other relevant parties have been included as respondents.

As summer begins, the Water Works Department of the Municipal Corporation asserts that the city receives a supply of 402 million liters per day (MLD) of drinking water. Of this, approximately 90 MLD is sourced from the Khusrobagh Water Treatment Plant, while around 322 MLD is drawn from 619 tube wells. Specifically within the old 80 wards of the Municipal Corporation, there are 2.18 thousand connection holders. The network of pipelines dedicated to water supply in these wards spans a total length of 1,600 kilometers.

In order to restore the drinking water system in Prayagraj city, the Water Department plans to replace the motors of 12-year-old tube wells. The installation of the new motors will commence within the next two to three days. Regional councilors are also encouraged to provide suggestions to officials regarding the replacement of old motors in tube wells within their respective wards. Over 80 tube wells are slated to receive new motors, with a proposed budget of more than Rs 90 lakh allocated for this endeavour.



UP DGP instructs physically, mentally unfit cops not to be on escort, guard detail

Prayagraj: The DGP has made clear that if unfit or inebriated personnel are given such vital duties, the deputy superintendent of police, Reserve Police Lines and the reserve inspector concerned would be held responsible, police officials said. The order comes close on the heels of a schoolteacher being shot dead by an allegedly drunk head constable of UP Police on escort duty with a team of school officials after an argument broke out between them over tobacco in Muzaffarnagar. The incident had sparked off statewide protests by teachers and disrupted the then ongoing evaluation process of UP Board High School and Intermediate exam-2024 answer sheets in the state.

The missive dated April 2, 2024, points out that the armed guard duty is vital and sensitive and any callousness in this can result in deadly consequences. "Whenever personnel deputed on security duties at important

and sensitive places are involved in any unfortunate incidents, such incidents not only harm the image of the police administration but also result in the public feeling insecure owing to the protector turning predator," the letter reads.

The missive, while maintaining that unless preventive and strict disciplinary action is taken against the guilty personnel, the situation can turn more serious in future. The district reserve inspectors have been ordered to depute personnel on guard or escort duties only after assessing the count of personnel being put on guard and escort duties, their physical and mental condition, their personal and group problems etc and never deploy personnel addicted to a substance. The reserve inspectors concerned have also been ordered to not only check the police personnel being sent on such duties but also brief them on the rules that govern such responsibilities, a senior police official said, confirming the move.

Editorial

India's role in global renewable energy discourses

The two recent wars — the Russia-Ukraine War as well as the Israel-Hamas War — as well as sanctions on Iran and Russia have had much impact on global energy geopolitics. Contrary to expectations, the above-mentioned wars have also demonstrated the vulnerability of developed countries in terms of accessing energy, especially those in the advanced Global North, like European countries, which are facing major challenges due to the wars. In this regard, it may be added that the Red Sea chokepoint crisis has further aggravated the global energy crisis. Some of the aforementioned geopolitical crises have demonstrated that many advanced European countries were ill-prepared to face the recent crisis, thus putting stress on their access to energy. However, Global South countries have also faced challenges equally due to the above-mentioned wars. What needs to be underlined is that Global South countries are in a precarious position due to the non-availability of energy, which has aggravated other crises, including food and related crises. The reason for identifying the vulnerability of the Global North and Global South in the present geopolitical crisis is to locate how the energy crisis affects the accessibility of energy. In this context, one must emphasize the importance of renewable energy discourses. It is pertinent to highlight how India provides a leadership role to the global community, particularly to the Global South, in addressing the issues of the energy crisis by initiating a host of renewable energy initiatives. Three important issues need to be addressed while discussing India's role in the global renewable energy discourses. These are: India's initiative with regard to the renewable energy sector.

How India's policy towards the renewable energy sector will provide a model for the Global South countries in particular and Global North in general in addressing the crisis.

To assess India's contribution to global discourses on the renewable energy sector.

These three above-mentioned vectors will provide a blueprint for India's contribution to the global renewable energy discourses.

India's progress in renewable energy infrastructure. Some of the above factors provide the structural framework for locating India's approach to renewable energy security discourses. One needs to underline here that over the years, India has made tremendous progress with regard to boosting the domestic infrastructure for harnessing renewable energy. This progress is evident from the fact that by 2030, India will be able to harness 500 GW of renewable sources, as per the report of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India. This demonstrates India's commitment to harnessing clean energy. Similarly, a recent report published by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy highlights that the installed capacity of various sources of renewable energy is "Solar, 48.55 GW; Small Hydro, 4.83 GW; large hydro, 46.51 GW; biopower, 10.62GW; Nuclear, 6.7 GW".

A cursory survey of India's quest for harnessing renewable energy demonstrates that over the years, India has scaled up its renewable energy sector. In this regard, it is pertinent to highlight that India started its journey to acquire renewable energy by diversifying into the nuclear energy sector in 1945 when the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) was established. It is pertinent to highlight that in 1957, the Atomic Energy Research Centre came up and was later renamed the Bhabha Atomic Energy Research Centre (BARC) in 1967.

Over the years, India has made a quantum in harnessing nuclear energy the commissioning of the first civilian nuclear reactor, Apsara, as the BARC website suggests, in 1957.



Why possibility of another Trump presidency spooks NATO

The presumptive Republican Party nominee Donald Trump, is inching ever closer to the US presidency as his legal challenges melt away. Polls show him ahead of President Joe Biden. Even critics who think it will be a close election give Trump a 50-50 chance right now.

NATO in Europe, much closer to the war in Ukraine than the US across the Atlantic, is scrambling to mobilise resources to 'Trump-proof' themselves in anticipation. Trump has recently said Russia can do 'what the hell it likes' to any European country that does not pay its share in NATO and its war support to Ukraine. Europe realises it needs to think much beyond Ukraine going forward because Trump's transactional and quid-pro-quo style will not treat their security as guaranteed by Uncle Sam. Finland, for example, has just ordered 64 F-35A fighter jets from the US and has decided to double artillery shell production.

The outgoing NATO Secretary General, Jens Stoltenberg, is drumming up support for the now 32 member-country NATO to establish a new five-year, 100-billion-euro fund for the battle in Ukraine. But many in Europe and America realise that Ukraine is militarily unequal, finding it difficult to find more conscripts let alone trained soldiers and



that there is massive corruption in addition to gross incompetence. Twenty of the 32 member-NATO have set a target of spending 2 per cent of GDP for defence this year as called for earlier. But Trump says NATO security guarantees would only apply to those countries that actually meet their defence spending commitments. This will profoundly change the way that NATO operates. Stoltenberg, a former prime minister of Norway and an international diplomat wants Europe to assume leadership of the Ramstein Group which gathers more than 50 countries to coordinate weapons deliveries to Kyiv. This sounds like a fond hope rather than a practical strategy. The Ramstein Group includes NATO, countries in the EU, and allies in the Asia-Pacific including Australia, New Zealand, Japan and South Korea. Even though the group is unwieldy,

it has worked fine with US leadership, but may not hold together under a far weaker European captaincy. Besides, how much good money can be thrown after bad in the name of a woolly policy platform that demonises Russia? Countries like Slovakia and Hungary, closer to Russia, are not in favour of the new proposed fund gathering. Others in southern Europe, such as Spain and Italy, are wary of duplication of this quota funding beyond EU payments of 50 billion euros already in place. America under Democrat President Joe Biden is committed to continuing aid and arms to Ukraine but has already poured in \$75 billion in the last two years. It is finding it difficult to get bipartisan approval for more arms and funds. Ukraine meanwhile has largely run out of ammunition, even as it clamours for more of the very expensive Patriot missiles and fighter jets. How

