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होली की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

Wish you a very happy and blessed Holi



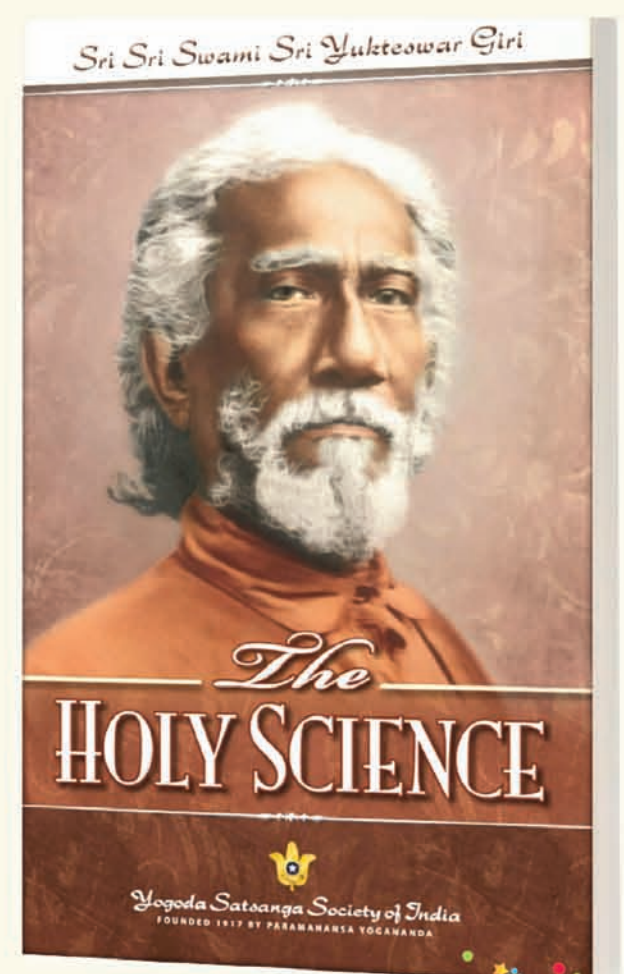
धार्मिक पर्वों का वास्तविक भाव (स्वरूप) अदृश्य होकर कलयुग में विपरीत भाव में प्रकट होता है। सतयुग में होलिका पर्व आध्यात्मिक विज्ञान के व्यापक रूप को प्रकट करता है। जिसमें प्रत्येक मनुष्य अनुभव करता है कि वह आध्यात्मिक मार्ग पर चलकर मायावी मृत्यु का अस्तित्व मिटाकर स्वरूप को अमर अस्तित्व के रूप में अनुभव करता है। ज्ञानावतार स्वामी श्री युक्तेश्वर गिरी जी ने प्रकाशित किया है वर्तमान समय आरोही द्वापर युग का 324 वाँ वर्ष है। स्वामी श्री युक्तेश्वर गिरी जी ने सभी को सन्देश दिया है कि वेद के प्रथम सूत्र- "परब्रह्म सम्पूर्ण ब्रह्माण्ड के रूप में प्रकट हो रहे हैं।" का सम्यक् अभ्यास करने पर होलिका पर्व का वास्तविक स्वरूप स्पष्ट हो जाता है। इस समय हम अनुभव करते हैं ब्रह्माण्ड की सभी रचनाएँ पावन और पवित्र हैं। होलिका पर्व के वास्तविक रूप को समझने के लिए स्वामी श्री युक्तेश्वर गिरी जी द्वारा सर्वश्रेष्ठ सद्ग्रंथ 'कैवल्य दर्शनम् - होली साइन्स' प्रकाशित किया।

होली साइन्स में बताये गये लक्ष्य को अपना लेने पर मनुष्य के सभी कष्ट स्वतः समाप्त हो जाते हैं।

During the period of Kaliyuga, the real meaning of religious festivals disappears and is reflected in the opposite form. During Sat Yuga, the Holika festival reveals spiritual science in the broader form by practicing which one perceives existence of immortals and immortality. One experiences self as immortal existence.

Gyanavatar Swami Sri Yuktेश्वर Giri Ji authored the sacred text 'The Holy Science' published in the book that the present time is 324 years of ascending Dwapar Yuga. Swami Shree Yutekshwar Giri ji has also given the message in the first sutra of Holi Science "Parabrahma (spirit or God) is ever-lasting, complete, without beginning or end. It is one invisible being. By practicing it properly, the real nature of Holika festival becomes clear. The Holy Science 'Kaivalya Darshanam' is the best scripture to understand the real form of Holika festival. By adopting the goals mentioned in the Holy Science, all sufferings of human life will end automatically.

'Yagya' has been mentioned and described by the Holy Science, by the practice of which, one is able to perceive the real complete form of Holi. Then, one will be able to perceive that all creation is Pure and Holy.



Opposition alliance in Maharashtra hits roadblock as Uddhav snubs MVA partners

“This even as the three MVA partners are engaged in discussions to finalise seat-sharing in the state”



NEW DELHI: The Maha Vikas Aghadi of opposition in Maharashtra has hit a roadblock that threatens to derail their stated objective of putting up united fight against the BJP in Lok Sabha elections. Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena (UBT) on Wednesday snubbed its allies - Congress and Sharad Pawar's NCP - as it unilaterally released first list of 17 candidates.

This even as the three MVA partners are engaged in discussions to finalise seat-sharing in the state.

The Congress reacted strongly to Shiv Sena (UBT) move and urged its ally to stick to "coalition dharma". Senior Congress leader

Balasaheb Thorat said the unilateral announcement was not right. "Unfortunately, coalition dharma hasn't been followed. Shiv Sena (UBT) must reconsider its decision," Thorat said.

Thorat asserted that Congress was firm on contesting three seats - Sangli, Bhiwandi and Mumbai South Central - which are in the Shiv Sena (UBT)'s list. "Discussion was ongoing, on the seats of Sangli, Bhiwandi and South Central Mumbai. In such a situation, how can candidates' names be announced in a one-sided manner. This

issue will be discussed in the next meeting of Mahavikas Aghadi," Thorat said.

The differences over seat sharing could prove costly for the opposition alliance as they face a formidable opposition in the ruling Mahayuti of the BJP, Eknath Shinde led Shiv Sena and Ajit Pawar led NCP. Ajit Pawar had on Tuesday claimed that there was no confusion in their alliance over seat sharing and had said that an announcement in this regard will be made on March 28.

"There is no confusion among Mahayuti. We sat together and decid-

ed on seat sharing. The BJP and Shiv Sena cooperated with us to decide the seats. 90 per cent of the decisions have been made. On March 28, all announcements will be made at a joint press conference with the BJP and Shiv Sena. Mahayuti will contest on all 48 seats," Ajit Pawar said while addressing a press conference. Earlier today, the MVA suffered another jolt when Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) chief Prakash Ambedkar announced to go solo and declared candidates for 8 Lok Sabha seats.

No interim relief for Kejriwal, Delhi HC to hear plea on April 3

NEW DELHI: The Delhi high court on Wednesday refused to grant any relief to chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, who had filed a plea against his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with the excise policy case.

The court granted ED seven days to respond and fixed April 3 as the next date for hearing. Kejriwal, in his plea before the Delhi high court, had asserted that the ED's actions violated his fundamental rights.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief has contended in his plea that the ED has not been able to prove his guilt. "The DOE has at the time of arrest failed to establish that Petitioner is guilty of committing activities stipulated under Section 3, i.e., be it one of concealment, possession, acquisition, use of proceeds of crime as much as projecting it as untainted property or claiming it



to be so," Kejriwal's legal team pleaded.

Kejriwal has further criticized his arrest without being questioned, suggesting a pre-meditated and political motive behind the proceedings.

Earlier today, Kejriwal's wife Sunita, in a video message, said that her husband would do a "big expose" on the alleged excise policy scam in court on March 28 and also present evidence.

She said that when she met the Delhi CM in the ED custody, Kejriwal told her that the central agency has conducted more than 250 raids in connection with the "so-called liquor scam" in the last two years but "not a single paisa" has been

found in any of the raids so far.

The ED arrested Kejriwal on March 21 in connection with the Delhi Excise Policy case linked to a money laundering case and remanded the next day to the ED till March 28. The case pertains to alleged irregularities and money laundering in framing and implementing the Delhi excise policy case 2022, which was later scrapped.

Former deputy chief minister Sisodia and AAP's Rajya Sabha MP Singh were arrested last year in relation to the Excise Policy case, while former minister Jain was arrested in a case related to money laundering.

Prez Rule in city? LG says govt won't be run from jail

NEW DELHI: Lieutenant governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Wednesday said the govt in Delhi would not be run from jail, hinting at a possible imposition of President's Rule if Aam Aadmi Party insisted that Arvind Kejriwal would continue to remain chief minister despite his arrest by Enforcement Directorate in the excise policy case. Saxena was speaking at Times Now Summit 2024 when he was asked about the current political situation in the capital. "I can assure the people of Delhi that the govt will not run from jail," Saxena replied. Kejriwal was arrested on March 21 in an alleged money laundering case linked to Delhi govt's excise policy.

India objects to state department's comments on Kejriwal's arrest



NEW DELHI: India on Thursday summoned US' Acting Deputy Chief of Mission Gloria Berbena over remarks on Enforcement Directorate arrest of Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal. The meeting lasted for approximately 40 minutes. "We take strong objection to the remarks of the Spokesperson of the US State Department about certain legal proceedings in India.

In diplomacy, states are expected to be respectful of the sovereignty and internal affairs of others," the Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement.

"This responsibility is even more so in case of fellow democracies. It could otherwise end up setting unhealthy precedents. India's legal processes are based on an independent judiciary which is committed to objective and timely outcomes. Casting aspersions on that is unwarranted," the MEA added. This comes a day after the United States responded to the arrest of Kejriwal, advocating for a fair legal process in the case. In a statement, a spokesperson from the US state department had highlighted the importance of ensuring fairness, transparency, and timeliness in Kejriwal's legal proceedings. This marked the second international commentary on Kejriwal's arrest, following Germany's response last week.

Germany had emphasized the right to a fair and impartial trial for Kejriwal, with George Enzweiler, the deputy head of mission of the German embassy, being summoned by India's ministry of external affairs to officially express their concerns. Kejriwal's arrest stems from allegations of corruption related to the excise policy case. A Delhi court has extended his custody until March 28, following his arrest for corruption in the liquor policy.

'Won't compromise': Jaishankar on boundary issue with China

NEW DELHI: External affairs minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday took a jibe at China and said that Beijing has failed to uphold longstanding written agreements with India.

