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

Germany to increase number of annual visas for skilled Indian workers to 90,000

NEW DELHI: Germany has committed to increase visas for skilled Indian workers, raising the annual quota from 20,000 to 90,000 as part of efforts to deepen bilateral ties. The announcement came as German Chancellor Olaf Scholz met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Friday, with both leaders deepen the importance of collaboration in areas including economic growth, defence, and clean energy. Chancellor Scholz stressed the decision as a welcoming signal for skilled workers, saying, "The message is that Germany is open for skilled workers." Modi, in turn, praised the agreement, describing it as a powerful economic link between the countries. "When India's dynamics and Germany's precision meet, when Germany's engineer-



ing and India's innovation meet... a better future is decided for the Indo-Pacific and the entire world," he said. The expanded visa programme builds on a migration agreement signed two years ago that facilitates professional and academic mobility. As part of the current deal, Germany has also pledged to streamline its visa application process and improve recognition of Indian qualifications, reducing bureaucratic barriers for Indian professionals. **LIVE: PM Modi and**

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz attend the joint press meet

This meeting marked Scholz's third visit to India since 2023, following his state visit and attendance at the G20 summit. The leaders' discussions covered mutual interests, with India's Ministry of External Affairs noting the partnership's growth over the years. Defence cooperation is also deepening, evidenced by a recent "maritime partnership exercise" in the Indian Ocean aimed at enhancing interoperability between the

countries' naval forces. "Germany and India are committed to more cooperation, not less," Scholz stated, as both countries expressed interest in strengthening defence ties. However, India and Germany differ on their approaches toward Russia. While Germany strongly supports Ukraine, Modi's administration has maintained its long-standing ties with Russia, recently affirming cooperation at the BRICS summit attended by Russian President Vladimir Putin. The two leaders also explored India's push for "green hydrogen" production, which Germany views as vital to its energy transition amid reduced Russian oil and gas supplies. Representatives from both countries signed a "Green Hydrogen Road Map," with further details yet to be announced.

'Kuch nahi bachta hai': Rahul Gandhi vis-its local barber for a trim and his story

NEW DELHI: Leader of opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi made yet another visit to a local barber shop and heard about his ordeal. The Congress leader posted a video of his interaction with the barber on X to tell "the story of every hard-working poor and middle class person of India today". In the video, Rahul was seen sitting on a chair, while the barber named Ajit trimmed his beard and shared his story. Ajit told Rahul how he



works throughout the day to save no money at the end of the day. Sharing the video on social media platform Rahul wrote: "Kuch nahi bachta hai [No money left at the end of the day to save]! These four words of Ajit Bhai and his tears

are telling the story of every hard-working poor and middle class person of India today. From barbers to cobblers, potters to carpenters - falling incomes and rising inflation have robbed those who work with their hands of their dreams

of having their own shops, houses and even self-respect." "What is needed today are modern solutions and new schemes that will increase income and bring back savings to homes. And, a society where talent gets its due and every step of hard work takes you up the ladder of success," he added. The Congress leader has time and again shared on social media several such interaction with local workers, including porters, cobblers and barbers.

Kashmir rejected Pakistan in '47, terror won't change that: Farooq Abdullah

SRINAGAR: National Conference president Farooq Abdullah said Friday that J&K rejected Pakistan in 1947 and no amount of violence perpetrated through terrorist outfits originating from across the border could browbeat Kashmiris into thinking



otherwise. "Those who think they can bring Kashmir under

Pakistan's control are mistaken. It will always remain with India,"

Farooq told reporters a day after yet another terrorist ambush in which three soldiers and two porters were killed along the LoC near Gulmarg. Farooq cited conflicts currently raging in various parts of the world as examples of the futility .

10 Indians per hour tried to enter US illegally in last one year, 90,000 arrested: Data shows

AHMEDABAD: Despite the perilous journey and a series of deaths of illegal Indian immigrants trying to cross the border, the lure of a life in the US, especially among Gujaratis, remains strong. During US FY 2024 - October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024 - 29 lakh illegal immigrants were caught trying to enter the country through Mexico and Canada. Of these, Indians constituted 90,415, US Customs and Border Protection (US-CBP) data shows. Of this total, roughly 50% were from Gujarat, sources in Indian agencies tracking illegal immigration said. It could also be said that 10 Indians were arrested every hour, the sources said. Also, 43,764 were arrested at the US border with Canada, in the north, making it the highest number of Indians caught at this border till now. The data reveals a slight decline from the previous year's total of 32 lakh people, and in the number of Indians caught on the Mexico route. In FY 2023, the number of illegal Indian immigrants caught was 96,917. In 2024, fewer Indians (25,616) were caught at the US-Mexico border; this number in US FY 2023 was 41,770. "People have stopped using the donkey route via Mexico due to two key reasons. One is that they would be kept in Dubai or Turkey for some time before being taken to Mexico. US agencies, over the past few years, have been keeping sharp vigil on illegal immigrants staying in those countries and have broken links in the human smuggling chain," a source in the immigration network said. A source said, "Gujaratis, too, began choosing Canada over Mexico as they could easily hire a taxi and cross over to the US. Recently, US authorities have tightened vigil on this border. Such immigrants are usually sent to Canada as most of them carry a Canadian visitor visa.

Shantanu Naidu, Ratan Tata's long associate mentioned in his Rs 10,000 crore will

NEW DELHI: In a sign of his close professional and personal bond, Shantanu Naidu, Ratan Tata's trusted associate and founder of the elderly care start-up 'The Goodfellows', has been mentioned in the late industrialist's Rs 10,000-crore will. Naidu's close relationship with Tata over the years has led to meaningful support in the will, reflecting Tata's commitment to



his mentee's future. A report in The Times of India states that Ratan Tata ensured Naidu was well-provided for, giving up his stake in 'The Goodfellows' to demonstrate his trust in Naidu's vision and

covering his overseas education expenses. Tata's will includes provisions for his assets—such as his 2,000-square-foot beach bungalow in Alibaug, his two-storey residence on Mumbai's Juhu Tara

Road, and over Rs 350 crore in fixed deposits, alongside a 0.83% stake in Tata Sons, which will be transferred to the Ratan Tata Endowment Foundation. A special inclusion in the will was for Tata's dog, Tito, for whom he arranged "unlimited care" to be provided by his long-time cook, Rajan Shaw. Tata also allotted shares to his butler, Subbiah.

Maxwell makes startling revelation about his rift with Virender Sehwag

NEW DELHI: Australian all-rounder Glenn Maxwell spilled the beans on the team infighting during his stint with Kings XI Punjab (now Punjab Kings) in the IPL, where he played from 2014 to 2017. Maxwell had an outstanding 2014 season, amassing 552 runs with a strike rate exceeding 187.



However, his fortunes declined during the 2017 season, and his role came under scanner due to shifting of power structure, as he

revealed in his latest book. Virender Sehwag was roped in as mentor of Punjab and it was the time when Maxwell was named the side's captain. However, the duo found themselves at loggerheads with Sehwag asserting his authority and taking control of decisions, including selecting the playing

XI. "When it came to selection, I thought it might be a good idea to bring the coaches into a WhatsApp group to make our decisions. Everyone agreed to this and shared their teams, with the exception of Sehwag," Maxwell wrote in his book, the excerpt of which was published on ESPNcricinfo.

'Endorse 5 names or will field 25-30

Independents': Maharashtra SP chief Abu Azmi

NEW DELHI: The Samajwadi Party, which is part of the opposition bloc INDIA (Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance) has threatened to field 25 to 30 Independent candidates in Maharashtra if the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) allies do not endorse the five candidates that the party has already

announced Samajwadi Party leader Abu Azmi slammed the MVA for not clearing the picture on seat-sharing pact with other allies and called the delay "a big mistake." The Akhilesh Yadav-led Samajwadi Party has made a formal request for 12 seats in the November 20 assembly elections and has already announced candidates for

five constituencies. "5 candidates that we have declared are going to win. I cannot wait like the (Maha Vikas Aghadi) people are waiting for. Only 2 days are left. It is sad that those who are talking about forming the government are not distributing tickets. It is a big mistake of the Maha Vikas Aghadi to delay so much.

Railways to run 7,000 extra trains for Diwali, Chhath

NEW DELHI: Railways is operating at least 7,000 additional special trains to cater to the Deepawali and Chhath rush. Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Thursday that the national transporter will carry nearly one crore passengers during the festive period from October 1 to November 30. "This is around 60% more than 4,429 trains operated last year. These special trains are being run in addition to the election special trains for Maharashtra and Jharkhand," Vaishnaw said. Giving details, he said, for Diwali, 136 extra trains have been scheduled daily, with special arrangements at various stations, including extra ticket counters, catering units, drinking water facilities, and enhanced security. Similarly, for Chhath, 145 extra trains will operate on Nov 2, 3

Two Chennai school students hospitalised after gas leak

CHENNAI: Two girls studying at Victory Matriculation Higher Secondary School in Chennai's Tiruvottiyur were hospitalised after a suspected chemical gas leak on Friday. The source of the leak was yet to be identified, officials said. Around 30 students fainted after a strong chemical odour filled the campus. Around 40 students, who complained of eye irritation, were taken to Tiruvottiyur Govt Hospital. The incident caused alarm among parents, who rushed to the school to take their children home. Two girl students, unresponsive to initial first aid, were taken to the Stanley Medical



College Hospital. The girls, studying in classes X and VIII, were gasping and had increased palpitations when they were brought to hospital, said a duty doctor. Also Read: Lizard in midday meal? 40 students from Maharashtra hospitalised after food poisoning "We performed basic tests including X-rays, CT scans, lung function tests and blood work, all of which returned normal," said the doctor.

Honesty & integrity essential components of balanced lifestyle: MLA Siddharth Nath Singh

Curtains draw over Alfresco 2024 at BHS & College

Prayagraj: The closing ceremony and prize distribution function of the three-day Inter School Cultural and Games Extravaganza, Alfresco 2024, organized by Boys' High School (BHS) and College concluded on a high note. The Max Knack Star Performer of Alfresco 2024 was awarded to Shreyansh Vinay of BHS. Siddharth Nath Singh, Member of Legislative Assembly, Uttar Pradesh was the Chief Guest.

On arrival, the BHS Principal, D. A. Luke and the Academic Supervisor C. B. Luke; Convener of Alfresco 2024 accorded a warm welcome to the Chief Guest, Siddharth Nath Singh. This year, there were 24 competitive events in the three categories-Junior, Senior and Open in which the students from the participating schools showcased their talents and skills in on stage and offstage events.

Addressing the stu-

dents, the Chief Guest, Siddharth Nath Singh stressed on the importance of hard work, honesty in achieving success if life. He said, "Although, it may sound cliché but the virtues of honesty and integrity still is the main ingredient for a



holistic life." He further added that the rigmarole of public life does not allow him the privilege to experience such exuberant cultural events. He applauded the exemplary performance of each school and drew parallel with the best Russian Broadway group Blestyashchiye.