much of the money and arms pouring out of America are just gifts? Neither European NATO nor Ukraine can afford to pay back. Russia has warned against troops from France getting directly involved in Ukraine and said this would raise the threat of nuclear war in the European region beyond Ukraine. Any misstep could trigger WWII. Secretary General Stoltenberg retires later this year and will not have to face the challenges from a possible Trump White House personally. He has been at the helm of NATO for a decade already. He is tipped to be replaced by Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte as his successor. Before he leaves office, however, Stoltenberg will preside over the 75th anniversary of NATO, at a summit in Washington in July. At the 2023 NATO summit in Vilnius, Lithuania, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky expressed frustration at Ukraine being kept out of the NATO alliance. Those who opposed, think that letting Ukraine join NATO while the war with Russia has raged on for over two years now, will likely provoke sharp and dangerous reactions from President Vladimir Putin. Besides, there is a growing perception that Ukraine has already lost the war and it is time NATO pulled the plug. Placing NATO on Russia's

doorstep with the inclusion of Ukraine, even though it cannot pay its way with a devastated economy, is a violation of previous understandings, according to Russia. It was one of the reasons why Russia went to war against Ukraine in the first place. The other was Ukraine's harsh treatment of Russian-speaking populations in the Donbas region bordering Russia. However, Secretary of State Antony Blinken recently told reporters in Brussels that 'Ukraine will become a member of NATO. Our purpose at the summit is to help build a bridge to that membership'. If Biden does not win the presidency in November, then this process of 'bridge' building will most likely not be pursued. Trump is certainly not in favour of mollycoddling Ukraine's security at the expense of Russia. Various member countries such as Poland that want Ukraine in NATO may not find much purchase with Trump in the White House. Candidate Donald Trump has let it be known he will 'settle' the war in Ukraine, if elected to office, 'in 24 hours', without specifying how. His formula flies in the face of those in Europe and America who do not want to concede any Ukrainian territory to Russia. Trump favours ceding the territory claimed by Russia in the Donbas region.

'All We Imagine As Light' at Cannes 2024: Celebrating Indian cinema on French Riviera

It was a night to remember in Cannes. As the sun gradually set on the Mediterranean on September 19, 1946, American operatic lyric soprano and actress Grace Moore stepped forward and began singing. The song she sang was 'La Marseillaise', the national anthem of France. Moore's rendition immediately struck a chord with the emotional crowd of celebrities, diplomats, and delegates at the Grand Hotel attending the International Film Festival. Seven years earlier, on September 1, 1939, Cannes had to hastily postpone its first film festival as Hitler invaded Poland on the opening night, and the war that followed left the world devastated.

That night in 1946, France, still recovering from political strife, afflicted by shortages, and living with fresh memories of the Nazi occupation, staged a glittering celebration of peace. In its first edition after World War II, Cannes, applauded by the French Resistance, positioned itself as a counter-festival and a festival of 'the free world'. Special trains filled with producers, filmmakers, and cineastes began pouring into Cannes. The municipal casino of Cannes was converted into a cinema seating 850 for around a thousand international delegates, including 360 journalists. Twenty-one nations participated, and film stars including Errol Flynn, Tyrone

Power, and Edward G. Robinson grabbed everyone's attention. The festival screened 52 features and 75 shorts from 21 nations. As exploding fireworks illuminated the night sky from September 20 to October 5, 1946, over the Mediterranean resort of Cannes, the Côte d'Azur became the Hollywood of Europe. Despite the eleventh-hour crisis management and major technical mishaps, the film festival was enthusiastically embraced by the international community, making Cannes the template for all future international film festivals.

And after years of suffering, France began to regain its position as a great world power once more.

Why gold is glittering like never before: Saga behind yellow metal

Traditionally, gold has been an adored property in India, a possession of emotional value as well as a sturdy and supreme asset that can stand firm in the uncertain storms of global economic fluctuations and uncertainties.

Gold also has special cultural significance during weddings and religious festivals such as Dhanteras and Diwali. On these auspicious occasions, the demand for gold usually increases, and this anticipation usually leads to speculative buying by traders and investors, driving up its price.

Not just in India, the value of gold is deeply rooted in the history of human civilisation, as the metal has remained a symbol of wealth and prosperity for thousands of years. Its reputation for such high value ultimately stems from a social construction based on the common understanding that gold has been valuable in the past and will continue to be in the future. The supply of gold is driven primarily by mining production. Major players in worldwide gold mining are China, South Africa, the US, Australia, Russia, and Peru. Investors have long been enamoured by gold, and the price has steadily



risen over the past five decades. Not only does gold retain additional value, but supply and demand have a huge impact on the price of gold, especially demand from substantial ETFs (Exchange Traded Fund). Government vaults, or central banks, are also a principal source of demand for gold.

Gold also moves in a contradictory motion to the US dollar, the reason being due to the fact that the metal is dollar-denominated, which makes it a hedge against inflation and a very comfortable blanket of security indeed. All else remaining equal, a stronger US dollar tends to keep the price of gold lower and more controlled, while a weaker US dollar is likely to drive the price higher through increasing demand (because more gold can be purchased when the dollar is weaker).

rocketed globally, especially in India, hitting its lifetime peak on April 8, as Gold Contracts on MCX hit Rs 71,080 per 10 grams as it rose Rs 440 or 0.62 per cent. So, what are the reasons for this sudden and meteoric rise in gold prices? First of all, the worrying and rapidly escalating geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, the Russia-Ukraine war, and an uncertain impending presidential election in the US have led to unstable global markets, which is a key factor in the sudden bull rally in gold. Secondly, the US Federal Reserve's decision to increase interest rates in order to combat

inflation-influenced currency markets has made alternative investments like gold less attractive. However, global uncertainty and inflation have overridden this rationale, pushing investors towards gold as a store of value and driving up prices.

The US presidential race: A veritable roller-coaster ride

My two-week sojourn in India in mid-March was most welcome for someone as homesick as I. As India celebrated Holi, the festival of colours, the midday temperature also turned torrid in Delhi. As did the political temperature, with incumbent Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's incarceration on 21 March 21. The Aam Aadmi Party chief is still in the judicial remand of the Enforcement Directorate till 15 April. He is lodged in Delhi's Tihar jail, home to many notorious as well as illustrious prisoners before him. It is supremely ironic that

the prison complex is under Delhi state's, that is, his own administration. Back in the United States, the question on everyone's mind was whether former president and current Republican frontrunner, Donald Trump, could face not just conviction but imprisonment. Trump is entangled in dozens of court cases in four major lawsuits — two of these are for federal offences and two are in the states of New York and Georgia respectively. In addition, a New York judge Arthur Engoron imposed a fine of over \$450 million for civil fraud. Thankfully, for the

Trump team, that almost impossible if not insane bail bond was reduced to \$150 million. No small change, that! Apparently, on "April Fool's Day," April 1, 2024, the amount was credited to the state, temporarily saving Trump from the attachment of his properties, including the iconic Trump Tower, on 5th Avenue in midtown Manhattan. How can a person, so mired in litigation and controversy, devote sufficient time, energy, and attention to the highest office in the land? Such a question, one might imagine, would be uppermost

in voters' minds. Not so. At least not yet. Trump's troubles, as he himself has reiterated over and over again, are part of the political vendetta against him. Rather than fighting him fair and square, his antagonists, so goes the claim, want to debar and disable him from running. Even fighting the election itself, which is his fundamental right. Both the Republican party as well as his loyal vote bank seem firmly behind him. For now. Within the Grand Old Party, he has no serious rivals. His nomination to his party's presidential ticket is virtually assured.