Responding to a question on the current state of India's relations with China during an interaction with the Indian diaspora in Malaysia, the external affairs minister emphasised on



the paramount importance of securing India's borders. "India, China relationship is difficult. For reasons which are still not clear to us, the boundary agreements were broken by China in 2020. We actually had violence and bloodshed," Jaishankar said.

"My first duty to Indians is to secure border. I can never compromise on that. Normalcy in terms of troop deployment at the border will be the basis for the relationship going forward with China," he added.

The clash in the Galwan Valley in June 2020 marked the most serious military conflict between the two countries in decades.

'Sensed RJD's plans': JD(U) leader on why Nitish dumped INDIA bloc

Vatika Times

NEW DELHI: Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar's decision to end the alliance with the RJD was a strategic move to prevent any attempts by RJD president Lalu Prasad to "humiliate" their allies before the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, claimed a senior JD(U) leader.

Neeraj Kumar, the MLC and chief spokesperson of JD(U), made the claim referring to the RJD riding roughshod over the Congress. "The Congress has been a dependable ally of the RJD, though the alliance has caused it to lose its own vote share over the years. The only time the Congress saw a rise in its vote share in recent times was in the 2015 Bihar assembly polls when we too were part of that alliance," said Neeraj Kumar. Neeraj Kumar questioned the nature of the



alliance between the RJD and the Congress, expressing surprise over the RJD's decision-making process that disregards the Congress's interests. "What type of alliance do the RJD and the Congress have that the former is giving away party tickets to people at will, paying scant regard to the interests of the latter?" he asked. Neeraj Kumar lauded Nitish Kumar's foresight in seeking early seat-sharing within the alliance, anticipating the RJD's intentions to marginalize its allies. Neeraj Kumar

said, "It was not for nothing that our leader Nitish Kumar had been seeking early seat-sharing in the INDIA bloc. He had sensed the RJD's plans to humiliate allies. So he taught them a lesson".

The JD(U) leader went on to highlight the repercussions of Nitish Kumar's withdrawal from the opposition alliance, which led to the loss of power for the RJD and the removal of Tejashwi Yadav from the deputy chief minister's position. "It is now for the Congress to show that it has spine.

Rahul Gandhi has undertaken a country-wide padayatra becoming the first leader to have done so since the 1990s," he further said.

Meanwhile, leaders of the RJD and the Congress maintained that seat-sharing will be "announced in an amicable fashion". The joint statement by Tejashwi Yadav and BPC president Akhilesh Prasad Singh in Delhi hinted at a collaborative decision-making process for candidate declarations upon their return to Patna. (With agency inputs)

Woman accuses Air India of giving mother's business class seat to another

NEW DELHI: A woman slammed Air India in a post on X claiming that the airline gave the business class seat booked by her mother to another passenger. Coming down heavily on the airline through a series of posts, she called the incident 'ridiculous' and advised the airlines. 'to do better'.

X user with username Vitasta wrote, "Air India, how dare you give my mom's business class seat to someone else on a long haul flight from Delhi to Washington DC? First, telling her the seat doesn't recline, then saying the seat is for the crew, and then she finds someone else sitting there as she is sent to economy?" "Absolutely ridiculous behaviour and no regard for your customers! We will be complaining about this. Air India, do better!" she added. The post on the social has garnered more than 8 lakh views and around 9,000 likes after being shared just a few hours ago. Netizens have also reacted to the post.

Taxiing IndiGo aircraft grazes against stationary AI Express plane

NEW DELHI: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Wednesday ordered probe into an incident at Kolkata Airport where an Indigo plane grazed against a stationary Air India Express aircraft while taxiing. The incident caused a delay for IndiGo flight 6E 6152 heading to Darbhanga, but passengers were accommodated on another aircraft. Both IndiGo pilots have been off-



rostered, and the flights have been grounded for thorough inspection. "We have ordered a detailed investigation into the matter and both the pilots of IndiGo airlines have been off-rostered. The ground staff

will also be questioned during the investigation. Both the flights have been grounded for detailed inspection," DGCA official said. Speaking about the incident, an Air India Express spokesperson said, "The wingtip of a taxiing aircraft of another airline grazed one of our aircraft, which was stationary and awaiting clearance to enter the runway at Kolkata for a scheduled operation to Chennai.

Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk ends his 21-day hunger strike

NEW DELHI: Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk ended his 21-day hunger strike to demand statehood for Ladakh and its inclusion in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, on Tuesday. Earlier Sonam Wangchuk made a fresh appeal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to fulfil promises made to the people.

In a post on X, Sonam wrote, "21st Day OF MY #CLIMATEFAST 350 people slept in -10 °C.

5000 people in the day here. But still not a word from the government. We need statesmen of integrity, farsightedness & wisdom in this country.

& not just shortsighted characterless politicians. And I very much hope that Narendra Modi ji and Amit Shah ji will soon prove that they are statesmen..." Sonam Wangchuk, an engineer and education reformer, began his protest on March 6, demanding statehood for Ladakh. His



protest on March 6 was held at an altitude of 3,500 metres with sub-zero temperatures.

He has been highlighting the damage from industrialization to the region's fragile ecology and the impact on glaciers. One of his demands is the implementation of the sixth schedule to ensure land protection and autonomy for tribal areas in Ladakh. Gradually, his protest is gathering support and media attention across India. In the last 20 days, Wangchuk said, around 60,000 of Ladakh's 3 lakh residents have participated in the hunger strike demonstrating their pain but "no word came from this government".

Vi Announces the Ultimate Entertainment App; Unveils Vi Movies & TV in its New Avatar

GURUGRAM / HISAR :

Vi, a leading telecom operator, today introduced the ultimate entertainment app, Vi Movies & TV, a one-stop entertainment destination for all Vi subscribers. The all new avatar of Vi Movies & TV provides an unmatched entertainment experience to its users, with access to 13+ OTT apps, 400+ live TV channels, and complimentary access to several content libraries – all under one roof.

Priced at just Rs. 202 for Prepaid and Rs. 199 for Postpaid, Vi Movies & TV aims to simplify the viewing experience with only one subscription for multiple platforms and provide the best value for money to its users by saving multiple subscription costs. Commenting on this, Avneesh Khosla, Chief Marketing Officer, Vi said "India is watching content like never before - multiple formats, multiple sub-



scriptions, and multiplying hours on the screen everyday. However, this unlimited choice also brings fatigue and complexity. We take immense pride in announcing Vi Movies & TV – one app, one subscription with best of OTTs and TV content. We are committed to providing an entertaining experience to our consumers by empowering them to access entertainment in a simple, affordable, and accessible way. We will soon add new partners and more curated options for ease of choice for our viewers."

With Vi Movies and

TV, there's something to watch for everyone! Be it the popular shows like The ShowTime, Karma Calling, Lootere, Save The Tiger2 and blockbuster movies like 12th Fail, Salaar (Hindi), Patna Shukla, and many more on Disney+ Hotstar; SonyLiv's Shark Tank India, Scam 2023, The Telgi story, Raisinghani VS Raisinghani or the thrill of F1 and live cricket from Fan code. Vi Movies & TV will also stream 400+ live TV channels including Discovery, Aaj Tak, Republic Bharat, ABP, India Today at their fingertips.

Upstox launches 'Cut the Kit Kit' campaign; to help users invest wisely

GURUGRAM/FARID

ABAD: Upstox, India's fastest-growing and highest-rated trading and investment platform, today unveiled its innovative brand campaign, 'Cut the Kit Kit, Get in the Market'. With this campaign, Upstox aims to help retail investors cut through the clutter, noise, and overload of information to invest right. Through its research, Upstox has recognised that the journey to investment success is often cluttered with challenges - mis-selling financial products, misleading advice, information overload, and complex jargon. This can often lead to decisions that may not align with an individual's financial goals. For example, users often prioritise returns over essential risk and expense metrics when investing in mutual funds. Similarly, they might opt for a Rs. 1 crore term insurance plan without proper assessment, succumbing to a one-size-fits-all approach. Such prac-



responses from others, symbolising the overwhelming banter and noise prevalent in the market. This noise serves as a metaphor for the confusion caused by the deluge of information available to investors. The plot progresses until the protagonist, initially bewildered by the array of advice, is introduced to the Upstox Mutual Fund interface. This moment marks a turning point, offering the protagonist—and, by extension, the viewer—clarity and simplicity in the investing process. Similarly, the second ad film features a salon situation, and the third film features a waiting area at a hospital. The company is also planning to launch two more campaign videos over the next few weeks. The films will depict how people often struggle with the right information when it comes to investing, but with Upstox; users can cut to the chase and get the guidance that lets them Invest Right.

ices result in poorly informed decisions, leading to underconfidence among investors. Recognising these challenges, Upstox has taken the initiative to handle the heavy lifting and complexities for its users. The company wants to "Cut the Kit-Kit" (noise) of the market and encourage users to start creating wealth by investing in what's right for them. To effectively communicate its message to investors, Upstox has launched a campaign film encapsulating the theme "Cut the Kit Kit, Get in the Market." The film place in a theatre setting, where an individual expresses interest in mutual fund investing. This query triggers a cacophony of comical "kit kit"

CAPSULES

Registration started for three - workshop beginning from th March

Chandigarh : A three - workshop beginning from th March between am would be organised by . The workshop will be held in association with Panjab university Campus Students Council (PUCSC) at. Anyone who have obtained the minimum age of can attend the workshop. The whole workshop is first of its kind and would be conducted by ! in English. This workshop helps to attend this workshop would be required to registration on .



Court rejected anticipatory bail plea filed by BJP MLA's son in firing case

KALYAN: The Kalyan session court on Wednesday have rejected anticipatory bail application filed by Vaibhav Gaikwad, son of BJP MLA Ganpat Gaikwad, into firing case on Shiv Sena neta Mahesh Gaikwad. Vaibhav is on run after his father Ganpat on February 2 of this year, one land related dispute made firing on Shiv Sena neta Mahesh Gaikwad inside senior inspector's cabin at Hill line police station while Vibhav was outside cabin of senior inspector with his supporters. In this case, the police had filed FIR under attempt to murder charges against many persons and had arrested five person including Ganpat Gaikwad.

BJP demands probe into 'letters' being sent by CM Kejriwal to ministers from ED custody

NEW DELHI: A delegation from the Delhi BJP met with Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora to request an investigation into the 'letters' allegedly sent by chief minister Arvind Kejriwal to his ministers while he is in custody of the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

Kejriwal, who was arrested on March 21 in connection with a money laundering case linked to the Delhi excise policy, remains in ED custody until March 28. The BJP delegation, led by Virendra Sachdeva, raised concerns about the authenticity of the letters and the involvement of Kejriwal's ministers Atishi and Saurabh Bharadwaj, who claim to have received them. Delhi BJP president Sachdeva stated, "There is a procedure for



such letters to be sent from someone in ED custody, and based on the information available, these letters appear to be fabricated."