Lastly, he thanked the principal D. A. Luke for inviting him for such a culturally rich programme show-

casing the teachings of Gita, the colours of Rajasthan, the swag of Michael Jackson and the ballet/Bharatnatyam fusion. He also promised that he will surely take out time to be a part of the cultural mega fest Alfresco in the

coming years.

It was a proud moment when the Chief Guest handed over the prestigious Alfresco Championship Trophy 2024 to Boys' High School, The Bishop's Co-ed School, Pune and D.P. Public School (DPPS) for their stellar performance in the three-day mega fest.

C. B. Luke, the Academic Supervisor and convener of Alfresco 2024 outlined the 160 years old

rich heritage and history of Boys' High School and also how Alfresco has evolved and enthralled the denizens and students alike for the past 30 years. She thanked everyone for making this event a grand success. She outlined the significance of remaining focus in one's objective, "the success might be delayed but will certainly not be denied."

The results are as follows: Interlocation: 1st - Bishop's Co-ed, 2nd - St. John's Co-ed; Ad Factor: 1st - BHS, 2nd - Bishop's Co-ed; En Vogue: 1st - Bishop's Co-ed, 2nd - BHS; Happy Feet: 1st - Bishop's Co-ed, 2nd - Khelgaon Public; Pratibimba: 1st - BHS, 2nd - Khelgaon; Caption Me: 1st - Bishop's Co-ed, 2nd - BHS;

Basketball (Girls): 1st - Bishop's Co-ed, 2nd - Khelgaon; Basketball (Boys): 1st - BHS, 2nd - BJS; T10 Cricket: 1st - BHS-B team, 2nd - BHS-A team; Football: 1st - BHS,

2nd - Bishop's Co-ed; Zip Zap Zoom: 1st - BHS, 2nd - St. John's Co-ed & Bishop's Co-ed (joint winner);

Colloquy: 1st - BHS, 2nd - Bishop's Co-ed; Quiz: 1st - BHS, 2nd - Khelgaon; HAM: 1st - BHS, 2nd - Bishop's Co-ed; Rock On: 1st - BHS, 2nd - Bishop's Co-ed; Charcoal on Canvas: 1st - DPPS & Khelgaon (joint), 2nd - Bishop's Co-ed; Shutter Bug: 1st - Bishop's Co-ed, 2nd - BHS; BGMI: 1st - BHS, 2nd - DPPS; Vocabquest: 1st - BHS, 2nd - Bishop's Co-ed; Sur Sangram: 1st - BHS, 2nd - Bishop's Co-ed; Sing Along: 1st - BHS & Bishop's Co-ed (joint winner); Creative Muse: 1st - BHS, 2nd - Khelgaon & Bishop's Co-ed (joint winner); Expressionism: 1st - BHS, 2nd - St. John's Co-ed & Srinivasan Ramanujan (joint winner); Splash: 1st - Bishop's Co-ed, 2nd - St. John's Co-ed; Roll the Reels: 1st - BHS, 2nd - Bishop's Co-ed.

Minister Jayant Chaudhary Felicitates World Skills 2024 Winners

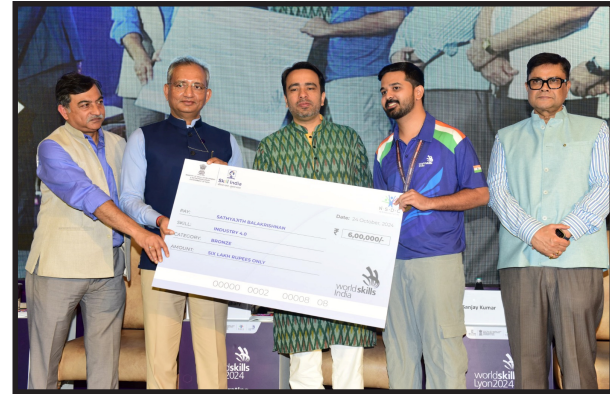
Varanasi: Jayant Chaudhary, Hon'ble Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), and Minister of State, Ministry of Education, today felicitated the winners of WorldSkills 2024 competition which was recently held in Lyon, France. He also honoured eight paralympic winners (Praveen Kumar, Ajeet Singh Yadav, Sharad Kumar, Pranav Soorma, Simran Sharma, Rubina Francis, Rakesh Kumar, Preethi Pal), who graced the facilitation ceremony of 19 WorldSkills winners, who faced toughest of global parameters to emerge victorious.

"It was a pleasure to interact with the Medal and Medallion of Excellence Winners from Team India who competed at WorldSkills Lyon 2024. They have displayed tremendous confidence and have become inspiring icons for the nation. India's performance in Lyon, with 16 accolades including four

bronze medals, marks a significant step towards our goal of becoming the skill capital of the world. As industry demands a skilled workforce, discussions around skill benchmarking are gaining momentum. We now have a team that has

accomplishments underscore our expanding expertise in both traditional crafts and emerging industries, positioning India as a rising global leader in key sectors.

While honoring the nine Paralympic winners of Paris 2024, who joined the



excelled in Lyon, overcoming some of the toughest global standards," said Shri Jayant Chaudhary.

He emphasized that their achievements reflect not only their dedication but also the robustness of India's skilling ecosystem under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. These ac-

complishments underscore our expanding expertise in both traditional crafts and emerging industries, positioning India as a rising global leader in key sectors. The extraordinary achievements of the Paralympic team in Paris 2024, who triumphed against significant odds to secure 29 medals, embody this spirit," remarked Shri Chaudhary.

Jakson Solar spearheads sustainable energy adoption

Varanasi: Jakson Solar Modules and Cells, a part of the leading energy and infrastructure solutions conglomerate Jakson Group, organized a Dealer Meet in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. This pivotal gathering was aimed to strengthen ties with existing authorized distributors and foster new alliances, enhancing Jakson Solar's presence and influence in the region.

The event saw an impressive turnout



of around 50 dealers, industry experts, and potential customers, emphasizing the growing importance and adoption of solar energy solutions in the state. Underlining key government initiatives such as the PM Surya Ghar Yojna (MSGY), the meet highlighted how these initiatives can drive sustainable growth.

Mr. Anurag Garg, CEO, Jakson Solar Modules and Cells, remarked, "Our recent activities throughout the state demonstrate our commitment to providing the essential

tools and networking needed for a smooth transition to sustainable energy solutions. Our focus on quality, innovation, and reliability not only reinforces our global market position but also deepens customer trust in our products. Our efforts in Uttar Pradesh, particularly through significant suburban projects and innovative installations, show our strategic approach to deploying clean energy solutions, affirming our steadfast commitment to sustainability and environmental conservation."

The dealer meet not only served as a platform for Jakson Solar to showcase their latest technological advancements but also reinforced their commitment to fostering green alliances that are essential for a sustainable future in Uttar Pradesh and across India.

In a recent update, the company launched their 'Helia NXT R' module designed to redefine solar efficiency, offering a module efficiency of up to 23.34%, utilizing high-efficiency rectangular 16 BB N-Type TOPCon solar cells. This technology enables the module to deliver a maximum power output ranging from 610Wp to 630Wp, ensuring high power generation along with enhanced mechanical strength and reliability, particularly suited for tough environments.

Crowd of workers gathered in nomination procession of BJP candidate Deepak Patel

Prayagraj: Bharatiya Janata Party's Phulpur sub-assembly candidate Deepak Patel took out a nomination procession with a huge crowd and filed nomination papers for the Phulpur assembly elections as a BJP candidate. Before this, the convoy of the nomination victory procession was inaugurated by Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya with a lotus in his hand. On this occasion, while giving a message of victory to the workers at the residence of District Panchayat President VK Singh, he said that on the one hand, the result of the Haryana Assembly elections has increased the enthusiasm and energy among the BJP workers and On the other hand, there is an uproar in SP and Congress and said that all the workers should come together with full force to bloom the lotus in Phulpur

and start the victory for 2027 with a huge majority and said that those who could not ride a bicycle in 22, they will do so in 27. Akhilesh Yadav's dream of coming to power in 27 will also be broken and said that the alliance of SP and Congress has broken.

Whoever goes with them sinks. Today people want to go with BJP. BJP candidates will win on all 9 seats. Even in 2027, BJP will register a huge victory. 27 is going to start with UP by-election. District spokesperson Rajesh Kesarwani said that candidate Deepak Patel Nomination papers were filed in four sets. The proposer of the first set was MP Praveen Patel, the proposer of the second set was former District President Ashwani Dubey, the proposer of the third set

was President Phulpur Amarnath Yadav, and the proposer of the fourth set was Mandal President Anil Saroj. Nomination Victory Procession of Deepak Patel

Surendra Chaudhary. Cabinet Minister Rakesh Sachan along with Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya in the nomination procession. . MP



Thousands of BJP and Apna Dal workers participated in the procession that started from Awasthi Maharana Pratap intersection and reached the district headquarters court. The nomination procession was conducted by MLC

Praveen Patel, former cabinet minister MLA Siddharth Nath Singh, District Panchayat President VK Singh, Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani, former MP Rita Bahuguna Joshi, former MP Keshari Devi Patel, former MLA Udaybhan Karwariya,

MLA Harshvardhan Bajpai, Guru Prasad Maurya, MLC Surendra Chaudhary, KP Srivastava, Nirmala Paswan, State Minister Anamika Chaudhary, former MLA Sanjay Gupta, Regional Vice President Awadhesh Chandragupta, Kamlesh Kumar Gautam, Metropolitan President Rajendra Mishra, District President Apna Dal Bhanu Pratap Patel, Ganga Par District President Kavita Patel, Yamuna Par District President Vinod Prajapati, Rais Chandra Shukla, Sangam Mishra, Shailendra Maurya, Vibhav Nath Bharti, Shashi Varshney, Amarnath Tiwari, Kunj Bihari Mishra, Varun Kesarwani, Rajesh Kesarwani, Brijesh Tripathi, Shyam Chandra Hela, Sachin Jaiswal, Subhash Vaishya, Girjesh Mishra, Pramod Modi, Prashant Shukla, Rakesh Bharti, Vivek Jaiswal, etc. were thousands of workers.

THREE DAY DIWALI FESTIVAL KICKS OFF

Dalit settlement kids aboard Vande Bharat Exp with Minister Nandi

Prayagraj: The three-day Diwali festival of Uttar Pradesh Government's Industrial Development Minister, Cabinet Minister and Prayagraj City South Assembly MLA Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi started on Friday with the children living in about 59 Dalit colonies, huts and slums of his assembly constituency, which will be celebrated this time also in Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh. Hundreds of children on Friday traveled from Prayagraj to Lucknow in the country's first semi-high speed train Vande Bharat Express along with Cabinet Minister Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi for the first time, which was the best and memorable journey of their lives. Now for three days the children will enjoy picnic trip and shopping with Cabinet Minister Nandi.

Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi, Industrial Development Minister, Government of Uttar Pradesh, like every year, this year also celebrated the festival of Diwali with the children liv-

ing in various Dalit settlements and slums of his Prayagraj city Southern Assembly constituency under the Har Ghar Roshni, Har Ghar Diwali campaign.. To

Lucknow in the afternoon reached Anandi Water Park.

On Friday afternoon, at around 3.15 pm, Minister Nandi left for Lucknow by Vande Bharat Express with

Nandi and daughter Janhavi boarded the Vande Bharat Express with the children. Cabinet Minister Nand Gopal Gupta along with Nandi traveled for the

comed with drums.

Luxury buses were arranged for children at Charbagh station. Riding on which the children left for Anandi Water Park located on Kanpur Road from Charbagh station. Along with children's dinner, DJ night has also been arranged in Anandi Water Park itself, where they will enjoy freely. Next day on October 26, after breakfast in the morning, children will enjoy adventure games, musical games as well as water park at Anandi Water Park. They will have a lot of fun. Then after having lunch there, they will reach Lulu Mall at 4 pm, where they will do Diwali shopping with Cabinet Minister Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi. They will buy clothes and other items of their choice. After shopping at Lulu Mall, children will reach Anandi Water Park and enjoy dinner as well as DJ night. After night rest, the next morning on 27th October, after breakfast, they will leave for Prayagraj from Vande Bharat Expressway at 10 am.



day, Minister Nandi flagged off seven luxury buses along with former Mayor of Prayagraj Smt. Abhilasha Gupta Nandi at Medical Square and sent 380 children of Naini and Meerapur Mandal of his Prayagraj City Southern Assembly Constituency to Lucknow, which will be sent to

410 children from Kydganj, Chowk and Muthiganj mandal of his assembly constituency. The children had reached Prayagraj Junction an hour before the departure of the train. Minister Nandi also reached Prayagraj Junction with his wife, former mayor of Prayagraj Abhilasha Gupta

first time on the country's first semi high speed train Vande Bharat Express. The three-day Diwali festival started with the journey of Vande Bharat Express. Children also enjoyed the food available in Vande Bharat Express. On reaching Lucknow station, the children were once again wel-

Promoting Mental Health and ADHD Awareness in Schools

Article by Mr. Ajay Singh, Principal of The Scindia School

New Delhi: In today's fast-paced world, promoting mental health and awareness for conditions such as ADHD has become an essential tool to promote a healthy and holistic health and development, especially within an educational setting. The Scindia School has always been cognizant of this and has actively implemented various initiatives, that are now an integral part of the safe, secure and supportive environment offered to the students.

One of the cornerstone programs at The Scindia School is Astachal, which plays a pivotal role in fostering mental well-being. Every evening as the young students, gather by the picturesque view of the sun setting by the horizon, to reflect and recount moments of their day, there is a sense of calm that overcomes the entire student body. A mere ten-minute long daily practice that leaves a lasting impact on these young minds, helping them learn the importance of self-reflection and meditation. Thus, helping these future young leaders build resilience by empowering them with the tools to find their few moments of calm in the chaos of life, long after they step outside the hallowed corridors of the school. In addition to Astachal, the school offers a range of activities designed to further promote mental health. These mindfulness sessions help students develop coping strategies and emotional resilience.

As a home away from home, the school strives to create systems and processes that help children experience the same warmth and safety of close relationships and bonds. The buddy system at the House level is an important tool to allow children to feel connected and supported by their

peers who eventually become an extended family for these children. The school also understands that being away from home, these students seek more guidance from the faculty. Thus, each student is assigned a teacher as a mentor to provide personalised guidance and assistance beyond academics. Teachers play a crucial role in guiding students, often stepping in to assist with time management and decision-making, thereby supplementing parental guidance. This support helps students navigate their challenges more effectively. The school also employs a designated Behaviour Counsellor, who is readily available for students seeking help. This ensures that students have access to professional support whenever needed. Each of these support systems play an important role in creating an empowering ecosystem where students feel safe and comfortable in sharing their innermost thoughts, fears and challenges in order to emerge as stronger individuals. For instance, being a peer mentor or buddy encourages students to be more compassionate and develop empathy towards their fellow students.

The Scindia School understands that communication is integral to a healthy and happy mind. At The Scindia School, open communication is highly encouraged through an open-door policy. Students have free access to their teachers, the vice principal, and the principal, allowing them to voice concerns or simply walk over and talk to them about their feelings, doubts or even fears whenever needed. This, also develops a sense of confidence in children to acknowledge, address and express their emotions with ease.

BIRTH CENTENARY YEAR

Debate competition held in various univ's & colleges in memory of Late Kamala Bahuguna

Prayagraj. Debate competition was organized in various universities/colleges in the memory of Late Kamala Bahuguna in her birth centenary year. "Can real equality be achieved by giving reservation to women in India" - Program organized in Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna Degree College Naini, CMP College, S.S. Khanna PG College, Thakur Har Narayan Singh PG College, United University, Allahabad Degree college. The program was started by lighting the lamp and garlanding the statue of Mother Saraswati by chief guest Prof. Rita Bahuguna Joshi, former minister and former MP. In the debate competition, 37 participants from Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna Degree College, Naini, 170 from CMP College, 50 from S.S. Khanna PG College, 120 from Thakur Har Narayan

Singh PG College, 130 from United University, 65 from Allahabad Degree College participated. Prof. Rita Bahuguna Joshi said that women's reservation should not only be discussed at home tables but also in our society. While telling about her mother's struggle, she encouraged the students to discuss this topic and also to educate the society about women's rights. She also inspired for progress. Prof. Joshi said that since ancient times, women have been playing their part in various religions and sects and in building a strong India, the participation of women in the male-dominated democratic system is not only continuously increasing in every field, but they are also working shoulder to shoulder for the nation. Prof. Joshi said that various laws have been made in the Con-

stitution of India in the interest of women and in the same series, Prime Minister Modi ji has worked to give

ervation to women in India". First place in Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna Degree College, Naini, Shilpi Singh,



respect to women powers by bringing various schemes in the interest of women.

In the competition, students from different departments presented their views on the topic of debate competition "Can real equality be achieved by giving res-

second place, Akansha, third place, Hrithik Pandey, first place in CMP College, Akhita Singh, second place, Vaibhav Srivastava, third place, Revati Raman Mishra, first place in S.S. Khanna PG College. Aditi Tiwari, second place Anishka Upadhyay third

place Aanchal Bharatiya Thakur Har Narayan Singh Tarana Saleem at PG College first place, Tushar Kushwaha at second place, Srishti Yadav at third place, Soumya Dwivedi at United University first place, Vanshika at second place Kesarwani and Pankhuri Srivastava stood third, Aastha Pandey of Allahabad Degree College stood first, Vaishnavi Singh stood second and Vandana Yadav stood third. Mainly Prof. Suresh Jain, Prof. Neetu Singh, Dr. Mani Shankar Dwivedi, Prof. Om Prakash, Prof. Savita Kumari, Dr. Deepak Kumar were present in Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna Degree College. Mainly Professor Ajay Prakash Khare, Professor Amitabh Pandey, Professor Archana Jyoti, Professor Rahul Visaria, Professor

Santosh Kumar, Dr. Sonu Tiwari, Dr. Ravindra Pratap Singh, Dr. Renu Singh were present in CMP College. Mainly Dr. Vineeta Mishra, Dr. Harish Kumar Singh, Dr. Shubhra Malviya, Dr. Mamta Bhatnagar were present in S.S. Khanna PG College. In Thakur Har Narayan Singh PG College, mainly Dr. Amrit Prasad, Mrs. Garima Jaiswal, Principal Dr. Ajay Kumar Govind Rao, Akhilendra Pratap Singh Vijay Anand Singh and Varsha Srivastava were present. Mainly professionals Atul Kumar Singh, Professor RP Singh, Professor Narendra Bajpai were present in Allahabad Degree College. Post Rita Bahuguna Joshi along with Sant Prasad Pandey, Rajesh Tripathi Vijay Purswani Ashish Mishra Munna Manu Kakkar, Swapnil Dwivedi, Shrikant Pandey etc. were present.

PDM alliance candidate Dilip Patel filed his nomination

Prayagraj: Apna Dal Kamera Vadi State General Secretary Advocate Dilip Patel PDM candidate Phulpur by-election filed nomination. AIMIM leaders Afsar



Mahmood, Mohammad Muntazar, Meraj Ahmed, Mohammad Ali, Mushtaq Ahmed, Umesh were present along with him. Arun Patel, Hidayatullah and many party workers were present.

Free eye and dental check-up camp held

Prayagraj: A free eye check-up and dental check-up camp was organized on at Sanskar Public School located in Phulpur, Prayagraj. In which about 650 children from nursery to 12th were tested and proper advice was given to them. During eye examination, it was seen that refractive error (myopic) was seen in about 30 percent of the children and only half of them were found using glasses. Children who are not using tested glasses despite having refractive error (myopic), may have to face serious conditions in future like loss of eyesight, persistent headache, lack of interest in studies or loss of eyesight. An increase may be seen. After the eye test,

all the children were given a report card so that they or their parents could be aware. Dr. Rupesh Maurya (ophthalmologist) and Dr. Sanjay Gupta (ophthalmologist) had major contribution in the eye examination team. In the dental examination, oral hygiene and dental examination of all the children was done. After dental examination, doctors said that about 60 percent of the children were found to have dental caries problem, about 20 percent of the children were found to be having gum problem. Many children told that in case of any problem or pain in their teeth, they give them medicine for pain at home, which is wrong. Dosing of pain medicine is also done or the cause of pain is treated. Any medicine should be given only after proper advice from the dentist. Along with this, the doctors also explained to the children the methods of oral hygiene and the methods of brushing (clockwise and anti-clockwise). Dr. Pinku Kushwaha and Dr. Poonam Maurya (Dental Surgeon) had major contribution in dentistry. The outline of this entire program was determined by the Principal of the school, Ajay Prasad Kushwaha, Pradeep Kumar and Satyam Maurya also made important contributions.



Cong strips Suresh Yadav of party post, expulsion likely

Prayagraj: After Congress leader Suresh Yadav filed nomination from Phulpur, Congress Party State President Ajay Rai took action and removed Suresh Yadav from the post. Congress State President has issued a letter in this regard, in which Suresh Yadav has been stripped of the party post and further disciplinary action is on the anvil. Ignoring the instructions of the Congress high command, Gangapar District President of Congress Suresh Yadav finally filed his nomination for Phulpur Assembly by-election on Friday. This decision of Gangapar District President has created panic among the officials of both SP and Congress parties included in the Indian alliance. While the SP candidates are claiming to be united in the India alliance, the Congress District President has surprised everyone by filing the nomination. There was talk that the Congress party wanted to field its candidate from Phulpur assembly seat. But consensus could not be reached. Samajwadi Party has made Mujtaba Siddiqui its candidate from here. Who had filed his nomination on Wednesday itself. Congress District President Gangapar Suresh Yadav has rebelled against the party. He filed his nomination papers for Phulpur Assembly by-election. This has created panic among the party leaders. Now it remains to be seen whether he withdraws his nomination or contests the elections. Whether the party gives him a symbol or not is also a matter of discussion.