Farmers will not be allowed to face any problem as wheat will not come in season: Amarendra Khara



Kaithal: Siwan Grain Market Association President Sardar Amarendra Singh Khara said that the arrival of wheat has started in Siwan Grain Market and today is the first day of Food Supply Department (D.F.S.C.). Government wheat procurement was started under the leadership of Inspector Vinod Sharma, Inspector Manpreet, Market Committee Secretary Manjeet Singh, Assistant Balbir Singh, Rajbir etc. The officials procured approximately 13 thousand quintals of wheat along with moisture testing equipment as

per government standards. Market head Amarendra Khara said that the procurement work is going on smoothly in the market and farmers and commission agents are happy with the purchases made by the agencies on the first day today. Farmers will not be allowed to face any kind of problem during the entire season.

If any farmer faces any difficulty in selling his crop, then come and meet him directly, the problem will be resolved by immediately informing the officials about the problem. He said that all

arrangements have been made by the committee department for purchasing wheat in the market and Pradhan Khara called upon the farmers to bring their crops to the market only after thoroughly cleaning and drying them, so that the farmers and agencies can save money for selling. There should be no problem in buying. On this occasion, Mandi Association Treasurer Vivek Goyal, Vinod Bansal, Hemant Bansal, former head Krishna Garg and many Mandi agents and farmers were present with him.

DUROPLY RECOGNISES CHANNEL PARTNERS AS THE BACKBONE OF THE INTERIOR INDUSTRY

New Delhi : Duroply, India's premium and most experienced plywood manufacturer amongst the leading players, has felicitated its Channel Partners from North India at the 'Duro Superstars' event organised at Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh, recently. Over 250 Channel Partners from across North Indian states attended the Meet. Most of these Channel Partners of Duroply have been with the Company for generations. Duroply is the market leader in plywood, veneers, blockboards, laminates, and doors segment in North India and has carved a niche for itself with its premium range of products. Renowned for uncompromising quality and a commitment to customer-centric innovation, Duroply products have become synonymous with durability and quality, making them the preferred choice for discerning home-



owners and architects across India.

Mr. Akhilesh Chitlangia, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Duroply, said, "At Duroply, we are committed to ensuring the interiors of our customers' last generations by educating them to use branded plywood.

Our Channel Partners play a critical role in guiding customers the benefits of using branded plywood, veneers, laminates, and other products. They explain to the customers that the incremental cost of going for branded plywood is just 1% of the total interior cost. Therefore, it makes economic sense for

them to invest a little in buying the right plywood which will make interiors of one's dream home last generations. Their expertise ensures that homes not only exude aesthetic charm but also stand the test of time, promising enduring beauty."

He further added, "Our Channel Partners are the cornerstone of our leadership. Their dedication to excellence and their deep-rooted understanding of the market have been paramount in establishing Duroply as a trusted brand for discerning consumers. As they share the same commitment to quality as Duroply, most of them are with us for generations."

CAPSULES

India hails Af move to restore property rights of Hindus, Sikhs

New Delhi: India welcomed the Taliban regime's recent move to restore property rights to Afghan Hindus and Sikhs calling it a positive development. The Taliban regime has reportedly set up a commission to ensure return to owners the rights of private land which were seized by warlords during the tenure of the previous dispensation in Kabul. "We have seen reports on this issue. If the Taliban administration has decided to restore property rights to their citizens belonging to Afghan Hindu and Sikh community, we see this as a positive development," said MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal. He was responding to a question at a media briefing.

Taliban authorities were reported to be working to restore private land to Hindu and Sikh minorities, reclaiming these properties from those linked to the previous West-backed regime. The Taliban initiative is seen as a significant step toward redressing the injustices faced by religious minorities in the country, who have long been displaced and marginalised, according to Taliban authorities.

Himalayan butterfly creates first flutter in city

New Delhi: For the first time, the large branded swift, a butterfly species seen commonly in the Himalayas and Northeast, has been spotted in Delhi. The species has never been found previously in northwest India due to its arid or semi-arid climate. The findings were published recently in Journal of Threatened Taxa.

A family's wedding dream & son crushed under a bus

New Delhi: The family of Abhishek Jain wanted to see his wedding happen this year. They got a funeral.

A hunt was on for a bride for Abhishek, a 29-year-old technical hand at AIIMS. On Friday morning, when he was waiting at a traffic signal near ITO, a school bus hit his stationary scooter. The BCom graduate, who was wearing a helmet, died on the spot.

"The family's plans and dreams for Abhishek are irreversibly



shattered. The community and relatives are mourning the loss of a young life that had held so much promise and was on the cusp of a new chapter," Rishabh Jain, who is a relative, said.

At the hospital mortuary in central Delhi, Abhishek's younger brother,

Himanshu, sat with his hands on his head. The 23-year-old seemed unable to come to terms with the shock of his brother's passing. Another relative recounted Abhishek's last moments. He said Abhishek had spent Wednesday evening in the company of friends. He had long conversations with them. On Friday, the friends Abhishek's body. Vicky Jain, a relative, said Abhishek was a law-abiding citizen who adhered to traffic rules.

He drove at a normal speed too, Vicky said, while recounting the horrific sight of his blood-covered injured body and his damaged helmet and the injured body covered in blood. Abhishek hailed from Uttar Pradesh and resided with his family in Brahmapuri. His father is a Delhi Transport Corporation employee and mother a homemaker. He is survived by his younger brother who works as a chartered accountant.

Coming up on 'grave' of pond, a cultural complex

New Delhi: On a plot in Budhela village in west Delhi's Vikaspuri that was walled by a govt department, a cultural complex is coming up. The irony is that while it is listed as govt land, it is actually a pond, enumerated as one of the city's 1,040 wetlands by the Wetland Authority of Delhi and meant to be notified as such by the state govt. The disappearance of this last surviving of the four ponds in the village underscores the challenges confronting the wetland conservation effort.



According to locals, the pond, having dried up, was filled over the years until it lost all signs of being a waterbody. Local activists and some residents strongly objected to the filling of the pond, arguing that it was proof of Delhi govt not being concerned

about preserving the city's wetlands. A petition on this was recently accepted by Delhi High Court and on March 28, the court sought the various responses of the various Delhi govt departments on the matter. According to petitioner Paras Tyagi, co-founder

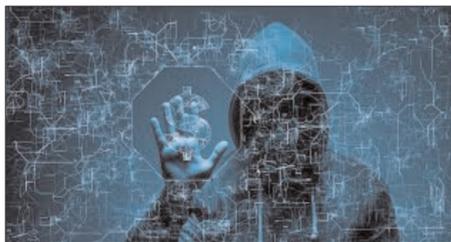
of Centre for Youth, Culture, Law and Environment, an NGO dealing with public policy, the land originally belonged to Delhi Development Authority. "In 2002, DDA allocated 4,300 square metres of this land to the Sahitya Kala Parishad, which is part of Delhi govt and looks after art and culture," said Tyagi. "The Parishad asked DTTDC, another Delhi govt undertaking, to construct a cultural complex on the plot and a private contractor has just started the work."