Minister Atishi revealed that Kejriwal directed her on water supply and sewer issues, while Minister Bharadwaj mentioned receiving instructions on free medicines and lab tests at healthcare facilities.

Karnataka: Against rookie, Jagadish Shettar faces a do-or-die battle

BENGALURU: It is hard to be in Jagadish Shettar's shoes. The former CM had riled many in BJP by joining Congress ahead of assembly elections last year. Now, on his return, he has been 'rewarded' with a Lok Sabha election ticket which, by many accounts, he wasn't very keen on. Shettar had hoped to be BJP's candidate in Dharwad, but instead finds himself front and centre of a high stakes battle in Belgaum.

HD Kumaraswamy set for Mandya Lok Sabha fight, Prajwal Revanna from Hassan

BENGALURU: HD

Kumaraswamy, former CM and the president of the state unit of JD(S), has reportedly made up his mind to fight the Lok Sabha polls from the Mandya seat.

A formal announcement to this effect is likely to come through on Wednesday, along with the names of JD(S) candidates for Hassan and Kolar - the three constituencies in Karnataka for which the party has struck a seat-sharing arrangement with the BJP.

On Tuesday, HD Kumaraswamy cited mounting pressure from party workers as the key factor influencing his decision. Prajwal Revanna, the incumbent MP from Hassan, is likely to contest again from the seat.



HDK: Party wants to field me against Star Chandru. So far as Kolar is concerned, the JD(S) is currently weighing three options: Mulbagal MLA Manjunath, former MLA Nisarga Narayanaswamy, and party leader Mallesh Babu. Kumaraswamy told mediapersons he faced pressure from both party workers and leaders in Mandya to contest from that constituency as they perceive him as the most fitting candidate to challenge Congress

nominee Venkataramane Gowda, alias Star Chandru. "Previously, our strategy was to consider either former minister CS Puttaraju or my son Nikhil [for Mandya]. However, the party believes I am the most suitable option," HDK said, adding that he would make his decision public after deliberations within the party. Sources said following a unanimous decision in the party not to field Puttaraju owing to his perceived lack of competitiveness against Star Chandru, Kumaraswamy proposed his son Nikhil as an alternative. However, Nikhil refused to contest, considering the two consecutive defeats he had suffered earlier:

Delhi HC cautions against protest by lawyers against CM Arvind Kejriwal's arrest

NEW DELHI: Delhi high court acting chief justice Manmohan warned lawyers against protesting on court premises regarding the arrest of chief minister Arvind Kejriwal. "Consequences would be severe for organising protest in court. Courts cannot be withheld. Courts cannot be stopped. We cannot take away someone's right to approach the court," justice Manmohan said. "If someone does it, they would do it at their own peril," he asserted. Justice Manmohan addressed the matter, expressing hope for a sensible resolution and indicating readiness for action if necessary. Kejriwal, arrested on March 21 in a money laundering case linked to Delhi's excise policy, was remanded to ED custody until March 28. He is accused of involvement in a conspiracy



related to the formulation of the excise policy benefiting specific individuals. The Aam Aadmi Party's legal cell planned a protest in district courts following Kejriwal's arrest by the Enforcement Directorate. Advocate Vaibhav Singh raised the issue before the acting chief justice, stating that courts should not be used for political purposes.

7 die in 2 drowning incidents in 48 hours in Mysuru region

MANDYA: Seven people drowned in two separate incidents in Mysuru region over the past two days. In Muthathi, four relatives drowned in the waters of Cauvery river on Tuesday while in Nanjangud three youths from north India drowned in Kapila river on Monday afternoon. According to Halaguru police, who registered an FIR in connection with the Muthathi incident, 40 members of a family from Mysuru & Bengaluru had come to the local Muttattiraya temple to offer prayers. Tourists, unaware of currents, take a dip, drown After taking darshan, some of them ventured into the river for a bath during which the tragedy took place.

Sion ROB demolition postponed for the third time

MUMBAI: The demolition of Sion ROB has been postponed for the third time since the date for first for its closure was first declared in January. CR had first announced that the demolition will take place on Jan 20 but it was postponed till Feb 28. The fresh date was declared was March 28. But it has been postponed again. CR sources said that demolition may now happen after May 20 when Mumbai I scheduled to vote for Lok Sabha elections. The bridge is to be demolished and widened for the laying of the fifth and sixth railway lines between Parel and Kurla. The lines will be laid to the west of the tracks at Sion station, which are currently obstructed by the bridge's pillars. The new bridge's span will be increased from 30m to 49m, while the width will be maintained at 29m. Central Railway (CR) estimates that the demolition will take at least six months and reconstruction another 18 months.

Editorial

ISIS-K's provocation, Putin's response and the global fight against terrorism

On 22 March 2024, at least 137 people were killed, including three children and more than 150 were injured when camouflaged gunmen stormed the Crocus City Hall, in Moscow's Northern suburb of Krasnogorsk, and then set fire to the building. The attackers claimed to be members of the Islamic State's Khorasan. The Islamic State wrote on Telegram on 23 March that the attack was "carried out by four IS fighters armed with machine guns, a pistol, knives and firebombs," as part of "the raging war" with "countries fighting Islam". They repeated their claim again on Saturday. While the 'original' IS may have been largely defeated in the battlefields of Iraq and Syria, IS-KP is proving itself to be a 'worthy' successor to its parent legacy. It is the deadliest attack in Russia for almost two decades when Islamist insurgencies had marked the first decade of Putin's rule. Terrorists had then taken more than 1,000 people, including hundreds of children, hostage in the Beslan school siege. At that time, President Vladimir Putin said; "We showed ourselves to be weak. And the weak get beaten".

The attack

Many people in hospitals were in critical condition and the Governor of the Moscow region said rescuers would continue to search the site for "several days". Some witnesses filmed the gunmen from the upper floors as they walked through the stalls shooting people and sharing the footage on social media. "The terrorists used a flammable liquid to set fire to the concert hall's premises, where spectators were located" the Investigative Committee said and that people died both from gunshot wounds and smoke inhalation after a fire engulfed the 6,000-seater venue. The gunmen appear to have planned the attack carefully, setting fires by an emergency stairwell to herd people toward a killing zone in the middle of the lobby. Helicopters were brought in to drop about 160 tonnes of water, but it took 10 hours for the fire to be contained. Investigators said a man who jumped on one of the gunmen as he was shooting at the concert-goers, "immobilising" him and thus "saving the lives of people around him" would receive an award.

Russian MP Alexander Khinshtein said the attackers fled in a white Renault car and were stopped in the Bryansk region, about 340 kilometres away from Moscow. Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) announced 11 people had been arrested, including four "directly involved". Russia's interior ministry said they were foreign nationals. Unconfirmed reports have mentioned nationals from Tajikistan. Khinshtein said passports from the country had been found in the car.

In Moscow, residents stood in long lines in the rain to donate blood for those hospitalised and mourners came to lay flowers outside the concert hall. Memorial posters featuring a single candle replaced some advertising billboards in the capital and major events were cancelled across the country.

IS-KP

ISIS-K emerged in 2014 and 2015 in Afghanistan and Pakistan after its leaders broke away from Al Qaeda and the Taliban. Its fighters declared loyalty to the even more violent and extremist Islamic State, also known as ISIS, which was gaining influence at the time, mounting attacks in Iraq and Syria. IS-K seeks to destabilise, overthrow and supplant existing governments in the historic Khorasan region to create a Caliphate in South and Central Asia, governed by a strict interpretation of Islamic sharia law. In January, it bombed the commemoration ceremony of Iranian General Qassem Soleimani in Kerman, Iran causing a high number of fatalities.

World Happiness Report: A tale of inaccuracies, delusions, and assumptions

Until 2023, the World Happiness Report was a publication of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, a global initiative of the United Nations, and from 2024 onwards, it is a publication of the Wellbeing Research Centre at the University of Oxford. At first glance, it looks like the work of a genius—a report compiled after in-depth research and collated by the world's most esteemed institutions.

However, once you start noticing the details, their inaccuracies and biases inadvertently start jumping at you like a bunch of Bernie Sanders fans squeaking about wealth redistribution at a corporate dinner. Our first stop on this merry-go-round of analysis is the cultural carnival of the survey questions. Picture this: a questionnaire designed with all the cultural sensitivity of a bull in a china shop, asking respondents if they smiled or laughed yesterday as if happiness were a universal language spoken with a grin. It's as if the report believes the entire world shares the same sense of humour as a dad joke enthusiast at an open mic night. Job security? Income inequality? Access to education and healthcare? Who needs those when you can simply ask if someone had a good laugh yesterday? Speaking from personal experience, I



am not sure about yesterday, but I did laugh a lot today, and that was when I looked at the World Happiness Report 2024. Another flaw that the report indulges in is interpreting "aspirations" as unhappiness. Individuals from developing countries might be a lot more aspirational or ambitious; it does not necessarily make them unhappy with their lives. In fact, the opposite can still be argued. Someone who draws meaning from their everyday struggle, one who wants to turn their start-up into a billion-dollar venture, might be extremely content with their life, wishing to take it to another level. Imagine hustling day and night, dreaming of a better future, only to be termed "depressed" by some reports that mistake ambition for anguish and growth for gloom. This year's World

Happiness Report isn't the only one under scrutiny; the entire notion of happiness surveys seems flawed as it effectively ends up conveying nothing. Take the UN report averaging self-reported happiness scores from 2014 to 2016, for example. It claims that the happiest countries on Earth that year were, in order, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Switzerland, Finland, the Netherlands, Canada, New Zealand, and, tied for ninth, Australia and Sweden. It's like trying to rank the world's best pizza toppings; everyone has their own opinion, and nobody can agree on the supreme winner. Also, imagine claiming that any two countries are exactly equal in happiness. In a Pew survey conducted in 2014 across 43 countries, Mexico, Israel, and Venezuela emerged as the unlikely champions, secur-

ing the top three spots, while the US made it into the top 10, barely beating Vietnam and Colombia. If that is not confusing enough, here are the countries that scored better than Japan: Argentina, Peru, Malaysia, Pakistan, South Africa, and Nicaragua. If any survey ranks Pakistan higher than Japan in happiness, then we might as well start measuring happiness through tarot cards instead of surveys. These surveys mostly rely on subjective self-reporting, overlooking cultural nuances in the process. In Japan, for example, there exists a cultural reluctance to boast about one's good fortune, while in Scandinavia, there's an overwhelming societal expectation to proclaim one's happiness to the world. Coming back to the World Happiness Report 2024, India is ranked 126th out of 143 nations. It is not disputable that India is a third-world country with very low per capita income and miles to achieve in alleviating poverty, infant mortality, women's safety issues, and corruption. There is no denying the fact that the law and order situation in India can get a thousand times better, and the ease of doing business needs to improve a lot more. That being said, India securing a lower spot than Libya, Iraq, Palestine,

Ukraine, and Pakistan does seem like a bit of a stretch. It is not being argued that an average person in these countries cannot be happy with their lives or that India has achieved the absolute pinnacle of happiness as compared to these countries, but war-torn countries like Libya, Iraq, Ukraine, Palestine, and debt-ridden, terrorism-infested countries like Pakistan faring better than India is bound to raise some eyebrows. Even people under the military dictatorship of Myanmar are apparently happier than in India; the less said about this, the better. Iran's positioning above Tunisia may seem perplexing too, considering the stark contrast in women's rights and personal freedoms between the two nations. While Iranian women continue to face stringent dress codes and limitations on their autonomy, Tunisian women enjoy relatively more liberal rights, including the freedom to marry outside their religion. Meanwhile, the US finds itself nestled among the top-ranking nations, basking in the glow of its American Dream. Yet, beneath the stars and stripes lies a nation grappling with political polarisation, income inequality, and a healthcare system that seems to operate on the principle of "survival of the richest".

