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Today's India hits back at terror, doesn't just bear scars: PM Modi

● "This new India does not bear the wounds of terrorism, but teaches a lesson with full force to those who inflicted the wounds"



NEW DELHI: PM Narendra Modi on Wednesday, in an apparent reference to Pakistan, said those who used to bleed India by inflicting terror were suffering and their pitiable condition was there for all to see whereas India's role in global growth was being acknowledged worldwide. Speaking at the News18 Rising Bharat Conclave, he once again sounded supremely confident of winning LS polls and said the next five years would be crucial to continue the country's growth journey even as he recalled how the past 10 years had witnessed overall growth on all parameters. "Be it the leaders of terrorism or the countries seeking

development and peace, everyone has experienced Rising Bharat. This new India does not bear the wounds of terrorism, but teaches a lesson with full force to those who inflicted the wounds of terrorism," Modi said. PM Narendra Modi backs ED, says agencies given free hand PM cited the remarks of Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut likening him with Aurangzeb as he said, "The govt has approached the electorate based on its performance in the past 10 years. And it has also started working on a

roadmap for 100 days in its third term. On the other hand, the opposition parties are setting a new record. Today, Modi was abused for the 104th time. Modi has been compared with Aurangzeb and there was also a threat to blow his skull." Modi said the entire world considered the 21st century to be that of India. "Big rating agencies and economists are assured of rising India. Why is it that they aren't raising any questions? It's because the entire world is witnessing how India has brought big changes in the last 10 years," he added. He said in the last

10 years, 25 crore people had come out of poverty, the country had moved from being the 10th largest economy to the fifth, India's forex reserves crossed \$700 billion and exports increased exponentially. "However, we need to do a lot more. Our govt is employing technology to catch the corrupt. Today, it's becoming hard to hide money trails, and therefore, stashes of money are being found from beds and walls. Bundles of notes were unearthed from a Congress MP and a TMC leader's home, and hence they are rattled," PM said.

No decision yet on BJP-BJD tie-up, will beat 2014 record in UP: Shah

NEW DELHI:

A decision is yet to be taken on a possible alliance with the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) but the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will increase its numbers in Odisha this year, Union home minister Amit Shah said on Wednesday, also attacking the Opposition over the recently implemented Citizenship (Amendment) Act, or CAA. Shah said that the BJP will get more than 25 Lok Sabha seats in West Bengal, which has 42 Lok Sabha seats, this year, and will break its 2014 record of 71 seats (73 including allies) in Uttar Pradesh. "We don't know yet if we will have an alliance (with BJD) or not. If we do, we will work as allies, and if we don't, we will fight to form the government alone. A decision will be taken by our national president," Shah said at News18's Rising Bharat Summit in New Delhi. "People of Odisha love



Prime Minister Narendra Modi very much. We will have many more seats there (Odisha) this time," he added. Odisha will vote in the Lok Sabha and assembly polls simultaneously in four phases on May 13, 20, 25 and June 1. There are 21 Lok Sabha seats and 147 assembly seats on which elections will be fought, with the BJD, BJP and Congress as key opponents. In 2019, the BJP had won eight and the BJD 12 Lok Sabha seats. In the assembly, the BJD won a landslide victory with 112 seats and the BJP won 23 seats. Shah's comments came amid mounting speculation about a

possible alliance between the two parties that have often collaborated on key bills in Parliament. Shah also spoke about the possibility of an alliance with the Shiromani Akali Dal in Punjab. It will be clear in the next two to three days. Negotiations are on. We want all NDA parties to come together," he said. In Bihar, he said the BJP will fight the polls as "big brother" with more seats than its allies. On Monday, the NDA announced the five-party coalition's seat-sharing arrangement in the electorally crucial state of Bihar, whose 40 Lok Sabha seats will go

to the polls in seven phases beginning April 19. The BJP will fight 17 seats, the same as 2019, and its principal ally, the Janata Dal (United) will fight in 16, one lower than 2019. It is for the first time that the BJP would be contesting more seats than the JD(U). Shah said that the party will improve on its 2019 showing in Bengal. "Since 2017, we have increased our strength in Bengal, in assembly elections and Lok Sabha both. We became the prime opposition in Bengal and increased our seats from two to 18 in Lok Sabha. I can say with confidence that we will get more than 25 seats this election," he said. The party won 18 out of 42 seats in Bengal during 2019 Lok Sabha polls, its best-ever showing. Shah accused West Bengal chief minister Mamata of not allowing the central government.

Jobs-linked PLI scheme to boost several sectors'

Obviously, good indicator of the pack is that the platform or base is very very strong. Second is that in spite of global uncertainty and also the issues which have been faced in different markets, India has managed to stand its own ground. There are obviously two reasons for it. First, is that investment in infrastructure has made the difference in terms of making India more competitive and cost competitive. Second, the real benefit India has seen are gains from digital journey, and the fact that India is seen as the only growing market in world, is building the virtuous cycle. Across all sectors, you would see a good trajectory. Let us step back for a minute and look at the percentage of private capex investment. While obviously we won't have current year data, but if we look at approximately, it is between 36-37% of private sector capex investment, which is actually backing the economy. If we look at 2021-22, it was, I think, 36%. If you look at 2022-23, it was 37% and if we look at 2023-24 also, more or less, we are talking about 36-37%. If you look at it as a percentage, I don't think we are going down in any form or manner. It is not right to say that private sector capex is not happening. Private sector capex is happening and as a percentage, it is fine. Now, next issue which happens is how do we look at it from the perspective of growth parameters. I have explained to you earlier but now we have even more, I would call it proof of that because as the CEO poll, which we did as late as December as well, across steel, cement, energy, automotive, every sector that you look at, all of them have crossed the threshold of 75-85% capacity utilisation and in some cases, it is as high as 95% utilisation.

Gujarat to punish victims, witnesses if ragging incidents not reported

AHMEDABAD: In a bid to curb ragging, Gujarat govt will take stringent action on educational institutions which penalises perpetrators but not victims and witnesses of ragging, if they fail to flag the incident to authorities. Gujarat govt on Tuesday issued a govt resolution (GR) and informed the Gujarat high court about it on Wednesday. This was undertaken after the



HC took suo motu cognizance of a ragging incident at BJ Medical College in Ahmedabad last year. The provision in the GR reads, "Freshers who do not report incidents of ragging either as victims or witnesses shall also be punished suitably." However, it places the burden of proof on the perpetrator of ragging and not the victim. The institution is required to file an

FIR for cases of ragging, if required. The punishment prescribed for perpetrators of ragging is suspension from the institute, withdrawal of scholarship, debarment from exam and educational events, withholding results, expulsion from hostel, cancellation of admission, suspension from academic activities for up to four semesters, expulsion from the institute.

India will take lead in AI, says PM Narendra Modi

MUMBAI: Artificial Intelligence (AI) has opened up new opportunities for India's young innovators and the world believes that India will have an "upper hand" in this area, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday.

"Today, we are in a new era connected by AI technology. Our job is to not let this opportunity pass... National Quantum mission, AI mission and semiconductor mission will open doors to new possibilities for India's youth," Modi said at Startup Mahakumbh. India will take the lead in AI, Modi said, adding that the country will serve as a launchpad for new global innovations



and solutions. "...AI ki samarth, iska netritwa Bharat ke haath mein hi rahega aur rehna bhi chahiye," he said. The PM said during election campaign he himself was making use of AI to overcome the language barrier. "Using AI, I am communicating in Tamil, Telugu and Odiya," he said. Starting his address, Modi took a dig at Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, although he

did not name him. "A lot of people launch startups, more so in politics. They have to be repeatedly launched. The difference between you and then is that you experiment and if it does not work, you quickly move to next one." He also suggested that organisers of the startup event knew what is to follow in next five years as businesses and

US tests hypersonic missile from pacific base of Guam

NEW DELHI: The US Air Force, on Tuesday, said that it had conducted a successful test of an air-launched hypersonic weapon in the Pacific Ocean. The test was carried out on Sunday after a B-52 bomber departed from Guam on Sunday carrying an Air-launched Rapid Response Weapon (ARRW), according to the US Air Force. Why US is developing hypersonic weapons? This test comes amidst growing pressure on



the Pentagon to keep up in the hypersonic weapons race, particularly in light of advancements by China and Russia in this field, according to Defence News. Meanwhile, another South Asian country

North Korea, had announced a successful test of a solid-fuel engine for its new intermediate-range hypersonic missile. As per the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), the experts believed that Pyongyang's pursuit of intermediate-range missiles primarily targets the US Pacific territory of Guam, where American military bases are located. These missiles could potentially reach Alaska.

'Mockery of voters': SC on rebels getting party name on House tally

NEW DELHI: SC in an interim order Tuesday allowed the former to hit the hustings using party name and the symbol 'clock' but directed EC to recognise the rival faction as 'NCP- Sharadchandra Pawar and reserve symbol of 'man blowing turha (trumpet)' for it. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and K V Viswanathan also directed Ajit's faction to give notice in newspapers stating that the matter pertaining to legal fight over the symbol is sub judice and is subject to the final outcome of the case. It said that the faction should mention it in all its pamphlets or audio/video advertisement.

Army inducts first lot of desi anti-drone systems for China border deployment

NEW DELHI: The Army has now inducted an initial lot of seven new indigenous integrated drone detection and interdiction systems (IDD&IS) for deployment along the northern borders with China, even as DRDO is working on more powerful directed energy weapon systems in shape of high-energy lasers and high-powered microwaves. The vehicle-based IDD&IS, which provide for both "soft kills" of hostile drones through jamming and "hard kills" through lasers, has a detection range of 5 to 8 km. While the "soft kill" can jam the drones at ranges from 2 to 5 km, the effective "hard kill" range is over 800 meters. "Produced by DRDO and Bharat Electronics, these IDD&IS are Mark-1

variants inducted by the Army Air Defence (AAD). They will add to the existing counter-drone systems. There will, of course, be advanced IDD&IS versions with longer interception ranges," an officer said. "The systems provide an integrated capability to detect low radar cross-section drones or unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and enable their destruction through integrated application of soft and hard kills," he added. With the cost-effective operational utility of drones and swarm drones being reinforced by the Armenia-Azerbaijan, Russia-Ukraine and other conflicts, the armed forces are going in for induction of a wide array of UAVs from both domestic as well as foreign sources.

Women now account for nearly 48% of Ayushman hospitalisations

NEW DELHI: Women account for nearly 48% of authorised hospitalisations under Ayushman Bharat-PM Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), data accessed by TOI show. Top officials in National Health Authority (NHA), implementing agency of the scheme, told TOI that since its launch in 2018, 6.5 crore hospitalisations have been made under the scheme which involved treatment cost of Rs 81,979 crore. Of this, 3.2 crore hospitalisations for Rs 39,349 crore involved women. Officials said scheme utilisation by women beneficiaries has been higher than that of men in 10 states/UTs - Meghalaya (68%), Arunachal Pradesh (57%), Chhattisgarh



(56%), Mizoram (54%), Nagaland (53%), Jharkhand (51%), Tripura (51%) and J&K (50%). According to NHA documents, top specialties under PMJAY which were utilised more by women than men are - cancer (56%), ophthalmology (54%), otorhinolaryngology or ENT-

related (51%), and neonatal care packages (57%). "Enrolment under AB-PMJAY scheme is steered by thousands of ASHA and aangaenwadi workers across states/UTs. Women also constitute a significant percentage of healthcare providers at local units (AB-Health

Wellness Centres). This has helped increase utilisation of the scheme among women, who have traditionally lagged behind in health-seeking behaviour," a senior health ministry official said. He added that another key change brought in by the scheme which helped

increase women's involvement in health-care scheme was individual enrollment."Before AB-PMJAY, Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana or RSBY was used to provide health insurance coverage to the unrecognised sector workers belonging to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) category and their family members. Only one card was issued to each family, mostly the men who were the breadwinners. We realised this made women in such households dependent on the men to take them to hospital for treatment. However, in case of AB-PMJAY, individual Ayushman cards are issued to each member of families covered.