How these cyber cons exploited parents' fears

New Delhi: With the arrest of five people from Bhopal on Friday, Delhi Police claimed to have busted a cybercrime syndicate which used a voice modulation technology to deceive gullible parents to extract money for the safe release of their children.

The arrested suspects included Vishwajeet Giri (25), Sudhir Pal (39), Ravi Kushwah (27), Kunji Lal Ahirvar (45), and Maya Singh (28), all residents of Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, a senior police officer said.

According to GS Sidhu, DCP (Rohini), the arrests came following a complaint lodged on the NCRP portal. "The victim stated he had received a call from someone claiming to be a police officer, asserting that the complainant's child and his friends were in police custody. The



caller demanded Rs 70,000 for their release. To further deceive the victim, a person resembling the victim's child spoke on the phone," said the DCP.

After transferring money to the provided account, the victim realised the deception and registered a case at the Cyber Crime Police Station in Rohini, the DCP said. "During investigation, the financial trail was tracked, revealing the operation's base in MP. Giri's location was identified and following a raid he was nabbed along with his four accomplices. Around 40

mobile phones, 41 SIM cards, 10 debit cards, and 18 bank passbooks were seized from his possession," DCP Sidhu said. Interrogation revealed that Giri would scour the internet for gullible parents and used advanced technology to mimic the voice of the victim's kin and demand substantial sums for releasing their children, the DCP said, adding that he also enticed poor people to provide their bank accounts for hire which would be provided to his accomplices in Bihar engaged in various scams.

School vehicles are running fast in Loharu, disregarding the rules

Loharu: Last day, about 06 children have died in a tragic road accident in Kanina of Mahendragarh district, while dozens of children are struggling between life and death. School vehicles are speeding in Loharu city disregarding the rules. Most of the school vehicles are either old or declared unfit. Barring a few schools, children mostly reach public schools in private vehicles. These school vehicles do not follow traffic rules. School buses flouting rules right under the nose of the traffic police are putting the lives of students at risk every day. The death of about 6 children in a school bus accident in Kanina of Mahendragarh district has created fear among the parents. The district administration never shows strictness regarding school vehicles in the city. The arbitrariness of school managements continues. Last day, as soon as the private school operators of Loharu got information about the accident, they took leave due to fear of strictness from the administration. While holiday was declared across the country on the occasion of Eid, almost all the private schools of



Loharu, whether affiliated with Haryana School Education Board or CBSE, were open. At 2 o'clock in the afternoon, children were being dismissed in a private school in the town. More children were sitting in the school bus leaving this school than its capacity. Whereas, neither was there a CCTV camera, nor was the school phone number written in correct letters to contact in case of emergency. Apart from this, there is neither first aid box nor fire extinguisher in the bus nor other safety standards are taken care of. Apart from this, private vehicles and even tempos are also deployed to transport children to and from school. In vehicles that barely accommodate five passengers, 16 to 18 students are crammed into them. The administration is turn-

ing a blind eye towards such vehicles which put the lives of students at risk. The buses of most of the school operators of Loharu do not meet the standards. Today, due to fear of the administration, an atmosphere of chaos was seen among the private school operators. Buses with incomplete documents and condom declared buses were seen hiding. The operators who never considered government holidays as holidays, were now declaring holidays on Saturday also by citing Baisakhi festival. Distinguished citizens and social organizations of Loharu area have demanded from the administration that strict action should be taken against such private school operators who disobey the rules so that the recurrence of the tragic accident.

Woman jumps into drain in Mangolpuri

New Delhi: A 21-year-old beautician allegedly took her own life by jumping into a drain in outer Delhi's Mangolpuri on Friday.

The woman was employed at a salon in Rohini and shared a rented accommodation in Sultanpuri with her female friend. The two had been living together for several years. The victim's family claimed that the woman was upset due to some discord with her friend.

Police received a PCR call about a woman jumping into the drain on Friday. A team rushed to the spot and the woman was taken to hospital, where she was declared dead on arrival.

Missing party flags at Rahul roadshow: Kerala CM says Congress afraid of BJP

NEW DELHI: Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan and state Congress leaders on Thursday traded barbs accusing each other of being afraid of the BJP. Vijayan said Congress and IUML flags were not used at Rahul Gandhi's road show in Wayanad yesterday as the grand old party was scared of the BJP. This evoked a sharp retort from the Congress leaders who alleged that Vijayan was afraid of Prime Minister Modi and was trying to please him. Chief minister Vijayan questioned the absence of party flags at Rahul's roadshow and said: "The Congress party wants



vote of IUML, but not their flag and for that, it decided to forego even its own flag. This act doesn't augur well." Targeting the grand old party he said, "They got scared of the BJP because in 2019 when Rahul

came to file his nomination papers, the green flags of IUML and the Congress flags were tied together at the roadshow. The BJP used these pictures to target the grand old party in north India stating that these were Pakistani flags. Do the Congress

leaders here know what their party flag used to depict during the pre-independence struggle?" Vijayan also accused the Congress of helping BJP gain majority in Rajya Sabha and questioned the decision to field K C Venugopal, who is a

Rajya Sabha member from Rajasthan, from Alappuzha. "Even though he has two more years before his term ends, he decided to contest from Alappuzha and this was done to ensure that in case he wins, then a by-election to the Upper House from Rajasthan will be held and the BJP will win it. At the moment the BJP doesn't have a majority in the Upper House and is short by four seats. This is being done to help the BJP, but the people at Alappuzha (where Venugopal is contesting) will ensure that his seat is intact in the Upper House as he will be defeated here," CM Vijayan said.

Naresh Kumar again crowned as Anti Corruption Haryana Incharge

Said: The campaign to make the society aware against corruption will be carried out in full swing



Kaithal: Anti Corruption Organization National President R.K. Sullar has once again been given the responsibility of Haryana in-charge in view of the awareness campaign against corruption run by Anti Corruption Haryana in-charge, vigilance toll free number displayed outside government offices and other commendable works done in social interest. Along with this, the newly appointed Haryana in-

charge Naresh Kumar has been given the responsibility of forming Haryana executive. All the members of the organization expressed happiness and congratulated Naresh Kumar on his appointment. While talking to journalists at Cheeka Anaaj Mandi, Haryana in-charge Naresh Kumar expressed his gratitude to the organization's National President R.K. Sullar on his appointment and said that he

will fulfill the responsibility that has been entrusted to him again with full honesty and will motivate the society to raise voice against corruption by making them aware about it at a fast pace. He said that soon National President R.K. Under the guidance of Sullar, a committee of the organization will also be formed across the state and awareness programs and rallies against corruption will be organized across the state.