Poetry flows on NCZCC's Muktakashi platform

Prayagraj: When the literary essence of poetry written on the Muktakashi platform of NCZCC spreads, it engulfs the world. Touching the two shores of life, happiness and sorrow, one starts bathing in the Triveni of emotions. The poets cherished the life moving on the rough ground of reality, while also showing the mirror to political distortion. When there was a wonderful gathering of poets on the stage, all the essence of literature started flowing. Such a sense of humor that laughter accompanied the tears. The heart of union and the sorrow of separation kept floating in the stream of creations. On Friday, the land of Prayag was bathed in the drizzle of poetry till late night. The lamps of literature sparkled brightly in the Kavi Sammelan organized by the North Central Region Cultural Center under the Diwali Crafts Fair. When Ashok Besaram took the stage, the lines of songs, ghazals and muktak lit up. He created a wave of joy in the audience by presenting his composition 'Bhik Mange'. Young poet Pallavi Mishra, who came from Sultanpur, has not read the environment of four seasons anywhere in the world where the remains of India are... By Shivam Mishra of Barabanki Only the



one who truly loves Mother India becomes an immortal story after death. Kamal Kant Tiwari, who came from Bareilly, got the respect you got for your style. Renu Mishra of Prayagraj read that my heart fills with pain when I see the tears in your eyes. Dr. Vandana Shukla returned to Avadhpur after reading her creation Prabhu Ram Ji Chhaya Anand Utsav Diwali Hui and received a lot of applause. Jai Krishna Rai (Tushar) is wearing a cross around his neck but politics also wears sandalwood and enthralled the audience by presenting Sangam Nahaati in Allahabad. Madhup Srivastava, who came from Rae Bareilly, had the magic of expressions of "Narkanal" on the heads of the audience and said, hey, hey, hey, the sins will climb up. Enthralled presentations in the cultural evening - The artists gave enthralling presentations on the Muktakashi stage and received a lot of applause. Priya Tripathi and the team presented Mann Lagoo Mero Yaar Fakiri Mein and Pardesi Hai Balam Hamar Badla Na Jayega. Birha singing and Pai Danda folk dance were presented.

Education and awareness campaign to prevent drug addiction and substance abuse

Prayagraj: Under the education and awareness campaign to prevent drug addiction and substance abuse under the direction of the Government of India, a workshop was organized among the youth at KP Training College. The program was directed by District Youth Officer Jagriti Pandey. Principal Anjana Srivastava, who was presiding over the program, told the youth that the country is facing a serious challenge - the increasing prevalence of drug addiction and substance abuse among its youth. Don't do it yourself or tolerate it in your neighborhood. Traffic Inspector Pawan Pandey from the police department told how accidents on the

roads are increasing due to drug addiction and this addiction not only affects the physical health of the youth but also jeopardizes their



mental condition and their future opportunities. Many times peer pressure, academic stress and rapid changes etc. act as factors in bringing about this addiction among the youth.

There is a need for community to come forward to deal with this.

In the program, National Action Plan for Drug De-

mand Reduction- NAPDDR's Master Trainer Nirmal Kant Pandey and Smita Kushwaha along with Geeta Kaushal, Counselor of Psychology Department of Moti Lal Nehru Medical

College, Azamgarh's youth volunteer Deepak Prajapati created awareness on various de-addiction related topics. Master Trainer Nirmal Kant brilliantly focused on the main causes of drug addiction and exhorted the youth to root it out. Youth Trainer Smita from Bahria Block highlighted the multi-pronged approach to deal effectively with this problem. Gudiya Singh, a volunteer young leader from Chaka Block, explained the ill effects of drug abuse in the country and appealed to avoid it. Four winners of the quiz based on de-addiction were honored with prizes and certificates. College professor Shakti acted as the moderator in the program.

Interest of railway employees & OPS our main election issue: Manoj Pandey

Prayagraj: North Central Workers Union, very popular among young railway employees without pension in the election for recognition in Railways, Northern Railway NCRWU Relations Indian Railway Employees Federation IREF under the leadership of Shri Ravi Dutt Sharma (Central President) and Manoj Pandey (Deputy General Secretary) Nomination made before the Chief Personnel Officer (HQ), North Central Railway, Prayagraj. "North Central Railway Workers Union" has been the foremost organization in the fight against restoration of old pension scheme, privatization, corporatization in Northern Railway. Starting from 1st June 2023 NPS Privatization Quit India March which lasted for eighteen thousand kilometers and has been involved in a leadership role in the "Pension Shankhnad Maharally"

which was historically concluded on 1 October 2023 at Ramlila Maidan, New Delhi.

North Central Railway Workers Union NCRWU Union General Secretary and Indian Railway Employees Federation IREF National President Com Manoj Pandey said that today's nomination is a shout of Vijayashree of the railway employees against all those powers who have harmed the interests of the railway employees and their dignity, respect, old age. Has resorted to compromise with the government against the old pension. North Central Railway Workers Union NCRWU Central President Com RD Sharma said that both the railway federations NFIR/ AIRF along with the Central Government's B team BRMS will also have to be kept out of recognition because Along with implementing NPS and UPS, he

has played a big role in the privatization of Railways. The nominations mainly include "Front against NPS in Railways", FANPSR con-



nection, "National Movement for Old Pension Scheme", National General Secretary of NMOPS, Mr. Rajendra Pal. Called that the struggle will continue until the exact old pension is restored.

National Movement to Save Railways, National Publicity Secretary of

NMSR - and Central Organization Minister of North Central Railway Workers Union NCRWU, Dr. Kamal Usri said that privatization

of railways is 100% responsible for the frequent accidents in railways, we assure all of you friends. That the ongoing privatization of Railways will definitely be stopped with the public's participation, North Central Railway Workers Union Prayagraj Division President Com Saroj Meena said

that the influx of hundreds of railway employees who turned out for today's nomination has proved that on December 12, the OPS The sun will rise again, all the categorical associations are supporting us, we are fighting together with all the railway employees, we will definitely win, the nomination meeting was organized by North Eastern Railway Men's Congress Gorakhpur Central President, Akhilesh Pandey, Varanasi Division Minister Rakesh Kumar, North Central Railway Workers Union Women's Cell Union General Secretary Mrs. Sudha Devi Patel, Youth General Secretary Sandeep Singh, Jhansi Division Minister Sachendra, Branch President Madhav Singh Yadav, Wagon Repair Factory Branch Secretary Anirudh Singh, Agra Division Minister Rahul Chaurasia, Branch Secretary Vishnu Dutt Chauhan addressed.

Mainly present in the

nomination meeting were Prayagraj Divisional Minister Chandan Yadav, Divisional Assistant Minister Om Pal Yadav, Union Assistant Minister Syed Irfat Ali, Front Convener Shivendra Pratap Singh, IT Cell Incharge Rakesh Sharma, DP Singh, Syed Aftab Ahmed, RA Rizvi, Sunil Kumar, Rajkumar, Siddharth Sharma, Sanjay Singh, Vimal Kannaujiya, Shekhar Srivastava, Shubham Pandey, Raju, Anupam Banerjee, Anil Mishra, Praveen Mishra, Piyush Soni, Ashish Meena, Samay Singh Meena, Braj Mohan Meena, Hari Singh Meena, Abhishek Singh. Along with Meena, Mrs. Soni Vishwakarma, etc., all the officials of the regional associations working in the Railways were prominently present. All the zonal and divisional officials expressed their gratitude to all the railway employees included in the nomination.

Shri Sumangalam Social Organization to celebrate its 11th annual foundation day

Prayagraj: While giving information, media in-charge of the organization Pawan Srivastava said that Shri Sumangalam is a social and spiritual organization which has been working for the poor orphan abandoned women in the society for 10 years. Constant efforts are being made in the accommodation and food arrangements and in which the organization is getting continuous success.

In connection with the Foundation Day programme, a two-day Foundation Day will be celebrated with great pomp at Shri Sumangalam Chadi Complex, Naini. The

program will be inaugurated today on 26th October at 2:00 pm. At 1000 hrs the seminar will be held on "Importance of Joint Family" whose main speaker will be Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh Ompal Singh, Kutumb Prabodhan Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Justice Shekhar Yadav Allahabad High Court as chief guest, Rajya Sabha MP Mrs. Sadhna Singh as chief guest and MLA Piyush Ranjan Nishad as special guest. Prayagraj Divisional Commissioner Vijay Vishwas Pant will be there. Sunday, October 27 at 10:00 am Anant Shri Vibhushit

Parivajakacharya Pujya Yogi Yatindra, Nand Giri Ji Maharaj Shri Panchdas Name Juna Akhara, Laxman Acharya Honorable Governor of Assam and Manipur, Justice Honorable Sanjay Kumar Singh Justice Honorable Saurabh Srivastava, Honorable Prof Professor Sanjay Srivastava, Vice Chancellor of Mahatma Gandhi Central University, Motihari Bihar and RK Choudhary, famous entrepreneur and senior social worker, National Vice President of Indian Industries Association will also be present as President.

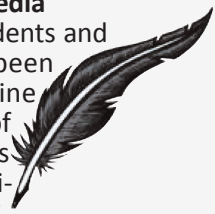
Editorial

Hypocrisy of Western media amidst ongoing anti-Semitic protests in the US

As the world witnesses anti-Semitic protests erupting across universities in the United States, numerous questions regarding Western media reporting have ignited among free thinkers. This isn't the first instance of the Western media's hypocritical behaviour coming to light; rather, it signals the onset of the worst credibility crisis the Western media has faced since its inception. With the advent of digitalisation and the rise of social media, previously unheard voices are now gaining prominence and challenging the established credibility of hegemonised media outlets. Numerous articles and books have been penned with the aim of exposing and debunking the orchestrated agenda of the Western media. The worst phase for the credibility of the Western media reached its zenith when it tried to create a perception regarding the possession of WMD (Weapon of Mass Destruction) in Iraq under the reign of military general Saddam Hussain without giving any evidence to their claims. There have been allegations in the Western media pertaining to the reporting of the possession of WMD by Iraq that it favoured the narrative that justified the NATO-led invasion of Iraq. The United Nations Monitoring, Verification, and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) Chief Weapons Inspector Hans Blix said in January 2003 that Iraq had cooperated well with the investigation team, and after the completion of the investigation on whether Iraq possessed WMD, they did not find any evidence pertaining to the alleged claims of the presence of WMD. Was it the first instance or the last, when the United States and the Western media accepted its mistake and tendered an apology? The answer to this question is no. There have been several instances in history where the US acted as the aggressor and participated in the killings of innocents, more than what we know about Hitler-led Germany. In the context of India, there have been various instances in history when the Western media have shown hypocrisy in covering similar issues through two lenses and tried to present different perspectives catering to their interests. In the pandemic era, the Western media left no stone unturned to criticise India for the number of deaths due to COVID-19, labour migrants, vaccines, etc., ignoring all the efforts of the Indian government that micromanaged the crisis with a population of around 1.3 billion people (approximately). Similarly, during the Russia-Ukraine war, there was a huge influx of negative reporting in the context of India, especially when she abstained from voting in a UN General Assembly that condemned Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the oil was purchased from Russia despite calls for sanctions on India. Assessing the level of anti-India reporting by the Western media, India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said while addressing a joint press conference with his German counterpart Annalena Baerbock in December 2022, "Our trade with Russia is at a very small level—\$12–13 billion, in comparison to European countries." "I would urge you to look at these figures. There is a website called 'Russia Fossil Fuel Tracker' that would give you country-by-country data of who is really importing what, and I suspect that might be very, very helpful," he added. The statement was made during a period when the Western media sparked a controversy about India by asserting that it was providing financial support to Russia for the war.