Officer-in-charge of Sandeshkhali police station transferred

NEW DELHI: The officer-in-charge of Sandeshkhali police station in West Bengal, Biswajit Shanpui, has been transferred by the state government amid the ongoing controversy surrounding allegations of sexual abuse and land grabbing against local TMC leaders. Gopal Sarkar, who previously served as the OC in the Basirhat police district, has been appointed as Shanpui's replacement. While police authorities claim that these transfers are routine administrative

actions due to a reorganisation of additional officials in the district, it is worth noting that on March 1, two officers from the Basirhat police district were also removed following the arrest of TMC leader Shajahan Sheikh. Sheikh, who was on the run for 55 days, was apprehended by the West Bengal Police for his alleged involvement in sexual assault and land grab cases in Sandeshkhali. The state government subsequently handed over the case to the CID after Sheikh's arrest. Recently, the

CBI obtained custody of Sheikh from the West Bengal CID, following orders by the Calcutta High Court. The Sandeshkhali region, located on the fringes of the Sunderbans, has been engulfed in turmoil for over a month due to the allegations against Sheikh and his associates. These allegations include sexual abuse and land usurpation. It is important to note that the Basirhat police district has jurisdiction over this area. (With inputs from agencies)

Bengaluru cops seize explosives from vehicle moving close to school

Bengaluru: Bengaluru Police said on Tuesday they seized explosive items and gelatin sticks in a major haul after the city was struck by an IED blast three weeks ago.



Sunday night, concealed within a tractor located danger-

ously close to a school. Electronic detonators were also uncovered, all found to be unregistered. An FIR has been registered against the tractor owner at the Bellandur police station. Authorities are currently investigating the incident.

To keep or discard, BJP's dilemma over BS Yediyurappa

BENGALURU: Former chief minister BS Yediyurappa has long been both a strength and a weakness for BJP, presenting the party with a perplexing challenge as the current turmoil over ticket distribution shows.



Senior functionaries say the party high command has given him control since it knows that, without him, the party is unlikely to fare well in the Lok Sabha elections. But his elevation has led to much resentment this time. "The Yediyurappa factor is a double-edged sword," a senior BJP functionary said. "His influence within the party and among voters, especially from the Lingayat community, is undeniable. Yet, this very influence has led to conflicts within and accusations of nepotism, which have caused rifts." Yediyurappa's leadership and his political acumen and mass appeal have helped BJP secure victories but reliance on his leadership has also exposed the party's vulnerability, particularly when efforts to broaden its social base have been less successful.

State has enlisted the role of govt. nominees in autonomous colleges

MUMBAI: In a govt resolution issued on, for the first time, the state has enlisted the role of government nominees in autonomous colleges in the state. While govt nominees were always there on the board of autonomous colleges, their roles were never explicitly defined. From attending every meeting of the governing body to ensuring their budget comprehensively reflects all aspects, the nominee is now expected to be the eyes and ears of the government in the truest sense. There are over 70 autonomous colleges affiliated to Mumbai University



alone. A govt nominee is usually an educationist, not below the rank of a professor or a govt officer in the directorate of higher education or the state council of higher education. They are expected to be the link between the institutions and the govt. The GR mentioned that specifying their duties

and responsibilities was being considered for a long time by the govt and therefore the guidelines have been issued. An official from the department said that the idea is to bring in more efficiency in the process and to get proper feedback from the nominees about what is happening on

Several countries possibly planning nuclear testing, India & Pakistan may also follow suit

MUMBAI: Nuclear-armed nations are not just upgrading their atomic weapons, but also possibly planning a test explosion, and India and Pakistan, too, "may seek any opportunity to test another nuclear device", says a report in the current issue of 'Bulletin Of The Atomic Scientists', a journal started in 1945 by Albert Einstein and scientists associated with the Manhattan Project — the design and development of the first atomic bomb. The report has been prepared by Francois Diaz-Maurin, scientific adviser to the European Parliament on nuclear affairs, and a nuclear security expert.

According to the report, despite an international treaty banning nuclear detonations, the issue of nuke weapons testing "is taking centre stage" once again. Satellite imagery has shown increased construction activities hap-

pening. since 2021 at nuclear testing sites in US, Russia and China — the three biggest nuclear powers in the world, the report says.

"Also watching are India and Pakistan — countries whose latest tests were conducted in 1998 and who haven't signed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)," says the report.

India and Pakistan last carried out nuclear tests in May 1998. After this, India declared a moratorium on further testing, which many Indian nuclear scientists felt was unnecessary and a hasty move. The scientists told that the moratorium can be lifted any time if the situation warrants and the need arises.

According to the report, experts believe that Russia and China are currently expanding underground tunnels at their nuclear test sites of Novaya Zemlya and

Lop Nur, respectively. Russia withdrew its ratification of CTBT last Nov.

In US, the National Nuclear Security Administration is expanding the Nevada Test Site to improve the diagnostic capabilities for the management and performance of the US nuclear stockpile, without the need to conduct any more underground nuclear explosive tests.

"But, at the same time, US maintains a policy of readiness, by which the country is prepared to conduct a nuclear test within six months should one of its adversaries conduct one," the report points out.

North Korea, the only country to have tested nuclear weapons in the 21st century, is ready to conduct another underground nuke test — its seventh — and is only awaiting a political decision by its leader Kim Jong-Un to do so.

Curious case of the 'missing' East-West Metro passengers in Kolkata

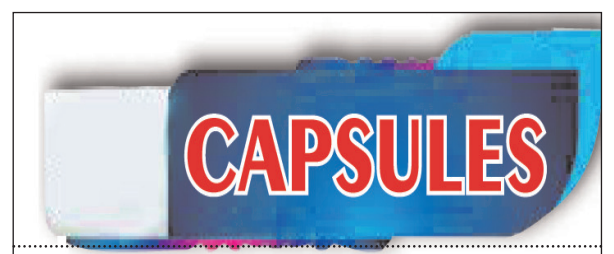


Kolkata: A curious case of passenger mismatch has emerged underground with Metro Railway officials noticing a significant disparity in the number of people buying tickets to ride in the East-West Metro and the actual riders on its trains. That is because thousands entering through Howrah Maidan for joyrides are buying single journey tickets but taking multiple rides without disembarking from the train. Officials said even if the registered ridership on Day One was 70,204, the actual number of rides could have been well past a lakh. "On Saturday, an ideal weekend for joyrides on India's first under-river Metro, the

actual passenger count must have been around 80,000 and not 67,240," mused an official. A train on the Esplanade-Howrah Maidan line takes the same tunnel (either the Sector V-bound or the Howrah-bound) on returning from Esplanade to Howrah Maidan because there is no crossover for switching tracks at Esplanade. "The passengers from Howrah Maidan or Howrah Metro station continue to sit in the train after it reaches Esplanade and halts for a few minutes. Then they return to Howrah Maidan or Howrah, viewing the blue LED-lid under-river stretch for the second time. All on a single ticket," the official said.

Got Congress invite: Karnataka ex-CM Sadananda Gowda as fresh wave of dissent hits BJP

BENGALURU: Yet another wave of discontent ran across Karnataka BJP ranks as former chief minister and Bangalore North MP, DV Sadananda Gowda, openly voiced his dissatisfaction after being denied a ticket by his party for the Lok Sabha elections. Gowda's dissent follows another senior party functionary, KS Eshwarappa, recently. Gowda, 71, said he would make his next course of action known on Tuesday, adding that there is nothing more left to justify the claim that BJP is a "party with a difference". Addressing reporters on Monday, Gowda revealed he had been approached by Karnataka Congress leaders with an invitation to join their ranks.



Poor frequency leads to fewer takers for Ruby & Majerhat lines

Kolkata: The 5.4km new Metro corridor in the Ruby-New Garia and 8 km Joka-Majerhat stretches had less number of commuters during peak hours on Monday as compared to the East-West Metro thrown open to the public last Friday. One of the key reasons is frequency. While the Ruby-New Garia stretch ran at a 20-minute frequency with two rakes being in operation, Joka-Majerhat had an even worse frequency of 50-minute intervals with one of the two rakes still being non-operational.

FLP India Partners with Tamana for CSR Initiative, Donates Smart Boards



New Delhi: Forever Living Products (India) recently conducted an event in New Delhi, where they generously distributed smart boards to be installed in classrooms at Tamana centers for the specially abled. This initiative, spearheaded by the Forever Giving Foundation under the visionary leadership of Rex Maughan, marks a significant stride in the realm of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). The provision of these smart boards, complemented by laptops for ICT training, signifies a progressive step towards empowering individuals with disabilities. Under the visionary leadership of Rex Maughan, the Forever Giving Foundation spearheads a significant advancement within Delhi's philanthropic realm. The event also saw performances by students of Tamana. On the occasion Dr. Shyama Chona and Tamana Chona were also present.

Mr. Harish Singla, CSM of Forever Living Products (India), confirms the potential of the organization to bring positive impacts to individuals facing intellectual, developmental, and other challenges, including those within the autism spectrum. In line with the philanthropic vision set forth by founder Rex Maughan, Forever Living Products (India) and the Forever Giving Foundation remain steadfast in their dedication to initiatives in the education sector. Plans are underway for further initiatives not only in New Delhi but also beyond, reflecting their enduring commitment to societal betterment through education.

CAA rolls out, Jaripatka erupts, Pak Hindus apply within 2 hrs

Nagpur: Sitting at his office in Wadi, Rajesh Jhambia suddenly jumped with joy at around 7.45pm. "It's been uploaded now," he exclaims, quickly opens his computer and prints out a copy of the Citizenship Amendment Rules (2024).

"I was checking the ministry of home website since morning for the notification to be uploaded. Otherwise, it would have been too early to rejoice," he says, as he starts messaging the news to his friends. By 10.30pm, the online portal through which applications can be made was up. Jhambia uploaded two forms, helping Sagar Wadhwa and Pradeep Haswani apply for Indian citizenship. Wadhwa had come to India from Quetta, the capital of Balochistan province, in 2012, while Haswani had arrived from Ghotki, a town in Sindh, in 2013. These were perhaps among



"Nagpur is a hub for immigrants from Ghotki"

Four years after the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) was passed in Parliament, the law became applicable from Monday. The govt had passed the Act but the rules were not notified, due to which CAA had remained merely on paper so far. There is a sizeable population of Hindu immigrants from Pakistan, most from Sindh and Balochistan. "Nagpur is a hub for immigrants from Ghotki district of Sindh province. Those from Balochistan come from different cities like Dalbandin, Mastung to even the province's capital Quetta," says Jhambia. The CAA brings relief to persons from communities like Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Parsis, Christians and Buddhists who reached India.

the first applications made under the CAA. Both were able to apply immediately under CAA, saving some months of wait

time. An Indian citizen for nearly a decade, Jhambia is the secretary of Sindh-Hindi Panchayat, the organization.