West Bengal: ED conducts searches at TMC minister Chandranath Sinha's residence in Birbhum

KOLKATA: A team from the Enforcement Directorate (ED) conducted searches at the residence of West Bengal minister Chandranath Sinha in Bolpur, Birbhum district. The search is part of the investigation into an alleged school recruitment scam. The ED team, accompanied by central forces, arrived at Sinha's residence at 9.15 am to begin the search. Sinha, who serves as the minister for MSME and Textiles in the



Mamata Banerjee government, was not present during the search as he was at his ancestral home in Murarai, 90 km away. "The search is in connection with the investigation of the alleged irregularities in the school recruitment scam. The minister is not present

at his residence, we are talking to his family," an officer said. Sinha had been previously summoned by the CBI in cases of cattle and coal smuggling. Meanwhile, the ED was also conducting raids at the homes of some businessmen in Kolkata.

State poll rout, netas' exodus make KCR go on a Vaastu overdrive

HYDERABAD: A strong believer in Vaastu, former Telangana CM and BRS chief K Chandrasekhar Rao has decided to set his own house, party headquarters Telangana Bhavan, in order after last year's assembly election rout and a series of recent defections. Work has started to shift the main entrance of the 60-room building in Hyderabad's upscale Banjara Hills to make it Vaastu-compliant in the hope this will alter the party's flagging fortunes. BRS bagged only 39 seats in the 119-member assembly last year. What worries it more is the spate of desertions of senior leaders like K Keshava Rao and Kadiyam Srihari to Congress ahead of the Lok Sabha elections. The main entrance of the 40,000sqft Telangana Bhavan, built in 2005, is now on the north-west side. Another gate is now being made on the north-eastern side. A

ramp is also coming up on the north-eastern side for free movement of vehicles. "Since the Bhavan has veedhi potu or T-junction (three roads meeting at a point right opposite the building which drains massive amounts of energy in Vaastu parlance), modifications are being made now to overcome the negative effect," a BRS leader said. A senior leader, however, sought to play down the connection, contending that the north-eastern gate was being made to avoid inconvenience to commuters facing traffic jams on the busy Road No. 12, Banjara Hills. Interestingly, BRS (formerly TRS) top brass had carried out some changes in 2014 and 2017 in the building, which also boasts a meeting hall that can hold 500 people. In 2014, internal walls and doors were removed or according to Vaastu principles.

Plans in place to maximise collection of property tax

New Delhi: With a few days left for this financial year to end, civic bodies, including Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and Delhi Development Authority, have made arrangements to maximise property tax collection. Except for Holi, the property tax offices will remain open on all days. Circulars, messages and notices have also been sent out in large numbers to motivate people to pay their pending dues. Till Friday, MCD's property tax collection was Rs 1,950 crore in comparison to Rs 1,862 crore till this point of time last year. The overall collection last year was Rs 2,417 crore. "Unlike last year, there is no amnesty scheme in place this time. But, we are still making best efforts.

AP leader Raghav Chadha on extended stay in London; attends PMQs in parliament

CHANDIGARH: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national spokesperson and Punjab Rajya Sabha member Raghav Chadha has been in London since around March 8, it has emerged, even as opposition parties in Punjab are raising questions about his whereabouts. This comes at such a crucial time with the Lok Sabha elections approaching — and

now the arrest of Delhi chief minister and AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal. Chadha spoke on March 9 at the London Indian Forum of the London School of Economics, where he himself studied and met his wife, Parineeti Chopra. On March 8, he tweeted: "Namaste England," presumably when he landed. On Wednesday this week, he watched UK PM Rishi

Sunak and Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer battle it out at the weekly Prime Minister Questions from the Speaker's private gallery. Labour MP Virendra Sharma told TOI: "There were no meetings, he only attended PMQs. I am not aware of the purpose of his UK visit." Speculation is rife he is in the UK for eye surgery.

Focus on electoral fight, not court battle: SC

NEW DELHI: Supreme Court on Thursday refused to modify its order by which Ajit Pawar was allowed to use the Nationalist Congress Party name and the symbol 'clock' with the condition that wide publicity be given that the matter was sub-judice, while the rival faction headed by his estranged uncle and party founder Sharad Pawar was asked to use 'NCP- Sharadchandra Pawar' and the symbol of man blowing 'turha' (trumpet). A bench of Justices Surya Kant and K V Viswanathan directed the warring factions of NCP to abide by its directions on use of party names, symbols and publication of disclaimers in all print and audio/visual advertisements, turning down the Sharad Pawar faction's plea for a fresh judicial intervention in view of Ajit Pawar's alleged non-compliance with the directive to use "disclaimers" about its control over the name and symbol of the undivided party being transient. With the rival factions persisting with their legal feud even when the election process was on, the bench said they should better concentrate on "something else"; that is, wrestle at the hustings. In an interim order on March 19, the court had allowed Ajit's faction to contest the Lok Sabha polls using the NCP name and the 'clock' symbol but directed the Election Commission to recognise the rival faction.

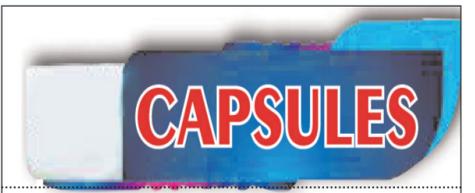
Govt to buy 50L tonnes of wheat from UP, Rajasthan, Bihar this yr

NEW DELHI: Robust wheat procurement during this year riding on a good harvest may put more 'rotis' on the plates of beneficiaries covered under free foodgrain scheme—PM Garib Kalyan Ann Yojna (PMGKAY). Govt would review the mix of rice and wheat allocated to states for distribution to the 80 crore poor under the scheme depending on the procurement this year, which is estimated to be at least 310 lakh tonne. In response to questions on whether the ongoing election would impact wheat procurement, Union food secretary Sanjeev Chopra said they are confident

of achieving the target. On the possibility of more wheat allocation to states for PMGKAY, he said the increase in procurement of the winter crop this year—including from non-traditional states of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar—would help govt to restore allocation of the foodgrain under the food security scheme. Govt has estimated procurement of at least 50 lakh tonne wheat from these states, an over seven-fold increase from last year. Govt had reduced wheat allocation and had increased the share of rice in May 2022 to avoid any scarcity-like situation amid sharp decline in

wheat procurement. The overall annual wheat allocation for the food security scheme and other welfare programmes was reduced to 184 lakh tonne from 230 lakh tonne, which has been continuing till date. Officials said the crop this year looks good and the pace of wheat procurement will gather momentum in the next two weeks. So far, 6 lakh tonne have been procured compared to 3.5 lakh tonne for the corresponding period last year. While wheat procurement at minimum support price (MSP) is normally undertaken by FCI and state agencies, this time govt cooperatives

Nafed and NCCF have also been roped in with a procurement target of 5 lakh tonne each. "UP, Bihar, and Rajasthan have been contributing much less to the central pool than they could have. We have taken several steps to increase procurement from these states," Chopra said. These include starting procurement early, registration of farmers, increasing the number of procurement centres, aggressive targeting of production hotspots and drying facilities have been provided for early harvested crops. This is also being seen as a move to diversify.



Andhra Pradesh elections: TDP announces third list of 13 MP and 11 MLA candidates

VIJAYAWADA: The opposition has revealed its third list, disclosing the names of 13 MP and 11 MLA candidates. The TDP has named most of its candidates for both assembly and Lok Sabha. Out of the 145 assembly and 17 Lok Sabha seats being contested by the TDP in alliance with BJP and Jana Sena, candidates for 141 MLA and 13 MP seats have been announced so far.

