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

No money found, says CM; ED says argument irrelevant

"Rebutting ED's criticism by Singhvi, the ASG told the court the agency was 'not shooting in the dark'"



NEW DELHI: A criminal committing murder or a politician indulging in "terrorism" can't claim immunity from arrest on the ground that elections are near, Enforcement Directorate (ED) told Delhi high court on Wednesday. Opposing any relief to Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on his plea challenging the legal validity of his arrest, ED also maintained that the fact that there has been no recovery of "proceeds of crime is irrelevant" if the agency can make out a case that an accused laundered or used such money. Appearing for the

agency, additional solicitor general (ASG) S V Raju questioned the central theme of Kejriwal's plea that his arrest was timed to "disable and incapacitate AAP" on the eve of elections. "Aam aadmi has to go behind bars, irrespective of whether there are elections or not, but I am a chief minister, so you can't put me behind bars even if I have committed a heinous crime, an economic crime? Basic structure comes into play? I commit murder or rape but I can't be arrested

before elections. What kind of argument is this!" Raju exclaimed in response to senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi's argument that CM's arrest violated the basic structure of Constitution and contravened democracy, free and fair elections and a level playing field. Assailing the ED's case, Singhvi told HC that the agency was "trying to play" a "fixed match" and the arrest was based on uncorroborated statements of co-accused-turned-

approvers. He pointed out that there was no necessity to arrest the AAP leader in violation of PMLA provisions a year-and-a-half after the probe was initiated by ED in Aug 2022. Rebutting ED's criticism by Singhvi, the ASG told the court the agency was "not shooting in the dark" and that there was income tax data, WhatsApp chats and statements of "hawala operators". The HC reserved the verdict on Kejriwal petition challenging his arrest and remand.

Rahul files papers from 'home' Wayanad; declares assets worth Rs 20 crore

KOZHIKODE:

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi filed his nomination on Wednesday for a second successive Lok Sabha term from Wayanad, the Kerala constituency that sent him to Parliament in 2019 after he lost his pocket borough Amethi in UP to BJP's Smriti Irani in a famous rematch.

A 2km roadshow with his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra for company culminated in Rahul, who won the last election in Wayanad against CPI's PP Suneer by over four lakh votes, arriving at the office of the district collector to submit his nomination papers for the April 26 vote. "Wayanad is my home, and the people of Wayanad are my family. From them, I have learned a great deal over the last five years and received an abundance of love and



affection. It is with great pride and humility that I file my nomination once again," he wrote on X. According to Rahul's affidavit, he received an income of just over Rs 6cr in the last five years and owns assets valued at Rs 20.4cr. He has 18 criminal cases pending against him. Will focus on welfare of all in Wayanad irrespective of party affiliations: Rahul The 18 cases include Rahul Gandhi's conviction in a criminal

defamation case by a Gujarat court for his 'Modi surname' remark, which has been stayed by Supreme Court. The affidavit says that as on March 15, Rahul has Rs 55,000 as cash in hand and Rs 26,25,157 in his two bank accounts. As thousands trailed the Gandhi siblings from the Kalpetta bus stand to the civil station, Rahul said he would focus on the welfare of Wayanad's entire population, irrespective of

whether they owed allegiance to Congress-led UDF or the governing LDF. Rahul Gandhi's 'Drunkards' remark sparks controversy; Smriti Irani raises question on upbringing

The sitting MP later told reporters at Maravayal's tribal colony that the Lok Sabha vote was a battle for democracy and the Constitution. He said while Congress and the opposition INDIA bloc were fighting to safeguard both, PM Narendra Modi, Union home minister Amit Shah and BJP-RSS were allegedly out to destroy them. Rahul made no mention of chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan's remarks the other day about how it was "inappropriate" of Congress to be part of the INDIA bloc and yet field him in Wayanad against CPI's Annie Raja.

HC should not interfere in trial court's acquittal order: SC



NEW DELHI: Supreme Court has held that high courts should refrain from interfering with a trial court order if there is no perversity of fact and law in the verdict. It further said that a person should not be convicted merely on the ground of suspicion no matter how strong it is. In a relief granted to two convicts, who were first acquitted by a trial court but convicted and sentenced to life by Madhya Pradesh High Court, a bench of Justices B R Gavai and Sandeep Mehta set the high court and restoring their acquittal order. "The law with regard to interference by the appellate court is very well crystallised. Unless the finding of acquittal is found to be perverse or impossible, interference with the same would not be warranted," the bench said, finding no fault in trial court order. The bench said, the high court verdict was based on "conjectures and surmises" and against the basic principle that the suspicion, however strong it may be, could not take the place of proof beyond reasonable doubt and an accused cannot be convicted on the ground of suspicion, no matter how strong it is. "It is necessary for the prosecution that the circumstances from which the conclusion of the guilt is to be drawn should be fully established. The apex court holds that it is a primary principle that the accused 'must be' and not merely 'may be' proved guilty before a court can convict the accused. It has been held that there is not only a grammatical but a legal distinction between 'may be proved' and 'must be or should be proved'.

In swipe at China, NSA Ajit Doval says shun terror double standards

NEW DELHI: NSA Ajit Doval stressed the need for perpetrators of cross-border terrorism to be dealt with effectively and expeditiously, as he underlined the threat from India-focused terror groups like LeT and JeM, as well as IS, Al Qaeda and its affiliates. Speaking at a meeting of the SCO in Astana, Doval took a swipe at China as he called for shunning double standards in



the fight against terrorism and reiterating India's position that all connectivity initiatives must respect sovereignty and territorial integrity of all member-states. Both China and Pakistan are SCO member-states. Doval condemned the recent terror attack in Moscow and, in a

meeting on the margins with his Russian counterpart Nikiolay Patrushev, emphasised on the fight against terrorism both in bilateral and multilateral formats, and also exchange of information about terrorists and extremists. In his SCO address, Doval underlined the need for holding accountable the sponsors, financiers and facilitators of terrorist activities..

Plant for recycling of lithium-ion batteries & e-waste in U'khand soon

NEW DELHI: In a move that will boost circularity and reduce the country's import bill for critical mineral resources, the Technology Development Board (TDB) of science & technology ministry has entered into an agreement with a private entity for setting up a commercial plant for recycling of lithium-ion batteries (LIB) and e-waste using indigenous technology in Uttarakhand.



A significant 95% of LIBs currently end up in landfills while only 5% undergo recycling and reused even as the recycling market size of lithium-ion batteries is projected to reach nearly \$15 billion by 2030, with a compound annual growth rate of 21.6%. The market size was \$ 3.8 billion in 2021. Disposal of LIBs through landfilling and incineration poses serious environmental and health safety concerns. Efficient recycling of LIBs will.

Nagarathna set to test father's ruling in industrial alcohol case

NEW DELHI: Justice B V Nagarathna, as part of Supreme Court's nine-judge bench engaged in distinguishing 'industrial alcohol' from 'intoxicating liquor' to decide a Centre-state tussle on a revenue-rich issue, will be testing the correctness of a 1989 ruling by a seven-judge bench that included her father and then CJI E S Venkataramiah. Justice Nagarathna will become the first woman Chief Justice of India in 2027. It will also mark the first time a daughter has followed her father to head the country's judiciary. She will be CJI for 37 days from Sep 24 to Oct 29, 2027. Her father was CJI for six



months from Jun 19 to Nov 17, 1989. ENA 'mother raw material' for potable liquor and denatured spirit, say states CJI D Y Chandrachud, along with his father Justice Y V Chandrachud, who was CJI for the longest-ever tenure of seven-and-a-half years, are the first father-son duo to head the Indian judiciary. Chandrachud Jr has so far twice overruled his father's judgments. CJI Chandrachud, while ruling that right to privacy was part of right to life in his August 2017 judgment in K S Puttaswamy case, had overruled the infamous Emergency-era ADM Jabalpur verdict, in which his father was a party to the majority opinion that upheld govt's power to suspend fundamental rights. CJI news in Sep 2018, he overruled another of his father's decisions in the May 1985 Sowmithri Vishnu case, which upheld the validity of Section 497 of IPC that punished only married men for having sexual relationships outside marriage. The SC's five-judge bench in Joseph Shine case had decriminalised.

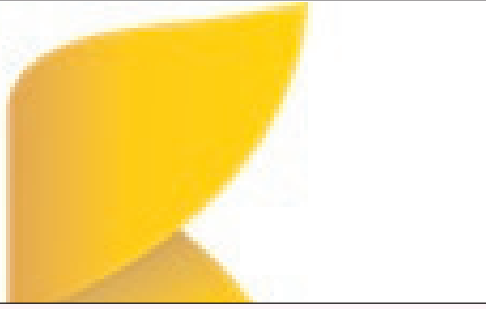
Samid summons from ED, Mahua reveals WA chat

KOLKATA: Trinamool Congress's Lok Sabha election candidate Mahua Moitra has made public a WhatsApp conversation she had with her mother, where the latter expressed readiness to fight her daughter's battle if central agencies arrest Mahua. "Keep a power-of-attorney ready in my name. In case they pick you up, I will file the nomination," Mahua's mother Manju is seen telling her daughter in the chat. Mahua tweeted, citing her mom's message: "My mother's answer to the BJP's daily ED/CBI love-fest. You rock Mummy, the original Sherni!"

Congress expels Nirupam for 6 yrs for anti-party activities

MUMBAI: Hours after the Maharashtra Congress unit urged the All India Congress Committee to take disciplinary action against former Mumbai Congress chief Sanjay Nirupam for sustained anti-party activity, the AICC expelled him from the party for six years. "Taking note of the complaints of indiscipline and anti-party statements, the AICC president has approved the expulsion of Sanjay Nirupam from the party for six years with immediate effect," AICC general secretary K C Venugopal said in a statement. Recently, after the Lok Sabha election process began, Nirupam had attacked party president Mallikarjun Kharge and Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray. According to sources, Thackeray also insisted on action against Nirupam, who used to be in the Shiv Sena. Nirupam had said the AICC leadership has completely surrendered to Thackeray, condemned Congress leadership after Thackeray declared candidates for four of six Lok Sabha seats in Mumbai. Nirupam, who had lost the last Lok Sabha election by a huge margin, was still banking on a ticket. As a first step, the disciplinary committee led by former CM Prithviraj Chavan had dropped him from the list of star campaigners and then a submitted a strongly worded report against him to the AICC. Patole confirmed that campaign committee members had strongly recommended

Airia Mall Gurgaon to host Baisakhi Da Mela 3.0, a Celebration of Punjab's Culture and Cuisine



Gurgaon: Airia Mall is preparing to host the vibrant essence of Punjab as the much-anticipated third edition of Baisakhi Da Mela approaches. Scheduled from April 1st to 14th, between 4 PM to 9 PM, this year's Mela promises to surpass previous grandeur.