The hypocrisy of Western media

Recently, more than 100 students and faculty members have been arrested in a pro-Palestine protest at the University of California, Berkeley, which is yet another centre of anti-Asian and anti-Semitic activities in the United States.



Why Uttarakhand forests are on fire this season?

This year forest fire has created mass destruction in Uttarakhand. Visitors touring the hill state are shocked by the sight of smoke coming out from the forest. The smoke has affected the air quality and visibility. The local people are looking at the sky and praying to the rain god to come for their rescue in controlling and defusing the forest fire. Forest fire remains a major problem for the Uttarakhand forest department, especially during summer. This year over one thousand incidents of forest fire have been reported from different parts of the hill state. The raging fire has affected 1,318 hectares of land (data till 8 May). The forest department assesses a loss of over Rs 29 Lakh due to forest fire. Heavy deployment of forest staff, local people and others has been made to help douse the flames. Even the Indian Air Force choppers are in operation. On the grave situation, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Dhami said, "Our government is working on every front to control forest fires. Along with taking the help of the army, forest officers have also been instructed to reach ground zero and control the forest fire. Our government is also ensuring strict action against the miscreants who are causing damage to forests by setting them on fire." The forest fire



is an annual phenomenon in Uttarakhand. Some years the loss is high and sometimes low. This year a record number of incidents have taken place and this again demands active involvement of the local community in controlling the forest fire.

Why do forest fires take place?

More than 99 per cent of the forest fires are man-made. Less than one per cent of fires take place due to natural reasons or accidentally. Like a power grid falling due to heavy storms and other odd instances. This year the forest fire is raging in Uttarakhand due to low rainfall received during winter. The grass is dry and due to low moisture the fire has become rampant in different areas. Many allege

that the forest department staff set fire to hide their failed plantation projects.

Why do villagers set fire?

Villagers set fire for many reasons. To get new grass in monsoon the dry bushes are burned. Local people also clear bushes from the village area to remove hiding places of leopards and other wild animals. Miscreants also set up fires for fun. Very recently three youths from another state were arrested at Gairsain (Chamoli) for promoting forest fire by shooting reel for social media. Many times the villagers set fire as a precautionary measure. They set fire near their village when they see the forest fire approaching their habitat area. This is done to avoid forest fires causing harm in

the village and clearing the dry grass in advance.

Role of local community

The role of the local community is big as even after receiving information about any fire the forest department staff will take some time to reach the affected area. On the other hand, local villagers can instantly reach the affected area and help in early intervention. Renowned environmentalist Chandi Prasad Bhatt says, "Forest department alone can't control forest fire. They need active support and cooperation from the villagers. Groups should be formed in the village and they should be provided all support. Awareness should be created at grassroots level about fighting forest fires."

High casualty this season

Four persons have lost their lives and four others have sustained high burns this forest fire season (till 8 May) in Uttarakhand. The state forest department claims that no loss of animal life was reported from any part of the state. Plantation in over 16 hectares of land was affected and 427 trees were destroyed in the forest fire.

Pine needles are considered to play a major role in spreading fire. Social activist Vijay Jardhari says, "Villagers should be involved and they should be provided equipment and other support. Only villagers can tackle forest fires as they understand their forest well. Efforts should be made to utilise the pine needles for power generation and making other products." It is generally observed that the forest fire gets controlled by occasional rains in Uttarakhand. Bageshwar and Pithoragarh districts received much awaited showers on Wednesday.

Most of the forest fires in these two districts were doused. The Indian Meteorological Department has predicted rainfall in many districts in Uttarakhand in the coming days.

People are praying for the weather forecast to turn true and extinguish the forest fire to turn their life normal.

With Taiwanese President set to assume office, China's woes will only exacerbate

Given that there is no let-up in either Taiwan's defence preparedness posture or the US' backing of the island, China is likely to dig into its coercive toolkit to respond to Lai's swearing in. Image: REUTERS With newly elected Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te set to assume office on May 20, there is intense speculation surrounding China's potential response to the event. In anticipation of an aggressive response, Tsai Ming-yen, Director-General of Taiwan's National Security Bureau, announced on May 1 that island authorities will be implementing measures to strengthen national critical infrastructure. Aiding the island's overall defence posture, on April 24, United States President Joe Biden has also

signed a bill to mobilise \$8 billion in defence aid to the Indo-Pacific in general and Taiwan in particular. With neither the US nor China backing down on their respective positions on the Taiwan issue, these developments add fire to the already deteriorating cross-strait dynamics.

US' proactive role worries China

During the recently concluded meeting between US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing, Xi conveyed that the very first "red line" the US should not cross in its relations with China is the Taiwan issue. However, the US' decision to continue to provide political and military support to Taiwan is motivated by two key factors: shared values

and national security interests. While from a values-based perspective, the US sees its role in the Taiwan Strait as a defender of democracy and a provider of net security, from a national security interests perspective, it sees immense value in deterring China, preventing undue escalation, and securing supply chains in critical sectors such as semiconductor chips, wherein Taiwan plays a vital role. Hence, in the run up to Lai's assumption of the presidential office, the US has embarked on a mission to demonstrate commitment to Taiwan. In addition to quickly signing the above-mentioned Indo-Pacific Security Supplemental Bill into law, over the past week, the Biden administration has also engaged with counter-

Why India should not put all its 'eggs' in military junta's basket alone

Three years after the military coup in Myanmar, there seems to be no signs of the conflict abating between the junta and the various Ethnic Armed Organisations (EAOs) across the country. Especially after the successful launch of Operation 1027 against the military junta by the Three Brotherhood alliance members comprising the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) from the Kokang region of the Shan state, the Ta'ang National Liberation Army also from the Shan state, and the Arakan Army (AA) based in the Rakhine state. After the success of Operation 1027, the rebellion quickly spread across Myanmar and by November 7, 2023, with the launch of Operation 1107 in support of Operation 1027, many other insurgent groups across the country joined hands. This was perhaps one of the rare occasions in the troubled history of Myanmar where EAOs from a variety of ethnic groups had come together in a meticulously coordinated attack against the junta. Subsequently, many Myanmar observers debated the pushback by the rebel groups as a victory for democracy, with some

reports stating only 30-40 per cent of Myanmar was under the control of the junta. However, whether that means it is a victory in the real sense for the disparate groups that are fighting the junta is arguable. The junta has been relentless in its own offensive against EAOs. Not only does the junta have larger access to weapons but also has decades of experience in dealing with EAOs. It was evident in the recapture of Myawaddy, a border town and entry point for Thailand. A town destined to be a full international crossing as part of the Asian Highway Route Network AH1, that will extend to Tokyo, Japan. It also is a route for border trade of over \$1 billion. There were various reports that claimed that the strategic town of Myawaddy was actually never captured by the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA). Though KNLA didn't claim it in explicit terms, through videos and strategic perception building, it gave the impression that it had captured the whole town. On the contrary, the truth might be that the town is actually under the control of the Border Guard Force (BGF), a Karen-dominated pro-junta militia group. And

if not entirely pro-junta anymore, it is still playing a neutral role as the junta pays the salaries of its soldiers. Earlier this week the BGF warned, saying: "All foreigners who are doing online business around the Kayin state, Myawaddy township, must leave between May 1 (1-5-2024) and October 31 (31-10-2024). Foreigners who illegally cross the border must leave the country by the way they came. If found after October 31 (31-10-2024), effective action will be taken." This warning was aimed at online scammers and gambling operations that have found place in Shwe Kokko Myaing, the "new city" that is a short distance from Myawaddy funded by Chinese money and BGF partnership. The notice was posted in Burmese, Chinese and English. The statement in itself is reminiscent of the fate of the "four families" of Laukaing in the Shan state who were involved in cyber-crime, cyber slavery operations that adversely impacted China. With the launch of Operation 1027, Tatmadaw looked towards the Chinese for support and in return withdrew support from the "four families".

Government's outreach ties need renewed

India has enjoyed historical, cultural and civilisational links with Central Asia for several millennia. Brisk trade of goods, ideas and thoughts took place from India to Central Asia and beyond over the Silk Road from 3rd century BC to 15th century AD. Buddhism travelled to Afghanistan, Central Asia and western China from India over this route. India and the Central Asian Republics (CARs) viz. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan shared vibrant economic, people-to-people and cultural ties till recent times when the latter were a part of the Soviet Union. India has not been able

to take full advantage of its close ancient linkages with this region after their independence from the erstwhile Soviet Union in 1991 because it does not share a de facto land boundary with any of these countries (although de jure it shares a border with Tajikistan through the Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir). To overcome this obstacle, several initiatives which have been in the pipeline for many years have now been fast-tracked. Two of the most significant are the International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC) and the Chabahar port.

Evolution of relations

In current times, Central Asian

Republics constitute the extended neighbourhood of India. Peace and security in Central Asia is critical to peace and stability in India. This is intimately connected with peace and security in Afghanistan. Three Central Asian Republics — Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan — share borders with Afghanistan. India and Central Asia need to collaborate with other regional powers like Russia, Iran, China and Pakistan as also with the US and the EU to promote security and stability in Afghanistan. The advent of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan in August 2021 after the sud-

den and unceremonious withdrawal of the US and NATO troops has introduced further complications in promoting connectivity between India and Central Asia. In addition to the above, the region is also richly endowed with natural and mineral resources like oil, gas (Turkmenistan contains the world's fourth largest reserves of natural gas), uranium (Kazakhstan is the world's largest producer of uranium ore and has the world's second largest reserve of this mineral), lead, iron ore, coal, rare earths, water, etc. The region can contribute to India's energy security through fossil fuels and hydro-power.