Asia Society India Centre Board Names Sangita Jindal New Chair

PANIPAT / KARNAL : The Asia Society India Centre Board has announced the election of Sangita Jindal as the new Chair of the Board. Her role will be effective from the 1st of April, 2024. "I am so delighted to welcome Sangita Jindal as Chair of the Asia Society India Centre Board. She has been an immense support to our mission in South Asia and her work to support contemporary art in India and South Asia has been a transformative force; I look forward to working with her to strengthen Asia Society's footprint in South Asia," said Asia Society India Centre CEO Inakshi Sobti. Sangita Jindal is President, Art India and Chairperson of the JSW Foundation, which is responsible for the social development projects of the JSW Group of Companies. In the twenty years that she has been spearheading the JSW Foundation, it has enlarged its scope of activities in the areas of education, health, livelihood creation, local sports development and conservation of arts and cultural heritage. She established the Jindal Arts Centre in 1992 and founded Art India, India's premier art magazine, in 1994. She was among the team that conceptualised the Kala Ghoda Arts Festival and was awarded the Eisenhower Fellowship in 2004. She has founded the Hampi Foundation that has undertaken conservation work at three temples in Hampi. She is a Global Trustee of Asia Society and a member of the Board of the National Culture Fund, Trustee of the World Monument Fund, advisor to TEDxGateway and a member of the IMC Ladies' Wing Art, Culture and Film Committee. Founded in 1956 by John D. Rockefeller 3rd, Asia Society is a nonpartisan, nonprofit institution with major centers and public buildings in New York, Houston and Hong Kong, and offices in Los Angeles, Manila, Melbourne, Mumbai, San Francisco, Seattle, Seoul, Sydney, Tokyo, Washington, D.C. and Zurich.

Govt takes Third Mumbai plan another step closer to reality

MUMBAI: The urban development department (UDD) has invited suggestions and objections from the general public from 124 villages that have now been made a part of the proposed Third Mumbai.

Third Mumbai largely consists of area that falls under the influence zone of the recently opened Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL), or Atal Setu.

MTHL is expected to have a major impact on the economic development and growth of the region and the state govt has decided to tap the potential that will emanate from this project. On Dec 12, Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) was appointed the New Town Development Authority (NTDA) for area that falls under the MTHL influence zone. MMRDA has envisaged Third Mumbai as a liveable and environment-friendly greenfield sustainable business cen-



tre with smart city features. It will have regional-level amenities with mixed-use and integrated residential areas for job creation and economic growth of Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR).

Of the 124 villages, 80 villages are from Navi Mumbai Airport Influence Notified Area (NAINA), 33 villages from the Khopta New Town Notified Area, two villages from Mumbai Metropolitan Regional Plan and nine from the Raigad Regional Plan. Since some of the areas from NAINA and Khopta New Town

Notified Area have been moved to NTDA, UDD has decided to seek suggestions and objections about the modifications.

A notification issued by state UDD said: "The suggestion and/or objections in respect of the proposed modification [are sought] from the general public within 30 days (April 3). The suggestions and/or objections shall be addressed to the joint director of town planning, Konkan Division, 3rd floor, main building, room no. 305, Konkan Bhavan, Navi Mumbai-400601."

NIA begins probe into Bengaluru cafe blast after MHA diktat

BENGALURU: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday began its probe into the Rameshwaram Cafe blast that injured nine people in the city on March 1.

A team of NIA sleuths, including IGP Santosh Rastogi, visited the cafe for a spot inspection and reconstructed the crime scene.

Central Crime Branch (CCB) sleuths are also continuing their probe in the case, which was registered at the HAL



police station.

NIA registered the case follow-

ing directions from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) as Karnataka govt did not hand over the investigation to the central agency.

However, NIA officials from Bengaluru had visited the spot and collected details of the blast. NIA officials from Telangana, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu have been camping in Bengaluru since March 2 and are coordinating with the city police and Intelligence Bureau (IB).

Karya, NGO create Kannada Q&A bot for TB

Bengaluru: Not-for-profit organisation Karnataka Health Promotion Trust (KHPT) has teamed up with Bengaluru-based data cooperative Karya to develop a voice-based tuberculosis Q&A bot in Kannada. Currently, the app is in beta.

A patient can ask in Kannada, "What types of food are okay to eat with my TB medicines?". And get the response in the same language: "You don't have to worry too much about what you eat with your medication. Most things are okay, but it's good to eat lots of Vitamins A, C and E. You can get this by adding more fruits and vegetables to your diet! Here are some examples of what you can add: orange, mango, sweet pumpkin and carrots, guava, amla, tomato, nuts and seeds."

The app has a call to action button which

connects them to a helpline when necessary. The Global TB (tuberculosis) Report 2022 showed that 21.4 lakh TB cases were notified in India in 2021, 18% higher than 2020. KHPT has built a digital Kannada repository in ten dialects including Mangaluru Kannada, Sirsi Kannada, Belagavi Kannada, Mandya Kannada and Ballari Kannada through an exhaustive data collection exercise. This

includes data anonymised from those affected with TB, caregivers, social workers, frontline healthcare workers and communities to improve health outcomes of TB patients. KHPT and Karya interviewed 1,600 people to obtain 1,000 hours of data. They collected details on symptoms, treatment adherence, side effects, cost of treatment and benefits of the direct benefit transfer programme.

Over 1,300 beggars got skills

Delhi: The economic survey says the Delhi government started skill development for homeless beggars last year. It claims 1,312 of Delhi's 16,000 homeless and pavement residents were taught between March and September 2023. The government said an interdepartmental committee would train city homeless before the 2023 G20 Summit. The lieutenant governor and chief secretary ordered.

Mails to Karnataka CM, deputy CM DK Shivakumar warn of more blasts in Karnataka

BENGALURU: Close on the heels of Friday's bomb blast at a cafe in Whitefield, Bengaluru, that left nine persons injured, two emails sent to the chief minister, his deputy, the home minister and the city commissioner of police have warned of "more explosions" targeting VVIPs and crowded areas in Karnataka. One of the mails demanded \$2.5 million "to stop similar blasts".

While the first email



was sent at 2.48pm Saturday, a day after the cafe blast, the second mail was sent on Monday. Unverified reports claimed that more such mails have been received by govt and police. Threats

appear to be hoax but can't be ignored: Senior cop City police commissioner B Dayananda on Tuesday confirmed receiving the e-mails and said cybercrime police have taken up the probe after regis-

tering separate cases. The Saturday email was purportedly sent by a person identifying himself as Shahid Khan and the sender's ID read, 'Shahidkhan10786@protonmail.com'. The email was sent to the CM, deputy CM, home minister, and several police officers, barring the commissioner of police. Dayananda told, "We have written to Proton (an IT firm) to provide us the details of the email ID.