Over the past two years, Baisakhi Da Mela has enthralled audiences with its homage to Punjab's rich heritage. Once again, Airia Mall will be metamorphosed into a cultural epicentre, offering attendees to immerse themselves in timeless regional traditions at

the Mela with activities like Gullak painting, Bioscope attractions, and Pottery making. Furthermore, the Mela guarantees a tantalizing array of Punjabi delicacies from the prestigious North Indian cuisine brand Pind Balluchi, ensuring attendees are treated to a delightful culinary experience.

Over the weekends, Friday to Sunday, the festivities continue with thrilling competitions that highlight the remarkable skills and enthusiasm of participants.

Whether it's the competitive edge of the Lassi Tu Fassi contest,

the infectious energy of the Bhangra Freeze Game, or the exhilarating race to determine the Fastest Turban Munda, these competitions add an extra layer of excitement to the event, fostering camaraderie and friendly competition among attendees. Moreover, the Mela will offer engaging entertainment options, including Bhangra Workshops/Performances and Live Singing sessions for guests.

Don't let this chance slip to enjoy the magic of Baisakhi Da Mela 3.0. It's open to everyone with free admission.

Pop, Trap and Hip-Hop! Ferozi Feelings by Talwar is the complete package that your playlist is waiting for!

Hisar: 30th March 2024: Get ready to groove to the beats of Gaurav Talwar, the enigmatic 25-year-old Rapper/Singer/Producer from Ferozi City, as he releases his latest trail-blazing album "Ferozi Feelings". Renowned for his versatility and artistic prowess, the album includes three distinct tracks - "Fan," "In My Head," and "Notorious Girl", each offering a unique auditory experience. The album is a soul-stirring fusion of beats, melodies, and emotions that define the essence of modern-day storytelling. The album 'Ferozi Feelings' is a ticket to a world of passion, nostalgia, and unfiltered emotions, all wrapped up in Talwar's signature style. From the infectious beats of "Fan", where Talwar invites listeners on a nostalgic journey inspired by 80s pop, celebrating the timeless allure of a glamorous figure. Meanwhile, "In My



Head", takes you through the artist's introspective journey, exploring his unwavering thoughts about a special someone. Lastly Talwar throws caution to the wind with "Notorious Girl", a rebellious anthem that paints a vivid picture of a woman unapologetically herself, defying societal norms with every step. It's bold, it's brash, and it's utterly brilliant. Speaking about his album, Talwar shared, "Ferozi Feelings is a culmination of love, longing, experience and musical exploration. Each track is a piece of my soul, reflecting differ-

ent facets of life and love. I thoroughly enjoyed blending different genres of music into one EP. I am excited to share this journey with the listeners and hope they resonate with me and my emotions I have experienced while making each track of the EP." Infusing emotions into every note,

Talwar's has the exceptional ability to effortlessly freestyle and create fully structured songs. His willingness to experiment across various musical genres distinguishes him as a rising star in the industry.

Fire in Sec V

Kolkata: A fire reportedly broke out in a lift service room on the 11th floor of Globysyn Crystals building at Sector V, next to a BPO, between 4.30 am and 5am on Monday. No casualty was reported. Three fire tenders rushed to the spot. The building houses several private offices. The employees of an office were working on a night shift when the incident happened. They were evacuated from the building.

Minor fire in Vande Bharat train coach

JABALPUR: A minor fire was reported from a coach of Vande Bharat train at Narsinghpur railway station on Sunday morning. The train, travelling to Rani Kamalapati railway station from Rewa, reached Belkheda near Narsinghpur railway station when smoke came out of some overhead equipment due to some technical snag, triggering chaos among passengers; though it was a minor technical issue. "There was some minor technical issue in the overhead equipment which was rectified then and there and the train moved ahead", central public relations officer, WCR, Harshit Shrivastav told.

Hawala help for fake call centres

Kolkata: For the third time in a row this year, cops have found fake call centres routing their profits, by duping victims settled abroad, through initial bitcoins and then the hawala route through Dubai and Delhi. Cops have now decided to write to the IT department and other agencies for a solution to try and cut off this illegal financial network.

Trader, employee held for planting illegal guns in rival's offices

Mumbai: A Mira Road trader and his employee have been arrested for allegedly planting illegal country-made revolvers and live cartridges in the offices of two of his rivals.

The trader told the police that he had suffered business losses due to his rivals and wanted to teach them a lesson. The matter came to light following a tip-off received by the police of an employee of Alam Steel and Furniture in Mira Road possessing a revolver.

On March 30, when the cops visited the office, they found both the



trader Firoz Chowdhary (39) and his employee Shakir Chowdhary (38) in possession of a country-made pistol and live cartridges. On questioning, Firoz, a resident of Bhayander (E) revealed having procured six country-made pistols and live cartridges from one of his former employees, who stays in

Utan, Bhayander (W). Firoz confessed to having purchased the weapons to plant it in the offices of three of his rivals. Last week, Firoz had managed to plant two pistols and 43 live cartridges in the office cupboard of one of his rival traders. The two partners of the rival showroom were unaware about the

revolvers that were planted in a cupboard outside their office that was rented to a snack vendor. The pistols and cartridges were recovered by the cops from the spot. Firoz was also in the process of planting a revolver inside the office of the rival partners, the police said. Shakir, who was given the task of planting a pistol and cartridges in the office of another rival, had delayed the job. He got arrested and revealed his plans. Firoz revealed that two revolvers and 12 live bullets were put in a gunny bag.

'All voters should vote in the interest of the country while maintaining mutual brotherhood'

Kaithal: Former director of HAFED and famous social worker Ramchandra Jadaula, while expressing his reaction regarding the Lok Sabha elections to be held in Haryana on May 25, said that voting is the right of every voter and the most important thing in the country. In the formation of a bigger Parliament, every voter must use his vote in the Lok Sabha elections in the interest of the society and the country. He said that it is an important

responsibility of all of us to conduct peaceful and fair elections while maintaining mutual brotherhood, and it is our duty to maintain it. While talking in a special meeting at his establishment in New Anaj Mandi Dhand, Ramchandra Jadaula said that people of every caste, religion and creed live in our society, but no candidate should ask for votes in the name of caste or religion. So that mutual brotherhood of the society remains intact. Along with this, fully

cooperate with every police and administration related officer and if any irregularity is noticed anywhere then immediately inform it to the Election Commission or District Election Administrative Officers. He said that every candidate should contest elections in a fair manner by adopting honesty. Every citizen should cooperate with the Election Commission and District Administration to conduct peaceful and fair elections.

Social worker Ramchandra Jadaula demanded from the government that comprehensive arrangements should be made to ensure that the power supply at the polling booths is not disrupted on the election day, so that there is no disruption of any kind in the voting. Along with this, special attention should also be given to toilets and cleanliness including drinking water at the booths, so that voters do not face any kind of problem.

South will help reach PM Narendra Modi target of 370, says Nitin Gadkari

NAGPUR: Avowing abiding confidence in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's goal of 370 seats, BJP leader Nitin Gadkari says the additional seats to its current strength of 288 will come from gains in southern India in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. In a wide ranging interview with PTI at his residence in Nagpur, Gadkari said there is "no doubt" in his mind that the BJP-led NDA alliance will cross 400 seats and that Modi will take over as prime minister for a third term because of the solid work done by the government in the last 10 years. He dismissed allegations that the Modi government is "weaponising" central probe agencies such as the Enforcement Directorate and CBI to weaken the opposition, saying BJP's rivals



should make efforts to overcome adversity by winning the confidence of the people. "Is it our responsibility to make the opposition weak or strong? When we had just two MPs and were weak, we never got any package out of sympathy," Gadkari, who is seeking a third Lok Sabha

term from Nagpur, said. Gadkari launched his campaign with a massive road show on Saturday through Nagpur, his motorcade crawling through a sea of supporters who withstood 40 degrees Celsius temperature to welcome the local hero.

Bhojpuri actors shine outside Bihar in Lok Sabha polls, but none from state

PATNA: Bhojpuri stars are making it big in national politics but they seem conspicuous by their absence in the electoral battle in Bihar, the very springhead of the language spoken in places as far-off as Mauritius, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago. Manoj Tiwari, who hails from the state's Atarwalia village in Kaimur district, has made Delhi his political "karma bhoomi" while in Uttar Pradesh, Ravi Kishan and Dinesh Lal Yadav 'Nirahua' are seeking re-election from seats close to their native places. In the run-up to Lok Sabha polls, there was a lot of buzz around Pawan Singh, a native of Ara, entering the fray. He got a ticket, but, surprisingly, from West Bengal, and withdrew from the contest following a controversy. Speculations are rife that internet sensation Neha Singh Rathore would get a Congress ticket ever since she attended a number of party events, including Rahul Gandhi's 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra'. "Several Bhojpuri superstars are in the fray for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, but none has been fielded from Bihar, the epi-



center of the regional film industry, or neighbouring Jharkhand", said Gunjan Kumar, the lone popular Bhojpuri/Magahi singer who has thrown his hat in the ring from Bihar. Kumar is contesting as an independent candidate from Nawada Lok Sabha constituency. Polling will take place in Nawada on April 19. Speaking to PTI, Kumar said he approached all major political parties to make him a candidate from his hometown, Nawada. But, none agreed, forcing him to contest as an Independent. "It appears that now political parties are taking no interest in fielding Bhojpuri singers/actors from Bihar itself in the LS polls", said the singer.

However, in the assembly, Bhojpuri singer Vinay Bihari is a BJP MLA from the Lauriya assembly seat in West Champaran. Kumar said, "If I remember correctly, Shatrughan Sinha, popularly known as Bihari Babu, was the last actor who contested LS polls from Patna Sahib constituency and won two times. After that, he was denied a ticket in 2019. But now he is seeking re-election from Asansol (West Bengal) Lok Sabha seat". Echoing a similar view, three-term BJP MLA from Lauriya assembly seat, Vinay Bihari, told PTI, "It is true that major political parties have become a little bit apprehensive about giving Lok Sabha tickets.

Woman captures terrifying encounter with 3 men tailgating in Bengaluru



BENGALURU: The Bengaluru police arrested two bikers for harassing a woman in her car on the Madiwala-Koramangala road in Bengaluru, officials said on Monday. The third suspect, Kannan is currently on the run. The victim bravely recounted her alarming encounter to the authorities during a phone call. She shared crucial details, including a video of the incident and the culprits' vehicle number, aiding in their capture. The distressing video now widely circulated captures the victim's desperate plea for help as she reports the location of the encounter to the police. The authorities acted swiftly to address the situation.