Two day sub junior, junior and senior Sqay state level competition concludes



- Chief guest Dr. Vinod Sharma honored the winners

Chandigarh: In collaboration with Sqay Association Chandigarh and Adarsh Public School, Sector 20, Sub Junior, Junior and Senior Sqay state level competition was conducted. This two-day competition was organized at Sector 20 Adarsh Public School. 125 players from around 7 schools of

Chandigarh participated. Anil Thakur Director of School inaugurated it. In the closing ceremony, Dr. Vinod Kumar Sharma, State Secretary of Hindustan Scouts and Principal of Maharishi Dayanand Public School, MDAV Bhawan, Daria, Chandigarh, participated as the chief guest and encouraged the players. Prizes were distributed to the winners. On the occasion of this sqay competition, Varinder Pahwa coach S. D.K D. Club Sector-28, Poonam

Patel Coach, Arun, Ashwani Kumar Coach, Chief Secretary Amateur Karate Association Chandigarh Mansaram Maurya, Treasurer, Hindustan Scouts and Guides and Co-Secretary Chandigarh Sqay Association Gurdeep Khokhar, Surindra Bhandari MDAV. - 22 were especially present. Director of Adarsh Public School, Anil Thakur expressed his gratitude to the dignitaries present and congratulated the winners.

Paramount Communications Ltd. Reports Robust Earnings for FY24, Crosses Rs. 1,000 Cr Revenue mark

Chandigarh: Paramount Communications Limited, established in 1955, a leading player in India's wire and cable industry, has announced its earnings for the quarter and year ended 31 March 2024. The company recorded a Robust order book of Rs. 4,951.6 Mn, coupled with Strong performance across product range, especially led by strong growth in Power and Railway cables. Exports continue to remain healthy as we achieve similar volumes as compared to FY23. Increasing production

driving economies of scale and profitability. Healthy Balance sheet with debt equity ratio of 0.16 and Current Ratio of 3.40. The Company is poised to become debt free during FY25 after full repayment of ARC debt of Rs. 862.5 Mn. Revenue from domestic operations in FY24 amounted to Rs.7,944.8 Mn, showing a 100.5% Y-o-Y increase from Rs.3,961.8 Mn in FY23. In terms of sales mix, domestic sales stood at 74.2% and exports stood at 25.8% Commenting on the results Mr. Sanjay

Agarwal, Chairman & CEO said, "FY24 has been a remarkable year for Paramount Communications Limited. We have achieved strongest ever performance in terms of Revenue and Profitability. This year, we reached a significant milestone by surpassing Rs.1,000 crore in revenue showing a growth of 34.4% y-o-y. This achievement is underpinned by strong demand for our product portfolio and not only highlights the strength of our client relationships. but also reaffirms our consistent

'International Khan Market gang': Jaishankar on Western media

NEW DELHI: External affairs minister S Jaishankar slammed the Western media and called the anti-India ecosystem the 'international Khan Market gang'. On the portrayal of India by the Western media, Jaishankar said

we must ask "why they are doing it". He said that just like there's a 'Khan Market gang' in India, there also exists a global extension of it, 'international Khan Market gang'. "In the country today, there is a certain thought process,

or entitlement process for which the metaphor of 'Khan Market gang' is a very good description. Countries which have to go to court to decide result of polls are giving us lectures about how to conduct elections: EAM Jaishankar.

Formation of State Executive of Indian Association of Press -N-Mediamen

Chandigarh: The state team meeting of the Indian Association of Press -N-Mediamen was held. This meeting was held in the office of a media house in local Sector 29D. In this meeting organized under the chairmanship of State President Dr. Vinod Sharma, the first discussion took place regarding the executive and assuming responsibilities. After discussion, the state team was reconstituted unanimously. State team includes the President: Dr. Vinod Sharma, Senior Vice President: Shiv Kumar Verma, Vice President: Pradeep Sharma and Pradeep Shukla, General Secretary: Amit Kumar Verma, Joint



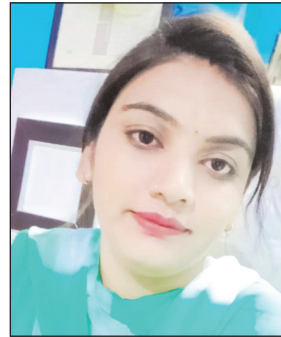
Secretary: Prosan Burman, Finance Secretary: SP Chopra, Joint Finance Secretary: Ramesh Sachdeva, Statutory Secretary: Karan Shukla, Executive Members: Rakesh Kumar, Shiv Maurya, Sunny Kumar and Rimpi were declared from the entire committee. In this series, Advisor: Prem Vij and Patrons: Shrikant Acharya and Sushil

Kumar were made. After the formation of the team, State President Dr. Vinod Sharma while congratulating everyone said that today's meeting was very positive, I have full confidence that our team will continue to fight for the interest of the media. Later he said that in future, small units of the association will be formed in other cities

also, so that the problems of the media persons there can be solved. The entire team of the state also decided to submit a memorandum of its demands to the PIB and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting after the Lok Sabha elections. Patron Sushil Kumar, present in the meeting, said that the way the state team has been formed with new energy, it seems as if now the problems of media persons will gradually end. He also stressed that along with the state team, the national team will also have to move forward with our problems, only then our problems will be solved.

Daughters should study by setting goals, they will get success: Neetu

Kaithal: Neetu Sharma, member of Shri Krishna Kripa Seva Trust Regd. Dhand and Director of Ishani Makeover International Certified Academy, said that in the present times, women are coming forward in every field and establishing new dimensions. Along with their work, women also manage the household very well. The whole country is proud of the ability and talent of daughters. The interest of the society lies in the interest of women. She said that today women have proved their tal-



ent in the fields of sports, medicine, education, science, judicial system, army, police etc.

If daughters determine their goals and study regularly, then it is possible that every goal of life will be achieved. While talking

in an interview in the academy located in the town, Neetu Sharma said that in the constitution of our country, women have been given equal status and the right to vote. Earlier, evils like Sati Pratha, widow marriage etc. were prevalent in the society. All those evils have been removed. Today women are coming forward in every field. She said that good values are acquired at home only. If one has a cultured family then there is no need to go anywhere.

NSE Listed Companies' Market Capitalization Surpass USD 5 Trillion

GURUGRAM : The market capitalization of Indian listed companies on NSE surpassed USD 5 Trillion (Rs 416.57 trillion) on May 23, 2024. On the same day, the Nifty 50 Index touched an all-time high of 22,993.60 The Nifty 500 index also touched an all-time high of 21,505.25 today indicating that growth in equity market is not restricted to only the large, capitalized stocks. The journey of market capitalization of Indian listed companies from to USD 2 trillion (July 2017) to USD 3 trillion (May 2021) took about 46 months, USD 3 trillion to USD 4 trillion (December 2023) took about 30 months and the latest USD 1 trillion addition took only about 6 months. The top 5 companies by market capitalization are Reliance Industries Limited, TATA



Consultancy Services Limited, HDFC Bank Limited, ICICI Bank Limited and Bharti Airtel Limited. In the last 10 years, Nifty 50 index has delivered 13.4% returns (Total price index CAGR). During the same period, domestic mutual fund assets under management (Equity and Debt) increased by 506% from Rs 9.45 trillion end of April 2014 to Rs 57.26 trillion end of April 2024. The Foreign Portfolio investors (FPIs) assets under management (Equity and Debt) increased by 345% from Rs 16.1 trillion end of April 2014 to Rs

71.6 trillion at the end of April 2024. Growth in market capitalization is not restricted to the top companies but is observed across stocks. The constituents of Nifty 100 index now account for 61% of market capital as compared to 74.9% of total market capital as of April 2014. The resource mobilization by corporates including the Small and Medium Enterprise in the primary market has been encouraging and has provided an effective alternative mechanism in addition to the traditional methods of fund raising.

Integra Essentia Limited Bags order for supplying 500 MT of Rice from the prestigious ITC group's Agri Division

Chandigarh: Integra Essentia Limited is delighted to have received its first ever order from the prestigious ITC group's Agri Division for supplying 500 MT of Rice. This present trial order will make way for the Company being a long-term associate supplier with the Conglomerate. The order will be serviced as soon as the next 15 days time. The ITC group is a conglomerate with business interests in FMCG (Fast Moving Consumer Goods), Hotels, Information Technology, Paper Boards & Packaging and Agri-Business. It's one of India's largest integrated Agri Business enterprise with significant presence across the Agri-Products value chain. ITC Agro Business is the country's second largest exporter of agriculture-

products. It currently focuses on Exports and domestic trading of Food Grains- Wheat, Wheat Flour, Rice, Pulses, Barley & Maize, Feed Ingredients- Soymeal, Processed Fruits- Fruit Purees/ Concentrates, IQF/Frozen Fruits, Organic Fruit Products, Coffee & Marine Products- Shrimps and Prawns. IEL is a company engaged in business of Life Essentials i.e. Food (Agro Products), Clothing (Textiles and Garments), Infrastructure (Materials and Services for Construction and Infrastructure Development) and Energy (Materials, Products and Services for the Renewable Energy Equipment and Projects) and many more Products and Services required to sustain the modern life. To serve the society,

nation and global requirement by exploring and utilising their available resources, deliverable at minimum cost to end users, the Company is committing significant investments in Food Essentials and remains focused on establishing itself as the leading player in the foods industry. Besides food essentials and other businesses, the Company is presently emphasising supplying bulk and speciality materials and services for Infrastructure needs of the nation. Integra Essentia Limited is a business with a substantial role to play both in creating and providing effective basic life materials and services, and on the other hand to enhance aspiring living standards, opulent lifestyle through its wide offering of Agro, Health & Nutrition.

Rushil Decor Ltd. Board Approves Stock Split in 1:10 Ratio

Chandigarh: Rushil Decor Limited (BSE: 533470, NSE: RUSHIL), a prominent name in the manufacturing of eco-friendly MDF, laminates, and plywood, has announced that its board has approved a stock split the ratio of 1:10 i.e Sub-division/ split of each equity share of face value of Rs. 10 into 10 equity shares of face value of Re. 1, subject to the approval of the members of the Company. The Record Date for sub-division/ split of existing equity shares will be intimated in due course. Earlier, the company announced its strategic expansion into South America. With exports already reaching over 50 countries, Rushil Decor is set to penetrate one of the largest markets for MDF globally. On the eve of Interzum Bogota, Mr. Rushil

Thakkar, Executive Director at Rushil Decor expressed hope and confidence about growing with the multi-billion-dollar global wood panel market. Bogota is an international industry fair for furniture and wood technology, being organised between May 14 and 17, in Colombia, South America. As a leader in MDF manufacturing in India, Rushil Decor is well-equipped to meet the high demand in South America. The company recently posted a 9% growth in the January to March 2024 quarter compared to the same period last year. Export revenue contributed 28% to the total revenue in the fourth quarter of FY24, highlighting the company's significant international footprint.

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

UMBAI: Passengers of an Air India flight from Mumbai to San Francisco had to sit inside the passenger cabin for about six hours with poor conditioning as the Friday afternoon flight was inordinately delayed. Flight AI-179 was supposed to depart at 2.25 pm and passengers, which included many senior citizens, had boarded by 3.30 pm, said sources . Passengers took to social media to complain about poor air conditioning and no update on the flight status.

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

(Air India) Not departing, not giving correct information." "A couple of senior citizens fainted in the heat. Some were



allowed to deplane," said sources. The other passengers were finally disembarked at 9 pm.