Brief court on steps taken to control noise pollution: HC

Hyderabad: Asking TSPSB and govt officials to be honest in their communication, Telangana high court on Tuesday directed director general of police and Hyderabad police commissioner to brief the court within two days the steps they are taking to control noise and sound pollution at function halls in Hyderabad and all over the state. The court, while making S e c u n d e r a b a d Cantonment Board as a respondent to the case, issued notices to the state govt, municipal,

police and pollution control officials. The case was posted to Thursday for further hearing. A bench of Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice J Anil Kumar, which took up a letter written to them by an additional chief engineer (environment) from the military's research and development wing as a PIL, wanted to know from the officials how they were implementing the noise pollution control and regulation rules, which were notified in a GO issued in

2010. The military engineer in his letter pointed out the inaction of officials in controlling unbearable noise levels from two function halls in T a d b u n d in S e c u n d e r a b a d Cantonment. He named Bantia Gardens and Imperial Gardens for violating the rights of the people residing in the vicinity. "These function halls collect lakhs of rupees towards rent for conducting marriages and other functions.

but show scant regard towards the

noise pollution norms," he said.

The advocates representing the state and civic bodies were quick to point out to the notices issued to the two function halls and also instances of penalties of Rs 5,000 collected from them. The bench turned critical towards the state counsel and said this kind of action will not yield any result. "We want effective steps to rein in the errant halls. Tell us what you are doing to keep the noise within the prescribed levels.

Chocolates with betel instead of cocoa, but just as delicious

Bengaluru: How about chocolates made out of betel leaf instead of cocoa beans? If you are wondering how they'd taste, here is what researchers at Bengaluru-based Indian Institute of Horticulture Research (IIHR) said: "They are quite yummy... you won't miss the cocoa much."

IIHR has been working on chocolate bars made out of betel leaf powder, betel leaf oil extract, sugar and preservatives. Prototype of the betel chocolate-making technology, along with the chocolates, were showcased at the National Horticulture Fair, which was inaugurated on IIHR campus in Hessarghatta Tuesday. Principal scientist Hima Bindu told TOI: "We wanted to make this crop a value-added product which benefits farmers and is



also welcomed by urban residents. We want to highlight its medicinal properties too — antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, etc." The idea of a betel leaf chocolate was born when betel vine growers in Ramanagara and surrounding areas, along with Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, faced problems during the Covid lockdown. "Betel vine is a heritage crop. We got appeals from farmers to come up with solutions as they didn't know how to sell the

produce. While we were exploring options, the idea of betel-flavoured chocolates was conceived." Explaining the process, Bindu said the leaves are dried, converted into powder and laced with other ingredients. These chocolates are not only tasty but also healthy as they contain medicinal properties and protect consumers from oral bacteria," she said, adding: "This could be one of the reasons why our ancestors used to have betel leaf in the form of paan.

Mask name of man cleared of Pocco case in e-records: HC

Bengaluru: The high court on Tuesday ordered deletion from its records the name of a man cleared of Pocco charges after a police report concluded that it was a false case. The HC cited "the right to be forgotten" principle upheld in several other cases and "the right to live with dignity". "Article 21 of the Constitution mandates that no person shall be deprived of his life or liberty except in accordance with law. The expression 'life' cannot seem to connote a mere animal existence, it has a much wider meaning. It takes within its sweep right to live with dignity," the HC's Justice M Nagaprasanna noted. The man had moved the HC for the deletion. Earlier, he was booked in Tumakuru district under sections 354A and 354B (sexual



harassment) of the IPC and Section 12 of the Pocco Act in a complaint filed in Sept 2021. The complainant had alleged that the petitioner was sending sexually intimidating WhatsApp messages to his daughter, a minor, and trying to force her into a physical relationship. However, the cops conducted a probe and submitted a "B report" — police's terminology for a false case. In the meantime, the petitioner filed a

criminal petition challenging the proceedings, and in Feb 2022, they were disposed of on the strength of the B report. Later, when the petitioner searched the internet and found his name still mentioned as an accused, he moved the HC seeking deletion/masking his name from the records. Justice Nagaprasanna noted that the right to be forgotten had been recognised in Supreme Court's Aadhaar judg-

ment, and the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, also recognised the right to erasure of personal data. Further, the judge pointed out that in NT 1 vs Google LLC case, the Queen's bench in the UK, too, had recognised the principle in 2018.

"In a crime, once the accused gets acquitted - honourably discharged by a competent court of law, or this court quashes the crimes in exercise of its jurisdiction under Section 482 of the CrPC, those orders become final...

The shadow of crime, if permitted to continue in place of shadow of dignity, on any citizen, would be a travesty of the concept of life under Article 21 of the Constitution," Justice Nagaprasanna noted.

Techie working for MNC ends life in hostel room



Hyderabad: A 28-year-old woman identified as M Vidhya Sri, working as a techie with an MNC and residing in a private hostel at Kothaguda attempted suicide in the hostel on Monday evening. She died while undergoing treatment in the early hours of Tuesday. Gachibowli police registered a case under section 174 of the CrPC and started a probe. SI K Bhanu Prasad said they did not find any suicide note and that they are yet to ascertain the reason behind her suicide. "We are also verifying her call data records for any suspicious activity. Based on PME report, the probe will proceed," he said.

Jake Fraser-McGurk, Kuldeep guide Delhi Capitals to six-wicket win over Lucknow



NEW DELHI: Australia's Jake Fraser-McGurk made an emphatic statement with a dynamic half-century in a thrilling IPL debut, while spinner Kuldeep Yadav showcased his brilliance with the ball as Delhi Capitals clinched a morale-boosting six-wicket victory over Lucknow Super Giants on Friday. Ayush Badoni's blistering unbeaten 55 off 35 balls salvaged the Super Giants to a respectable total of 167/7 after Kuldeep's impressive three-wicket haul of 3/20.

Fraser-McGurk's aggressive style came to the fore as he hammered a quickfire 55 off 35 balls, forming a pivotal 77-run partnership with skipper Rishabh Pant (41), ultimately steering DC to their second win of the season. The 22-year-old Australian showcased his attacking prowess by dispatching a shot off a length delivery from Yash Thakur over deep mid-wicket for his inaugural IPL runs, following it up with another six in the subsequent over. Prithvi Shaw (32) was looking

in good nick but Ravi Bishnoi made an instant impact as he entered the game, getting rid of the opener, as DC fell to 63/2. The LSG bowlers were able to dominate the visitors for sometime as Fraser-McGurk also struggled to find the boundaries. But Pant hoisted the ball over Bishnoi's head for a straight six to not only reach the 3,000-run milestone in IPL but also collected Delhi's first boundary in 29 deliveries in the 11th over. The dashing wicketkeeper-batter gave a glimpse of his vintage

I would rather get all out as a team than...': Pant says after a disappointing loss to KKR

NEW DELHI: Delhi Capitals skipper Rishabh Pant put up a brave face despite getting a 106-run thrashing at the hands of Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in their Indian Premier League (IPL) match in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday.

This was DC's third loss in four games after beating Chennai Super Kings in their previous encounter, while KKR, who moved to the top of the standings, registered their third successive win on the trot.

Sunil Narine exhibited his batting prowess by smashing a scintillating 85 runs, while teenage sensation Angkrish Raghuvanshi impressed with a fluent half-century on his IPL batting debut as KKR posted an imposing total of 272/7. Despite falling five runs short of the highest total in the tournament's history, KKR's batting onslaught set a daunting target for their opponents.

Also Read: How to watch IPL 2024 live in USA, Canada and MENA region

DC struggled throughout the



match, failing to assert themselves with either the ball or the bat. The pressure of KKR's mammoth target caused them to falter.