IFFCO is continuously working to realize the vision of self-reliant India, self-reliant agriculture, doubling the income of farmers



PHULPUR : Under the valuable guidance of IFFCO Managing Director Dr. Udai Shanker Awasthi and to fulfill the vision of Prime Minister Sahkar se samridhi, self-reliant India, self-reliant agriculture, doubling the income of farmers, IFFCO is continuously working in this regards. New records are established in IFFCO Phulpur unit in the last financial year 2023-24. The lowest ever annual energy consumption in Urea-I plant was 5.818 Gcal/MT, which is less from its previous lowest record of 5.820 Gcal/MT in the year 2020-21. The lowest ever annual energy consumption in Urea-II plant is 5.132 Gcal/MT

was less than its previous record of 5.134 Gcal/MT in the year 2022-23, whereas the IFFCO Phulpur plant minimum record is 5.386 Gcal/MT for the entire was less than its previous minimum record of 5.398 Gcal/MT in 2022-23. On the one hand, it is a conservation of national energy and is important from the environmental point of view. With this, there is direct revenue saving of about Rs 32 crore of the country. The production of urea plant was 19 lakh MT against the target of 18.35 lakh MT, which is approximately 110 percent of its capacity. In the last financial year, IFFCO Phulpur unit received many

awards at the national level in various fields like energy management, safety, environment and occupational safety and health management system. IFFCO Officers Association President Anurag Tiwari and General Secretary Swayam Prakash, IFFCO Employees Union President Pankaj and General Secretary Vinay Yadav wishes Senior Executive Director (Unit Head) Sanjay Kudesia on this success on record production with minimum energy consumption. Unit Head Sanjay Kudesia extended best wishes for the new financial year 2024-25 and gave credit for this success to his entire team.

Opt for Hybrid funds to help cut tax outgo - 10 mutual fund

Wealth managers recommend conservative investors to opt for hybrid schemes before the financial year closes to save on taxes in mutual fund investments. The government's removal of indexation benefits for pure debt schemes in Budget 2023-24 shifts focus to hybrid funds with 35%-65% equity allocation for tax efficiency.

Tax planning guide: Opt for Hybrid funds to help cut tax outgo - 10 mutual fund schemes to consider

Tax benefits of hybrid funds: As the financial year comes to an end, it's important to keep a tab on your tax outgo for



FY 2023-24. Wealth managers advise conservative investors to consider hybrid schemes before the financial year ends to save on taxes in mutual fund investments, states a report. The government's removal of indexation benefits for pure debt schemes in Budget 2023-

24 makes hybrid funds with 35% to 65% equity allocation a viable option. Indexation, which adjusts inflation with the asset's cost, lowers tax liability. Certain schemes like balanced hybrid, multi-asset, and dynamic asset allocation still offer indexation benefits.

Bank of Japan ends negative rates, closing era of radical policy

TOKYO: The Bank of Japan ended eight years of negative interest rates and other remnants of its unorthodox policy on Tuesday, making a historic shift away from a focus of redefining growth with decades of massive monetary stimulus. While the move will be Japan's first

interest rate hike in 17 years, it still keeps rates stuck around zero as a fragile economic recovery forces the central bank to go slow in any further rise in borrowing costs, analysts say. The shift makes Japan the last central bank to exit negative rates and ends an era in which

policymakers around the world sought to prop up growth through cheap money and unconventional monetary tools. In a widely expected decision, the BOJ ditched a policy put in place since 2016 that applied a 0.1% charge on some excess reserves financial institutions.

CAPSULES

HDFC Bank's home loan business head to lead Poonawalla 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

LIC shares slip after 17% salary hike

MUMBAI: Shares of LIC were down by over 2% on Monday after the corporation announced a 17% wage revision. The salary increase was announced by govt on Friday before the election code of conduct kicked in a day later.

The corporation's shares are now down 23% from the 52-week high of Rs 1,175 on Feb 9. On Friday, the country's largest insurance company said that govt approved a wage revision for LIC employees, effective August 1, 2022.



The corporation explained the hike, stating that a revision occurs once every five years. The statement said that due to the hike, there will be a 17% upward revision in the overall wage bill.

The increase aligns with the wage negotiation deal signed between the Indian Banks' Association and bank employees. LIC's wage revision incorporates an enhancement in NPS contribution from

10% to 14% for nearly 24,000 employees who joined after April 1, 2010. TNN We also published the following articles recently

Noida Authority approved three contractors for surface parking in city clusters with revised fees. New tender initiated after scrapping previous contract. Residents get relief with revised parking fees. Multilevel facilities accommodate 12,000 vehicles.

China accuses Evergrande of \$78 billion fraud, among worst ever

China Evergrande Group's alleged \$78 billion revenue overstatement escalates the legal peril of founder Hui Ka Yan, who now stands at the center of one of the biggest financial fraud cases in history. The nation's top securities regulator said the developer's onshore unit inflated revenue by recognizing sales in advance in the two years through 2020 that led up to its default. It imposed a 4.18 billion yuan (\$581 million) fine against the unit. Evergrande's alleged fraud dwarfs that of



Luckin Coffee Inc. and Enron Corp., dealing a blow to the reputation of its former auditor and the country's financial oversight. It fuels concern about how widespread such accounting issues are,

just as the new China Securities Regulatory Commission chairman is trying to tighten oversight. "The CSRC fines may serve as a warning to owners of other defaulted developers that failing to collabo-

rate with authorities over debt restructuring could mark the latest blow for Hui, once among Asia's richest tycoons, who oversaw a sprawling empire that spanned real estate to electric vehicles. Evergrande was one of China's biggest developers, taking on massive debt to expand across the country as condo sales boomed. The group received a liquidation order from a Hong Kong court in January, marking the largest collapse in China's three-year real estate crisis.

Millionaire grandchildren! Not just Narayana Murthy's grandson, these Infosys co-founders' grandkids also hold stake in company

Millionaire grandchildren of Infosys founders! Infosys founder NR Narayana Murthy gifted his four-month-old grandson shares worth over Rs 240 crore, making him one of India's youngest millionaires. The transfer of 15,00,000 Infosys shares reduced Murthy's stake from 0.40% to 0.36%. But did you know that other grandchildren of Infosys co-founders also hold stakes in the company. Millionaire grandchildren! Not just Narayana Murthy's grandson, these Infosys co-founders' grandkids also hold stake in company



his four-month-old grandson. Ekagrah is the third grandchild of Narayana Murthy and his wife, author-philanthropist Sudha Murthy. Ekagrah was born to Rohan Murthy and Aparna Krishnan in November last year. The 0.04% stake is valued at over Rs 240 crore, making Ekagrah Rohan Murthy one of the youngest millionaires in India. He is the youngest in the Infosys promoter group. Following this transaction, which was revealed in an exchange filing, Narayana Murthy's stake in Infosys

has come down to 0.36%. The stock exchange filing specified the transfer of shares "from Narayana Murthy-promoter to master Ekagrah Rohan Murthy-promoter group." Narayana Murthy's daughter Akshata Murthy, also the First Lady of the UK, has two daughters, Krishna and Anoushka. Within the Murthy family, Akshata holds a 1.05% stake in Infosys, while her brother Rohan has a 1.64% stake, and their mother, Sudha Murthy, owns a 0.93% stake.

Adani calls report on bribery probe by US prosecutors false

Adani Group companies have denied receiving any notice from the US Department of justice regarding bribery allegations. US prosecutors investigate potential bribery involving Adani entity and founder Gautam Adani, including Indian renewable energy company Azure Power Global Ltd. Adani Enterprises and Ports refute allegations, stressing commitment to high governance standards and anti-corruption laws.

Adani calls report on bribery probe by US prosecutors false. Adani Group companies haven't received any notice from the US Department of justice regarding a probe into whether the Indian conglomerate may have engaged in bribery, according to exchange filings. Bloomberg News reported last week, citing people with direct knowledge of the matter, that US prosecutors have widened their prob-

le of the Adani Group to focus on whether an Adani entity may have engaged in bribery as well as the conduct of the conglomerate's billionaire founder Gautam Adani. The probe, which is also looking at Indian renewable energy company Azure Power Global Ltd., is being handled by the US Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York and the Justice Department's fraud unit in Washington.

Star Health eyes NRI business through GIFT

CHENNAI: Star Health and Allied Insurance Company will offer dollar-denominated insurance from GIFT City for NRIs. The company is launching international insurance product suite from the facility in FY25. Star Health is the first health insurance company to be granted registration to establish an International Financial Services Centre international office in GIFT City. It plans to commence operations with a branch by the end of this month, facilitating access to health insurance solutions in US dollars for the global Indian community, the company said in a statement on Monday. Noting that the facility will enable the company to significantly expand its global reach and business, it said, the company will offer NRI-focused insurance.

China accuses Evergrande of \$78 billion fraud, among worst ever

China Evergrande Group's alleged \$78 billion revenue overstatement escalates the legal peril of founder Hui Ka Yan, who now stands at the center of one of the biggest financial fraud cases in history. The nation's top securities regulator said the developer's onshore unit inflated revenue by recognizing sales in advance in the two years through

2020 that led up to its default. It imposed a 4.18 billion yuan (\$581 million) fine against the unit. Evergrande's alleged fraud dwarfs that of Luckin Coffee Inc. and Enron Corp., dealing a blow to the reputation of its former auditor and the country's financial oversight. It fuels concern about how widespread such accounting

issues are, just as the new China Securities Regulatory Commission chairman is trying to tighten oversight. "The CSRC fines may serve as a warning to owners of other defaulted developers that failing to collabo-

rate with authorities over debt restructuring could mark the latest blow for Hui, once among Asia's richest tycoons, who oversaw a

Editorial

Globe commonly referred to as the Indian diaspora

Writ petitions have been filed before the Apex Court for making voting easier and from the comfort of their foreign homes but the ECI's response has been it is still a work in progress as the process cannot be hurried. The ECI website says under the mode of voting for the eligible NRIs while at present the only option is to vote at the relevant polling booth in India by presenting the passport, soon it will issue e-ballot papers. Indeed, the committee in its 2014 report conceded that voting at the embassies/high commissions/consulates while appearing to be voter-friendly is not workable in practice as the NRI voters may hail from any of the 543 Lok Sabha constituencies and 4,120 Assembly constituencies. How can EVM from all the constituencies be flown to all such embassies, etc, and gotten back on time? Furthermore, how to handle the massive turnover in a single day? To wit, a large part of the Indian US diaspora lives in the Silicon Valley or bay area. A massive throng would be difficult to handle. So, the committee dismissed the idea. Rightly so. It is also not in favour of online voting as hacking and sabotaging through malware, trojan horses etc. cannot be ruled out. An election process must be foolproof, period. The Committee therefore shortlisted the following two modes and commended them to the ECI for adoption: Voting through a proxy. Not a bad idea at all as there is already a parallel — voting at company meetings. In fact, the company law mandates every public company to circulate along with the Annual Report a form for proxy to be lodged with the company at least 48 hours before the meeting and that such a proxy need not himself/herself be a member. A proxy however cannot speak at the meeting nor can he vote on show of hands but only in a ballot. There is no reason why the provisions on proxy in the company law cannot be imported into the Representation of People's Act 1951 mutatis mutandis to make voting easier for the eligible NRIs. Voting through e-ballot which the ECI would email to the registered NRI voters who should cast their vote and send the e-ballot through post. It is not surprising the ECI says that e-ballot would be issued soon thus apparently making proxy its second choice. The unstated reason could be professional proxies may step in to exploit the situation. They could hijack the NRI part of the elections. But then even e-ballots can be intercepted by crooks during transit. Anyway, the ECI can operate both e-ballot and proxy in tandem maybe on pilot basis and based on the experience gained plump for one and discard the other or permit both i.e., give the eligible NRI to plump for proxy or e-ballot. Looks like in the upcoming 2024 Lok Sabha elections, registered NRIs must resign themselves to watching the electioneering passively unless they bestir themselves and make an expensive pilgrimage to their constituency. The fortunate ones would be those who have, say, a marriage to attend on the election eve and combine the trip for both the purposes. In fact, the need to present themselves at the polling booth is responsible for the lukewarm response to the overseas voter registration process.