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

aircraft.

The flight pushed back at 1917 but had to ramp return due to one guest feeling unwell. While the ailing guest was being deboarded with his baggage, the night landing restrictions at SFO had set in along with the crew flight duty limitations.

Guests have been offered hotel accommodation, complimentary rescheduling and full refunds and served refreshments at the airport. The flight has now been rescheduled at 1030 hrs tomorrow. Inconvenience caused to guests is sincerely regretted."

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

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

said, "ICICI Pru Platinum, our Company's first unit-linked product designed to make distributor payouts aligned to their customers fund value, promoting the long-term interests of both. We endeavour to continuously innovate and introduce products and processes which are simple. This is in line with our philosophy of ensuring right product to the right customer at the right price and through the right channel. We have introduced pioneering products on the annuity and pension savings platform. These include an annuity product which offers a 100% refund of all premiums paid from the date of purchase. We also offer a traditional product which allows customers to make partial withdrawals to meet liquidity requirements. Notably, we are the only life insurer in the country to payout commissions to distributors on the same day. Besides, achieving the milestone of issuing ~45% of our savings policies on the same day in FY2024." He

further added "Life insurance is all about claims and as a customer friendly brand we aim to settle all claims speedily. This is reflected in our industry leading claim settlement ratio of 99.2% for FY2024 with an average turnaround time of just 1.3 days."

ICICI Pru Platinum provides a choice between two life cover variants. The Growth Plus variant entitles the nominee to receive either the sum assured or the fund value, whichever is higher. Whereas the Protect Plus variant offers the nominee both the sum assured and the fund value. About ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company (www.iciciprulife.com) ICICI Prudential Life is promoted by ICICI Bank Limited and Prudential Corporation Holdings Limited. The Company began operations in fiscal 2001 and has consistently been amongst the top private sector life insurance companies in India on a Retail Weighted Received Premium (RWRP) basis.

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

NEW DELHI: Non-recovery of ill-gotten money can't be prima facie proof that no corruption has taken place because a person now uses new technologies to commit offences without leaving behind any trace, Delhi high court has observed, while denying bail to AAP's Manish Sisodia in the city excise policy case.

In its order pronounced Tuesday and uploaded Wednesday, HC said "recovery of cash from a person may not necessarily be a mandatory requirement in a money laundering case where allegations are part of a conspiracy comprising multiple accused." It added the liquor policy case involves commission of "serious offence" of corruption in public office and laundering, which "strikes at the heart of economic and social systems, undermining the rule of law and eroding public trust in institutions." HC rejects plea of no money being recovered from Sisodia Delhi High Court rejected the argument that no money was recovered from the former deputy chief minister while pointing out to statements of some hawala dealers and other witnesses recorded in course of the probe. "This court is of the view that the prosecution has made out a prima facie case of commission of money laundering under Section 3 of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) against Manish Sisodia at this stage," high court observed. HC said the form "of corruption which has the tendency of stealing legitimate resources of the poor ordinary people and giving it to the rich can be one of the worst.

"It noted that the new excise policy has "eradicated" the common and small-time businesses. and gave the entire playing field in the liquor business to those who had "money, power and had created a cartel" on the basis of financial gains to those formulating a policy, which adds to the seriousness of the offence "The courts of law may be considered as constant thorns in the way of free-flowing corruption and, even if that be so .

NSE Listed Companies' Market Capitalization Surpass USD 5 Trillion

Vatika Times

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

from to USD 2 trillion (July 2017) to USD 3 trillion (May 2021) took about 46 months, USD 3 trillion to USD 4 trillion (December 2023) took about 30 months and the latest USD 1 trillion addition took only about 6 months. The top 5 companies by market capitalization are Reliance Industries Limited, TATA Consultancy Services Limited, HDFC Bank Limited, ICICI Bank Limited and Bharti Airtel Limited. In the last 10 years, Nifty 50 index has delivered 13.4%

returns (Total price index CAGR). During the same period, domestic mutual fund assets under management (Equity and Debt) increased by 506% from Rs 9.45 trillion end of April 2014 to Rs 57.26 trillion end of April 2024. The Foreign Portfolio investors (FPIs) assets under management (Equity and Debt) increased by 345% from Rs 16.1 trillion end of April 2014 to Rs 71.6 trillion at the end of April 2024. Growth in market capitalization is not restrict-

ed to the top companies but is observed across stocks.

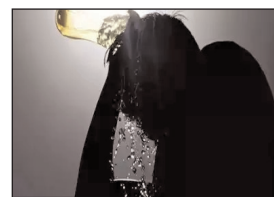
The constituents of Nifty 100 index now account for 61% of market capital as compared to 74.9 % of total market capital as of April 2014. The resource mobilization by corporates including the Small and Medium Enterprise in the primary market has been encouraging and has provided an effective alternative mechanism in addition to the traditional methods of fund raising.

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

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

BHUBANESWAR:

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



'Nature Cities' provides insight by carefully separating regional climate change and urbanization in multiple cities. Sethi, Vinoj_NatCities2024 (1) (1) The researchers investigated the contributions of local-scale urbanization and regional climate change to the warming in 141 major Indian cities over the

past two decades. They took 18 years of high-resolution land surface temperature data from NASA's Aqua satellite for the period between 2003 and 2020. They also compared urban and rural warming trends. The study found that Tier II cities in eastern India showed stronger urbanization-driven warming compared to larger metro cities like New Delhi and Mumbai. "This disparity underscores the importance of targeted urban planning.

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

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

davit to the Supreme Court, in which the commission stated that the "indiscriminate disclosure" of polling station-wise voter-turnout data and its publication on the EC website would lead to chaos in the ongoing Lok Sabha election machinery. Singhvi argued that the EC's actions regarding complaints against top BJP leaders and its refusal to disclose voter data are not befitting of a high-level constitutional institution. "This is against the constitutional responsibilities of the institution. This is the Election Commission, not the election agent of any party. When a constitutional institution does not follow the Constitution and shows inclination towards power, then it should be understood

that this is the end of democracy," Singhvi said. "We are not asking the EC about EVMs (electronic voting machines) but about disclosure of data. Through this stand in its ridiculous affidavit, the EC is falling into the BJP's trap to orchestrate decimation and destruction of electoral democracy," he added. Singhvi alleged that the reply filed by the EC in the apex court is just an 'escape mechanism' "This reply of the Election Commission is just an escape mechanism. Whereas anyone can get this data by paying money to the Election Commission," Singhvi alleged. "Will cause chaos; application is misleading, false and based on mere suspicion" Earlier, EC had filed a counter affidavit

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

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

of innovation amongst the next generation. Tailored specifically for India, the one-day workshop has been conceptualised to encourage students to appreciate the idea of design thinking and nudge them to identify and solve real-world problems. As part of the academic curriculum, Human-Centered Design Thinking is a powerful practice for solving-problems. Using processes and tools from the design world, the-Human Centred Design framework impresses upon empathy, definition, ideation, prototyping and testing of a solution to improve the lives of users. "Samsung Solve for Tomorrow is part of our vision to empower the next generation and create an ecosystem of innovation in the country. We believe that they are the flag-bearers of innovation and require nurturing from a young age. The design thinking workshops

have been introduced as a pilot in 10 schools this year to motivate young students to execute projects, which involve problem-solving, collaboration, and creative thinking. Through these offline sessions, school students will get a unique opportunity to question basics, identify real-world issues and propose tech-based solutions", said SP Chun, Corporate Vice President, Samsung Southwest Asia. This is how a one-day Design Thinking Workshop looks like:

-Introduction to Basic Concepts of Design Thinking
-Five Steps of Design Thinking Process
1. Empathy: Students engage in role-play and interviews, empathizing with various user types

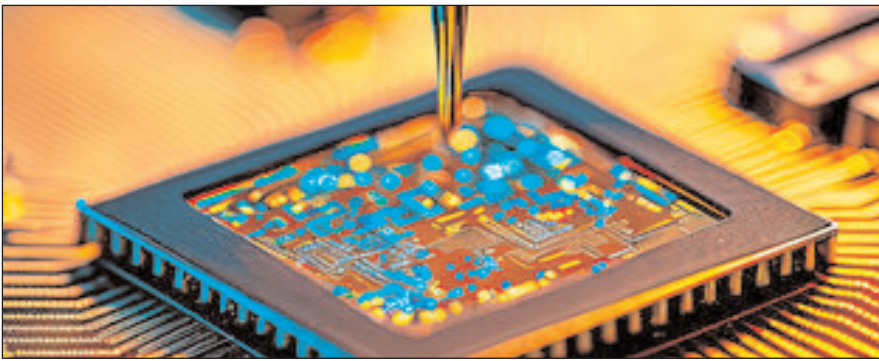
Cyclone 'Remal' to impact West Bengal, adjoining Bangladesh, IMD

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

In a statement, the IMD said, "Low Pressure Area over southwest & adjoining westcentral Bay of Bengal moved north-eastwards and lay as a well-marked low pressure area over west central & adjoining south

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

Beyond Rs 76k-crore: Government to scale up semiconductor package



NEW DELHI: Government is looking at rolling out a fresh multi-billion-dollar incentive package for semiconductor companies after nearly exhausting the Rs 76,000-crore plan that was launched in Dec 2021 for supporting investing companies, top sources told TOI. Preliminary work on the new package, which is "in all likelihood be much bigger than the previous one", has already begun, even though announcements in this regard will be made only once the new govt takes charge post the national elections, they said. "The new package would be one

of the key agendas for the new govt and will be taken up on a priority basis," one of the sources said, pointing out that new proposals that are coming in for semiconductors necessitate a fresh package. "The matter would be tabled before the new Cabinet as some of the proposals are at an advanced stage and would require immediate assurances from the state in terms of incentives," the source said. Success of Dec 2021 package is prompting the govt to work out a new one, especially in view of the aggressive stance of the countries such as the US and China, which have announced

much bigger packages for companies that are investing in semiconductors. Under the current plan, govt extends fiscal support of up to 50% of a project's cost to eligible display and semiconductor fabricators. This has been almost exhausted after the spate of investments that came in India, which had previously failed to get any credible proposals for semiconductor manufacturing after trying for decades, finally managed to score big after American Micron emerged as the first major player to enter the space with a Rs 22,500-crore testing and packaging unit in

Stopped producing Covishield in Dec 2021: SII after AstraZeneca recall

NEW DELHI: UK-based drug major AstraZeneca's decision to withdraw its Covid-19 vaccine globally, days after admitting to side effects, prompted Serum Institute of India to disclose that it had stopped manufacturing Covishield in Dec 2021 due to a fall in demand as well as the emergence of new variants. "With India achieving high vaccination rates in 2021 and 2022, coupled with the emergence of new mutant variant strains, the demand for previous vaccines diminished significantly. Consequently, since Dec 2021, we have stopped the manufac-



ture and supply of additional doses of Covishield," said a SII spokesperson. The global drug giant had recently admitted to Vaxzevria causing Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia (TTS) in very rare cases. Covishield accounted for nearly 80% of Covid-19 vaccine doses administered in India.