In high spirits: One-third liquor thekas to be helmed by women in Lucknow this yr

Lucknow: Just as whisky is not only a man's drink, the liquor business is not for men only — at least in the City of Nawabs.

As per latest data as many as 370 out of 1,046 liquor shops in Lucknow have been allotted to women entrepreneurs this fiscal. In high spirits: One-third liquor thekas to be helmed by women in Lucknow this yr

From April 1, the women shop owners will take over the reins of more than one-third of the business which has been predominantly dominated by men in the past. Officials said that overall

participation of women has increased by 7% compared to the previous year in Lucknow and more shops have been taken over by women this time. Though no special incentives or relaxations are offered to the women, the upwards trend shows that women are no more hesitant to take a plunge into the alcohol trade.

District excise officer of Lucknow, Rakesh Singh said, "35% of the total licenses issued for the next financial year have been obtained by women entrepreneurs. As numbers of female applicants have been

going up over the past three years, their participation is also increasing in the same proportion." The maximum interest among the women has been for IMFL liquor shops through which trade of whisky, vodka, rum, gin and wine takes place followed by beer shops. Sushila Jaiswal, a licensed-beer shop owner from Hazratganj, said, "It is not difficult to manage the retail stores as technology tools are available for close monitoring. CCTV cameras with sound systems would be installed at the shop and I would oversee the business."

Wheat stock with FCI lowest since 2018, but higher than buffer norm

New Delhi: Wheat stock with Food Corporation of India (FCI) has dropped below 100 lakh tonne for the first time since 2018, falling to 97 lakh tonne this month, due to low procurement during past two years and record sale of the cereal in open market to

keep prices under check. However, in case of rice stocks, FCI is currently holding more than four times the buffer norm. Despite wheat stock plummeting, even at current level, it is higher than statutory buffer stock requirement at this point of time. As per

norm, in April, FCI must have 74.6 lakh tonne of the foodgrain. "The stock is enough to meet National Food Security requirement and it's more than the buffer norm. Procurement season has also started from March 1.

CAPSULES

SC: Sans motive, celebratory firing deaths aren't murder

New Delhi: SC has termed as "unfortunate" practice of celebratory firing during marriage ceremonies, which often lead to "disastrous consequences".

While adjudicating an appeal filed by an accused, who was convicted for murder as his celebratory firing during a marriage ceremony caused death of a person, a bench of Justices Vikram Nath and S C Sharma held that a person could not be held guilty of murder in such cases if there was no motive and prior enmity and it should be a case of 'culpable homicide not amounting to murder'. The bench quashed his conviction under IPC Section 302 and held him guilty of an offence under IPC Section 304 Part II and awarded him a sentence already undergone (eight-year jail term).

30-yr-old labourer stabbed to death in Ghazipur, 1 held

New Delhi: A 30-year-old man was allegedly stabbed to death in east Delhi's Ghazipur on Tuesday. The accused, identified as Shishpal (23), has been arrested.

Police received information on Tuesday morning about a stabbing incident at Bakra Mandi in Ghazipur. The victim, Dharmendra, was rushed to a hospital, where he was declared dead. An FIR was registered under section 302 (murder) of the IPC.

"Both were labourers and were sitting together when they had an argument and Dharmendra was stabbed," the officer said.

In another case, the body of a man missing for the past few days was found in a DDA Park on.

Delhi Development Authority provides 24/7 PNG to 41 villages

"Saxena also gave the villages 5,000 sandalwood, 1,000 grape, and 5,000 guava trees to help them financially"

Delhi : Union home minister Amit Shah launched pipeline natural gas access in 41 villages and development initiatives in several major villages. A crucial



day for Delhi villages since they now have a reliable, affordable cooking gas supply 24/7. "They won't have to book or wait for cylinders," added

Shah. We are building the groundwork for development in 178 villages to improve services and living standards. Under the central government's Dilli

Gramodaya Abhiyan, Delhi Development Authority will undertake development projects. DDA has received Rs 960 crore to build infrastructure in urbanized villages and new urban regions. The Rs 20 crore PNG network, developed by Indraprastha Gas Limited, covers 100 sq km. The Union home minister said Rs 383 crore in village development were approved in a record three months this year. The Dilli Gramodaya Abhiyan.

PSU banks lead decline in complaints with regulator

Mumbai: RBI's integrated ombudsman has recorded a decline in the volume of grievances from regulated entities in FY23. Grievances dropped to 2.35 lakh in FY23 — a nearly 39% reduction from the 3.8 lakh recorded in FY21. This marks the second year in a row with a significant decrease in complaints, following last year's drop to 3 lakh. Between 2020-21 and 2022-23, the public sector banks category experienced the most substantial fall in grievances, declining from



1.75 lakh to 1 lakh. This signifies a 41% decrease or 72,830 fewer complaints. Conversely, within the same period, the non-banking financial companies category saw an increase in grievances, climbing from 31,158 to 33,072 — an rise of

1,914 complaints. Despite a sharp decline in grievances from the public sector, private, and foreign banks compared to the pandemic years, complaints against payment banks rose from 2,168 in FY21 to 3,456 in FY23. Regarding categories,

most grievances are related to mobile and electronic banking. From 2020-21 to 2021-22, this category saw a modest reduction in complaints from 44,385 to 39,388, yet the proportion of overall complaints increased from 13% to 14.7%. However, from 2021-22 to 2022-23, there was a significant rise in complaints (from 39,388 to 39,855) and their share of the total (from 14.7% to 20.3%). The decline in complaints was due to the drop in grievances under the 'others' category.

Uddhav Thackeray following Amit Shah jibe: Yes, make Aaditya CM

Delhi: At a Dharashiv gathering, Shiv Sena (UBT) president wanted his 33-year-old son Aaditya to become Maharashtra CM. After Union home minister Amit Shah accused him of dynastic politics, he responded. I want to become an Aaditya CM. Thackeray responded you gotta elect him to that office first. On March 5, Shah accused opposition lawmakers of prioritizing family over public welfare at a rally in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar. He urged BJP and other parties to avoid using Balasaheb Thackeray photos in election campaigning.

Why are you stealing my dad's photos? He advised using parent images for campaigns if you have guts. Thackeray criticized Shah for visiting Maharashtra multiple times but avoiding volatile



Indian airports want to update their ATC towers.

Delhi: As aviation-focused UNO Technology observes strong interest from state-run and private airport operators to introduce new features to existing ATC infrastructure, Indian airports are trying to boost the efficiency of their air traffic control towers. "Three to four projects a year is our goal. Two to three significant private airport operators in India are with us. The Adani Group is already in communication with us. The company was recently named a specialist contractor for the construction of the high-vision ATC room at the Noida international airport in Jewar. They are using an inventive framing technique without mullions for the windows in the visual control room.

areas. "Why didn't he visit burning Manipur? He avoided visiting Arunachal Pradesh, which China

is attacking. He goes to Maharashtra only to frighten opponents" said. He claimed BJP raised

HI to identify core group at women's Nat'ls

Bengaluru: The Indian women's hockey team's fourth-place finish at the Tokyo Olympics three years ago raised the profile of the game and created awareness. But the failure to qualify for the Paris Games has set the sport back by at least a decade. Chief coach Janneke Schopman's exit amidst allegations of gender disparity and toxic work environment only added to the turmoil. To put women's hockey back on track will be an arduous task and the reality is not lost on Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey.

The Senior Women's National Hockey Championship starting in Pune on Wednesday, may well mark a new beginning, but the former India skipper emphasised on strengthening the



foundation. "This edition is crucial for Indian hockey. The Nationals are usually conducted in September-October, but given the circumstances, we decided to advance it. Many Indian players are either injured or retired, so we need to put together a fresh core team and move forward. Hockey India did not want to wait for another six months to do that," Tirkey told. With the Nationals for both men and women

losing their sheen due to the absence of international stars, Tirkey said measures have been taken to make amends. "For a player to make the core group, it is mandatory that he or she plays the National Championships, unless under exceptional circumstances. If there are no international engagements, players should turn up for their respective state units. International players must take part to ensure the success

of the Nationals, to help in lifting the profile of the event and attract youngsters towards the sport."

DRAG-FLICK & 'KEEPING IN FOCUS

Lack of expertise in drag-flicks and penalty corners proved to be the downfall for the women's team in the Olympic qualifiers with nine PCs wasted. Tirkey pointed out that Hockey India will catch and groom them young.

"We have to find quality players, especially drag-flickers and goalkeepers. At the Olympic qualifiers, our poor penalty corner conversion rate cost us a Paris berth. It is very crucial to find flickers and hitters now. These skill sets are crucial in modern hockey. We will identify the top 10 academies in the country and give them a common curriculum.

Man gets 3-week parole to arrange for fine amount

New Delhi: Delhi High Court has granted three weeks' parole to a man convicted under the NDPS Act on the ground of arranging funds for payment of fine in terms of the sentence awarded to him. "This court is of the considered opinion that since the parole apart from re-establishing social ties, is sought on the ground of arranging funds for payment of fine, there appear to be sufficient reasons for releasing the petitioner on parole," said Justice Anoop Kumar Mendiratta.

The single judge bench observed that there were sufficient reasons for releasing the convict on parole, subject to him furnishing a personal bond of Rs 25,000 to the satisfaction of the jail superintendent.

One Harish Yadav was convicted and sentenced to 10 years. Later, he was further sentenced to simple imprisonment of six months in default of payment of fine.

Editorial

Any potential aggressor will face defeat

Vladimir Putin has threatened the use of tactical nukes during the Ukraine War five times and followed it up with some actions alarming NATO. On 24 February, 2022, the day he launched his "Special Military Operation", the Russian president said, "Any further expansion of the North Atlantic alliance's infrastructure or the ongoing efforts to gain a military foothold of the Ukrainian territory is unacceptable for us." Russia "has a certain advantage in several cutting-edge weapons. In this context, there should be no doubt for anyone that any potential aggressor will face defeat and ominous consequences should it directly attack our country". On 21 September, he repeated his N-threat. "In the event of a threat to the territorial integrity of our country and to defend Russia and our people, we will certainly make use of all weapon systems available to us. This is not a bluff." On 30 September, Putin indirectly hinted at the use of nukes to protect Ukraine's illegally annexed regions of Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia "with all the forces and means at our disposal". In February 2024, when French President Emmanuel Macron didn't rule out the deployment of NATO troops in Ukraine, Putin said, "Everything that the West comes up with creates the real threat of a conflict with the use of nuclear weapons, and thus the destruction of civilisation." This month, Putin said that if American troops are deployed in Russian territory or Ukraine, Russia would treat the move as an intervention. "From a military-technical point of view, we are, of course, ready [for a nuclear war]," he said. In some cases, Putin's actions indicated that he might resort to a tactical nuclear attack. On 27 February, 2022, he put the Russian Army's deterrence forces on high combat alert as top NATO officials were "indulging in aggressive statements directed" at Russia. On 25 March, 2023, Putin announced plans to deploy Russian tactical nukes in Belarus. In March 2024, Russia tested the nuclear-tipped RS-24 Yars ICBM, which travels at Mach 14 and has a multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicle. One month after Putin's September 2022 threat, US President Joe Biden reacted on expected lines. "We have not faced the prospect of Armageddon since Kennedy and the Cuban Missile Crisis," he said. CNN's chief national security analyst and anchor Jim Sciutto's book *The Return of Great Powers*, released this month, claims that an "analysis and highly sensitive new intelligence" showed that Russia wanted to use a tactical nuke against Ukraine in 2022. Sciutto claims that a senior US administration official told him that the fear wasn't "just hypothetical".

