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Welfare schemes, subsidies will go on: Delhi govt

“Even as the law takes its own course in the process of criminal investigation, it merits clarification”



NEW DELHI: Delhi govt on Tuesday said all welfare schemes run by it in the capital and subsidies offered to Delhiites would continue unhindered despite the arrest of chief minister Arvind Kejriwal. In a press note issued by planning department, secretary Niharika Rai said there were rumours doing rounds that with the arrest of CM by Enforcement Directorate, the welfare schemes and subsidies given by Delhi govt would be stopped. "Even as the law takes its own course in the process of criminal investigation, it merits clarification that administration of schemes and governance are never specific to individ-

uals and shall continue in normal course, as in the past," Rai said. "Such rumours create an atmosphere of fear within the general public, therefore, it is necessary to inform the public that there shall be no disruption of any kind in disbursement of admissible subsidies, pensions, welfare benefits, etc," she added. Kejriwal was arrested on March 21 in a case related to the excise policy 2021-22. Apart from providing free electricity and water to frugal consumers, Delhi govt also extends free travel to women in DTC and Cluster Scheme

buses, free pilgrimage to those above 60, and various social welfare pensions. The planning secretary said social welfare schemes were funded with public money through the consolidated fund and backed by budgetary allocations. "Social welfare funds are neither the personal property of any individual or political entity nor funded by an individual or entity's personal money. There is an architecture of civil services and processes laid down in the national capital, which continues as usual," Rai said, adding that public serv-

ices, social welfare schemes and subsidies were not at all affected by CM's arrest or remand. Urging people to stay away from rumour mongers, the official said people should not be misled by malicious disinformation. In a statement, AAP govt said the press note was issued by the secretary "as per the instructions" of CM to quell the rumours. "Despite the storm, Kejriwal govt stands strong. With unwavering determination towards its citizens, Kejriwal govt assures Delhiites of the continuity of welfare schemes," it stated.

Jaishankar backs Philippines in South China Sea, riles China

Amid increasing China-Philippines tensions in South China Sea (SCS), foreign minister S Jaishankar Tuesday backed the southeast Asian country's efforts to uphold its sovereignty after a meeting with his counterpart Enrique Manalo in Manila. The meeting took place a day after the Philippines summoned the Chinese ambassador and lodged a protest against China's "aggressive actions" in the South China Sea, nearly 90 per cent of which is claimed by Beijing. The US also last week condemned China's "dangerous" actions against what it called lawful Philippine maritime operations. Calling for strict adherence to a rules-based order, Jaishankar reiterated "firmly India's support to the Philippines for upholding its national sovereignty". The minister underlined the significance of UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea) 1982 as the



constitution of the seas, calling upon all parties to adhere to it in its entirety, both in letter and in spirit. However, unlike after their last meeting in India in June 2023, the ministers stopped short of asking China specifically to abide by a 2016 legally binding ruling that strongly refuted China's expansive claims in its dispute with the Philippines. India had then joined Manila for the first time, as stated in a joint statement, in categorically asking China to abide by the 2016 Arbitral Award on the SCS that Beijing continues to ignore. The UNCLOS arbitration tribunal had called Beijing's nine-dash line, which claims sovereignty over 90 percent of SCS water,

and its reclamation activities in the Philippine waters unlawful. Jaishankar's remark on Tuesday was enough to rile China though, as its foreign ministry hit back saying maritime disputes are issues between the countries concerned and that third parties have no right to interfere whatsoever. "We urge relevant parties to face squarely the facts and truth on the South China Sea issue, and respect China's territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests and the efforts of regional countries to keep the South China Sea peaceful and stable," said spokesperson Lin Jian. Jaishankar said that as a nation deeply invested in that region because of

its Act East policy and Indo-Pacific vision, India follows all developments with great interest. "We are strongly supportive of ASEAN's centrality, cohesion and unity. We are also convinced that the progress and prosperity of this region is best served by staunch adherence to a rules-based order," said the minister, adding he and Manalo also discussed their shared interests in ensuring maritime safety, given their contributions to the global shipping industry. Jaishankar briefed Manalo about the Indian Navy's deployments in the Red Sea and the Arabian Sea to counter ongoing threats. India has been looking to ramp up ties with the Philippines, most notably in the defence sector, and has offered Manila a concessional line of credit that could help it meet its requirements. Apart from trade, defence and maritime cooperation, the 2 countries are also cooperating in areas like health.