But once e-ballot or proxy is permitted, the registration process might pick up and the number of overseas voters may leapfrog to millions. There is no reason why NRIs should be denied their voting rights merely for logistics reasons. As per the expert committee appointed by the Election Commission of India (ECI) in 2014, there are about 10 million Non-Resident Indians scattered across the globe commonly referred to as the Indian diaspora.



Conflicting narratives and the way ahead

Russia would like to believe that the Moscow terror attack is an extension of the Russia-Ukraine war. While it agrees that Islamic radicals have executed it, it would like to believe that in the context of the ongoing war with Ukraine, hostile powers like Ukraine could have masterminded the 'paid to kill operation' through IS-KP cadres. Russia believes that Ukrainian nationalists have paid in cash and cryptocurrency to the perpetrators of the attack. It also indicates that the terrorists were trying to flee into Ukraine and alleges that some window was open for them to get into hostile territory.

The Russian Investigative Committee has claimed that it has evidence connecting Ukraine to the Crocus City Hall terrorist attack. Russia has asked Ukraine to immediately arrest and extradite all connected to terror attacks in Moscow and Kerch Bridge to Russia, including their SBU Security Service Chief. The Russian continued efforts to link Ukraine and the west to the terrorist attacks is being seen as a ploy to generate more domestic support for its war in Ukraine, by the west. The attempt of terrorists to skip into hostile territory, as claimed by Moscow, can also be construed as a natural

reaction of any terrorist to his safe exit, whether Ukraine was involved in it or otherwise.

The horrific terror attack on the Crocus City Hall, Moscow in March 2024, which killed at least 144 innocent people and injured more than 300, deserves global condemnation. This has been the largest terror attack inside Russia in the last two decades, which once again reminds us of the growing danger of the global menace of terrorism, the vulnerability of civil society to it and the inadequacy of synergised global response to tackle it. Terrorism must be condemned in all forms and man-

ifestations anywhere in the world.

Four terrorists of Tajikistan origin, who executed it are in custody along with other suspects/collaborators undergoing investigations and trials. All terrorists are Tajiks claiming to have done it for money. The attack seems to have been executed by Islamic radicals, which could be a possible 'paid to kill operation'. In the context of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war and the intense information warfare campaign between US-led NATO helped Ukraine and Russia, conflicting narratives are emerging, which are worth decoding, along with their implication.

Biden's confederates have staked the India-US relationship



Still, this hasn't stopped the spokesperson from the State Department. He again commented on India's domestic matters after their diplomat was summoned. This heated exchange, if the US doesn't show restraint, is likely to be continued. For the sake of electoral gains in his country, Biden's confederates have staked the India-US relationship. But this doesn't go well in the South Block. To conclude, '[t]he West has many areas to work on with India—and false virtue-signalling on democracy isn't one of them,' as I wrote this one year back for this publication. On 28 March 2024, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) summoned the US diplomat Gloria Berbera after the unwarranted remarks of the US on Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal's arrest. The MEA 'strongly objected to the remarks of the spokesperson of the US State Department about certain legal proceedings in India'. In the middle of March too, the US publicly expressed the concerns on the CAA, which India's MEA called 'misplaced, unwarranted.' The US and India are strategic partners with strong ties in commerce, technology transfer, and defence. Both the

countries have trade worth \$122 billion annually with close people-to-people relations. Both the democracies have to address the dragon in the room, making their cooperation absolutely necessary. Still, the US, whenever a mic is offered by any controversial journalist, takes a moral high ground to belittle India using the latter's petty internal matters. The faulty diary of the US State Department - particularly under the Biden administration - lacked phrases like 'It is India's internal matter' or 'We don't have any comments.'

The Biden administration might have used different words to not invite diplomatic hostility from India. Instead, it chose to stake

the Indo-US relationship, most probably due to electoral gains. There are multiple reasons to back this statement up. The latest survey done by Reuters/Ipsos in March 2024 showed that 56 per cent of Americans disapprove of Biden as a President. Also, among democrats, as per the same survey, 20 per cent of voters disapproved of him. As these surveys show, things at home are not hunky-dory for Biden, who ran for presidency as a restorationist. Even before the 2020 election, the progressive camp among Democrats, which supported Bernie Sanders as a president, saw Biden as a 'man of the past' due to their advocacy on the

so-called values in American foreign policy. Biden somehow tried to appease this block by taking some steps (releasing agendas for American-Muslim communities where he mentioned to 'restore' rights in Kashmir). In his article for Foreign Affairs, Biden wrote that he would be 'rescuing the U.S. Foreign Policy after Trump', meaning the usual interventionism in others' internal matters. But such promises, as happens in this complex world, can't be kept. Thus, the progressive camp and the Arab and Muslim votes, who are critical for Biden's return to power, are unhappy with Biden. The first reason for their unhappiness is how the US did not control the war in Gaza after the 7 October attacks. The recent Gallup survey also indicates that 55 per cent of Americans, up from 45 per cent, oppose Israeli action in Gaza. Second, the issue of immigration on the US-Mexico border is still open and, specifically, the Latino senators opposed Biden's move by putting forward the interests of immigrants who lack legal papers. Third, the long-standing Russia-Ukraine war, its impending cost, and no progress for

its peace has also raised eyebrows from one section of the Democrats. Surrounded by this chaos, the urgent priority on the desk of Biden is to keep the Democrats happy to ensure another term. In last week, Washington let the UNSC resolution calling for a ceasefire pass be a minor step for damage control. Concerning India, there has been no progress on the matters of Kashmir from the US—and the progressive crowd needs to be kept happy. Therefore, the Biden administration went one step further and twice criticised India on what New Delhi considers strictly internal matters. But Biden forgot that India is not a country that tolerates unnecessary interference on domestic issues. The pushback from India is not something new and unexpected. Since the times of Nehru, whenever the US tried to meddle in India's internal affairs, New Delhi has hit back. The governments might have changed but the unnecessary comments have never been welcomed. Particularly, when the elections are underway and the Modi government is set to face the public, the pushback was expected to be stronger.

Some of them are indigenous, while others are foreign

Some of them are indigenous, while others are foreign or non-Indian. Some important foreign institutions had set up shop in the country as early as the late 1950s or early 1960s. These organisations were ostensibly private entities, like the Ford Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the American Institute of Indian Studies, et al., and they functioned outside the official diplomatic umbrella. The others in this category included the British Council, the Fulbright Scholarship, the Rhodes Scholarship, etc. All these players cannot strictly be described as 'state agencies', but they clearly had umbilical ties with their home governments. They were versatile in hiding their true ownership

and control structures.

The three Western media organisations—the BBC, Voice of America (VOA), and Reuters—also had a significant Indian presence by the late 1950s and early 1960s. The poor Soviets, with their Radio Moscow, that broadcast in a number of Indian languages, were also, even though their print presence (in a number of Indian languages and English) was much more successful. In this essay, we will focus on the BBC to start with. Recently, a path-breaking and incisive book on this iconic organisation has been published. The book, BBC's True Lies (Garuda Prakashan), authored by Binay Kumar Singh and Prashant Pandey, is a true landmark and milestone in Indian

studies on foreign media. It meticulously studies this organisation from its birth in Britain, its pivotal role in the life and politics of its homeland, and the long history of its Indian operations. Readers may remember the dictum of Hitler and Goebbels on the big lie. "If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it. Thus, by extension, the truth is the greatest enemy of the State." This applies equally to the big media, whether in the international arena or the domestic one. In the case of TV, people will believe a big lie sooner than a little one. If it is repeated frequently enough, the general audience will believe it sooner or later.

Debates around illegal immigration once again

US Congressman Troy E Nehls alongside 13 other Congressmen in an official letter dated 22 September, 2022 asked for clarification from Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas of Homeland Security on the findings of the US Department of Homeland Security intelligence report received by Border Patrol that instructed agents to look for violent criminals coming from Venezuela among the migrant caravans heading towards the US-Mexico border. The letter also referenced reports of rapists and murderers being released early from Venezuelan prisons and forced to cross the border as well as news reports of two young girls being sexually assaulted by Venezuelan illegal immigrants in the US. The letter also pointed to the recent establishment of the dreaded Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua which has the distinction of specialising in torture techniques. The question of illegal immigrants is not just a problem exclusive to Western countries. In India too, with the Manipur conflict in 2023, the role of illegal immigration from Myanmar came to the fore. Their role was evident in not just the conflict but also in opium cultivation, drug smuggling and illegal arms trade. This prompted the Government of India to revoke the Free Movement Regime (FMR), an agreement that allowed free movement up to 16 km without a visa. Much like the US where Fentanyl traf-

ficking from the southern border is at an all-time high, and has killed over 110,000 Americans last year, in India's northeast borders it was heroin and methamphetamines that were being smuggled into India.