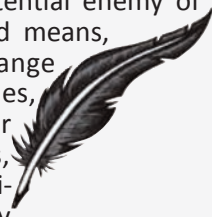
but "based on some information that we picked up". Subsequently, the US started "preparing rigorously" for such an eventuality. These nuclear threats and actions raise some questions.

What is Russia's nuclear doctrine?

The 'Decree of the President of the Russian Federation, on 2 June, 2020, provides the framework for the use of nukes in various scenarios.

a) potential enemy's build-up in the territories adjacent to the Russian Federation and its allies and in adjacent sea areas of general-purpose force groups, which include nuclear weapons delivery vehicles;

b) deployment by states that consider the Russian Federation as a potential enemy of missile defence systems and means, medium- and shorter-range cruise and ballistic missiles, high-precision non-nuclear and hypersonic weapons, attack unmanned aerial vehicles and directed energy weapons.



India's foreign policy, as of other countries, is determined by permanent factors

National interest in a broad sense can be defined: peace, security, economic development, prosperity for the people, a friendly neighbourhood. But this is not dependent only on national will. The interests of other countries can conflict with the interests of another; the world is becoming interdependent and so instability elsewhere can have a wider impact. A conflict can be inflicted on a country despite its interest in maintaining peace. Its security can be threatened by a powerful neighbour. The definition of national interest is thus subject to variables. India is one of the biggest countries in the world, an old civilisation, it has a self-image of a country that cannot subordinate itself to others and should have an independent role in international affairs. Having emerged from colonial subjugation, it could not align itself with the West and give it control of its foreign policy. It chose to be non-aligned during the Cold War. This basic foundation of India's foreign policy is reflected today in its attachment to strategic autonomy, friendship with all to the extent possible, and balancing its external relations to increase its freedom of choice. The international situation is not static and therefore changes that occur require adjustments in for-



eign policy. Take for instance the collapse of the Soviet Union with which we had very strong ties. It was our biggest trade and defence partner. It played a vital role on our behalf on the Kashmir issue in the UNSC and in the 1971 war that led to the creation of Bangladesh. During the period of US unilateralism when we were subject to huge pressure by the US on Kashmir, human rights, our nuclear and missile programmes, we became part of the RIC dialogue which later evolved into BRICS as a balancing act, even as we also began to improve our ties with the US in the context of the new geopolitical realities. We have persevered in maintaining close ties with Russia, with regular annual summits from 2000 onwards till 2021. Russia has never imposed sanctions on us. We have resisted western sanctions on Russia. We bought the S 400 air defence system despite the threat of secondary US sanctions. We have desisted

from condemning Russia's military intervention in Ukraine. Russia has become our biggest oil supplier. All this while our ties with the US have become stronger, with defence trade with Russia declining and that with the US, France and Israel increasing. An increase in a country's economic growth helps in the pursuit of a more active foreign policy. China's case is instructive. As it has grown economically, it has acquired the economic and financial muscle to pursue a more assertive foreign policy, beside strengthening its military muscle. India too is rising economically, and as it becomes a \$5 trillion economy and beyond, its ability to pursue its interests on the global stage will increase. Already, India is acting more confidently on the international stage, having become the 5th largest economy and set to become the 3rd largest before 2030. India is today being engaged by foreign powers as never before. The

US president says that the relationship with India is a defining one in the 21st century. President Putin pays lavish compliments to Modi and India, stating that India under Modi pursues its national interest and resists pressure to the point that it has even surprised Putin India's foreign policy has been deeply affected by its partition and the creation of Pakistan which has tried to undermine India internally and externally since its creation, with war, terrorism, religious mobilisation of the Islamic world against us, and constantly internationalising the Kashmir issue. India has been on the defensive for decades on the Kashmir issue, accepting, in particular, US and UK interference on Pakistan's behalf. This defensiveness explains why despite continuous provocations from Pakistan, India has engaged Pakistan in a dialogue, even after the attack on our Parliament and the horrific Mumbai attacks, with a willingness to accept the inclusion of Kashmir as an agenda item in our composite dialogue. Former Prime Minister Vajpayee went to Lahore, Prime Minister Modi invited Nawaz Sharif to his swearing-in ceremony in 2014, and later made an impromptu visit to Lahore in 2015. With PM Modi this defensiveness has finally been discarded. After Uri

India conducted surgical strikes and after Pulwama struck at Balakot. With the revision of Article 370, the J&K issue has been taken out as an item of dialogue with Pakistan in the future. India is focusing on the terrorism issue in bilateral and multilateral forums with some result. The power gap that has developed between India and Pakistan, and the disarray in Pakistan that has weakened international support, including in the Islamic world, on its differences with India has enabled India to reduce the salience of Pakistan in its regional strategies. In this regard, India's relations with the Arab world have evolved. India had close relations with the progressive, secular, anti-fundamentalist Arab regimes such as Egypt and Iraq during the heyday of the nonaligned movement, but difficult ties with the conservative Gulf monarchies. Today India has remarkably close ties with the UAE as well as strong ties with Saudi Arabia, with both countries wanting to modernise their societies and de-radicalise them. Their economic interest in India has grown. The improvement of ties began under the NDA government but has been raised to an entirely new level by the Modi government. The inauguration of a Hindu temple in the UAE by PM Modi reflects this great change.

New Delhi can bargain hard and is up for global competition

India has culminated a momentous journey by signing a comprehensive Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). The group has some of the richest countries in the world: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland. The FTA is a significant milestone, not just for the combined economic potential that it unlocks going forward but also for the strategic shift it reflects in India's trade negotiation approach. Here is a confident nation that has shed the baggage of the East India Company. With this agreement, India tells the world that this is the template she will follow. In any agreement, India will take her time to negotiate a good deal. This agreement took almost as long as a

routine trial in Indian lower courts—a full sixteen years to conclude. The big story here is that India has learned her lesson in trade negotiations. The India-EFTA TEPA comes on the heels of a not-so-successful free trade agreement (FTA) with the ASEAN bloc. The India-ASEAN FTA, signed in 2009 by the Congress regime, was a disaster. It resulted in a widening trade deficit for India, with a surge in imports from ASEAN countries but minimal growth in Indian exports. This experience served as a crucial lesson for Indian negotiators. This time, India adopted a more cautious and strategic approach, ensuring a balanced agreement that uniquely links it to the \$100 billion promised investments in India while at the same time safeguarding domestic

industries, especially the dairy and agricultural sectors, while promoting exports. Yet India gave ground to some processed food items, so it was willing to trade in a way that left juice for both parties. The India-EFTA TEPA is also a unique agreement in its structure. It includes a binding commitment of \$100 billion in investments from EFTA countries to India over the next 15 years, along with the creation of an estimated one million direct jobs. This investment focus is a strategic win for India. The influx of capital will bolster domestic infrastructure development, modernise manufacturing facilities, and foster technological advancements, while many of these facilities will be partly owned by the European partners. This, in turn,

'Target Escape Rate' is the average poverty reduction (per second) needed to achieve SDG1 by the end of 2030. The 'Current Escape Rate' is the current speed of poverty reduction between the year before and the year after the current year." Cross-country comparisons of development and deprivation are fraught with problems since comparable data are difficult to get.

This becomes even more so if subjective responses to questionnaires are used. WPC doesn't do that. It uses objective data. SDGs (sustainable development goals) are objectives the world should have attained by 2030 and there is a nested structure of goals, targets and indicators. There are 17 SDGs and the first one is "no poverty". Goals, by their very nature, are at a level of abstraction and need to be pinned down through targets and indicators. The seven targets for SDG-1 are: (1) eradicate extreme poverty; (2) reduce poverty by at least 50 per cent; (3) implement social protection systems; (4) equal rights to ownership, basic services, technology and economic resources; (5) build resilience to environmental, economic and social disasters; (6) mobilise resources to implement policies to

Charting India's path to prosperity



end poverty; (7) create pro-poor and gender-sensitive policy frameworks. I have always been sceptical about the way SDGs were developed, unlike the more precise MDGs (Millennium Development Goals) that preceded them. Many years ago, travellers on trains used holdalls. SDGs are a bit like that, bung everything in, irrespective of whether there is focus or not. To my jaundiced eye, in that list of seven, the only ones that really matter are (1) and (2). They are precise and progress towards them can be quantified and measured. In passing, no timeline is stated for (6) and (7). They are open-ended, illustrating the vagueness.

The others are to be achieved by 2030. In the nested SDG structure, targets are further refined through indicators. On (1) and (2), the indicators are (i) By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less

than \$1.25 a day; and (ii) By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions. Post-Covid and following geopolitical tensions, all countries have deviated from desired SDG trajectories. But any cross-country tracking shows that India has deviated relatively less. In (1) and (2) there is a reference to a poverty line. A poverty line is a minimum basket required for subsistence. As economies develop and prosper, poverty lines also evolve. For example, in the US, the poverty line depends on the number of individuals in the household. For individuals (no others in the household), I think the current poverty line is around \$15,000. Even in optimistic projections, India will not achieve that kind of per capita income number by 2047. Having said this, India has a long tradition of conceiving poverty lines.

You have gained publicity, nay, notoriety, for expressing hatred towards Sanatana Dharma

In his Tiruvaymoli, Nammalwar sings praise to Lord Krishna in the following words: 'The Gods that ye fix in your minds, in His name do they grant you deliverance. Even thus to immortality did the sage Markanda attain. Let none be offended, but there is no other God but Krishna. And let all your sacrifices be to them who are but his forms... In all these rising worlds they have thronged and wide they spread, those beautiful forms of Krishna—the unclad Rudra is there, Indra, Brahma, all. The Iron Age shall

cease to be—do ye but unite and save them.' (The Coming Age: Collected English Writings, by C Subramania Bharati.) Despite your contempt for Sanatana Dharma and its followers, you must be knowing that Nammalwar is one of the twelve much-revered Alvar saints of Tamil Nadu, whose verses contain praise of 108 temples considered as divine, or the Divya Desams. Nammalwar is held as the most prominent of those twelve saint-poets, and his literary output comprises more

than 1,300 stanzas of a total of around 4,000 in the Naalayira Divya Prabandam. Your arrogance, Mr Raja, arrogance reminds one of a story associated with Nammalwar. A Pandya king, who then ruled the region, had passed an edict that all literary works ought to be submitted to his council headed by the court poet, for approval. Nammalwar had not bothered to follow the instruction. As a result, the king's men asked the saint's disciple, Madhurakavi Alvar, to bring Nammalwar to the court.

The disciple refused, saying that his master would not budge an inch from where he was seated.