Bridge collapses after snag-hit freighter rams it in US; 6 missing

BALTIMORE: A massive freight ship stacked high with containers smashed into a bridge while sailing out of Baltimore early on Tuesday, sending cars and people into the river below and closing one of the busiest ports on the US eastern seaboard. The entire 22-member crew of the cargo ship, Dali, are Indians who alerted authorities about a "power issue" before the collision. Rescuers pulled out two survivors, one of whom was hospitalised, and were searching for more in the Patapsco river after huge metal spans of the 2.6km Francis Scott Key Bridge crumpled into the icy water at around 1.30am. Officials halted the flow of traffic on the bridge between the may-day call and the collision, Maryland governor Wes Moore said at a briefing. "By being able to stop cars from coming over the bridge, these people are heroes. They saved lives last night," he said. Eight people were on the bridge at the time and six remained unaccounted for, the state's transportation secretary said hours after the collision, which closed one of the busiest ports in US. A preliminary investigation pointed to an accident, Moore said, and there were no credible reports of terrorism. Ship traffic was suspended at Baltimore port until further notice.

Ship may've had a full power failure before collision: Report
The closure of one of the US East Coast's major ports threatens to disrupt supplies of goods from cars, to coal and other commodities like sugar. It could create bottlenecks and increase delays and costs on the eastern seaboard, experts say. The port handles the most car imports and is among the largest for coal exports. More than 40 ships remained inside Baltimore port, including small cargo ships, tug boats and pleasure craft. The 288.95m vessel, as long as three football pitches placed end to end.

Punjab Congress averse to joining INDIA bloc rally in Kejriwal's support

CHANDIGARH: After vetoing an alliance with Aam Aadmi Party in Punjab for Lok Sabha elections, state Congress unit has voiced its opinion against backing AAP national convener and Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal, who is in ED custody in excise policy case. Despite no tie-up in Punjab, both parties remain part of INDIA bloc at national level, with seat-sharing

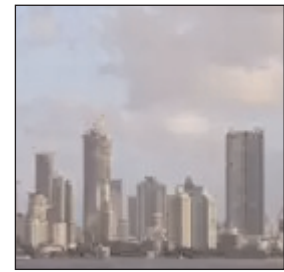


agreements in Delhi, Haryana, Gujarat, Goa and Chandigarh. On March 31, the bloc will hold a mega rally at Delhi's Ramlila Maidan in support of Kejriwal. There is no official communication yet from the high command about participating in the March 31 rally, but most

Punjab Congress leaders are averse to the idea and have instead called for going all-out against Bhagwant Mann-led AAP govt. This unanimous sentiment against backing Kejriwal emerged in Tuesday's Punjab Congress meeting for election planning that was attended by Devendra Yadav, party's political affairs in-charge for the state.

In a first, Mumbai pips Beijing, is Asia's billionaire capital

MUMBAI: There are now more billionaires in Mumbai's 603 sq km than there are in Beijing's over 16,000 sq km. By overtaking the Chinese megapolis, Mumbai has become Asia's billionaire capital for the first time. While China has 814 billionaires compared to India's 271, Mumbai hosts 92 billionaires against 91 in Beijing, Hurun Research's 2024 Global Rich List showed. Mumbai now



ranks third globally in terms of billionaires after New York, which regained its top status after seven years with 119 billionaires, followed by London with 97. The Maximum City has managed to over-

take China's political and cultural capital because of the 26 new billionaires it has added in a year. Beijing, in the same time, has seen a 18 erstwhile billionaires drop out of the list on a net basis. Mumbai's total billionaire wealth stands at \$445 billion, with a 47% increase from the previous year, while Beijing's total billionaire wealth amounts to \$265 billion, a 28% decrease.