However, irrespective of the considerations there are many flagbearers of open borders. From political leaders to migration experts and pressure groups, many across the spectrum fashion themselves as "leaders of the free world"—a world that is without boundaries and relies solely on humanitarian responses. In Europe, Angela Merkel was hailed as a figurehead of Western liberalism, and in the US, Rep Alexander Ocasio-Cortez is perhaps one of the loudest voices working towards a "path of citizenship for all". In India, we have the Left lobby and the Congress-led opposition. These groups lobbied for the problematic Rohingya to be allowed in amongst other groups in debates surrounding the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), an Act that firmly made a distinction between genuine asylum seekers and illegal immigrants. They further vehemently went against the proposed National Register of Citizens (NRC), a nationwide exercise that would register citizens to identify illegal immigrants who would further be deported. As magnanimous and romantic as the ideals of open borders may be, the fact of the matter is that such magnanimity

comes at a cost. Even though economists such as Bryan Caplan have argued for open borders as a tool to eradicate absolute poverty, policy building today cannot be dependent on piecemeal assessments. The open border argument does not outweigh national security concerns and entirely erodes the principles of national sovereignty. The nation-state within the Westphalian system is founded on political authority over territory and autonomy and thus international order is dependent on sovereign states. The EU today is an example of the result of the erosion of sovereignty, a union that was founded on economic collaboration in time attempted to forge itself wherein the most contentious issue has become illegal immigration. Analysts have in hushed tones after BREXIT cast aspersions on the longevity of the EU. Even in the run-up to the upcoming elections in the US, the signature issue of illegal immigration will be the deciding factor. The fight is simply between Joe Biden's open border policy and Donald Trump's strong stance against legal and illegal immigration. In India too, one of the main issues in the upcoming general election is the NRC. Border controls and deportation of illegal immigrants are policy issues in the hands of elected governments, where choices must be made wisely.

Will China's fourth aircraft carrier challenge US naval dominance

NEW DELHI: China's ambitious naval expansion, marked by the construction of its fourth aircraft carrier, the Type 004, is poised to reshape the maritime balance of power in Asia and potentially challenge the US navy's dominance. According to Yuan, a key figure in the carrier's development, there have been no delays in its construction, with illustrations suggesting the vessel is being built at Shanghai's Jiangnan shipyard, a South China Morning Post report said. Experts like Abdul Rahman Yaacob from the Lowy Institute speculate that if powered by nuclear energy, the Type 004 could wield advanced, power-intensive weaponry and operate at sea for extended periods without the need for replenishment. This capability would enable the Chinese navy to project a more formidable presence in international waters, despite



China's limited regional military bases compared to the US's extensive network and alliances with countries such as Australia, South Korea, and Japan. The potential nuclear propulsion of the Type 004 raises its strategic profile, making it comparable to the US's Nimitz-class carriers in terms of size and capability. Malcolm Davis of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute notes that while this development recalibrates regional power dynamics, the operational focus of Chinese carriers remains primarily on supporting joint land-

ing Taiwan. However, their presence will also boost China's confidence in other regional contingencies, the SCMP report said. The Fujian, China's third carrier, already features cutting-edge technology like electromagnetic catapults, setting a precedent for the advanced capabilities expected of the Type 004. China's naval strategy, aiming to extend its influence beyond the second island chain and into the Indian Ocean, signifies a long-term goal to challenge US maritime supremacy. Regional analysts like Joshua Bernard Espeña highlight the increased tension.

AAP gov't faces challenge of keeping files moving

New Delhi: With chief minister Arvind Kejriwal remanded in judicial custody for 15 days by a lower court, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) gov't now faces the challenge of running routine governance in his absence. Though Kejriwal does not hold any portfolio, officials said there are certain files that are moved only through CM. While the ministers concerned have been currently holding up all such files, sources confirmed the party will now have to take a decision on how to process them further to ensure governance does not suffer. Arrested by Enforcement Directorate (ED) on March 21 in a money

laundering case linked to the now-scrapped Delhi excise policy, Kejriwal was sent to judicial custody till April 15 by Rouse Avenue court on Monday. Though AAP has maintained that Kejriwal will not resign and continue to remain CM despite his incarceration, practical difficulties in running his office would remain. The order of the special judge on Monday did not mention if Kejriwal was permitted to meet his ministers, officers or staff during his judicial custody or was allowed to get official files in his cell to allow him to study and dispose of them.

As per the Govt of NCT of Delhi Act, 1991 and

Transaction of Business Rules, all files received or sent to central gov't and lieutenant governor are routed through chief minister. CM heads the council of ministers and communicates to LG all decisions of the cabinet, apart from sharing information relating to the administration of the affairs of the national capital. A senior Delhi gov't official said all such files that require chief minister to take a look and give his opinion had been held up by the ministers of the departments concerned since the day Kejriwal had been arrested by ED. "We are still contemplating how to go about with the governance aspect."

Lover, her husband kill man, bury body in sewage pit in central Delhi

New Delhi: A 35-year-old man was murdered and his body buried in a sewage pit in central Delhi's Anand Parbat, cops said on Monday. The deceased was identified as Madhav Singh, a labourer who worked at a factory. A missing complaint for Singh was registered at

Anand Parbat police station. Acting on the complaint, police searched his house and seized his phone. They discovered that Singh had an illicit affair with a woman named Jyoti who, they surmised, could have been involved in Singh's murder. Police then visited the

woman's house, but it was locked. However, when the cops managed to get inside, they felt that there was something wrong. Upon looking closely, police found Singh's body had been buried in a sewage pit in their house. Forensic teams examined the scene of the crime.

D acting like persecuting agency: Kavitha's lawyer

New Delhi: Bharatiya Rashtra Samiti leader K Kavitha on Monday told a Delhi court that the Enforcement Directorate is acting like a "persecuting agency" with no fairness or impartiality. Kavitha is in judicial custody in the alleged liquor scam case. Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi was appearing for Kavitha before the court of special judge Kaveri Baweja that was hearing her bail plea in the matter. "ED is not acting as a prosecuting agency but as a persecuting



agency...There is no fairness or impartiality. The probe is totally motivated. They say either we will arrest you or if I don't arrest you, I will play the game of cat and mouse," Singhvi submitted. Referring to ED's repeated summons to Kavitha, he quipped that a summons a day

keeps ED happy. Singhvi is yet to conclude his arguments in the matter, which will be heard next on April 4. Meanwhile, advocate Nitesh Rana, also appearing for Kavitha, requested the court to allow her access to home-cooked food, books, sports shoes and

prayer beads while she is in jail. The court, however, said it would consider the BRS leader's request for home-cooked food only if there was a prescription prescribing the same, as it is not allowed otherwise. The court further stated that authorities have informed it that home-cooked meals are not permitted. Singhvi submitted before the court that he was making submissions on both final as well as interim bail and that even if the interim relief is granted or denied, the final relief remains open.

Poll frenzy: From volleyball to vada, campaigns

Chennai: It's season, and candidates are immersing themselves in the festive atmosphere of the campaign trail, engaging in a variety of unconventional activities. They're spiking volleyballs, frying up vada, and doing whatever it takes to catch the public's eye.

In Dindigul, P Thilagabamu of PMK, known locally for her work in healthcare, took her campaign to the streets with a vibrant roadshow. The highlight? A spontaneous stop at a tea shop where she began frying vada and paniyaram, all while championing the virtues of



PMK and its alignment with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initiatives. This campaign stunt turned heads and drew crowds. Upon spotting farmers in the field, he seized the opportunity to join them, using his own farming background to connect and discuss DMK's commitment to

resolving agricultural issues. The campaign trail heated up in Coimbatore when Ganapathy P Rajkumar of the ruling party joined a volleyball game with local youth, aiming to garner both their support and their votes. Meanwhile, some candidates across the state

resorted to making tea, preparing mutton dishes, and even borrowing a bullock cart in their quest for votes. Chennai saw a unique approach from the AIADMK. Led by former MLA P Dhansingh, the party's cadres embarked on a door-to-door mission, armed with photographs of their leader and the late chief minister J Jayalalithaa, to personally convey their welfare promises and secure commitments to vote for AIADMK. Dhansingh criticized DMK for reducing programmes initiated by AIADMK.

Require more than one reserved seat, say TN tribal voices

Election fervour may be gripping the nation, but not for the tribal communities in the state, who continue to be politically marginalised alongside under-representation in education, basic rights, infrastructure, economic development, and healthcare. Tribal welfare groups and activists came together recently to address the persistent neglect of tribal concerns in political agendas. "There are more than 30 gov't-recognised tribal communities in Tamil Nadu such as Adiyam, Aranadan, Eravallan, Irular, Kadar, and Kammara while many others are fighting for scheduled tribe status. But we still don't have reservation for seats in the parliamentary general elections and have only one reserved seat in the legislative assembly election," says R Rajangam,

founder of The Empowerment Centre of Nomads and Tribes (TENT), Madurai. "This seat is often passed to the Malaiyali tribe (hill tribes) because they are generally educated and seen as more wealthy." Activists say the reason other tribes do not get the opportunity to acquire the reserved seat is because education is a distant dream for many. "In all fairness, the Malaiyali tribes are educated, and we need an educated person from our community to voice our concerns. However, our issues are never addressed because no one listens to the concerns of so many tribes," says R Maheshwari, co-founder of TENT. The constituency allocations were reduced from 3% to 2%, citing that the population of tribals in TN is decreasing. But tribal rights

activists say the population is well over 10 lakh. "A census needs to be conducted to ensure equal opportunity in the coming elections," she says. What also appears to be a matter of concern on the bureaucratic side is that though there are people from scheduled caste communities who secure the posts of IAS officers through reservation, there is no representation from tribal communities. "The gov't looks at issues facing the ST community from a broader lens and tries to provide us with jobs and housing. That is never enough, as each tribal community has different needs," says Shibu T, an advocate and social activist based in Kanyakumari. "In order to present the needs of each community, there should be representation from within the communities."

Why terror groups are targeting Chinese nationals in Pakistan

NEW DELHI: In the wake of a devastating attack that claimed the lives of five Chinese engineers, concerns over security have prompted some Chinese workers to consider leaving Pakistan. This recent incident, which targeted a vehicle en route to the Dasu power project, has significantly disrupted critical hydropower projects and raised alarms among Chinese nationals working across various projects under the \$60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor initiative. Suspension of civil works and workforce layoff



In response to the tragic incident, the Power Construction Corporation of China (PCCC) has paused civil works at the Tarbela 5th Extension Hydropower Project in Swabi district, KP province, and laid off over 2,000 workers. The

suspension, aimed at reassessing security measures, underscores the growing concerns among Chinese companies operating in Pakistan. The tragic event is part of a series of targeted assaults against Chinese personnel and interests in Pakistan, heightening tensions and necessitating a robust response from both Islamabad and Beijing. A team of Chinese investigators has since joined Pakistani authorities to probe the attack further, underscoring the urgent

need for enhanced security measures to protect the thousands of Chinese workers in the country. **Why Chinese are being targeted** A statement from the ISPR has pinpointed "specific foreign entities" as the culprits behind the recent surge in terrorism. Meanwhile, the Foreign Office attributes the unrest to "adversaries of the Pakistan-China partnership." However, it's the local terror group which are attacking Chinese projects and

Lights go out every night on radial road

Chennai: For nearly three years, a stream of headlights snakes its way down the Pallavaram-Thoraipakkam Radial Road carrying tech professionals back home after a long day. But for those navigating the three-kilometre stretch between Kovilambakkam and Eechangadu, the journey takes on an unsettling edge. This section plunges into darkness after sunset, transforming the road from a bustling corridor into a potential hazard zone. Tambaram Corporation has started installing LED lights across its jurisdiction at a cost of 54 crore. Work has begun on Grand Southern Trunk road and Chromepet, said corporation commissioner R Alagumeena. More than 40,000 street lights are being replaced with LED lights to bring down the cost, she added. Five years ago Pallavaram municipality installed solar lights at a stretch (junction between Taluk office and Radial Road).