Instead, he gave them a palm leaf on which one of the hymns of the great poet was inscribed. It said: 'Kannakazhal inai nannu manam udayir ennum tiru-naman tinman naraname' (Those whose hearts are in love with the lotus feet of Lord Krishna, take this mantra for meditation; it is indeed the holy name of the Lord). The court stood humbled.

5 students of Akash Byjus Bhiwani achieved more than 99 percentile



Bhiwani: Aakash Byju's is proud to announce the remarkable achievement of its 5 students from Bhiwani who have scored above 99 percentile in the first session of Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) Main 2024. 11 students scored more than 98 percentile. 21 students achieved more than 95 percentile. 27 students achieved more than 90 percentile. A student scored 100 percentile in Physics. The National Testing Agency had declared the results last Tuesday. Among the notable achievers, Manuj secured 99.95, Piyush secured 99.58,

Tanishk secured 99.47, Saksham Wadhwa secured 99.34 and Anuja Gupta secured 99.16 percentile. Top percentage of students show their unwavering commitment and academic excellence in one of the most renowned competitive examinations of India. The National Testing Agency today unveiled the results of Session 1, the first of two scheduled joint entrance examinations for engineering this year. Congratulating the students, Parmeshwar Jha, Regional Director, Aakash Byju's, appreciated, "The remarkable

performance of the students reflects Aakash Byju's commitment to empowering students with comprehensive coaching and innovative learning solutions, enabling them to crack competitive examinations. Can achieve excellence in. We wish him all the best for his next endeavor as well as his future endeavours." Moreover, in the recently declared NSE results, 8 students from Bhiwani scored above the Minimum Admissible Score and 1 student has been selected for the Indian National Olympiad 2024.

Chhattisgarh security force officer axed to death by Maoist hit team

RAIPUR: A Chhattisgarh Armed Force (CAF) officer was hacked to death by a Maoist hit team in Bijapur district of Bastar on Sunday morning. He was buying vegetables from a local market. Inspector Tijau Ram Bhuvarya was killed barely 100m from the recently set up Jaigur security camp in Kutru (445km from Raipur) in Chhattisgarh, police said. The region is a Maoist hotbed, close to the Maharashtra border, and locations like Gangaloor, Kirandul and Bhairamgarh have seen

many a gun battle. Bhuvarya, head constable Shyam Bihari and some other personnel were out to buy vegetables on Sunday morning. Two Maoists, disguised as villagers, attacked him with axes and fled before anyone could challenge them. By the time help arrived, the inspector had bled to death. He hailed from Bargaon village in Kanker district, around 345km north of where he was posted. Bijapur SP Jitendra Kumar Yadav told TOI that it's the modus

operandi of small 'action teams' of Maoists to execute such attacks in public places, particularly weekly markets. "They attack all of a sudden and flee the spot within seconds," he said. The attack comes barely 10 days after the Maoists' Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee demanded "creation of a favourable environment for talks."

The insurgents were responding to deputy chief minister Vijay Sharma's offer for unconditional talks via video-conference.

Three electrocuted by live wire trap laid by poachers

BHOPAL: Three members of a family were electrocuted by a live wire trap laid by poachers to snare wild boar in Madhya Pradesh's Sidhi district late Saturday. The victims were identified as Prashant Kewat (22), Anil Kewat (32),

and Narmada Kewat (50), who lived in Devri village on the edge of Sanjay Gandhi National Park. They used to catch birds by covering entire trees with large nets tied to bamboo poles, Majhauri police station in-charge Deepak Singh

Baghel. Every evening, they would do a recce to locate the trees where the maximum birds were resting. Then, they would return to place their nets on those trees, Baghel said. "They left home around 3pm Saturday.

Shri JJT University is moving in the direction of Sports University

New Delhi. Shekhawati region, which is always ready to provide brave soldiers on the border of the country, is now making its name in the country and the world in sports also. The sapling which Dr. Vinod Tibdewala had planted in the rural areas as Shri JJT University one and a half decade ago, has today gained momentum in the sports sector after the research sector. Having achieved the quota for Paris Olympics 2024 and being the youngest Arjun Awardee player of the country, after making its mark in Asiad, National Games, Khelo India University Games and All



India Inter Universities Games, Shri JJT University is moving towards becoming a sports university. Steps have been taken. Dr. Vinod Tibdewala, who grew up in Shekhawati area and got good education and has earned a name as a renowned industrialist in the coun-

try's financial capital Mumbai, has become a great example for those who want to do something for their birthplace. In his life, from being a parent of a rural area to his children's insistence on not letting their dreams of education get shattered due to lack of money, Dr. Vinod

Tibdewala not only took land in Chudela village, but also expressed his dreams of shaping the future of the youth in front of the Rajasthan government. In the year 2009, he got the university approved as a private university in the name of his ideal uncle and renowned personality of the area, Shri Jagdishprasad Jhabarmal Tibdewala. Two goals were set for Shri JJT University under Shri Rajasthani Seva Sangh Trust. The first goal is that no child in the 50 kilometer area around the university should fail to become self-reliant due to lack of education.

Apollo Micro System Ltd. To Establish Integrated Plant for Ingenious Defence Systems (IPiDS)

CHANDIGARH: Apollo Micro Systems Ltd. (BSE: 540879, NSE: APOLLO), a pioneer in Design, Development and assembly of Custom Built Electronics and Electro-mechanical solutions, has announced that it will conduct the groundbreaking ceremony and foundation stone laying for integrated plant for Ingenious Defence Systems (IPiDS). The company added, "We

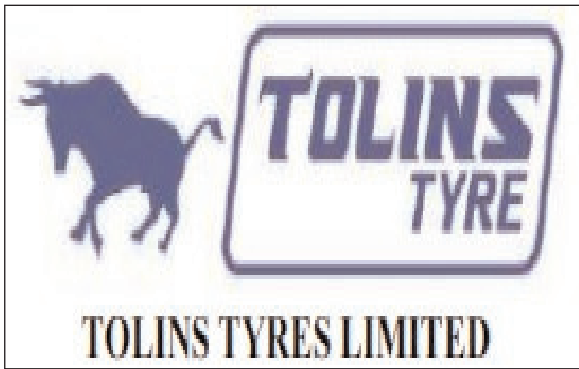
are pleased to confirm that, as previously communicated, an application for an additional 2.5 acres of land adjacent to the existing allotted land of 2.5 acres is made, for which advance payment is also released, which would make the total land extent to 5.00 acres." This 5.00 Acre land will be utilized for the establishment of the Integrated Plant for Ingenious Defence Systems (IPiDS), with a

proposed investment totaling Rs. 210 crores. We are delighted to announce that Apollo Micro Systems Limited will be conducting the Foundation Stone Laying and Groundbreaking Ceremony for our Integrated Plant for Ingenious Defence Systems (IPiDS) on Monday, 19 February, 2024 at Hardware Park-II, Hyderabad. The Hon'ble Minister for ITE&C, Industries &

Commerce and Legislative Affairs, Government of Telangana, has graciously accepted the invitation for Stone Laying and Groundbreaking ceremony. "We believe that the establishment of our IPiDS plant will have a positive impact, enhancing our capabilities and enabling us to contribute towards the growth of the Defence industry," the company further added.

TOLINS TYRES LIMITED FILES DRHP WITH SEBI

GURUGRAM : Tolins Tyres Limited, a company based in Kerala and one of leading player in the Tyre & Treads industry with all India presence, has filed its Draft Red Herring Prospectus ("DRHP") with market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI"). The Company's initial public offering comprises a fresh issue of up to ₹200 Crores and an offer for sale (OFS) of Equity Shares aggregating upto ₹30 Crores by selling shareholders. The offer for sale comprises of Equity Shares aggregating up to ₹15 Crores by Dr. Kalamparambil Varkey Tolin, Promoter, Chairman and Managing Director and Up to ₹15 Crores by Ms. Jerin Tolin, promoter, Non-Executive & Non Independent Director. The company proposes to utilize the 62.5 Crores of Net Proceeds from the offer towards the repayment/prepay-



ment of certain outstanding loans (including foreclosure charges, if any) availed by the Company, ₹75 Crores towards augmentation of long-term working capital requirements of the Company, and 24.3 Crores towards Investment in their wholly owned subsidiary, Tolin Rubbers Private Limited to repay and/or prepay, in full, certain of its short term and long term borrowings and augmentation of its working capital requirements; and balance amount will be used for general corporate purposes. Tolins

Tyres Limited commenced their operations in 1982 as a proprietorship concern for manufacture of tread rubber, incorporated in 2003 and commenced production and sales in the year 2005 by Dr. Kalamparambil Varkey Tolin, Promoter, Chairman and Managing Director and Mr. Sankar Krishnan Ramalingam, Whole Time Director. Since 2004 Ms. Jerin Tolin, promoter, Non-Executive & Non Independent Director. The tyre retreading solutions provider operates its business.

Discussions on Innovative treatments for Burn Management at NABICON

GURUGRAM: The National Academy of Burns organized the NABICON 2024 - a platform to exchange knowledge and explore the recent advances in all aspects of burn prevention, burn wound management, burn reconstruction, rehabilitation and research. The event witnessed a stellar line up of speakers comprising dedicated Burn & Plastic surgeons and burn care specialists from India and across the globe. Some of the key topics covered in the Conference included Training in Burn Management, Advances in Keratinocyte Delivery In Wounds, Post Burn Deformities Correction, Setting Up



Of An Ideal Burn Unit And Awareness In Burns, and many more. Several experts presented scientific and medical papers on relevant topics on management and burn care. The conference is being held in Ranchi, Jharkhand under the leadership of Dr Anant Sinha, President of NABI & Organizing Secretary of NABICON 2024. Speaking on the sidelines of NABICON 2024, Alok Khettry, COO- India Business, BSV, said, "Despite the

daunting toll burns take globally, there is a light at the end of the tunnel." He emphasized the power of modern burns treatment, to uplift survivors both physically and emotionally. Burn Survivors are often stigmatized with scars (dead tissues) and other deformities that remain a life-long emotional and physical challenge. However, with scientific advancements in burn treatments, burn survivors can now be hopeful of

overcoming these challenges without any intrusive surgeries. BSV, known for empowering women's health now extends its care to burn management. Their innovative treatment, gentle yet effective promises hope by removing eschar in just four hours without harming the surrounding healthy tissues. At BSV we remain committed to providing quality care for burn survivors nationwide, marking a new chapter in healing. Adds Prof Lior Rosenberg, Chief Medical Officer Director, MediWound, "Burn Management is based on the three tenets of patient care: No death, no suffering and no scars (dead tissues).

NCW chairperson leads delegation to Kolkata amidst unrest in Sandeshkhali

KOLKATA: A delegation led by the National Commission for Women (NCW) chairperson Rekha Sharma has left for Kolkata ahead of her Sandeshkhali visit. The area has been witnessing unrest for over 10 days as women protesters seek justice against alleged atrocities committed by TMC leader Sheikh Shajahan and his aides. Speaking to ANI, the NCW chief expressed her concern about the injustice done to women and her intention to visit every street and talk to the women to assure them of her support. During her visit, she plans to meet the governor of West Bengal and later meet President Droupadi Murmu. Rekha Sharma stated, "Very disturbing news is coming from Sandeshkhali.