Democratic Taiwan: An ideological and political challenge for China

On January 13 this year, Democratic Progressive Party (DPP)'s candidate Lai Ching-te won the Taiwan President election by receiving 40 per cent of the votes, while his opponents, Kuomintang (KMT)'s Hou Yu-ih won about 33 per cent and Taiwan People's Party (TPP)'s Ko Wen-je received about 26 per cent of the votes. However, the ruling DPP lost the majority in the Legislative Yuan. Taiwan has been conducting elections since 1996 with the participation of its 23 million citizens in the democratic process. However, the stakes for China are high now. Firstly, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), a free and fair election in Taiwan buttressed by a mature rule of law is a major

ideological challenge and political legitimacy issue. The CCP has been arguing that it follows an inexplicable "socialist democracy". Theoretically, its 98 million cadres elect over 2,000 deputies to the party congress every five years, who in turn elect a 200-member Central Committee, a 25-member Politburo, and a seven-member Standing Committee. China's 1.4 billion people thus have no role in this "democratic" process. It had been suggested that the CCP's policies have led to the building of a "well-off society" with higher per capita income. It did not explain why it took seven long decades of communist rule to achieve this. The CCP had ridiculed democracies for their shoddy

responses to the Covid pandemic, besides growing income inequalities. Of course, Beijing did not explain to the international community how the virus emerged in Wuhan and penalised those who questioned China's responses, such as Australia. The CCP also reduced Marxism to crass economism by trumpeting its economic policies. CCP's "model", which is now being exported abroad, is thus facing a crisis. Secondly, CCP leaders have ratcheted up their rhetoric and actions to reunify Taiwan, even though an overwhelming majority of Taiwanese prefer the status quo. As China had risen, its ambitions also soared, with all-round assertive behaviour across the neighbourhood and beyond.

The re-election of President Vladimir Putin has emerged as a pivotal event in the global geopolitical landscape, drawing intense scrutiny and analysis from various quarters. Although widely anticipated, this development marks a critical juncture in determining Russia's future trajectory and its interactions with the international community. The discourse surrounding the election encapsulates a myriad of perspectives, each dissecting the implications of Putin's continued presidency through distinct lenses. At the forefront of the discussions is the narrative prevalent in Western countries, notably the US and key European nations, which attributes Putin's electoral success to his authoritarian consolidation of power. This narrative primarily focuses on the suppression of political dissent within Russia, highlighting actions such as the mysterious deaths of Alexei Navalny, who, prior to becoming the face of opposition in Russia, was associated with far-right and hyper-nationalist forces. Such incidents are portrayed as indicative of Putin's intent to silence any opposition, securing his hold on power through any means deemed necessary. Contrary to this viewpoint, a significant portion of the Russian population, along with some international commentators, offers a counter-narrative. They argue that the Western perspec-



term vision for Russia and the geopolitical manoeuvres he may undertake. A critical aspect of this vision is identifying a successor who can perpetuate Putin's legacy and further Russia's global aspirations.

From their perspective, Putin's leadership is seen as a defiance against NATO's encroachment and the destabilising efforts of Western powers. This support is often framed within the context of strategic challenges faced by Russia, with the expansion of NATO portrayed as a direct threat to the nation's sovereignty and security. The discourse extends to think tanks across the Atlantic, which have been vocal in analysing the election's ramifications. Notably, institutions that have historically been skeptical of Russia have refrained from accusing Putin of significant voter fraud in this instance. However, they remain reluctant to acknowledge Putin's popularity, attributing it simplistically to authoritarianism. The election's implications are far-reaching, with Putin's victory solidifying his position for another term. Attention now turns to his long-

term vision for Russia and the geopolitical manoeuvres he may undertake. A critical aspect of this vision is identifying a successor who can perpetuate Putin's legacy and further Russia's global aspirations. This initiative transcends mere governance continuity; it aims to reinforce Russia's stance against Western narratives that often depict Putin as a visionless, power-hungry autocrat. By successfully managing the power transition, Putin can challenge these portrayals and affirm the legitimacy of his leadership. Another dimension of the election's aftermath can involve testing NATO's resolve, potentially through provocations that question the alliance's commitment to collective defence as outlined in Article 5. Such strategies not only evaluate NATO's unity and strength but also aim to expose the limitations of its security assurances, undermining its credibility. Furthermore, the election outcomes may encourage Putin to escalate military engagements.

Japan is in rare political conundrum as ruling party is rocked by financial scandals

Is Japanese politics likely to change in the near future? On the one hand, the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), rocked by financial scandals, is moving towards reducing the influence of its factions, though nobody has been convicted yet of financial irregularities. Simultaneously, the upcoming Nippon Ishin No Kai, or Japan Innovation Party, held its party convention in Kyoto on Sunday, March 25. The party has stated its main goal of becoming the largest

opposition party in the next elections to the Diet. At the same time, they have introduced a larger goal, which is to push the ruling LDP-Komeito alliance out of government in the next election. The effort of the Nippon Ishin is to take Japan towards a two-party system. In Nippon Ishin's view, the next election should, in its perception, start a process of deciding upon Japan's future. An election is due only in October 2025, but the opposition party believes that the scan-

dal racked the LDP, possibly with a new leadership by September, when Fumio Kishida's tenure as LDP President ends. Struggle could bring a snap election. The G7 Summit in June and the Tokyo elections on July 7 are events guiding the timing of a snap poll. Major political change in Japan has been rare since World War II ended. In August 2009, the LDP lost an election to the Democratic Party of Japan. They elected Yukio Hatoyama as Japan's Prime Minister.

This occurred 15 years after the LDP first lost office in 1993, when Morihiro Hosokawa led a coalition government, forcing the LDP from office for the first time since its establishment in 1955. Both of these events were described as historic but lacked sustainability, and the LDP came back to power after each such excursion and has continued till date. Hosokawa in 1993 and Hatoyama in 2009 were backed by high popularity and great expectations from Japanese voters.

HDFC Bank and TD Bank Group sign an agreement to simplify banking experience for Indian students in Canada

Ambala/HISAR: HDFC Bank and TD Bank Group (TD) today announced an expanded relationship supporting Indian students planning to study in Canada. With this agreement, TD and HDFC Bank are announcing a new referral program. HDFC Bank will refer students planning to study in Canada to TD's International Student GIC Program, which enables students to conveniently comply with the Government of Canada's Student Direct Stream (SDS) study permit pathway. This referral partnership builds on the two banks' existing relationship where TD has acted as HDFC Bank's main correspondent banking partner for Canadian Dollar clearing since 2015. As part of the Canadian government's requirements to apply for an

expedited study permit, students are required to provide proof of financial support, which is accomplished via a Guaranteed Investment Certificate (GIC) from a participating Canadian financial institution. The TD International Student GIC Program is designed to enable students to open accounts digitally and help them meet their study visa and living expense requirements. HDFC Bank is India's leading private sector bank. As of December 31, 2023, the Bank's distribution network was at 8,091 branches and 20,688 ATMs across 3,872 cities / towns. TD is the second largest Bank in Canada and sixth largest in North America by assets, and serves over 27.5 million customer.

TD has over 1,000 branches across Canada, with advisors speaking more than 80 languages, including Hindi, Punjabi, Tamil, Gujarati, and Urdu. "We continue our focus on helping Indian students to navigate the process to study abroad," said Mr. S Sampath Kumar, Group Head Retail Branch Banking, HDFC Bank. "Canada is a leading education market and our relationship with TD aims to simplify the process for students and Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) who want to study there." Ms. Smita Bhagat Group Head Retail Branch Banking, HDFC Bank further added, "The association is designed to support the study permit requirements of Indian students planning to study in Canada. The curated program also offers a wide range.

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. If Metro Railway general manager P Uday Kumar Reddy was aware of the "missing" ridership, he chose not to say anything about it. "It's such a momentous occasion for Metro Railway - having opened East-West Metro's most significant section despite the multiple setbacks. We are happy to provide a meaningful Metro line, connected to two interfaces," he said. The ridership mismatch struck officials while noting down Friday's passenger count at Esplanade: 12,384, compared to Howrah Maidan.

Temperature starts moving up, air quality still moderate

NEW DELHI: The city saw a warm day with dry winds and clear sky. The weather department expects the maximum temperature to rise further as the warming trend of summers advances. The minimum temperature too increased slightly. India Meteorological

Department (IMD) expects the maximum temperature to reach 33 degrees Celsius within a day or two. "Temperature will not rise rapidly but gradually. There is possibility that the maximum temperature may reach 33 degrees Celsius within next four days. The rea-

sons are majorly clear sky and no western disturbance which will cause rain or clouding," said Kuldeep Srivastava, weather scientist, IMD. On Monday, the minimum temperature was 12.2 degrees Celsius, four notches below normal against 11.9 degree Celsius a day earlier.