Pant continued his good form with the bat, scoring his second consecutive half-century, while Tristan Stubbs also contributed with a fifty. However, their efforts went in vain, as DC succumbed to a defeat, folding for 166 runs in 17.2 overs.

Strong-willed Pant graciously accepted the defeat while reflecting on his team's below-par performance, stating that it was one of those days.

"Our bowlers were all over

the place. We just didn't turn up on the day. Today was one of those days. As a batting unit, we only wanted to keep going hard as a team. I would rather get all out as a team than not go for the target. (Some reviews not taken) I think it was quite loud here," Pant said at the post-match interaction.

"At the same time, I couldn't see the timer on the screen. There was some problem on the screen. But there are some things you can control, some things you can't. (Use of Axar, only one over) See the thought process was that we didn't want to use

spinners, but our fast bowlers were going through the motions.

"I think it is time for reflection as an individual. We need to learn from these mistakes and come positive in the next match. (Pant's own body) Doing fine. Getting out there. Enjoying every day but cricket has its own ups and downs," Pant concluded.

'Cricket is all about batting...': Sunil Narine after a match-winning knock against Delhi Capitals

NEW DELHI: Sunil Narine's blistering 85 propelled Kolkata Knight Riders to a commanding 106-run victory over Delhi Capitals in a remarkable display of power-hitting, as they posted the second-highest ever IPL total of 272/7 on Wednesday.

Kolkata's stellar performance came on the heels of Sunrisers Hyderabad's record-breaking innings total of 277/3 just a week earlier, reaffirming the relentless batting prowess witnessed in the IPL.

'Amazing time to come to India': IPL debutant Jake Fraser-McGurk

NEW DELHI: It's a different feeling for young Australian cricketer Jake Fraser-McGurk when it comes to playing in the biggest cricket league of the world - IPL, but the Delhi Capitals (DC) batter made a mark for himself in his debut innings against Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) on Friday.



Fraser-McGurk announced himself with a belligerent half-century (55 off 35 balls). The 22-year-old, known for his aggressive batting style, made an imme-

diately impact in the IPL by smashing a short of a length delivery from Yash Thakur over deep mid-wicket, securing his first-ever runs in the tournament.

Displaying his attacking mindset, he followed up with another six in the subsequent over, showcasing his ability to take on the bowlers and score quickly.

Debutant Fraser-McGurk described IPL as a different feeling altogether and said he was happy to be out there.

"I spent the last 5-6 games on the sidelines and was itching to have a go. It was more of trying not to swing too hard, trying to find the middle of the bat and that's what

I have been trying to do in the last 12 months. I loved the one over cover, nothing better than hitting over the off-side," Fraser-McGurk said at the post-match interaction.

'Virat would have the most number of trophies if...': Shastri makes a big statement

NEW DELHI: Former Indian captain and Team India head coach Ravi Shastri, renowned for his candid talks, made a striking statement regarding Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) star batsman Virat Kohli. Shastri suggested that if the IPL were an individual sport, Kohli would have likely possessed the most impressive collection of trophies in his cabinet.

RCB's performance in the IPL season so far has been dismal, with three losses out of four games. While Kohli has



been impressive overall, amassing 203 runs at a strike-rate exceeding 140, his contributions during the Powerplay overs haven't been as domi-

nant as expected. Despite Kohli's individual success, RCB's struggles during the crucial Powerplay phase might be a contributing factor to their

poor show. Kohli, known for his ability to anchor the innings, might be looking to make adjustments to his approach during the early overs to provide a stronger foundation for his team in the upcoming matches.

However, Shastri, while speaking on Star Sports, lauded Kohli for his performances in the cash-rich league over the years. "Virat Kohli would have the most number of trophies if IPL was an individual sport," Shastri said.

Ayush Badoni-Arshad script history, record-breaking partnership

NEW DELHI: Lucknow Super Giants' Ayush Badoni and Arshad Khan etched their names in IPL record books by forging the highest 8th-wicket partnership in the tournament's history during the match against Delhi Capitals on Friday.

The duo came together at the crease with



LSG struggling at 94/7 against Delhi Capitals at the Eka Cricket Stadium in Lucknow. However, they showcased remarkable resilience and determination, stitching together an unbeaten 73-run partnership.

IPL: POINTS TABLE | ORANGE CAP | PURPLE CAP
This partnership not only stands as the highest 8th-wicket stand in IPL history but also ranks as the second-highest partnership for the 8th wicket or below in the tournament's history. The

highest partnership in this category belongs to Gujarat Titans' Rashid Khan and Alzarri Joseph, who put on an 88-run stand against Mumbai Indians in the previous edition of the tournament.

Following closely behind, the duo of Brad Hodge and James Faulkner holds the third spot with a 69-run partnership for Rajasthan Royals in 2014 against Mumbai Indians in Ahmedabad. In their innings, Badoni played a pivotal role, scoring his maiden IPL fifty in 31 balls.

Royals announce the launch of a cricket academy in Pune

JAIPUR: Royals Sports Group-owned franchise Rajasthan Royals on Wednesday announced the launch of a cricket academy in Pune, expanding its footprint in the state of Maharashtra, and thereby solidifying its commitment to nurturing young cricketing talent.

The grand inauguration took place at the Prakash Tingre Ground, Dhanori and was led by Royals' Global Head of Academy Coaching Siddhartha Lahiri, Rajasthan Royals' Chief Business Officer Alok Chitre, Maharashtra Cricket Association COO Ajinkya Joshi, JusCricket Academy Mentor and Owner of MPL franchise Solapur Royals Kapil Baheti, and JusCricket Academy Director and former Royals' player



Parag More. The facilities at the JusCricket Academy in Pune will become the newest addition to the growing Royals' Academy ecosystem, and will be rebranded as the Rajasthan Royals Academy, Pune. The launch on Tuesday saw Lahiri conduct a captivating coaches' session which offered insights into the "Royals Way" of playing cricket.

Coaches were also treated to a master-class, learning about the behind-the-scenes

work that goes at the Royals, and how it can help fast-track the development of the cricketing talent. The newest addition to the Royals' Academy ecosystem is equipped with a full-sized cricket ground, along with natural and astro turf wickets, ensuring availability and access to the state-of-the-art cricketing facility for budding cricketers round the year. The RR Academy Pune will also aid in the development of local internal coaches already serv-

ing at the facility and equip them with the right knowledge and skill set which can be passed onto the kids. Given the franchise's expertise of grooming talent and providing them with a platform to perform -- of which Yashasvi Jaiswal, Dhruv Jurel and Riyan Parag are recent examples -- a major focus of the RR Academy.

Pune will be to inculcate the renowned Royals philosophy into the coaching techniques being imparted to the kids. The talent enrolled at the RR Academy Pune will also take part in RRA-organised tournaments around the world, get feedback from the Royals' expert coaches and visit and get trained at the franchise's High-Performance Center in Nagpur.

'Stay tuned': Ashwin's cryptic post leaves fans guessing



NEW DELHI: Star India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin took social media by storm with his cryptic post on his X handle. The seasoned spinner is representing the Rajasthan Royals in the ongoing IPL 2024 season.

Ashwin, known for his candid nature, stirred curiosity among his fans by sharing a cryptic message: "Tomorrow 12.30 pm. Stay tuned." This unexpected post has left many speculating about the nature of his forthcoming announcement.