Virat Kohli will make runs in this IPL as well: Prasad

HYDERABAD: Former chief selector of the Indian cricket team MSK Prasad opined that Virat Kohli would be crucial for India's fortunes in the upcoming T20 World Cup, beginning in June.

With news of selectors mulling to ignore the former Indian captain doing rounds, Prasad debunked the theory and said that Kohli and Rohit Sharma will have a crucial role to play in the mega event.

"Kohli is crucial for India in the T20 World Cup. The selectors can't think that IPL is a place for him to prove his quality. He was never out of the team for his form. He missed India matches because of family reasons. He has been in form for a long time. He will make runs in this IPL as well," Prasad told the official broadcasters of IPL, on Monday. He also added that everyone wants to see MS Dhoni for as many years as possible. "At 42, Dhoni is still playing for CSK which shows his commitment to the team."



"Kohli is crucial for India in the T20 World Cup. The selectors can't think that IPL is a place for him to prove his quality."

Playing for a single franchise for so many years, he has made a huge impact on the team and on fans. He played the entire league with injury to his leg and won the title," he added. Former Indian women's captain Mithali Raj said that 2016 champions Sunrisers Hyderabad have a very good side, but it would be crucial for them to pick the right playing XI for desired results. "With

new captain (Pat Cummins) and new players coming in, there will be expectations from SRH. However, it is important to choose the right overseas players. They have quality players," she added. MSK asserted that the current SRH team is the best they have had so far. "Playing four foreign players from a pool of such talent is tough. The present team has the best overseas players. The good domestic bowling unit can allow balance to the side by bringing foreign batters into the playing XI," he explained. Meanwhile, former India cricketer Y Venugopal, who is also part of the commentary panel for the season.

Mumbai Indians are clearly worried about Suryakumar

MUMBAI: The Mumbai Indians are clearly worried about Suryakumar Yadav's availability for the initial matches of the IPL.

Suffering from a sports hernia injury which required surgery, Surya has been out of action since the T20I series against South Africa in December. The world's No 1 T20I batsman is currently recuperating at the NCA in Bengaluru. "He has been batting in the nets. Tomorrow (Tuesday), he will have his first 'open net' session. He will go through some fielding drills too. Depending on how his body reacts to it, the BCCI's medical team



will then assess whether he's fit to return to action," a source told. MI will play their first match against Gujarat Titans on March 24 in Ahmedabad. 'Match made in heaven' Meanwhile, MI coach Mark Boucher felt that the equation between Sri Lanka's pacer Nuwan Thushara, who was bought by MI for Rs

4.8 crore in the auction, and their new bowling coach Lasith Malinga was a "match made in heaven," since they possess a similar action. "They come from the same country, they have the same action, it's a match made in heaven. He is the perfect coach for Nuwan and I think they both are in a very good space," Boucher said.

Perth to host India's first Test against Australia in November: Report

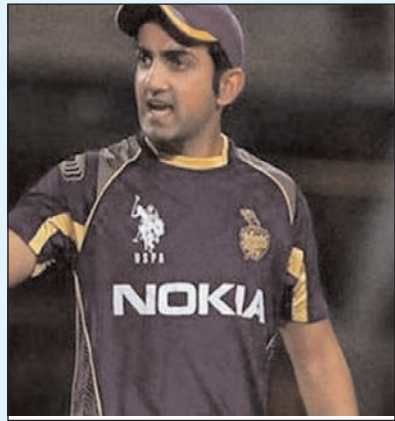
NEW DELHI: Perth has been selected as the venue for the opening Test of the eagerly awaited five-match series, scheduled for India's tour of Australia later this year. As reported by the 'Sydney Morning Herald', Adelaide, Brisbane,

Melbourne, and Sydney have also been chosen as venues for this highly anticipated blockbuster series. "Adelaide will host the second Test and Brisbane the third, with the Boxing Day and New Year's Tests keeping their traditional time slots in Melbourne and

Sydney," the report said. Also See: Watch IPL Live in USA The Adelaide Test will be a day-night affair. Cricket Australia is yet to come out with its schedule for the next season but a final announcement is expected by the end of this month.

Gambhir's return is anticipated to infuse renewed vigor and discipline into the squad

NEW DELHI: Gautam Gambhir's leadership was instrumental in the Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) emergence as a dominant force, clinching two IPL titles over the past decade. Now, Gambhir, who is known for being "tough to handle," is determined to reignite joy among their devoted yet somewhat disheartened fans. Gambhir took over the reins of KKR during the fourth IPL season in 2011, following the team's lackluster performances in the initial three years. Under his guidance, KKR made it to the knockouts in his first year and went on to secure two titles between 2012 and 2014. After consecutive seventh-place finishes in recent sea-



sons, Gambhir's return is anticipated to infuse renewed vigor and discipline into the squad. With KKR's seventh-place finishes in the last two seasons, mentor Gambhir's presence is expected to inject fresh vigour and discipline into the squad.

Pakistan cricketer Imad Wasim caught smoking in dressing room

Following his stellar performance in the Pakistan Super League (PSL) final against Multan Sultans at Karachi's National Bank Stadium on Monday, Pakistan all-rounder Imad Wasim was discovered smoking in the dressing room. Wasim played a pivotal role in Islamabad United's clinching of their third PSL title. He delivered a five-wicket haul, restricting Multan Sultans to 159/9, and later contributed an unbeaten 19 runs to secure the successful run chase.

AC Milan consolidate second spot in Serie A, match at Atalanta postponed

AC Milan solidified their grip on second place in Serie A with a 3-1 victory over Verona, capitalizing on Juventus's draw with Genoa. Meanwhile, Fiorentina's match against Atalanta was postponed due to the sudden illness of their general manager, Giuseppe 'Joe' Barone. Goals from Theo Hernandez and Christian Pulisic before and after halftime respectively put Milan in a commanding position, with Samuel Chukwueze adding a third late in the game.



The win pushed Milan three points clear of Juventus in the race for Champions League qualification. Despite trailing Inter by 13 points, Milan are on track to secure a spot in next season's revamped Champions League. With Italy likely to earn

an additional spot in the competition, Milan's 11-point cushion over fifth-placed AS Roma appears comfortable with nine games remaining. Milan's manager, Stefano Pioli, praised his team's performance, stating, "We played very

well as a team and we created a huge amount. It was a really positive performance," after securing their fifth consecutive win. Verona fought admirably, with Tijjani Noslin scoring a superb goal in the 64th minute. However, they remain just two points above the relegation zone, facing a crucial match against Cagliari after the international break. Juventus, on the other hand, continued their disappointing run with a goalless draw against Genoa.

Left-arm pace bowler Jaydev is set to rejoin the Sussex

NEW DELHI: Left-arm pace bowler Jaydev Unadkat is set to rejoin the English club side Sussex for the final five matches of the County Championship season. During the previous season, the 32-year-old, who boasts four Test appearances for India, participated in three out of the last four County Championship fixtures for Sussex. His contribution of 11 wickets at an average of 24.18 significantly bolstered the team, leading to a commendable third-place finish in Division 2. Unadkat's standout performance came against Leicestershire at Sussex's home ground, where he claimed six crucial wickets in the second innings, guiding the team to a narrow 15-run victory. Having last represented India during the



two-Test series against the West Indies in 2023, Unadkat, who captained Saurashtra to their inaugural Ranji Trophy triumph in the 2019-20 season, expressed his anticipation to return to Hove. "It was at Hove last season when we won a last-day thriller against Leicestershire, that gave me a sense of belongingness to county cricket, and to Sussex as my home," said Unadkat in a statement. "When (head coach) Farby (Paul Farbrace) offered me a contract this season for the last leg of the championship, I was sure I wanted to

come back and hopefully win games with the guys. "While my first county season was good, I can't wait to be back and push for that promotion this summer which everyone at Hove is rooting for!" he added. Sussex head coach Farbrace said Unadkat had shown his class during the last season and hoped the Indian would continue in the same vein this season. "We are all delighted that Jaydev is returning to The 1st Central County Ground for the final five championship matches of the coming season."

2024 WPL also gave several eye-catching performances

NEW DELHI: It was a cathartic moment. When Richa Ghosh hit the winning runs in the final, the entire fan base of Royal Challengers Bangalore must have felt a burden being lifted off their shoulders. After all, the men's team had tried hard for 16 long years to win the IPL, but could not. In between, there was the dash of the Champions League T20 tournament. RCB couldn't win that either. The girls in red and black, however, got the job done in the first final they played. Skipper Smriti Mandhana's eyes were moist, some other players too had tears rolling down their cheeks. It was indeed a big relief and the emotions expressed were strong. RCB's performance was a much-improved show from last year, when they fin-



ished fourth. Just like RCB going up a gear, the 2024 WPL also gave several eye-catching performances. The tournament was full of high-octane batting and close games, many of which went till the last over. Indian players have been at the forefront, both youngsters and internationals. Out of the top 10 run-getters in the tournament, six have been Indians. And out of the top 10 wicket-takers, five are Indians. Analysing the 2024 WPL, Smriti told TOI, "I feel this year has

been brilliant for Indian players. Last year, in the list of top-scorers there were a lot of overseas names, but this year the stats show that we (Indian players) have almost tripled in every department. "That's exactly what we want. WPL will be held every year, but what we get out of it will be really valuable. It was therefore great to see all the Indian players, youngsters as well as the internationals, to step up and play the way they did," she added. The tournament also

saw Indians hitting big sixes. Harmanpreet Kaur and Shafali Verma were renowned to smack those big ones earlier, but others have upped the ante too. As a result, enhanced strike-rates were witnessed. Shafali scored her runs at a breakneck speed, coming up with a strike-rate of 156.85. Jemimah Rodrigues too hit some big sixes, often clearing the boundary ropes by a good margin. Her strike-rate in the tournament was 153.59. Kiran Navgire (146.66), Richa Ghosh (141.98), Harmanpreet Kaur (141.05) and Deepti Sharma (136.57) also returned with impressive strike-rates. Kaur, in fact, managed to pull off an improbable chase for Mumbai Indians against Gujarat Giants in the league stage. MI required 91 in the last six overs.

Simona Halep set for Miami Open return after doping suspension

NEW DELHI: Tennis fans around the world eagerly anticipate the return of Simona Halep to competitive action this week as she makes her comeback at the Miami Open following a successful appeal over a doping suspension. The Romanian star, whose four-year ban was reduced to nine months by the top court for global sport, accepted a wild card entry into the prestigious tournament. Halep's first test on her return to the court will come against Paula Badosa of Spain in the opening round on Tuesday. The clash marks Halep's first match since her upset loss in the first round of the 2022 U.S. Open. The former Wimbledon and French Open champion vehemently denied allegations of doping after testing positive for roxadustat during the 2022 U.S.