Man gets RI for sexually harassing minor online

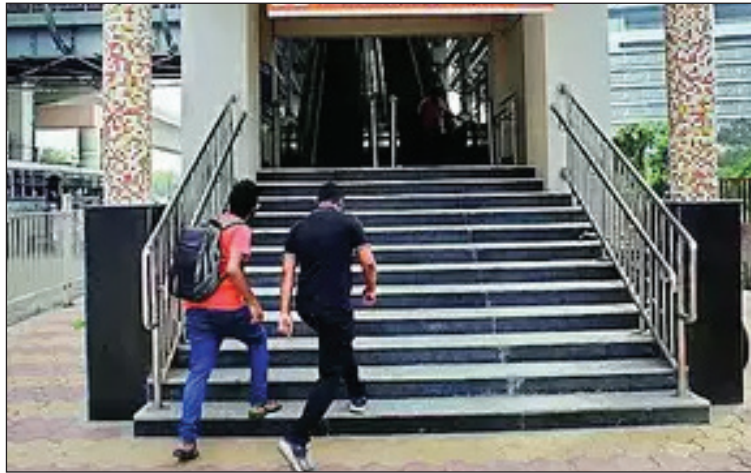
New Delhi: A court here has sentenced a 34-year-old man to five years of rigorous imprisonment for sexually harassing and criminally intimidating a minor on a social networking site. The court said it is the responsibility of society to protect children from exploitation by cyberstalkers or cyberbullies, observing that the psychological scars of childhood sexual abuse deeply impact the lives of innocent children. Additional Sessions Judge Susheel Bala Dagar was hearing a case against convict Akhilesh Kumar who was booked under provisions of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. Noting the submissions of public prosecutor Yogita Kaushik Dahiya, the court said it was proved that Kumar chatted with the minor after creating a fake identity, made sexually coloured remarks, and contacted or followed her online despite the girl's clear disinterest.

CP Radhakrishnan appointed as governor of Telangana

HYDERABAD: Jharkhand governor CP Radhakrishnan got the additional charge of Telangana, replacing the Tamilisai Sounderajan. The orders were issued by Rashtrapati Bhavan on Monday. Radhakrishnan's appointment marks the third instance of Telangana having a governor from Tamil Nadu. The first governor, Narasimhan, and the second governor, Tamilisai Sounderajan, were also from Tamil Nadu. Radhakrishnan, a two-time member of parliament from Coimbatore as a BJP candidate, assumed the governorship of Jharkhand in 2023.

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. "Unless the frequency improves, I cannot rely on the Metro. If I buy a ticket and reach the platform, I may need to wait 50 minutes. I can reach my destination in that period," said Arup Sandhukhan who commutes



from Barisha to Dalhousie daily. Sk Tajuddin, a resident of Dum Dum, who had come to Paribahan Bhavan-2 near Ruby intersection for a work, said, "I took the Metro along EM Bypass for the first time. It is easier to reach my home by taking the Metro. But the frequency of the Metro services

in the Ruby-New Garia stretch needs to be improved. I can reach the nearest station of the North-South corridor by the time a Kavi Subhas-bound train comes at Hemanta Mukhopadhyay station." Some students of schools in Kasba were found availing the Metro.

Govt collecting reports to develop illegal colonies

New Delhi: Delhi gov't has started working on making an elaborate plan to develop unauthorised colonies in the city. It has sought reports from different departments on four parameters—status of solid waste management, condition of roads, nature of borewells and condition of sewer. Gov't has started collecting data from different agencies concerned, including Municipal Corporation of Delhi and Public Works Department, on all these parameters. After the data collection is done, a fresh push on redevelopment will be given.

Delhi govt decides to extend excise policy again by one more year

NEW DELHI: Delhi govt has decided to extend the current excise policy for one more year. The excise duty-based policy regime, which transferred the retail liquor business from private entities to govt-run corporations, was implemented in Sep 2022 and was extended twice after that, in Apr 2023 and again in Oct 2023. A senior Delhi govt official said there was no immediate need to make any changes in the excise policy at this stage when several provisions of the Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22 were under the scanner of investigating agencies. Implemented in Nov 2022, the Excise Policy of 2021-22 was touted as a progressive one but it had to be scrapped after Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) registered a case against alleged irregularities in its formulation and imple-



mentation. The excise department on Saturday issued an order saying that the competent authority had granted its approval to extend the policy for the year 2024-25 for granting the wholesale licences. Sources said asimilar order for the retail licences will be issued soon. Under the current policy regime, there are 684 liquor vends in the capital run by Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development Corporation (DTDC)

JNU teachers condemn 'disruption' of lectures

NEW DELHI: Nehru University Teachers' Association (JNUTA) on Monday strongly condemned the alleged disruption caused during the lectures of Nivedita Menon at Gangadhar Meher University and Sambalpur University in Odisha. She was invited to deliver the lectures at these universities on March 12 on the occasion of International Women's Day. Nivedita Menon is a writer and a professor of political thought at JNU. "While her talk at GMU titled 'Feminisms for the 21st century' was disrupted after she had spoken for about 15 minutes of her inaugural talk by a handful of people—mostly outsiders to GMU—who shouted slogans to intimidate Menon and



prevented her from speaking, her online talk at Sambalpur University was not allowed to be streamed," JNUTA stated. In its statement, the association voiced concerns over "the increasing trend of intimidation targeting scholars across the country, particularly in Odisha". "The disruption and intimidation of Menon by anti-academic elements is a grave

assault on academic freedom," JNUTA stated, adding that "it is extremely worrying that attendees were forced to leave, depriving them of the opportunity for dialogue and exchange of ideas." The teachers' association further demanded police action against the perpetrators and urged the two universities to issue strong statements over the incidents.

ICICI Bank's iMobile Pay is used by over one crore customers from other banks

GURUGRAM / FARIDABAD : ICICI Bank announces that its retail mobile banking app, iMobile Pay, has on-boarded over one crore customers of other banks. This significant achievement comes just over three years after ICICI Bank made the app open for customers of other banks. ICICI Bank was the pioneer in launching mobile banking app in 2008, expediting the way for digital banking in India. In December 2020, it became the first bank to make the app interoperable by extending the benefit of its services to customers of other banks. Since then, customers of any bank can use iMobile Pay by following a few simple steps: link their savings bank account with the app, generate a UPI ID and enjoy a wide range of convenient services. These include making payments to any UPI ID or merchants, paying bills, recharging online and transferring money to any bank account, payment app and digital wallet. Further, users can also open a savings account, apply for a home loan or credit card among other banking services provided by ICICI Bank. With over one crore customers of other banks using iMobile Pay, there has been 26% growth in the overall transactions value in this financial year till the end of

February 2024 (April- February), compared to the same period last year. During this period, the average ticket size increased by 16%. Commenting on this remarkable achievement, Mr. Sidhartha Mishra, Head- Digital Channels and Partnerships, ICICI Bank stated, "We have consistently aimed to innovate and simplify banking for our customers. The fact that our retail banking app has on-boarded over one crore customers from other banks in just three years is a testament to iMobile Pay's significant role in providing seamless digital banking experiences. With iMobile Pay, we are revolutionising the way customers manage their finances and conduct transactions. We have built a simple, seamless, secure, and accessible banking platform that offers over 400 services. anytime and anywhere. We are thrilled to witness the widespread adoption and eagerly look forward to enhancing users' banking convenience through continuous innovations." Since its launch, iMobile Pay has gained immense popularity among users for its diverse features. Services like UPI transactions, fund transfers, credit card payments, mobile recharges, and bill payments are most used by users.

Man lures astrologer with property deal, rapes her in Delhi; non-bailable warrant issued

NEW DELHI: A 36-year-old astrologer has alleged that she was sexually assaulted by a man on the pretext of a property deal in south Delhi. A non-bailable warrant has been issued against the suspect and raids are on at different places to arrest him. The woman, in her complaint filed last month, stated that her family is known to the accused's family. "In Jan, she contacted the 40-year-old suspect regarding the sale of a property of someone she knew. He then visited the woman's house and assured her that he could help in selling the property," a police officer said. The suspect claimed to be a property dealer, which is being investigated. The suspect learned that the woman was an astrologer. He then gained her trust by calling her under the pretence of wanting to learn more about astrology. One day, he contacted the woman and took her to his friend's house in Neb Sarai, apparently to finalise the property deal. "The woman claimed that he mixed something in her drink and then sexually assaulted her," the officer said. A case under sections of 328 (causing hurt by means of poison, etc., with intent to commit an offence), 376 (sexual assault) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of IPC was registered. "We are conducting raids to nab the accused," he added. (The victim's identity has not been revealed to protect her privacy as per Supreme Court directives on cases related to sexual assault)



Slippers in hand, Chhattisgarh students chase away drunk teacher

NEW DELHI: The group of students at a primary school in Chhattisgarh's Bastar district took a stand against a teacher who arrived intoxicated. The viral video depicts the intense scene as the teacher hastily starts his motorbike amidst a barrage of slippers thrown by the students, ultimately fleeing the premises. This dramatic confrontation sheds light on the challenges faced by students in accessing quality education and the pressing need for accountability within the education system. As per the 'X' post, the incident took place at Pilibhatta Primary School, where the teacher's recurrent presence in class while under the influence of alcohol had become a growing concern. Rather than fulfilling his teaching duties, he frequently resorted to sleeping on the floor, disregarding the needs of his students. Frustrated by his behavior, the students confronted him,



Such incidents not only tarnish the reputation of the education system but also have detrimental effects

only to face verbal abuse in return. Matters reached a tipping point when the teacher arrived intoxicated once again last week, prompting the students to take decisive action. This incident is not isolated, as another disturbing event recently surfaced in Chhattisgarh's Bilaspur district. A teacher was caught on camera openly carrying alcohol onto school premises, dis-

playing a blatant disregard for the standards of conduct expected in such settings. The footage serves as a stark reminder of the urgent need for enhanced oversight and accountability measures within educational institutions. Such incidents not only tarnish the reputation of the education system but also have detrimental effects on the well-being and academic progress of students. As these videos continue to circulate online, they serve as a clarion call for authorities to address systemic issues and ensure that students are provided with a safe and conducive learning environment.

MP: Woman stripped, paraded and beaten up in Indore's village; four arrested

INDORE: Four women were arrested for allegedly beating up, stripping and parading a 30-year-old woman over a dispute at a village in Madhya Pradesh's Indore district on Wednesday. A video of the purported incident that occurred during the Holi celebrations also surfaced on social media. "On Monday, four women forcibly pulled the victim out of her house, beat her up and humiliated her by stripping her naked in public at Bachhora village of Gautampura police station area," Superintendent of Police (Rural) Sunil Mehta said. All four



accused women were later arrested, he said. The victim, belonging to the Scheduled Caste (SC) category, was left traumatized and sought refuge at her parents' home. One of the accused suspected that the victim was instigating her mother-in-law against her. She also suspected that the victim had taken her mother-in-law to Mandsaur without informing her, the police official said.