INDI Alliance formed not to save democracy but to save corrupt

Chandigarh: The political Chanakya Amit Shah, while addressing the party workers and BJP leaders at the 'Shakti Kendra Pramukh Sammelan' at Polo Ground in Rajasthan ahead of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, taunted the I.N.D.I Alliance, saying, "No matter how many parties come together in this 'Ghamandiya Gathbandhan' (arrogant alliance), Modi will still come." The entire country knows that the dream of defeating Modi in the arrogant alliance will remain just a dream. This alliance of the opposition doesn't work to save democracy but to promote nepotism in politics. The 'Ghamandiya Gathbandhan' is only concerned about the family, besides whom nobody else matters. Whether it's Ashok Gehlot, Lalu Prasad Yadav, Uddhav Thackeray, or M.K. Stalin, all these leaders want to make their sons chief ministers. While Mamata Banerjee dreams of



making her nephew the CM, and Sonia Gandhi wants to make her son Rahul Gandhi the Prime Minister. People of the country have realised, how can those who are worried about their own families care about the youth of the country? The real place for the leaders of the 'Ghamandiya Gathbandhan' tainted with corruption is jail, and this is becoming evident in the era of Amrit Kaal. In 2014, the people of Rajasthan had given all 25 seats in Modi's bag with 55% votes; in 2019, they gave all 25 seats to Modi again with 61% votes. This time too, the people of Rajasthan have decided to give Modi 25 out of 25 seats with 70% votes, making it a hat-

trick. Before 2014, Sonia and Manmohan's Govt plunged the entire country into darkness. But when the people of the country and Rajasthan made Modi the Prime Minister in 2014, "Since then, Modi has shown that the government of Delhi belongs to the poor. Today, this same army of the poor is ready to clean up the Congress mess." In the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the skilled guidance of Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah, the BJP has set a target of winning 400+ seats. Shah firmly believes that it's not the lead-

Kalyan Jewellers announces the launch of its first showroom in Rohtak

Rohtak : Kalyan Jewellers, one of India's most-trusted and leading jewellery brands, has announced that it will be launching its first ever showroom at Jhang Colony, Delhi Road, Rohtak. The brand new showroom will be inaugurated by Bollywood star Malaika Arora, which will offer service-backed shopping experience to patrons. The showroom inauguration is scheduled to happen on 7th April 2024 at 4 PM. Celebrating the launch, Kalyan Jewellers has announced an exciting range of offers to ensure that patrons gain maximum benefits from their jewellery purchases from the all-new show-



room. It has also announced that the Kalyan Special Gold Board Rate – lowest in the market and standardized across all company showrooms – will apply on the jewellery purchases from the new showroom. These offers are valid for a limited period only. Speaking about the announcement, Mr. Ramesh Kalyanaraman, Executive Director of Kalyan Jewellers said, "As a company, we have achieved huge milestones and taken major strides towards creating a holistic ecosystem to enhance the customer shopping experience. Over the years, we have consistently focused on strategically expanding our presence in the northern region. We believe the upcoming showroom launch in Rohtak will enable us to strengthen our market share in Haryana, while also providing con-

BJP: System to register property docs 'big scam'

New Delhi: Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor on Monday alleged that National Generic Document Registration System introduced by Delhi govt to streamline the system of registering property documents was turning into a "big scam".

Kapoor alleged that with the implementation of NGDRS, govt allowed people to book a slot at the sub-registrar office for registration of sale deeds, wills and 25 other such documents. "Now, one can book a slot for the registry of documents online. Since there are a limited

number of slots, the waiting list has gone up to 1-2 months at some sub-registrar offices," Kapoor explained. "Misusing the system, some people book slots for registration of will. In case somebody has to urgently register a sale deed, the slot is sold for thousands of rupees.

Sunita Kejriwal: Country will give reply to 'dictatorship'

New Delhi: After chief minister Arvind Kejriwal was remanded to 15-day judicial custody by a special Rouse Avenue court, his wife, Sunita, questioned the logic of the ruling. Talking to reporters outside the courtroom, Sunita said, "If the investigation was over, why has he (Arvind Kejriwal) been sent to jail? The people of the country will give answer to this dictatorship." She added: "He was questioned for 11 days and the court did not say he was an accused." While walking out of the courtroom, Kejriwal said: "Whatever the PM is doing is not good for the country." Addressing a press conference later, AAP leader Jasmine Shah alleged that Enforcement Directorate had adopted a two-pronged strategy — keep Kejriwal away from campaigning in elections and topple AAP govt by poaching its MLAs. Shah claimed that ED did not give any statement on what evidence or leads it got from questioning Kejriwal. "They (ED) questioned him for 11 days and still did not find any evidence against him. They could have released him now. But their aim was never to question him, their main objective was to put Arvind Kejriwal behind bars," Shah alleged. The AAP leader said ED and BJP had been conspiring against Kejriwal to stop him from campaigning so that AAP didn't perform well in the election.

Eicher Trucks & Buses expands its presence in Gurugram with the inauguration of new 3S dealership in Bilaspur

Gurugram: Eicher Trucks & Buses, a business unit of VE Commercial Vehicles Ltd., continues its strategic expansion in Haryana with the inauguration of a new 3S dealership in Bilaspur. Sai Shreeja dealership, strategically located in Main NH-8, marks Eicher's commitment to serving customers in Bilaspur (Gurugram) and its surrounding areas. This new dealership, the latest addition to Eicher's growing network, aims to provide exceptional services to Eicher truck and bus customers. Sai Shreeja, Bilaspur includes an expansive display area covering 30,000 square feet and



12 bays dedicated to servicing vehicles. This comprehensive 3S branch is equipped to handle various vehicle servicing needs, from routine maintenance to emergency and accidental repairs. Additionally, the dealership features an office area, a comprehensive

spare parts section, utility rooms, driver amenities, wheel alignment facilities, and a dedicated training room, to ensure a one-stop service experience for customers. Commenting on the inauguration, Mr. Vinod Aggarwal, MD & CEO, VECV, emphasized Eicher's customer-centric approach, stating, "At Eicher, we are consistently expanding our dealership network to be closer to our customers with the ultimate aim of delivering customer satisfaction. Eicher promises to boost truck and bus productivity and business profitability for our customers.

Aakash Educational Services Limited announces Educational Scholarships for April 2024

Bahadurgarh: Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), a national leader in test preparatory services, has announced various scholarships prior to the commencement of its new session scheduled to begin in April 2024 to enable students to realise their dream of becoming doctors and engineers. The first scholarship is the Instant Admission Cum Scholarship Test (iACST), offering up to 90% scholarship for admission into Medical, Engineering, and Foundation courses.



Additionally, Aakash will provide special discounts to children of martyrs, defense personnel and terrorism-affected individuals. Mr. Anup Agarwal, Chief Business Officer at Aakash Educational Services Limited, stated, "We are dedicated to

providing accessible and impactful educational opportunities for students across India. Through initiatives like iACST and our scholarship programmes, we aim to empower deserving students to achieve their academic and career aspirations. We

are proud to continue our tradition of supporting the education of children of our brave Armed Forces personnel and are committed to fostering excellence and inclusivity in education." The Instant Admission Cum Scholarship Test (iACST) offers students immediate scholarship awards and opportunities for instant admission. Students can take the exam online and receive details of their earned scholarships instantly, enabling them to secure instant admission under the expert guidance.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor Launches the All-New URBAN CRUISER TAISOR: "Make Your Way" with the New SUV

PANIPAT/SONIPAT: Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM), today launched the All-New Toyota URBAN CRUISER TAISOR, a dynamic addition to its robust and full range of versatile SUV line-up in India. Marking the company's re-entry into the A-SUV segment, the All-New Toyota URBAN CRUISER TAISOR is positioned to offer a sense of prestige derived from the modern styling, cutting-edge features and advanced technologies, which also makes it



a perfect choice for Indian customers. The new product further reinforces the company's commanding presence in the SUV category. The All-New URBAN CRUISER TAISOR is available in 1.0L Turbo, 1.2L Petrol and E-CNG options. The 1.0L Turbo is available in 5 Speed Manual Transmission and 6

Speed Automatic Transmission, thus offering a versatile choice for customers who prioritize both power and performance preferences. While the

1.2L Petrol comes in 5 Speed Manual Transmission and Intelligent Gear Shift (IGS), the 1.2L E-CNG is available in 5 Speed Manual Transmission. The All-New URBAN CRUISER TAISOR delivers maximum power of 100.06 PS @ 5500 rpm in the 1.0L Turbo option.