CAPSULES

Inter Milan's unbeaten streak halted with Napoli draw in Serie A

NEW DELHI: Inter Milan's commanding lead in Serie A was momentarily halted as they settled for a 1-1 draw against Napoli, with Matteo Darmian's first-half goal canceled out by Juan Jesus' late header. Despite the draw, Inter maintains a significant 14-point lead over second-placed AC Milan, with Napoli currently sitting in seventh position with 45 points. Inter displayed early dominance, with goalkeeper Alex Meret denying Darmian's diving header and subsequent attempt from Lautaro Martinez. Napoli, missing key striker Victor Osimhen due to injury, struggled to break through Inter's sturdy defense. Inter broke the deadlock just before halftime, with Alessandro Bastoni's cross finding Darmian unmarked in the box, who finished clinically to put the hosts ahead. However, Inter's defensive solidity was breached in the 81st minute when Juan Jesus capitalized on a defensive lapse to head in the equalizer from a Napoli corner, denying Inter victory. Expressing his disappointment, Inter manager Simone Inzaghi acknowledged the missed opportunity for victory, stating, "There is a little disappointment, especially considering how the game was going, we were up against the reigning Champions of Italy and Napoli have a lot of quality but unfortunately, we made a naive error that cost us the victory." "There are nine games left, 27 points up for grabs, we must maintain concentration." Simone Inzaghi added. Meanwhile, Napoli coach Francesco Calzona praised his team's performance against the league leaders, highlighting their resilience against a formidable opponent.

ISRO's new meteorological satellite begins earth imaging

Delhi: ISRO says its meteorological satellite INSAT-3DS began earth imaging operations and released the first photographs from its 6-channel Imager and 19-channel Sounder. The Imager and Sounder payloads are comparable to INSAT-3D and INSAT-3DR, but radiometric accuracy, black body calibration, thermal management, and image throughput have improved. Initial UT INSAT-3DS Imager picture (false color composite) Visible red, short-wave infrared green, mid-infrared blue March 7, 2024, 05:50 The Space Applications Centre (SAC), Ahmedabad, created the payloads. The Master Control Facility in Hassan, Karnataka, processes and releases the first photographs. It noted that the 6-channel Imager equipment captures images of the earth's surface and atmosphere across multiple spectral channels or wavelengths to gather data on clouds, aerosols, land surface



"It added that the 19-channel Sounder captures radiation from the earth's atmosphere through channels carefully chosen to capture radiation from water vapour"

temperature, vegetation health, and water vapour distribution." ISRO said the Imager could catch specific features of interest. It added that the 19-channel Sounder captures radiation from the earth's atmosphere through channels carefully chosen to capture radiation from water vapour, ozone, carbon dioxide, and other gases, while others may measure temperature variations in dif-

ferent atmosphere layers. These payloads generate over 40 geophysical data products for users, including Sea Surface Temperature, Rainfall (precipitation) Products, Land Surface Temperature, Fog Intensity, Outgoing Longwave Radiation, Atmospheric Motion Vectors, High-Resolution Winds, Upper Tropospheric Humidity, Cloud Properties, Smoke, Fire, Mean Surface Pressure, Temperature Profiles, Water Vapor Profiles, Surface Skin Temperature, Information on the vertical structure of the atmosphere is essential for weather forecasting, climate monitoring, and atmospheric processes, ISRO stated.

Delhi DOE publishes 2024-25 school calendar

Delhi: All government and government-aided schools in Delhi have received the 2024-25 school calendar from the Directorate of School Education, Government of Delhi. The next semester starts April 1, 2025. On February 1, the Delhi school annual calendar 2024-25 was created after discussing admissions. The Delhi school annual calendar was created on February 1 by all deputy directors of education and the MCD. All school heads were told to finish the 220 working days before announcing holidays and academic sessions. After the March 21 lot draw, the select-



ed children and waiting list will be announced on March 23. DoE will begin Nursery, KG, and Class 1 admissions the same day. If space remains, waiting list children will be admitted from April 2 to 6. Application forms for grades 10-12 will be available on April 18 and due by April 29. Admit cards will be distributed on May 6, and the CAT will be held on May 9 from 10 am to 12

pm. The Common Admission Test results will be announced on May 14, and HoS must submit files to DDE (District) for approval and ID generation by May 21. The Delhi school vacations calendar for 2024 is as follows: summer vacation from May 11 to June 30, autumn break from October 9 to 11, and winter vacation from January 1 to 15, 2025

461 vocational teachers' contracts are up for renewal

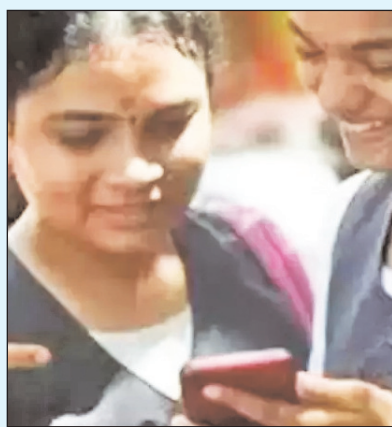
Delhi: For the academic year 2024-2025, LG VK Saxena approved the extension and renewal of the contracts for 461 part-time vocational teachers in state-run and government-aided institutions. By replacing vocational streams with the national skill quality

framework (NSQF), which was developed by the CBSE, the move will aid in addressing the scarcity of vocational teachers for those courses. NSQF, which was announced in December 2013, allows an individual to reach desired competency levels, enter the workforce,

and then return when the time is right to pick up new skills to advance their abilities even further. In addition to extending the contracts of 449 vocational instructors—437 qualified and 12 non-qualified—for a year in Delhi government schools.

Center Sanctions Rs. 127 Crore To Establish Twelve Technical Institutes Throughout

Delhi: The Ministry of Minority Affairs declared that by providing Rs. 127.23 crore for the establishment of 12 institutes around the state of Karnataka, it has made a major advancement in the state's educational infrastructure. According to the ministry, 4200 students—3150 of whom are members of minority populations—will have access to educational facilities as a result of the action, which is in line with the Prime Minister's "Viksit Bharat-Samridh Bharat" goal. These facilities have been approved for the State of Karnataka as a means of advancing education and guaranteeing an atmosphere that supports students' overall



intellectual stimulation. The ministry further stated that the educational infrastructure has been accepted as community assets as a transitional measure to promote NEP (New Education Policy) 2020 and contribute to national development.

NMC caps medical college undergrad seats starting 2024-25

Delhi: From 2024-25, medical institutes can have up to 150 undergraduate seats if they follow the state's 100 MBBS seats per 10 lakh population ratio. In its new "Guidelines for Under Graduate Courses under Establishment of New Medical Institutions, Starting of New Medical Courses, Increase of Seats for Existing Courses and Assessment and Rating Regulations, 2023," the National Medical Commission (NMC) said colleges seeking more seats cannot exceed 150 MBBS students from 2024-25.

Center approves Rs. 272 crore for the women's hostel at Delhi University

"1000 women will be housed in the dormitory, which is planned to be built at Timarpur close"



Delhi: According to MP Manoj Tiwari, the Center has authorized a project that will build residential housing for working women and girls who are pursuing higher education at Delhi University. The project has been sanctioned with a budget of Rs 272 crore. 1000

women will be housed in the dormitory, which is planned to be built at Timarpur close to DU's North Campus, he stated at the Delhi BJP office. According to Tiwari, the hostel will pay special attention to the protection of the ladies, allocating Rs 72

crore for that purpose alone. Bansuri Swaraj, the BJP's contender for the New Delhi seat, stated that the demand for a hostel was approved by March 15 and that work will soon begin. "This hostel will cost Rs 200 crore and Rs 72

crore worth CCTV cameras are being installed because women's safety is the priority of the Modi gov't," she stated. At a cost of Rs 35 crore, a center dedicated to Buddhism and Gurmukhi will be built at Khalsa College, according to Swaraj. She also mentioned that the establishment of a women's hostel and a student union office at Delhi University would greatly boost the government of Modi among the younger generation.

IPU in Delhi is going to introduce a number of academic initiatives

"Plans to provide courses in BA Mass Media, BSc Environmental Science, BSc Packaging Technology, and MSc Food Technology were revealed by Vice Chancellor Prof. Mahesh Verma"



is expected to start. The forthcoming entrance examinations are slated to take place from April 27 to May 12; results are anticipated on May 25. Notably, as is customary each year, these tests will still be administered offline utilizing "OMR" sheets. IPU administers entrance exams for almost 100 academic programs, from PhD to graduation.

For the sake of the students, the institution wants to simplify the counseling procedure. In order to allow students to pursue dual degrees, IPU is working

toward establishing B.Ed courses in addition to four-year BA, B.Sc., and B.Com programs. This idea still has to be presented for approval from the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE). Plans to provide courses in BA Mass Media, BSc Environmental Science, BSc Packaging Technology, and MSc Food Technology were revealed by Vice Chancellor Prof. Mahesh Verma. Exam centers will be set up outside of Delhi, in states or towns with larger application levels, to better serve students' needs.

Delhi: This year, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University (IPU) in Delhi is going to introduce a number of academic initiatives. Prof. Mahesh Verma, the Vice-Chancellor, declared that online applications for entrance tests will open later this month. Plans are also in place to add a B.Ed. course to the current four-year graduate program. By the end of January, the online application procedure

NCERT is likely to continue with rationalised textbooks

"New textbooks for all classes in 2024-25 are 'highly unlikely'. Based on the new national curriculum framework, the council is creating new school textbooks"

Delhi: People familiar with the matter said the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) is likely to continue with rationalised textbooks for several classes, including classes 10 and 12, in the upcoming academic year beginning next month. New textbooks for all classes in



2024-25 are "highly unlikely". Based on the new national curriculum framework, the council is creating new school textbooks. Officials acquainted with the subject say new textbooks for numerous classes, including 10 and 12, are unlikely before the new school year. "Textbook drafting is meticulous and cannot be rushed. All mistakes must be avoided. This year, the NCERT may publish textbooks for various primary classes

including class 9. A senior NCERT official stated, asking anonymity, that textbooks with rationalized curriculum will continue in other courses in 2024-25. The council told the CBSE in its previous curriculum committee meeting that the new 9-12 textbooks will not be released this year. "The board must release class 10 and 12 sample papers before a new session. In its last curriculum committee meeting, the board decided to

continue with the NCERT syllabus with a condition that it may be reviewed if the NCERT delivers books of classes 9 to 12 before April 2024, a senior CBSE official said. The books will likely not be issued before then. In June 2022, NCERT rationalised classes 6-12 curricula to "reduce the content load" on children because to the COVID-19 pandemic. In new textbooks published last year, the council eliminated chapters on Mughal courts, 2002 Gujarat riots, cold war, Mughal emperors, emergency, and periodic table. The updated books also deleted passages about Mahatma Gandhi, his assassin Nathuram Godse, and RSS's ban after Gandhi's assassination.

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.

IS India chief arrested in Assam after infiltration from Bangladesh

GUWAHATI: Assam Police nabbed IS India chief Haris Farooqi and one of his accomplices Wednesday morning in Dhubri district shortly after they illegally crossed over from Bangladesh. Police CPRO Pranab Jyoti Goswami, in a statement, said information was received from sister agencies that two top-rung leaders of IS in India, who were camping in a neighbouring country, would cross over to India in the Dhubri sector to carry out sabotage activities. Based on inputs, Assam Police rushed its STF team to Dhubri on Tuesday to



locate and apprehend the two. Narco-terror financing: J&K SIA files chargesheet against two "A manhunt was launched on the international border to nab the duo. At 4.15am, the accused

were detected in Dharmasala area of Dhubri after they crossed the border. Both were apprehended and brought to STF office in Guwahati," he said. The CPRO said their identity was ascertained and it was

found that one of the two was "Haris Farooqi, head of IS in India." He said that Farooqi's aide Anurag Singh converted to Islam and his wife is a Bangladeshi. "Both are highly indoctrinated and motivated leaders

and members of IS in India. They had furthered the cause of IS in India through conspiracies to carry out recruitment, terror funding and terror acts by means of IEDs at several places across the country. Several cases are pending against them at NIA, Delhi, ATS, Lucknow. Assam STF will hand over the accused to NIA for legal action against these fugitives," the CPRO said. Farooqi is one of the key accused in the Delhi IS terror module. A former Aligarh Muslim University student, Farooqi is suspected to be the founder of the Aligarh module.