Eyewitnesses said the accused women dragged the victim out of her house and stripped her. They said that the victim woman kept pleading for mercy at the time of the incident, but the accused did not relent and they openly stripped her by tearing her clothes. They also took her to some distance on the common road of the village in the same condition.

High court confirms death to man who killed his son, sister & her family members

NAGPUR: The Nagpur bench of the Bombay high court on Thursday confirmed the death penalty for Vivek Palatkar, who was convicted of killing his son, sister, and three other family members. Palatkar's victims included his son Krishna, his sister Archana Pawankar

(45), her husband Kamlakar (48), her mother-in-law Meerabai (73), and her daughter Vedanti (12). The sessions court had sentenced him to death after recording the testimonies of 29 witnesses. The accused also had other crimes registered against him. Additional

government pleader Sanjay Doifide, who argued the case on behalf of the prosecution, drew the court's attention to statements from witnesses, including the accused's daughter and sister's daughter, who miraculously survived the bloody attack.

'My husband will reveal truth in so-called liquor scam in court on March 28': Delhi CM's wife Sunita Kejriwal

NEW DELHI: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's wife, Sunita, on Wednesday said that her husband, who is in the custody of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with the alleged excise scam, will reveal the truth regarding the case in court on March 28. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener was arrested by the ED on March 21 in an excise policy-linked money laundering case and subsequently remanded to the agency's custody till March 28. In a video message, Sunita Kejriwal hit out at the Centre and central probe agency, saying that the ED could not find a single penny in its more than 250 raids conducted in the "so-called liquor scam". "Despite two years of probe, the ED has not been able to find even one paisa in evidence. They raided chief minister's residence but got just Rs 73,000," she said. "I met Arvind Kejriwal in jail yesterday, he has diabetes and sugar level is not under control. However, his determination is strong. Two days ago, he directed Delhi Minister Atishi to resolve the water and sewer-related issues. What wrong did he do? The Centre has filed a case against Arvind Kejriwal even for this. Do they want to finish Delhi?" Sunita Kejriwal said, adding that her husband was very sad over the issue. "In the so-called liquor scam, ED has conducted more than 250 raids. They are searching for the money of this so-called scam. They have found nothing yet. Arvind Kejriwal has said that he will reveal everything in court on March 28.

Odisha: Congress MLA Suresh Routray's son Manmath joins BJD

BHUBNESWAR: Six-time Congress MLA Suresh Routray's son Manmath Routray has officially joined the ruling BJD in Odisha on Wednesday. Manmath, a former commercial pilot, made his entry into the BJD at the party headquarters in a procession accompanied by his supporters. He was inducted into the party by its MPs Manas Mangaraj and Sasmit Patra. "I will work for the ideology of my father and also Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. Both leaders have one agenda in life and that is development. I will work for the development of Odisha," he said. Suresh Routray had on Tuesday said that he wanted

his son to contest elections as a Congress candidate. "I accept Manmath's decision of joining the BJD as he is mature enough to make decisions on his political career," said Routray, the MLA of Jatani. Stating that he would not contest the ensuing polls due to his age, the 80-year-old leader, Suresh Routray declared that he would not run in the upcoming elections but would support the Congress candidate over his son, Manmath said he has his father's "blessings". "My father wanted me to join the Congress, but I decided to start my political journey under Naveen Patnaik's leadership," he said.

Hockey India chief Dilip Tirkey named BJD candidate for Sundargarh Lok Sabha seat

BHUBNESWAR: Chief minister of Odisha and BJD president Naveen Patnaik announced BJD's first list of nine Lok Sabha candidates and 72 assembly contestants for the simultaneous polls scheduled from May 13. Naveen is set to re-contest from Hinjili seat for a sixth term. BJD general secretary (organization) Pranab Prakash Das has been pitted against Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan of BJP.

Four men thrashed for 'cow smuggling' in Rajasthan's Alwar

ALWAR: Four men from Haryana were allegedly beaten up by locals on suspicion of cow smuggling in Rajasthan's Alwar district early Wednesday. The incident occurred near Honda chowk in Khushkhera police station area of Alwar around 3 am. SHO of Khushkhera Police Station, Virendra Yadav, said the patrolling officer received information that some locals had stopped a pickup vehicle in which cows were being allegedly smuggled. While



police sources said the suspected cow smugglers were allegedly beaten up by the locals, residents claimed that the four got injured while trying to flee from the spot. When the police reached the spot, the four suspected cow

smugglers were found in an injured state, he said, adding they were admitted to district hospitals. Seven cows were rescued from the spot and relocated to a cow shelter. "It was alleged that they were smuggling cows.

Locals who caught the vehicles said the four persons got injured while trying to escape from there. However, it will become clear in investigation whether the locals were involved in thrashing them," the SHO said. Yadav said a case against the four will be registered for alleged cow smuggling. The four accused, all from Haryana's Nuh district, were identified as Aarif, Gaffar, Salim and Habib. Further investigation is going on.

TDP chief launches Praja Galam yatra, vows to end YSRCP's autocratic rule in the state

TIRUPATI: Former Chief Minister and Telugu Desam chief Nara Chandrababu Naidu launched the "Praja Galam" poll campaign amidst much fanfare at Palamaner in his home district of Chittoor on Wednesday and vowed to end the autocratic rule of the YSRCP in the state in the 2024 polls. Addressing an impressive rally at Palamaner, Naidu denounced the manner in which the YSRCP government neglected the irrigation projects in the water-parched and perennially drought-prone Rayalaseema region of the state. Telugu Desam founder and former Chief Minister NT Rama Rao had a vision to bring Krishna waters to address the drinking and irrigation water needs of the



Rayalaseema region. "It was during the Telugu Desam Party regime in the state that various irrigation projects such as the Telugu Ganga, Handri Neeva, Galeru Nagari, etc., were taken up. While 90% of the works of the irrigation projects were completed by the TDP, the YSRCP government couldn't complete the pending 10% of the works in the last five years," Naidu lamented. "During the TDP regime between 2014-2019, about 62 irrigation projects were initiated,

and 24 were completed. While the TDP spent Rs. 68,000 crore on irrigation projects across the state, Rs. 12,000 crore was allocated for the completion of irrigation projects in the Rayalaseema region alone. The Jagan Reddy government allocated only Rs. 2,125 crore for irrigation projects in the Rayalaseema region in the last five years, reflecting the government's lack of resolve for the completion of irrigation projects in the state," the TDP chief observed.

Ex-army man from Kalimpong 'tricked' into Russian Army

KALIMPONG: A 47-year-old man from Kalimpong allegedly tricked into a job in the Russian army has appealed to the government in a video message to rescue him before he is sent to fight Ukraine.

Urgen Tamang, a resident of Chibo-Purbung in Kalimpong, speaking in Hindi in the 3-minute video, has blamed recruitment "agents" for duping him promising employment opportunities abroad as a security guard but recruited him in the Russian Army without his consent and that he is now compelled to fight the ongoing war against Ukraine. In the video, Tamang claimed that he was misled by agents regarding the job, as he was initially informed that the job was for a security guard position in Moscow, Russia. He



had reached Moscow on January 19 this year where he was received by a Gorkha/Nepali individual who subsequently accommodated him in a hotel for a night. The next day he was sent to a group of Tamil agents where he stayed for a night. He was then lodged in a hotel for about 10 days before being relocated to an army camp. "I was taken to the army camp for normal training for approximately 18 days. There, I was asked to sign a bond. Thereafter, I was transferred to a jungle camp where I received training on handling guns

and ammunition. It became evident that we were being prepared for frontline combat for the Ukraine War," Tamang had said in the video requesting the Government of India to help and rescue him. Speaking to TOI, his 44-year-old wife, Ambika Tamang said she has not spoken to her husband since March 22. In their last communication, Tamang had mentioned that the Russians were taking them somewhere further from the camp. "I don't know which camp, I don't know if he meant the jungle camp or the army camp. He cannot

6 Maoists killed; toll 37 since BJP assumed office

RAIPUR: Forces gunned down six Maoist insurgents, including two women, in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur Wednesday morning, reported. Deputy CM Vijay Sharma, who also holds the home portfolio, said the operation was launched following the murder of three villagers by suspected Maoists on Holi. They were hacked and stabbed to death near Basaguda. Seventeen Reds have been killed in Bastar this month.

even understand the language there and he is alone, I don't know what to do".

"Show Raturaj's Face Too, He Is The Captain": Sehwaq quips

Delhi: The five-time winners Chennai Super Kings upset Royal Challengers Bengaluru by six wickets in Chennai to start their campaign under new captain Raturaj Gaikwad on a positive note. Batting first, RCB scored 173/6, and CSK easily met the mark. It's never easy to replace a significant individual like MS Dhoni, and Raturaj Gaikwad is no exception. "You should feel honored. However, I want to attempt to walk in my own shoes, not someone else's," he stated prior to the competition. Irfan Pathan was also delighted by Raturaj Gaikwad's leadership, noting on X: "CSK pulled off a fantastic comeback after the first 26 balls. Raturaj made some amazing bowling adjustments when under duress. #RCB vs. CSK" Images of Dhoni preparing the field were shown during the game.

BJD list out: CM to contest for 6th term; Birla ex-exec for Lok Sabha

BHUBANESHWAR:

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik will seek re-election from Hinjili for a record sixth term, BJD announced Wednesday as it named candidates for 15 Lok Sabha and 72 assembly constituencies ahead of simultaneous polls in four phases from May 13 to June 1. BJD nominated Santrupt Mishra, former HR head of Aditya Birla Group, for Cuttack parliamentary seat. Santrupt joined BJD in Feb after opting for voluntary retirement from Aditya Birla Group, which donated more than Rs 250 crore in electoral bonds to the party. He was speculated to contest from Cuttack, after six-time MP Bhartruhari Mahtab resigned from BJD. Sources said Mahtab may seek re-election from Cuttack. Odisha comprises 21 Lok Sabha and 147 assembly seats. BJD has replaced 10 of its 15 LS candidates from its 2019 roster, including



6 sitting MPs. Mumbai's ex-CP Arup Patnaik pitted against Sambit Patra in Puri. A diverse line-up of candidates, including a former top cop, a doctor, a hockey player, and a software engineer, has been unveiled by BJD for LS and assembly polls. Former Mumbai police commissioner Arup Patnaik will contest from Puri against BJP's Sambit Patra. Patnaik, who lost the 2019 Lok Sabha elections in Bhubaneswar, aims to secure victory this time. BJD general secretary (organisation) Pranab Prakash Das has been nominated to contest against Union minister

Dharmendra Pradhan of BJP in Sambalpur Lok Sabha seat, setting the stage for a high-stakes political showdown. Das, a three-time MLA from Jajpur and former minister, enjoys close ties with Naveen and his key associate V K Pandian. Sambalpur has historically been a BJP stronghold. In 2019, BJP's Nitesh Ganga Deb defeated BJD's Nalini Pradhan. Manmath Routray, son of Congress veteran Suresh Routray, joined BJD and will contest from Bhubaneswar. His political debut is anticipated to leverage his father's influence in Jatani, a key constituency.