Youth who went to Russia due to unemployment got stuck in the war, the government did not take cognizance: Anurag Dhanda

Kaithal: Senior state vice president of Aam Aadmi Party Anurag Dhanda held a press conference and cornered the Haryana government on the issue of youths stranded abroad. After this, he held a meeting of the district executive to intensify the election campaign. District president Sardar Gajjan Singh Gobindpura, Hon. Satbir Goyat, Rakesh Khanpur, Kulbhushan Sharma, Karamjit Atal, Jagjit Singh, Ram Kumar, Amrik Singh, Pradeep Kumar, Harjinder Singh, Leela Ram, Sonia Sharma and Jitendra Singh were present with him. In the press conference, he said that the situation



regarding unemployment in Haryana is from bad to worse and the youths are crying for employment. But especially in the areas of Kaithal and Kurukshetra, the problem of unemployment has taken a terrible form. At many places, children are selling their land and going abroad. Today, many youths of Matour went to Russia due to unem-

ployment who are stuck in the war between Russia and Ukraine. We want to know what the government is doing on this issue. There is a BJP MLA from Kaithal, former minister Kamlesh Dhanda is also from Kalayat and current minister Subhash Sudha is also from Kurukshetra Lok Sabha. But despite this, has any of them gone to

meet those victim families? He said that Nayab Saini is still leading the Kurukshetra Lok Sabha till the elections are over. Has he taken cognizance of this issue? Being the Chief Minister of the state, if he wants, a solution can be

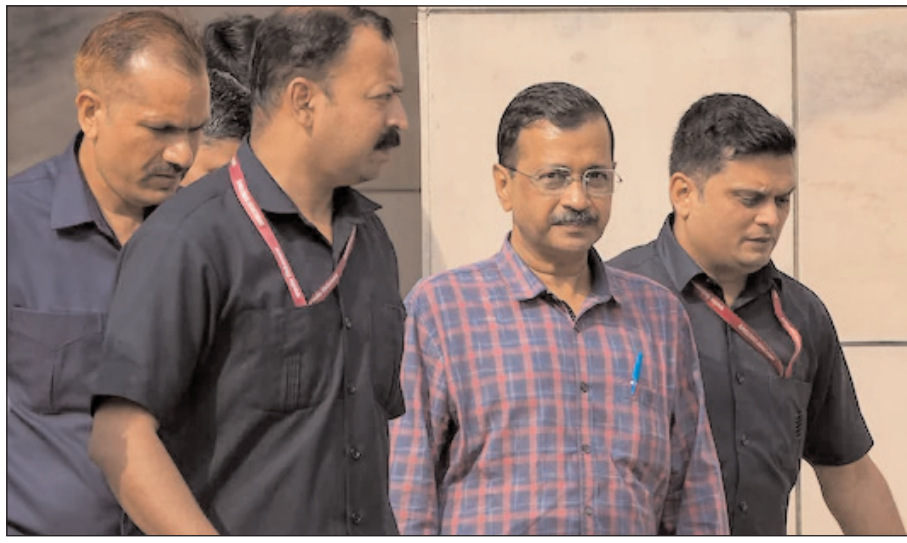
found immediately with the help of the Ministry of External Affairs. He said that Naveen Jindal is a candidate from this Lok Sabha and is a big industrialist. Naveen Jindal knows PM Modi very well, when he can get his coal scam stains washed off by PM Modi, then can't he appeal to PM Modi even once to bring back these children?

No change in JEE (Main), NEET-UG, CUET-UG dates

Delhi: JEE (Main), the engineering entrance test for centrally funded colleges and eligibility test for IIT entrance (JEE-Advanced), is scheduled between April 4 and 15, outside of the election date schedule. NEET-UG is on May 5 and CUET-UG is on May 15-31, as announced. NTA director general Subodh Kumar Singh said NEET-UG, the admission test for medical, dental, and allied health courses, will be held as scheduled since there is no voting on May 5 or the day before or after. About CUET-UG, which is being registered online, NTA is not modifying the exam window but will decide on the dates later. We kept May 15-31 for CUET-UG. Singh said a final call will be made following registration.

Kejriwal's up & down ride on rough political terrain

New Delhi: When Sheila Dikshit was finding her foot in administration as a first term CM in 1998-2003, Arvind Kejriwal was feeling disillusioned as an Indian Revenue Service officer and pushing for transparency in the public distribution system through his NGO Parivartan in north-east Delhi's Sunder Nagri. A decade later, the revenue officer not only defeated the three-term CM from her home constituency of New Delhi by over 20,000 votes, but also replaced the Congress leader as the head of the state govt. Kejriwal's journey, of course, hasn't had a straight trajectory.



Reflecting the complexities of navigating Indian politics while striving for systemic change, he now faces allegations of corruption, the very issue that had brought him into the limelight. The year was 2011 and the ruling Congress

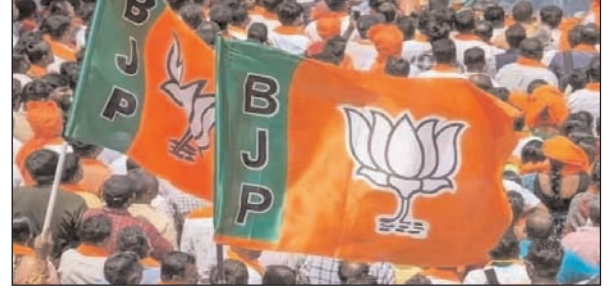
was sinking with back-to-back allegations of scams — from the Commonwealth Games in Delhi to allocation of 2G spectrum at the national level. The overall sentiment was against the ruling dispensation, only there wasn't a party to

channel the mass ire. Then in April, the India Against Corruption movement began with the demand for the creation of a Lokpal with powers to charge govt officials accused of corruption. Anna Hazare was the face of the movement

but everyone knew that the backroom boy was Arvind Kejriwal, who was leading a team from different ideological and social backgrounds — poet Kumar Vishwas, lawyer Shanti Bhushan, psephologist Yogendra Yadav, to name a few. IAC drew instant popularity and with it emerged Kejriwal. His knack for oratory was established in TV studios, where he explained the complexities of the Lok Pal concept with ease. In one of these debates, Kejriwal said he would never enter politics. This changed in Nov 2012, when facing criticism from the intelligentsia.

New Delhi: BJP MP Manoj Tiwari on Friday said gangs were run from jail, not administration, and demanded chief minister Arvind Kejriwal's resignation after his arrest by Enforcement Directorate (ED) in an excise policy-related case. Earlier, AAP minister Atishi had said Kejriwal would continue as chief minister and run Delhi government from prison after his arrest by ED in the money laundering case. "We have seen gangs running from jail, not any govt," said the North East Delhi MP, who is BJP's candidate from the constituency for this Lok Sabha election, too. "BJP has always stood, against corruption, no matter how big a position the corrupt person holds," Tiwari claimed.

Leader of opposition in Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, who is contesting from South



Delhi, said AAP came to power in Delhi with the promise of opening 500 schools and colleges, but Kejriwal broke all the promises as he was busy with the alleged liquor scam. "Instead of providing water to the people, he opened liquor vends in every street," he alleged. BJP's New Delhi candidate, Bansuri Swaraj, said Kejriwal had kept running away from the investigation. "Since a long time, investigating agencies were trying to question him as he was the ultimate beneficiary of the liquor 'scam.'" For the past two years, Kejriwal had been flirting with the law and trying to prolong the case, but now he has to understand that the law has reached him and he will be punished, too, she claimed.

brought for personal gain. "Kejriwal used to call the liquor policy beneficial but as the layers were revealed after investigation, it became clear that it is a game of corruption," he alleged. BJP's New Delhi candidate, Bansuri Swaraj, said Kejriwal had kept running away from the investigation. "Since a long time, investigating agencies were trying to question him as he was the ultimate beneficiary of the liquor 'scam.'" For the past two years, Kejriwal had been flirting with the law and trying to prolong the case, but now he has to understand that the law has reached him and he will be punished, too, she claimed.

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

KOLKATA: A team from the Enforcement Directorate (ED) conducted searches at the residence of West Bengal minister Chandranath Sinha in Bolpur, Birbhum district.

The search is part of the investigation into an alleged school recruitment scam. The ED team, accompanied by central forces, arrived at Sinha's residence at 9.15 am to begin the search.

Sinha, who serves as the minister for MSME and Textiles in the



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

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

Lottery banned in AP but lottery king made YSRCP rich

Visakhapatnam: The company Future Gaming and Hotel Services has emerged as the key figure in electoral bond financing in Andhra Pradesh with its purchase of electoral bonds worth Rs 154 crore in favour of YSRCP between April 2019 and Feb 2024. Future Gaming, with a total contribution of Rs 1,368 crore, is also the biggest purchaser of bonds in the country.

This contribution accounted for nearly half the Rs 328 crore received by the governing party in Andhra Pradesh from various individuals and corporations during that period (April 2019 to February 2024).

It is remarkable to note the substantial contribution of Future Gaming to YSRCP despite the company's absence from Andhra Pradesh. Lottery is banned in the state. Following closely is Hyderabad-based conglomerate Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Ltd (MEIL), with bond purchases amounting to Rs 37 crore for YSRCP.



MEIL is engaged in several significant projects in Andhra Pradesh, including the nearly Rs 50,000 crore Polavaram project. It has diversified interests spanning across sectors such as power, irrigation, highways, ports, and manufacturing. Ramco Cement, with a presence in Andhra Pradesh, made a gesture by donating Rs 24 crore. Ostro Jaisalmer Pvt Ltd (Rs 17 crore) and Ostro Madhya Wind Pvt Ltd (Rs 17 crore) secured the subsequent positions.

The YSRCP-led government of Andhra Pradesh, working on a renewable energy mission, has secured close to Rs 60 crore in funding through bonds from various solar and wind energy.

Plans in place to maximise collection of property tax

New Delhi: With a few days left for this financial year to end, civic bodies, including Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and Delhi Development Authority, have made arrangements to maximise property tax collection.

Except for Holi, the property tax offices will remain open on all days. Circulars, messages and notices have also been sent out in large numbers to motivate people to pay their pending dues. Till Friday, MCD's property tax collection was Rs 1,950 crore in comparison to Rs 1,862 crore till this point of time last year. The overall collection last year was Rs 2,417 crore.

"Unlike last year, there is no amnesty scheme in place this time. But, we are still making best efforts.



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

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

Putting an end to the ambiguity over some of the key seats like Penamaluru, Sarvapalli, Narasaraopet, and Palasa, the TDP high command reposed faith in the existing in-charges. After much drama in the Penamaluru constituency in Krishna district, the TDP has finally given the ticket to the current in-charge, Bode Prasad, dashing the hopes of former minister Devineni Umamaheswara Rao, who lost the Mylavaram ticket to his rival and incumbent MLA Vasantha Krishna Prasad, who switched sides from YSRC to TDP.

TDP chief N. Chandrababu Naidu did not announce the candidate for the Sarvepalli constituency in Nellore district, which is represented by former minister Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy.

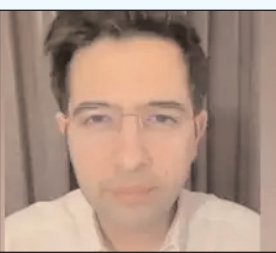
There has been much speculation over a change of candidate in Sarvepalli given the poor track record of Chandramohan Reddy. However, the former minister managed to convince the high command and finally got the ticket. Similarly, in Narasaraopet, Chirala, and Palasa assembly segments, the TDP high command considered various options but finally reposed faith in the existing in-charges. While the Narasaraopet ticket was given to Dr. Chadalavada Aravind Babu, Chirala has been given to M. M. Kondiah Yadav, and Gouthu Sirisha retained Palasa. Interestingly, all three of them are from BC communities. The TDP is yet to announce its candidates in Etcherla, Cheepurupalli, Bhimili, Darsi, Rajampet, Alur, Guntakal, and Anantapur urban constituencies.

However, there will be some tweaks to these constituencies as the TDP has announced a candidate for the Srikakulam assembly, which was not there in the initial proposal. Jana Sena is likely to get one seat from North Andhra districts as part of the last-minute adjustments, according to sources. Similarly, in Rayalaseema districts also, one or two changes are likely to be made as part of the seat-sharing arrangement with BJP, said sources.