Tata Motors inaugurates state-of-the-art registered vehicle scrapping facility near Delhi

Faridabad: Tata Motors, India's leading automobile manufacturer, today inaugurated its fifth Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facility (RVSF), near Delhi, marking a significant stride in its commitment to advancing sustainable mobility. Named 'Re.Wi.Re - Recycle with Respect,' the facility was inaugurated by Mr. Girish Wagh, Executive Director, Tata Motors. The cutting-edge facility deploys environmentally friendly processes and has the capacity to safely disassemble 18,000 end-of-life vehicles annually. Developed in partnership with Johar Motors, the RVSF is adept at responsibly scrapping passenger and commercial vehicles of all brands. This significant milestone follows the resounding success of Tata Motors' four pre-



ceding RVSFs in Jaipur, Bhubaneswar, Surat and Chandigarh, reiterating the company's commitment to advancing sustainable initiatives. Reflecting on the momentous launch, Mr. Girish Wagh, Executive Director, Tata Motors, said "Tata Motors has been at the forefront of driving innovation and sustainability to shape the future of mobility. The launch of our fifth scrapping facility marks a significant step forward in making sustainable practices and responsible vehicle disposal more accessible. Creating value from

scrap aligns with our vision of a building a circular economy. It also contributes to the Government's efforts to promote sustainable automotive practices. This state-of-the-art facility will set new benchmarks in disposing vehicles responsibly and pave the way towards a cleaner, more sustainable future for all." Re.Wi.Re is a cutting-edge facility, purpose-built for dismantling end-of-life passenger and commercial vehicles across all brands, with a focus on employing environmentally friendly practices.

NEET-UG applications surge for 9th year in a row, record 24L for 2024-25

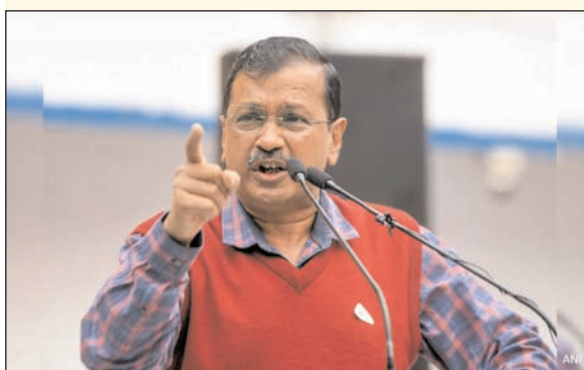
NEW DELHI: The National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) has bettered its record for the ninth straight year with 24 lakh registrations for the 2024-25 academic year for admissions to medical/dental and allied health programmes. The addition of a little over 6,000 seats in govt colleges for 2024-25 academic year, however, has made the competition marginally easier with 42.2 aspirants per seat, one of the lowest in the past eight years. The entrance test saw



an increase of 3 lakh registrations from its 2023-24 count, recording the highest jump in the past seven years. From 2017, when it breached the 10 lakh mark, the increase till now has been 12.4 lakh. NEET-UG is by far the biggest entrance exam in India, as it

leaves behind CUET-UG 2023 (application under way for 2024) by over five lakh. NEET-UG registration's first big jump was in 2017 (11.3 lakh) when it crossed the 10 lakh mark for the first time. Thereafter, barring the two Covid years (2020 and 2021).

ED out to arrest me, won't appear before it, Kejriwal tells HC



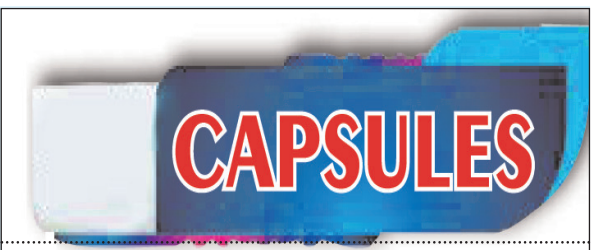
NEW DELHI: Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday told Delhi high court he won't appear before Enforcement Directorate on Thursday as there is a "clear intent" to arrest him with elections around the corner.

Kejriwal, who has challenged the summons issued to him in an excise policy-linked money laundering case, sought protection from coercive action after HC asked why he hadn't appeared before the probe agency in response to its several summonses. "Why don't you appear? Only once you answer the summons will you come to know if you are a witness or an

accused. What is preventing you from attending their call?" a bench of justices Suresh Kumar Kait and Manoj Jain asked senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, representing the CM. Singhvi said the petition raises several issues, including whether a political party is covered by the anti-money laundering law. When the bench asked if his client will appear before ED on Thursday, Singhvi answered in negative. "If you apprehend you may be arrested, why don't you move anticipatory bail," the court remarked, while seeking the stand of ED on Kejriwal's plea, giving it two weeks' time.

Centre notifies PIB's fact check unit

NEW DELHI: The ministry of electronics and information technology on Wednesday notified the Centre's 'fact check unit' as per IT rules under the Press Information Bureau. The move comes weeks after Bombay HC refused to restrain the Centre from notifying the FCU, a decision that has been challenged in SC, which will hear the plea Thursday. The FCU is empowered to decide if an information uploaded on online platforms and social media is accurate or not. In case, the data is found to be "fake", "false" or "misleading", the platform will have to take down the information that is brought to its notice by the FCU or run the risk of losing "safe harbour" status. The "safe harbour" clause in the Information and Technology Act provides legal immunity to platforms.



Discordant note: Carnatic singers protest against award for musician

CHENNAI: Three days after Carnatic musician T M Krishna was awarded the Sangita Kalanidhi by the Music Academy here, Carnatic vocalists Ranjani and Gayatri and Harikatha exponent Dushyanth Sridhar said they won't perform at the academy's upcoming music festival in protest. Ranjani and Gayatri said they will neither perform on Dec 25 as per schedule nor participate in the conference, which will be held between Dec 15 and Jan 1. Dushyanth Sridhar, meanwhile, who has rendered Harikatha at the academy on Jan 1 every year since 2017, said he would not perform on Jan 1, 2025.



"We've made this decision as the conference will be presided over by T M Krishna," Ranjani and Gayatri said in their social media posts. "We won't go anywhere if he is there. We are boycotting the entire season at the academy," Rajani said. The academy, she said, has not been considerate of the feelings of artists and rasikas.

"We believe in a value system that respects art and artists, vageyakaras, rasikas, institutions, our roots and culture. We would be in moral violation if we were to bury these values and join this year's conference," the sisters' post stated. Krishna "has caused immense damage to the Carnatic music world, wilfully and happily stomped over the sentiments of this community and insulted the most respected icons like Tyagaraja and M S Subbulakshmi," it added. Krishna's actions have tried to spread a sense of shame in being a Carnatic musician, vilified the fraternity, and have been exhibited through his consistent denigration of spirituality in music, the sisters claimed. They also said it would be dangerous to overlook his glorification of Periyar, who "proposed genocide of Brahmins", "abused women of the community" and "worked to normalise filthy language in social discourse". In a letter to Music Academy president N Murali — a copy of which was posted on social media — Dushyanth Sridhar said he had a "sea of ideological differences" with Sangita Kalanidhi designate of 2024. "I have no authority to question the selection of his name for the award. I am pained by many of his public statements on Dharma, Ayodhya, Sri Rama, and more," he said, adding it would be disrespectful to the values of life and teachings of Bhagavat Ramanuja, Vedanta Desika, and Kanchi Paramacharya to perform immediately after the award ceremony.

Passenger attempts suicide on Bangkok-London flight, plane makes emergency landing

NEW DELHI: A flight on Monday encountered a distressing situation when a passenger allegedly attempted suicide in the aircraft restroom, prompting an emergency landing. The incident took place during an EVA Air journey from Bangkok, Thailand, to London on Friday, as reported by the Sun. As the plane descended, crew members discovered the



individual in the restroom, where it was suspected they were attempting self-harm. The flight attendants and onboard medical personnel promptly assisted the person.

Upon landing at an airport in London, approximately at 7:30 pm, the passenger received initial medical attention before being transported to a hospital for further treatment.

EVA Air confirmed the occurrence on the BR67 Bangkok-London flight on March 15, though the specific London airport involved was not disclosed.

SP Group sells data centre construction business for Rs 700 crore

MUMBAI: Shapoorji Pallonji Group is exiting the data centre construction business that it pioneered in the country. SP Group has sold the business to a group of investors including as many as 30 individuals — making it a rare M&A deal — for Rs 700 crore. Typically, in buyout deals, acquirers are limited in numbers. Individual investors in the business included Ashish Kacholia, Mukul Mahavir Agrawal, Yash Kela and Nikhil Vora. The business, with a revenue of Rs 400-500 crore and which is profitable, will be spun off from Sterling and Wilson, a subsidiary of SP Group, into a separate entity subject to the lenders' approval.

Sunroof, not safety proof: Pop out of moving car and pay fine

BHOPAL: If you like popping out of the sunroof to experience wind in your hair, it might come as a major blow to you from traffic violation and safety point. The Bhopal police have instructed against using sunroof for this purpose, as it can invite strict action from the enforcement authorities.

While having a sunroof in a car was considered a thing of opulence a few years ago with the feature mostly restricted to higher-end and luxury cars, it is now being offered with every other mass-market car in India, starting from as low as about Rs 8 lakh.

A sunroof can be useful to let sunlight enter the cabin or enable air circulation inside the car when you don't want to roll down the windows. However, the feature is misinterpreted and misused more often for popping their head out during a drive, with even kids standing up to experience a different view.

Not surprisingly enough, the car owners have been unaware of its utilisation and felt that the sunroof was meant to experience the drive while standing. "Are you serious, that it is illegal," asked Guru Lal, a resident of Indrapuri locality with surprise when TOI

reporter reached out to him. "I was under the impression that it was for seeing around while driving. Now that I know that, I will not do it next time," Lal added. Another car owner said that he has never heard police imposing fines on anyone for using the sunroof to stand and look around and hence did not know it was illegal. "I have never heard that police are imposing fines for such act. Police should give strict punishment if it is illegal," said Yudhveer Singh, a Kolar-based resident.

Sunroofs are primarily designed to facilitate air circulation in vehicles. However, in Bhopal like

most of the places in India, the practicality of using sunroofs for their intended purpose may seem questionable. Keeping the windows open while driving at high speed can be damaging as the direct wind can hit the eyes, causing injuries. To facilitate air circulation in such cases sunroofs are designed to recirculate the air within the vehicle without significant wind disturbance. However, many individuals misuse the sunroof to stand out of the vehicle, sometimes to enjoy and sometimes to show-off, which poses a danger, particularly to the children.