FM: Don't have money to fight Lok Sabha polls

NEW DELHI: Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Wednesday she had decided against contesting the Lok Sabha elections from Tamil Nadu or Andhra Pradesh as she lacked funds to fight polls and may not meet the 'winnability criteria' in the two states.

"The party did ask me but after thinking over it for a week or 10 days, I went back and said, 'maybe, not'... I don't have the kind of money to contest. I also have a problem because, whether it is Andhra or Tamil Nadu, it's also going to be a question of... are you from this community or are you



from that religion," she said while responding to a question at the Times Now Summit 2024. She said BJP president JP Nadda had suggested that she could contest from one of the two states. When asked how the finance minister didn't have funds, she said, "My salary, my earnings, and my savings are mine and not the

Consolidated Fund of India". Several ministers in Modi's cabinet, such as Dharmendra Pradhan, Piyush Goyal and Bhupender Yadav, who are from the Rajya Sabha, are in the fray for a Lok Sabha seat this time. Sitharaman said the party was confident of achieving the target of 370 seats set by PM Modi.

Sadhguru discharged after brain surgery

New Delhi: Spiritual leader Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev was discharged from Delhi's Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals on Wednesday after undergoing an urgent major brain surgery following excessive bleeding within his skull. The Isha foundation stated that he underwent emergency brain surgery on March 17. He had

been experiencing severe headaches for a few weeks before undergoing brain surgery at Apollo hospitals in the city. His treating doctor, Dr Vinit Suri, senior consultant neurologist, told TOI that Sadhguru had recovered completely. He can resume all activities. Though no physiotherapy is required, some restrictions will

have to be undertaken for a short while. Dr Sangeeta Reddy, joint managing director, Apollo Hospitals group, who met Sadhguru in the hospital, said, "Doctors have expressed satisfaction with his recovery and healing. Sadhguru has maintained the same spirit. His commitment to the global good, his sharp mind.

Top court orders CBI probe into Manipur woman's 2013 murder that's still unsolved

Supreme Court on Wednesday said unresolved crimes tend to erode public trust in institutions, which have been established for maintaining law and order, and ordered a CBI probe into the death of a 25-year-old Manipuri woman 11 years ago that has remained unsolved till date, reported. Delhi Police have failed to bring to light the circumstances that led to the death of the woman in her rented house in south Delhi in 2013. She was working in a call centre at Delhi. A bench of Justices J K Maheshwari and Sudhanshu Dhulia passed the order on a plea filed by the family of the deceased seeking probe by CBI as Delhi Police failed to catch the killer and accused the cops of shielding the accused. The bench said, "...Criminal investigation must be both fair and effective. We say nothing on the fairness of the investigation... but the fact that it has been ineffective is self-evident. The kith and kin of the deceased who live far away in Manipur have a logistical problem while approaching authorities in Delhi, yet they have their hope alive, and have shown trust and confidence in this system. We are therefore of the considered view that this case needs to be handed over to CBI for a proper investigation and also to remove any doubts in the minds of the appellants, and to bring the real culprits to justice." The court noted that the woman's death was not a case of suicide as the crime scene had blood spattered on the floor and the bed sheet was completely drenched in blood. "It appears to be a homicidal death and therefore the culprits must be apprehended," the bench added.

Delightful Eight: Coming Soon, Octopus Theme Park In Rohini

New Delhi: To arouse curiosity among children about marine life, Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) plans to develop an octopus theme park in Rohini. The civic body started the process for inviting tender on Wednesday and is looking to complete the Rs 2.5-crore project by the end of this year. The park will be built on 3.24 acres of land in Sector 21. The central attraction will be a 22-foot-high, 3-metre-wide replica of a colourful octopus, its 1.45-metre-long tenta-

cles spread out. The structure will welcome visitors at the entrance of the park and children can climb it using stairs constructed next to the tentacles. "Next to the replica, there will be slides for recreational purposes and artificial grass will be placed for children's safety. There will also be a provision for stone climbing and rope climbing," said an official. The initiative aims to motivate children to spend time in parks rather than gadgets for recreation, he

added. Around the structure of the octopus will be a dark blue rubberised floor divided into six parts, each with a provision for modern playing equipment. "As part of the project, octopus-shaped swings and seating areas or gazebos in five places will be developed. There will be 3D sculptures as well to attract children," said the official. The civic body also plans to develop an open amphitheatre on one side of the park. where people can sit

and relax. "We aim to utilise the place for holding events and programmes. It will be surrounded by a 3-metre-wide pathway and people will be able to reach the place easily," said the official. MCD will plant indigenous saplings of trees and a variety of flowering plants and shrubs to ensure greenery, he added. The civic body also started work recently on developing an insect theme park in Rohini's Sector 23, which would have swings.

32-year-old restaurateur shot in NE Delhi, no arrests yet

New Delhi: A 32-year-old restaurant owner died on Tuesday after a group of unidentified assailants fired on him while he was returning home on his motorcycle in northeast district's Usmanpur area. No arrest has been made so far, police said on Wednesday.

In a suspected case of personal enmity, multiple rounds were fired at victim Sanjay, who was pierced by at least five bullets during the attack, a senior police officer said, adding that the deceased, a resident of New Usmanpur,



owned restaurant 'Goa Bar' in the locality. Police received information about the shooting incident during the wee hours of Tuesday. "The complainant stated that he found his brother bleeding with multiple

bullet injuries and rushed him to the hospital where he was declared dead on arrival. The victim sustained injuries on his head, shoulder, elbow and abdomen area." said Joy Tirkey, DCP

(north-east).

A police team rushed to the spot and found seven empty shells, four lead pieces and one live round of 7.65 mm there, said DCP Tirkey. A case was registered under relevant sections of murder and the Arms Act. During investigation it was found that Sanjay was allegedly involved in a murder. "He along with his three associates had murdered a resident of the same locality a few months back and it is suspected personal enmity may be the motivation behind.

MP HC grants protection to teen live-in couple but advises caution on hardships

INDORE: While granting protection to a live-in couple, both 19-year-olds, Madhya Pradesh HC added a word of caution about the hardships and complications youngsters may face while getting into relationships so early in life, away from their families.

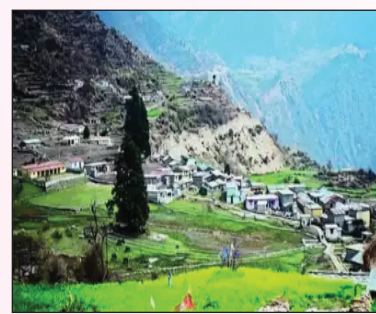


Justice Subodh Abhyankar, in an order dated March 14, observed that the petitioners were adults and had exercised free will in staying together against the wishes of their families. HC directed police to ensure the couple's protection, noting: "This court is inclined to allow the present petition... as he is a major and is entitled to reside as per his own will, and if he so decides, his choice needs to be protected from external forces." Justice Abhyankar added: "Having held so, this court must record its concern about the choices youngsters are making these days... It must be remembered that even though certain rights have been conferred by the Constitution, it is not necessary to enjoy, and enforce them as well." "India is not a country where the State provides any allowance to the unemployed ones,

thus, if you are not dependent on your parents, you have to earn your own and your partner's livelihood... and if you get into this struggle of life at an early age, not only your chances of enjoying the other opportunities are affected but your acceptance in society is also reduced, and it is more difficult for a girl who can become pregnant at an early age, leading to further complications," he said.

No road, no vote, says village in Uttarakhand bordering China

DEHRADUN: Nestled near the border areas of Chamoli district in the Garhwal Himalayas 6,000 ft above sea level, Dumak village, housing around 250 voters, finds itself entangled in an impasse ahead of the Lok Sabha elections. The crux of the matter? A 17-year-old promise of a road that remains unfinished leading voters here to boycott polls. The over 32-km road project, under the Pradhan Mantri



Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), started back in 2007-08. Villagers say that till now, around 50% of the road has

been constructed by spending at least Rs 15 crore. Chief election commissioner Rajiv Kumar, who was then election commissioner, had trekked to Dumak village before the 2022 state polls and soon after that, the poll panel decided to double the honorarium of polling officials tasked with reaching remote polling stations.

"The CEC trekked over three days to reach the polling station.

Peak electricity demand for MSEDCL crossed 25000 MW on Wednesday

MUMBAI: The MSEDCL peak power demand crossed 25000 MW for the first time this year on Wednesday, indicating that several interior regions in the state were witnessing high day temperatures. MSEDCL in a huge purchase by the state utility, bought 10385 MW electricity from the power exchange at pre-



vailing market prices to cater to the peak demand. The peak demand in Mumbai

hovered between 3400 MW and 3500 MW while the overall across state also touched a new high this year at 28500 MW. After being at an all time low for seven months, the BEST fleet finally crossed the 3000 mark on Wednesday as new buses arrived in the fleet - taking the fleet to 3008 buses!

200 waterholes in Asola to help wildlife battle the heat

New Delhi: With the rising heat, the forest department has decided to dig up around 200 waterholes across Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary. According to forest officials, the waterholes will be filled artificially with treated water or with water from Neeli Jheel. With almost all small and big ponds inside the sanctuary running dry and natural streams without water, over 20 species in the area will rely on the waterholes, which will also discourage their migration in search of water, they said. "We have recognised the areas where the waterholes will be created and they cover almost all regions of the sanctuary. They will be filled with the help of small tankers. As the heat is on the rise, we will begin the work soon as part of our conservation plan," said an official at Asola.

SRH vs MI clash creates T20 cricket history with highest-ever match aggregate



NEW DELHI: Hyderabad witnessed a historic day as Sunrisers Hyderabad clinched a thrilling victory over Mumbai Indians by 31 runs in a high-scoring encounter at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium on Wednesday. Batting first, Sunrisers embarked on a record-breaking spree, posting an astounding 277/3 in their allotted 20 overs. This remarkable total shattered the IPL record for the highest-ever team total, previously held by Royal Challengers

Bangalore (263/5 vs Pune Warriors India) in 2013. In reply, Mumbai Indians launched a valiant pursuit but fell short, accumulating 246/5 in their 20 overs. Nonetheless, their total became the highest second-innings score in IPL history. The combined total of 523 runs marked a new milestone in T20 cricket, becoming the highest match aggregate ever recorded, surpassing the previous record set in a T20I between South Africa and West Indies. It was the first time

the match aggregate crossed the 500-run mark in IPL history. Sunrisers' formidable batting lineup, led by Heinrich Klaasen (80* off 34), Abhishek Sharma (63 off 23), and Travis Head (62 off 24), propelled them to their historic total. Aiden Markram's contribution of 42 off 28 balls added to Mumbai Indians' woes.