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

CHANDIGARH: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national spokesperson and Punjab Rajya Sabha member Raghav Chadha has been in London since around March 8, it has emerged, even as opposition parties in Punjab are raising questions about his whereabouts.

This comes at such a crucial time with the Lok Sabha elections



approaching — and now the arrest of Delhi chief minister and AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal. Chadha spoke on March 9 at the London Indian Forum of the London School

of Economics, where he himself studied and met his wife, Parineeti Chopra. On March 8, he tweeted: "Namaste England," presumably when he landed. On Wednesday this week, he watched UK PM Rishi Sunak and Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer battle it out at the weekly Prime Minister Questions from the Speaker's private gallery.

UP police paper leak: 1 arrested from Haryana

LUCKNOW: The Special Task Force (STF) of Uttar Pradesh arrested Satish Dhankad, the owner of a resort in Manesar, Haryana, in connection with the recent UP police constable paper leak.

He was apprehended from Nature Valley resort located under Prem Nagar police station in the Manesar area of Haryana.

Dhankad's arrest follows investigations that revealed his involvement in aiding the distribution of leaked exam papers for the police constable recruitment test, as reported by the STF.

STF officials disclosed that an elusive Delhi police constable, Vikram Pahal, escorted approximately 1,000 aspirants to Dhankad's resort on February 15. There, they were provided with exam questions to memorize, as captured in a video that later circulated widely on social media platforms. The STF stated that Dhankad charged Rs 500 per candidate. The alleged kingpin, Ravi Atri, who remains at large had decided to take the students to Satish's resort. Providing details, Additional SP of STF, Dinesh Singh, stated that during interrogation, Satish Dhankad confessed to his involvement in the crime. He revealed that he was approached by Vikram Pahal, a constable in the Delhi Police, who enlisted his resort for the nefarious activity.

Two-tier security ring, drones for surveillance at CM Kejriwal residence

NEW DELHI: Delhi Police put a two-tier security ring in place and used drones for surveillance at the residence of chief minister Arvind Kejriwal who was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate on Thursday night. Around a dozen Aam Aadmi Party workers, including MLA Rakhi Birla, were briefly detained from outside Kejriwal's home in Civil Lines after they engaged in sloganeering and tried to create a ruckus, police said, adding that they were let off later at night. The cops are anticipating large-scale protests at several places by AAP workers on Friday.

Police have stepped up security outside the ED offices at Akbar Road and APJ Abdul Kalam Road. The cops will also throw in multi-layer security when Kejriwal is likely to be produced in court on Friday afternoon. "If protests break out, ED may take a call on insisting on production via videoconferencing," a senior cop said. Prohibitory orders under Section 144 of CrPc may be imposed in different areas of the city on Friday. Apart from police personnel from north Delhi, reserved forces and the Rapid Action Force were deployed at the Flagstaff Road residence of Kejriwal soon

after ED sleuths landed there with a search warrant. Barricades were also put up on the lane leading to the chief minister's official residence in north Delhi. As soon as the news of the arrest came out, workers started protesting on the road. Cops swung into action and started removing and detaining them. They were sent to different police stations in north Delhi. The Special Branch is learnt to be keeping a close tab on the chatter pertaining to demonstrations, etc, officials said. An informal message shared amongst a few senior cops talked about taking abundant precau-

tions so that no instance of violence is reported from any part of the city. Sources said while the city cops are keeping a hawk-eyed vigil on movement in critical areas, agencies are also monitoring the speeches being given by senior AAP leaders. District DCPs have been asked to be on high alert. Police officers have begun foot patrols in some vulnerable areas. Traffic police are also on high alert to manage any potential disruptions caused by the protests. An officer said, "We have received verbal orders from senior officers to be on the ground.

Dominant Knight Riders crush Capitals by 106 runs, jump to top of IPL 2024 standings



NEW DELHI: Kolkata Knight Riders soared to the top of the Indian Premier League 2024 points table after demolishing a lacklustre Delhi Capitals by 106 runs in a stunning display of power-hitting followed by a clinical bowling effort on Wednesday. Sunil Narine led the charge with a scintillating 85, showcasing his batting prowess with seven boundaries and seven sixes in his 39-ball blitz. Teenager Angkrish Raghuvanshi impressed in his IPL debut innings with a

fluent 54 off 27 balls, complementing Narine's explosive innings as they shared a formidable 104-run partnership off just 48 balls. As it happened: Delhi Capitals vs Kolkata Knight Riders. With contributions from Andre Russell (41 off 19 balls) and Rinku Singh (26 off 8 balls), Kolkata Knight Riders posted an imposing total of 272/7, just five runs short of the highest total in IPL history. In response, Delhi Capitals faltered under the pressure of the mammoth target,

crumbling to 166 all out in 17.2 overs. Despite skipper Rishabh Pant's valiant 55 and Tristan Stubbs' gritty 54, the Capitals never looked like they were in the game as they suffered their third loss of the season. Kolkata's dominance continued with the ball as pacer Vaibhav Arora and Australian fast bowler Mitchell Starc dismantled Delhi's top order in the powerplay, dismissing key batsmen including Prithvi Shaw, Mitchell Marsh, and David Warner.

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

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

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

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

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

DC struggled throughout the



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

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

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

"Our bowlers were all over

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Who is Angkrish? The youngster who rocked IPL stage in debut innings

NEW DELHI: Angkrish Raghuvanshi announced his arrival on the big stage as the young Kolkata Knight Riders batter left an indelible mark with a stunning half-century against Delhi Capitals on Wednesday. Raghuvanshi, who missed out on batting in his debut IPL match against Royal Challengers Bangalore, showcased his prowess with a rapid-fire 54 off 27 balls, forming a scintillating 104-run partnership with Sunil Narine off just 48 balls.



Raghuvanshi, the right-handed batter, emerged as India's top run-scorer during the 2022 Under-19 World Cup in the Caribbean, contributing significantly to

India's victory. Despite recording a two-ball duck against England in the final, Raghuvanshi finished fourth on the overall scorers' list, accumulating 278 runs from

six innings. Originally hailing from Delhi, Raghuvanshi relocated to Mumbai at the age of 11, where he commenced his cricket training under the guidance of Abhishek Nayar and Omkar Salvi. Not long after, he made the decision to permanently shift to Mumbai. Raghuvanshi made his List A and T20 debuts for Mumbai during the 2023-24 season. Subsequently, he was acquired by the KKR for Rs 20 lakh ahead of the IPL 2024 season.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor Launches the All-New URBAN CRUISER TAISOR: "Make Your Way" with the New SUV

Vatika Times GURUGRAM/ROHTAK:

Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM), today launched the All-New URBAN CRUISER TAISOR, a dynamic addition to its robust and full range of versatile SUV line-up in India. Marking the company's re-entry into the A-SUV segment, the All-New URBAN CRUISER TAISOR is positioned to offer a sense of prestige derived from the modern styling, cutting-edge features and advance technologies,

which also makes it a perfect choice for Indian customers. The new product further reinforces the company's commanding presence in the SUV category. The All-New URBAN CRUISER TAISOR is available in 1.0L Turbo, 1.2L Petrol and E-CNG options. The 1.0L Turbo is available in 5 Speed Manual Transmission and 6 Speed Automatic Transmission, thus offering a versatile choice for customers who prioritize both power and performance preferences.

While the 1.2L Petrol comes in 5 Speed Manual Transmission and Intelligent Gear Shift (IGS), the 1.2L E-CNG is available in 5 Speed Manual Transmission. The All-New URBAN CRUISER TAISOR delivers maximum power of 100.06 PS @ 5500 rpm in the 1.0L Turbo option, offering a power packed driving experience with segment best fuel efficiency. The 1.2L Petrol offers a maximum power of 21.5* km/l for Manual and 20.0* km/l for Automatic. The 1.2L

Petrol Engine offers maximum power of 89.73 PS @6000rpm with a fuel efficiency of 21.7* Manual and 22.8*(AMT) km/l. The All-New URBAN CRUISER TAISOR is also available in the E-CNG option offering fuel efficiency of 28.5* km/kg. Present at the event Mr. Masakazu Yoshimura, MD and CEO of Toyota Kirloskar Motor and Regional CEO at Toyota Motor Corporation (TMC) said, "The Indian market has always been of paramount importance."

'You always have to be down to earth, especially in...': Shreyas

NEW DELHI: Sunil Narine's blistering 85 propelled Kolkata Knight Riders to a commanding total of 272-7, marking the second-highest ever score in IPL history, during their resounding 106-run triumph over Delhi Capitals on Wednesday. This monumental



score came on the heels of Sunrisers Hyderabad's record-breaking innings total of 277-3 just a week prior. They subsequently bowled out Delhi for 166 in 17.2 overs, securing their position at the top of the 10-team table. Despite securing three consecutive wins, KKR skipper Shreyas Iyer cautioned his team against complacency and urged them to remain focused.

"You always have to be down to earth, especially in the IPL," Iyer said in the post-match presentation.

On posting IPL's second highest total ever, Iyer said he initially thought of 210-220 after Narine's blitzkrieg but 270 was beyond expectation. "No no, the way we started we thought 210-220, but 270 was icing on the cake. As I said in the toss interview, Sunny is there to take on the bowlers, and if he cannot the rest of us should. That's the plan," he added. Emerging star Angkrish Raghuvanshi impressed with a fluent half-century on his IPL batting debut and Iyer was pleased.

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available in 1.0L Turbo, 1.2L Petrol and E-CNG options. The 1.0L Turbo is available in 5 Speed Manual Transmission and 6 Speed Automatic Transmission, thus offering a versatile choice for customers who prioritize both power and performance preferences. While the 1.2L Petrol comes in 5 Speed Manual Transmission and Intelligent Gear Shift (IGS), the 1.2L E-

CNG is available in 5 Speed Manual Transmission. The All-New URBAN CRUISER TAISOR delivers maximum power of 100.06 PS @ 5500 rpm in the 1.0L Turbo option, offering a power packed driving experience with segment best fuel efficiency of 21.5* km/l for Manual and 20.0* km/l for Automatic. The 1.2L Petrol Engine offers maximum power of

89.73 PS @6000rpm with a fuel efficiency of 21.7* Manual and 22.8*(AMT) km/l. The All-New URBAN CRUISER TAISOR is also available in the E-CNG option offering fuel efficiency of 28.5* km/kg. Present at the event Mr. Masakazu Yoshimura, MD and CEO of Toyota Kirloskar Motor and Regional CEO at Toyota Motor Corporation (TMC) said, "The Indian market has always been of paramount importance to us, both in terms of product offerings and introduction of advanced technologies. This emphasis was further underpinned by the recent creation of a new region where the Indian market plays an even more crucial role."

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



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

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