No alliance with Akalis, BJP will go it alone in Punjab

JALANDHAR: Punjab is poised for a four-cornered contest as BJP announced its decision to go solo in the single-phase Lok Sabha elections in the state on June 1, scotching speculation of a revival of its alliance with Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), which had pulled out of NDA in 2020 during the farmers' movement against three farm bills that Centre had later withdrawn. Punjab is the second state after Odisha where BJP will contest on its own after holding alliance talks. In the eastern state, BJP's discussions with CM Naveen Patnaik's BJD for a tie-up, the first after the regional party exited NDA in



2009, broke down around March 22. BJP had last contested general elections independently in Punjab in 1996. Announcing that the party would contest Lok Sabha elections in Punjab on its own, state BJP president Sunil Jakhar said the decision was made after gathering feedback from party leaders and cadre. BJP has

conveyed its unwillingness to accede to any conditions set forth by Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), with which the party was seeking to renew its alliance, reported. BJP and the Akalis have contested five assembly and six Lok Sabha elections together in the state since 1996. BJP's decision comes in the wake of a resolution

passed by Shiromani Akali Dal during its core committee meeting on March 22, which outlined conditions for a potential alliance. One of the primary conditions was the fulfilment of the party's 'promise made in Nov 2019 to release long-incarcerated Sikh prisoners,' known as Bandi Singhs.

Curb media reports only in exceptional cases: Supreme Court

NEW DELHI: Emphasising protection of journalistic freedom in litigation initiated by entities with "immense economic power", Supreme Court has asked courts to "tread cautiously" while passing restraining orders against media houses. , saying it should be done only in "exceptional cases". SC said a court should refrain from passing an ex-parte restraint order against media houses without examining prima facie merits of allegations, reported. "Grant of a pre-trial injunction against publication of an article may have severe ramifications on right to freedom of speech of the author and public's right to know," it said.

Ramakrishna Mission chief Swami Smarananandaji Maharaj dies at 94

KOLKATA/HOWRAH: Ramakrishna Mission president Swami Smarananandaji Maharaj died in a south Kolkata hospital on Tuesday night. He was 94, the organisation said. As per Ramakrishna Mission Seva Pratishthan, Smaranananda died at 8.14pm. Smaranananda was hospitalised on Jan 29 with a urinary tract infection and put on ventilator support on March 3 after he developed septicemia and respiratory failure, as per the hospital. Following a tracheostomy, he developed acute kidney problem. Smaranananda had been undergoing haemodialysis. Both PM Modi and CM Mamata Banerjee had visited Smaranananda in hospital. Swami Suvirananda, RKM sec-

retary, said, "The mortal remains will lie at rest in Belur Math's cultural centre. Devotees and followers can pay their last respects from morning till 8pm. The last rites will be conducted in Belur Math from 9pm." CM Mamata Banerjee, in a statement, said, "Deeply saddened at the news of the demise tonight of Srmat Swami Smarananandaji Maharaj, the revered president of Ramakrishna Math and Mission. This great monk during his lifetime has given spiritual leadership to the world order of the Ramakrishnaites and remains the source of solace for millions of devotees across the globe. I convey my deepest condolences to all his fellow monks, followers and his devotees."