AstraZeneca said its decision to withdraw marketing authorisation of Vaxzevria was due to a "surplus of available updated vaccines" since the pandemic. The SII spokesperson said the company fully understood the ongoing concerns. "We have disclosed all rare to very rare side effects, including Thrombosis with TTS, in the packaging insert in 2021," the spokesperson said. TTS refers to the formation of blood clots with low platelet counts. The condition is rare but is usually serious, particularly when the blood clot happens in major vessels, say doctors.

Candidates in Gurgaon ramp up campaigns

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

the travel between Gurugram and Sohna to 20 minutes.

Improved connectivity and the Delhi-Mumbai expressway will make Sohna a residential and business hub, he said. Sohna will be connected to Nuh, Palwal, and Sonapat by the Orbital

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

CAPSULES

India's large diaspora remitted more than \$100 billion in 2022: UN report

MUMBAI: India is the origin of the largest number of international migrants – around 18 million, with large diasporas living in UAE, US and Saudi Arabia. It continued its march as the top country receiving remittances, but 2022 was spectacular with the figure crossing the \$100 mark.

According to the World Migration Report, 2024, released in Dhaka today, by UN's International Organization for Migration (IOM): "In 2022, India, Mexico, and China were the top three remittance recipient countries, followed by the Philippines, France and Pakistan." In 2022, India received \$111 billion, the first country to reach and even surpass the \$100 bn mark. In 2020, it had received \$83 billion. Mexico, with inward remittances of \$61 billion was the second-largest recipient in 2022, in the previous year it had replaced China to occupy the second spot and continued to hold sway. China's inward remittances in 2022 were \$51 billion. The contraction of remittance flows to China and its slipping to third spot has been attributed to multiple factors, including demographic shifts that have resulted in the shrinking of the working age population and the country's zero-COVID policy, which prevented people from travelling abroad for work. During 2022, India's other neighboring countries Pakistan (rank 6) saw an inflow of nearly \$30 billion and Bangladesh (rank 8) received \$21 billion.

Bengal counters Centre in SC, says CBI can't conduct probe sans state consent

NEW DELHI: Countering Centre's stand that it wields no power over CBI which is an independent agency, West Bengal govt on Wednesday told Supreme Court that Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, under which the agency was formed specifically says that its superintendence shall vest in the central govt in all cases except those related to corruption and contended CBI probe can't be ordered in the state without its



consent. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal told a bench of Justices B R Gavai and Sandeep Mehta that Sections 4 and 5 of the Act confer the power pertaining to superintendence and jurisdiction of the agency to the Centre.

Putting forward the stand of the state govt that the central agency could not conduct a probe within its jurisdiction without its consent, Sibal said that it would destroy the federal structure if Centre forced its way into the state and conducted a probe. "Centre has no jurisdiction to allow its investigating agency to come in my state against my consent. Such an act is unconstitutional. It would be an encroachment on the rights and jurisdic-

tion of the state and its police. It would be constitutional overreach and exceeding of jurisdiction and would destroy the federal structure of the country," Sibal said. The lawyer referred to various sections of Delhi Special Police Establishment Act to make a point that Centre controls CBI but clarified that role of Centre is only upto the registration of case but not investigation and probe was not influenced by it. Reading Section 4.

To fulfil 70-year-old's last wish, Kerala driver makes 2,500km dash

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM:

Arun Kumar is no stranger to navigating the bustling streets of Kerala's Kollam or racing down the highway o Thiruvananthapuram with sirens blaring. Yet, when faced with the daunting prospect of a 2,400km journey from Kollam to Raiganj in Bengal, doubts crept in. With the doctors advising minimal stops for food and fuel, the challenge seemed insurmountable. For 15 years, ever since she moved to Kollam with her son Sowthish, 44, in



search of greener pastures, Bodhini Bhahan had never had the urge to return to the hard-scrabble life she had left behind. Sowthish worked at a brick factory in Mynagappally and the family was getting by blissfully. However, earlier this year, Bodhini suffered a stroke and

became bedridden. She wished to return to her hometown and reunite with her close relatives. Sowthish understood her wishes but faced challenges in fulfilling them. He was at a loss - he couldn't afford the exorbitant airfare, and his mother wouldn't survive a midsummer train journey from

Kollam to Raiganj. "The only option was an ambulance, but no ambulance driver was willing to take us to Bengal due to the distance," Sowthish said. In his search for a solution, Sowthish came across Emirates Ambulance Service. Contacting its owner Kiran G Dileep, he found a glimmer of hope. Despite financial constraints, Emirates Ambulance Service agreed to transport Bodhini to Bengal for a reduced fare, driven by compassion rather than profit.

WB governor to show CCTV clip to 100 people, not Didi or cops

KOLKATA: West Bengal governor CV Ananda Bose, facing molestation charges from a former employee of Raj Bhavan, announced Wednesday that he would present Raj Bhavan's CCTV footage to 100 private citizens of Bengal, excluding "Mamata Banerjee and her police". "Under the Sach Ke Samne programme, anyone who wants to see the CCTV footage can send an email to adcrajbhavankolkata@gmail.com or call the Raj Bhavan to register their names at 033-22001641. The first hundred would

be allowed to see the footage inside Raj Bhavan at 11.30am on May 9," Raj Bhavan said in a statement. The programme is aimed at addressing what was described as "mischievous and fabricated allegations" by police regarding the handling of CCTV footage related to the case. In response, state finance minister Chandrima Bhattacharya questioned governor Bose's decision, asking why he was withholding the CCTV footage from police if he was innocent. She said: "The CCTV footage

should be on public display if he is such an honest and innocent person. But here he is playing with the dignity of women, so he wants to shield it from police and is even unwilling to show it to the CM. Why can't the CM see it, if there is no foul play?" CM Banerjee and Trinamool have been going after the governor since the former Raj Bhavan employee filed a police complaint against Bose last Thursday. "He is now trying to show it (footage) to his own henchmen and get a certificate from them."

SC: Can't carry Raj-era bias to tag castes, tribes 'history-sheeters'

NEW DELHI:

Supreme Court has ruled that police cannot carry colonial era biases against persons belonging to certain tribes and scheduled castes to mechanically brand them in their records as 'bad characters' or 'history-sheeters' and said such archaic mindset violated individuals' right to dignity guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution. After nudging the Delhi Police to amend the format for history-sheeters, which was copied from 90-year-old Punjab Police Rules of 1934, to exclude the minor children and wife of a person from getting included with him as a bad character, a bench of Justices Surya Kant and K V



Vishwanathan on Tuesday asked all states to revisit their rules within six months regarding inclusion of a person in police's 'history-sheeter/bad character' record and weed out colonial era biases from relevant provisions. After deciding the case from Delhi, the bench resorted to its suo motu jurisdiction and examined the desirability of ensuring that no mechanical entries in 'history sheet' are made of innocent individuals, simply

because they hail from socially, economically and educationally disadvantaged backgrounds, along with those belonging to backward communities, SCs and STs. Referring to certain studies on this aspect and without going into their authenticity, Justice Kant-led bench said these reveal a pattern of an unfair, prejudicial and atrocious mindset as they allege that police diaries are maintained selectively of individuals belonging

to vimukta jatis (denotified tribes that were listed originally under Criminal Tribes Act of 1871, as criminal tribes because of their alleged addiction to committing crimes) reflecting biases of colonial times. Writing the judgment, Justice Kant said, "All state governments are expected to take necessary preventive measures. to safeguard such communities from being subjected to inexcusable targeting or prejudicial treatment. We must bear in mind that these preconceived notions often render them 'invisible victims' due to prevailing stereotypes associated with their communities, which may often impede their right to live a life.

CSIR: No circular issued on ironed clothes

NEW DELHI: A day after CSIR reposted the visual of a campaign 'Wrinkles Achhe Hain', posted by one of its institutes, it clarified on X Wednesday that it has not issued any order to its labs to refrain from wearing ironed clothes. On May 7, CSIR-NIScPR posted on X that "Join C S I R 's #WAHMondayscampaign and say #WrinklesAccheHain. Wear your non-ironed clothes every Monday. Let's iron out climate change, not our clothes!" CSIR Wednesday said, "With regard to certain news reports, CSIR wishes to clarify that No CIRCULAR or OFFICIAL ORDER has been issued by CSIR HQ to its labs asking staff to refrain from wearing ironed clothes."

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



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

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

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

HDFC Bank's home loan business head to lead Fincorp

MUMBAI: HDFC Bank's mortgage business head Arvind Kapil has filed papers to take charge as MD & CEO of Poonawalla Fincorp. Kapil is a 25-year veteran of HDFC Bank and was placed in charge of the legacy housing finance business of HDFC after its merger with the bank last year. "Given the sheer size of the mortgage portfolio (Rs 7.5 lakh crore) and the material importance of distribution, we believe there is key managerial personnel risk (for HDFC Bank)," said Suresh Ganapathy of

Macquarie. He noted that this is the second major exit in mortgages with the head of HDFC sales Santosh Nair quitting to join Bandhan Bank last month. Poonawalla Fincorp, in a statement to stock exchanges, said that Kapil will join the company on June 24, subject to approvals. Shares of Poonawalla Fincorp rose 1.5% after the announcement. Before taking charge of the Rs 7.5-lakh-crore mortgage business at HDFC Bank, Kapil led the retail lending business at the bank, which included unsecured

loan20s, auto loans, two-wheeler loans, retail working capital loans, gold loans, loans against shares, home loans, microfinance, and business loans.

"Given his leadership, execution skills and business acumen, (Current MD & CEO) Abhay Bhutada has been elevated to group level and will be taking up a strategic and larger role at the Cyrus Poonawalla Group for managing its strategy, investment and finance," said Adar Poonawalla, chairman, Poonawalla Fincorp.

Kejri will begin his Pb campaign

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

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

that, the chief minister is the focus of this election campaign, which goes by the slogan "Sansad Mein Bhi Bhagwant Mann," according to an AAP official. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has been the focal point of the AAP's Lok Sabha campaign in the state. up to this point, since he has been hosting road.

Studies show polluted air increases Type 2 diabetes risk

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



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

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

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

Indian Ayushman Bharat digital mission to be shown at WHO

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

in India and other nations without disclosure requirements, the disclosure standards will offer protection internationally.

Currently, there are disclosure requirements in 35 countries, the majority of which are voluntary and lack the necessary legal framework to be implemented successfully. For the first time, the knowswledge and wisdom that have long underpinned economies, civilizations, and cultures will be recognized by the WIPO treaty on intellectual property, genetic resources, and related traditional knowledge. These resources are now part of the global intellectual property system. "As a source of traditional knowledge and wisdom.

District Courts receive instructions to facilitate smooth case hearings via VC

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

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



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

Every court must make sure that, in

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

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

Record bank earnings benefit poor, MSME loans

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