Despite a spirited effort from Mumbai's Tilak Varma (64 off 34) and Tim David (42* off 22), Sunrisers' monumental total proved insurmountable.

'We could have tried...': MI skipper Hardik after losing second successive match

NEW DELHI: It was not the best of starts for star all-rounder Hardik Pandya as Mumbai Indians (MI) captain after his team lost the second successive match in the 17th edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) on Wednesday. Playing against Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH), MI lost the plot in the first innings itself after SRH posted a record 277 for three, the highest total in IPL history, after being invited to bat first. This extraordinary batting performance by the home team surpassed the previous highest total of 263 for five, achieved by the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) back in 2013, setting a new milestone in IPL history. Pandya, who was quite happy with the effort of his batters while chasing a mammoth total, accepted the fact that it was tough out in the middle.

"The wicket was good but 277, no matter how good or bad you bowl, if the opposition get 277 that means they batted very well. [Bowlers] were good. It was tough out there. Close to 500 runs were scored so the wicket was helping the batters. We could have tried a few different things, but we have a young bowling attack and I liked what I saw today," Pandya



said at the post-match presentation.

"If the ball goes this much in the crowd, it's definitely different to run around and complete the overs in time. Everyone batted really well, counting Tilak, Ro, Ishan. There are just few things we need to do right and we'll be alright. [On Maphaka] I think he was fantastic you know. Coming into your first game and getting overwhelmed by this kind of crowd. He showed great heart. He has the skillset," Pandya added. In a spectacular display of batting prowess, Travis Head marked his first IPL appearance of the season with a blistering 24-ball 62, while Abhishek Sharma contributed a rapid-fire 63 off just 23

deliveries, setting a solid foundation for their team. Heinrich Klaasen remained unbeaten with an impressive 80 runs, while Aiden Markram provided valuable support with a quickfire 42 not out to propel the hosts past the monumental 250-run mark. In response, MI put up a valiant effort, scoring 246 for five in their allotted 20 overs.

Tilak Varma led the charge with a quickfire 64 off just 34 balls, while Tim David contributed an unbeaten 42 off 22 deliveries to keep their team in contention till the end. MI ended the match with a commendable but ultimately unsuccessful pursuit despite their impressive batting display.

Rohit takes charge of field placements as MI struggle against SRH onslaught

NEW DELHI: The dynamics shifted within the Mumbai Indians camp as Rohit Sharma, the former captain, took charge of fielding instructions from current skipper Hardik Pandya during their IPL 2024 clash against Sunrisers Hyderabad on Wednesday.

Just days after a video surfaced showing Pandya directing Sharma to field in the deep, the tables turned as the pressure mounted on the five-time champions in Hyderabad.

Sunrisers's relentless onslaught saw them smashing a record-breaking total of 277 for 3, the highest-ever in IPL history. This incredible feat saw them break the 11-year-old record for the highest-ever team total in an IPL innings, previously held by Royal Challengers Bengaluru - 263/5 in 20 overs against now-defunct Pune Warriors India in 2013.

Delhi Capitals captain Rishabh Pant will get better as the season progresses, says Sourav Ganguly

JAIPUR: Returning to the cricket field after a long gap of 15 months following a horrific car crash, Rishabh Pant did reasonably well against Punjab Kings during the IPL match in Chandigarh last Saturday. The wicket keeper-batter scored 18 runs off just 13 balls and effected the smart stumping of Jitesh Sharma but could not make it a memorable one as Delhi Capitals lost the opener by four wickets. However, DC's director of cricket



Sourav Ganguly is optimistic about Pant's resurgence in the IPL. "Rishabh did brilliantly in his comeback match.

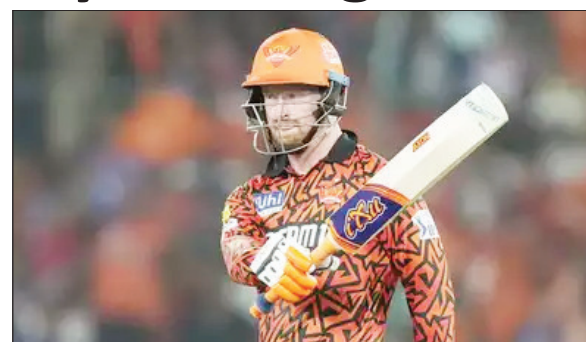
He showed glimpses of his earlier talent with both bat and gloves. I am confident he will get better as the sea-

son progresses. With Rishabh back, the batting has got stronger than what it was last year because in IPL if you lose a major Indian player, it becomes a big hole to fill," said Ganguly.

Notwithstanding the defeat in the opener, Ganguly is backing his team to bounce back against hosts Rajasthan Royals in their second outing at the SMS Stadium here on Thursday. "It's just the early part of the tournament.

Carnage in Hyderabad! SRH rewrite IPL history with highest-ever total

NEW DELHI: Sunrisers Hyderabad unleashed a barrage of power-hitting to shatter records and leave fans in awe during their Indian Premier League clash against Mumbai Indians at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad. Led by the explosive performances of Heinrich Klaasen (80 not out off 34), Abhishek Sharma (63 off 23), and Travis Head (62 off 24), SRH amassed a staggering total of 277/3 in their allotted 20 overs. This incredible feat saw them break the 11-year-



old record for the highest-ever team total in an IPL innings, previously held by Royal Challengers Bengaluru - 263/5 in 20 overs against now-defunct Pune Warriors India in 2013. Aiden Markram also made a significant contribution to the SRH

onslaught with a well-compiled 42 off 28 balls. Moreover, SRH set a new record for the highest total at the midway stage of an IPL innings, amassing 148/2 after 10 overs. The Hyderabad crowd witnessed a spectacle of record-breaking performances as

Abhishek Sharma also stole the spotlight with his sensational innings. Following an explosive start by SRH opener Travis Head, who blazed his way to a record-setting 18-ball fifty, Sharma continued the onslaught, reaching his fifty in just 16 balls—a new benchmark for the fastest fifty by an SRH batter in the tournament.

Sharma's onslaught was relentless as he hammered seven towering sixes and three fours during his whirlwind knock of 63 runs off just 23 balls.

'That was insane': Pat after registering record-breaking win

NEW DELHI: "Insane" was the only word that Sunrisers Hyderabad skipper Pat Cummins could conjure up to describe the six-hitting slugfest against Mumbai Indians in the IPL match in Hyderabad on Wednesday. The game witnessed several unprecedented milestones as SRH

hammered a colossal total of 277 for three, marking the highest total in IPL history. Mumbai Indians put up a spirited fight, keeping themselves in contention before concluding at 246 for five. This match was a game of many firsts, with a total of 500 runs scored for the first time in IPL history, including a record-breaking 38 sixes that added to the electrifying spectacle witnessed on the cricket field. "That was insane. The ball was really ping-pong around. Not until we bowled, it got a bit too close for comfort. They found a boundary whenever they needed it, but we finished it off well," said Cummins at the post-match presentation. It was a batting beauty but Cummins did not envisage such a big total. "You never play for 270, but we

wanted to be positive and be aggressive, take the game on. It was a good wicket, so we have to suck it up knowing we would go for a few boundaries. "What's important is to have clear plans with the ball. There was amazing atmosphere in the ground, enjoyed playing here, was incredibly loud," said the skipper after SRH's first win of the season. Opposition skipper Hardik Pandya could only doff his hat to the opposition batters, acknowledging their incredible performance, even as his own team put up a spirited fight with the bat. Despite Mumbai Indians' valiant efforts, the sheer dominance of the Sunrisers Hyderabad's batting lineup left Pandya and his team in awe, demonstrating the unparalleled skill and determination.

'Simply remarkable...': Sachin and Hardik doff their hats to Rohit

NEW DELHI: Rohit Sharma has become the first player to feature in 200 matches for Mumbai Indians, solidifying his status as one of the franchise's most iconic figures in a historic moment for the Indian Premier League. The milestone was celebrated by cricketing legend Sachin Tendulkar, who reminisced about his role in bringing Rohit to Mumbai Indians, stating, "Long time ago, I was having a discussion with Mrs Ambani that we have to bring Rohit to Mumbai Indians." Tendulkar hailed Rohit's achievements, calling them "simply remarkable." Mumbai Indians captain Hardik Pandya also expressed his admiration for Rohit, saying, "You've been one of the pillars of this franchise who has achieved so much



under your belt. Ro, you're known for your double centuries, I'm sure this will also be special." Rohit's 200th appearance for Mumbai Indians marks his 245th IPL match overall, a testament to his enduring presence and impact in the tournament. With over 5000 runs to his name, Rohit stands as the all-time leading run-scorer for Mumbai Indians in the IPL, showcasing remarkable consistency and loyalty since

joining the team in 2011. His leadership has been instrumental in Mumbai Indians' success, with Rohit featuring in 111 victories for the franchise, the most by any player. He has also captained the team to victory on 87 occasions, setting a new benchmark for leadership excellence. Rohit's ability to deliver under pressure is evident in his tally of 35 scores of 50 or more for Mumbai Indians, a record

unmatched by any other player in the franchise's history. Additionally, his outstanding performances have earned him 16 Player of the Match awards, cementing his status as a talismanic figure for Mumbai Indians. With Rohit Sharma continuing to script new chapters in his illustrious IPL career, his legacy as one of the greatest players in the tournament's history remains unparalleled.

Rajasthan Royals hope to build on strong start as they face Delhi

JAIPUR: Rajasthan Royals would like to build on a strong start when they take on Delhi Capitals in their second IPL match at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium on Thursday.

It was a perfect outing for Royals skipper Sanju Samson as he led from the front to guide his team to a 20-run victory against Lucknow Super Giants in the opening game on Sunday. On the other hand, Delhi Capitals need to get their act together quickly after the false start against Punjab Kings, when Shikhar Dhawan's side spoiled Rishabh Pant's comeback party at the new venue, Mullanpur last week.

Despite the strong beginning, Royals head coach Kumar Sangakkara believes there's a lot of scope for improvement. They are also wary of a Capitals onslaught. "We did quite well to start the long season on a winning note.