WTO meet: India seeks permanent solution to food security

NEW DELHI: India will strongly oppose a China-led proposal for an investment facilitation pact besides pressing for finding a permanent solution to public stock holding of grains for food security and protection of the interests of fishermen at the WTO ministerial meeting beginning Tuesday. The Indian delegation is led by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal. The four-day 13th ministerial conference (MC13) will start on February 26 in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Trade ministers of 164 member countries of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) are meeting against the backdrop of the uncertain global economic situation due to the Red Sea crisis, the Ukraine-Russia war and the Israel-Hamas conflict. The key issue of India's interests at the meeting relates to finding a permanent solution for its mini-

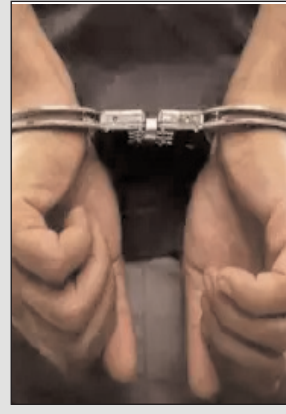


mum support price (MSP) issue for food security, agricultural reforms, fisheries subsidies, e-commerce moratorium on import duties, dispute settlement, and WTO reforms. **Food security issues** The public stock-holding (PSH) programme is a policy tool under which the government procures crops like rice and wheat from farmers at MSP, and stores and distributes food-grains to the poor. India stresses the need for PSH for its large, vulnerable population and wants a permanent solution from the MC13. Food procurement, stockholding, and distribution are crucial to India's food security strategy.

MSP is normally higher than the prevailing market rates and sells these at a low price to ensure food security for over 800 million beneficiaries. However, the WTO's Agreement on Agriculture limits the ability of a government to purchase food at MSP. Under global trade norms, a WTO member country's food subsidy bill should not breach the limit of 10 per cent of the value of production based on the reference price of 1986-88. As part of the solution, India has asked for measures like amendments in the formula to calculate the food subsidy cap. Developed nations are of the vie.

ED arrests RJD supremo Lalu Prasad aide in money laundering

PATNA: Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested Subhash Yadav, a close aide of RJD supremo Lalu Prasad, in connection with a money laundering case involving illegal sand mining. Yadav was arrested late Saturday night under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) following raids carried out by ED sleuths at several locations in Patna linked to him. Sources in ED said Yadav was produced before a special PMLA court on Sunday morning before being sent to judicial custody. Yadav had unsuccessfully contested the



2019 Lok Sabha elections on RJD symbol from Chatra in neighbouring Jharkhand. Sources said Yadav was arrested following questioning by ED officials who raided his residence in Danapur locality on Saturday. The agency

also carried out simultaneous raids on his other residential locations in Patna. ED officials scanned documents related to sand mining and other financial transactions of Yadav before taking him into custody, sources said. The money laundering case stems from a clutch of 20 FIRs registered by Bihar police against a firm, Broadsons Commodities Private Ltd (BCPL), and its directors, alleging that they were engaged in illegal mining and sale of sand without using e-challans.

Plot to junk Ambedkar's Constitution, says Congress on BJP MP's remarks

NEW DELHI: Seizing Anant Hedge's comment that Prime Minister Narendra Modi requires 400 seats in Lok Sabha to rewrite the Constitution, Congress Sunday alleged that the BJP MP has "given away his party's conspiracy" to junk Ambedkar's Constitution because it abhors social

justice and equality. Congress warned people to be wary of BJP and made a special appeal to Dalits and tribals to side with the opposition in the coming elections, launching a hashtag on twitter 'Save Constitution, Remove BJP'. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said

RSS, BJP and the Narendra Modi govt want to establish dictatorship, through which they will impose "manuwadi mindset" on people and snatch away the rights of SCs, STs and OBCs, and ensure there are "no elections or sham elections", "compromising.

NIA releases new photos of Rameshwaram Cafe blast suspect

The anti-terror agency, which took over the case on March 3, has sought the public's assistance in identifying the suspect who is believed to have planted an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) in the popular Bengaluru eatery on March 1. The NIA has urged citizens to come forward with any information that may lead to the identification and apprehension of the suspect, offering a reward of ₹10 lakh for valuable information. The agency had released two videos of the suspect on Friday. The videos, posted on NIA's official X handle, show the suspect travelling in a bus and moving around at a pillared structure. It is apparent from the videos that he had a change of clothes, swapping the shirt he wore in the last photograph released by NIA, for a T-shirt. His baseball cap is no longer there in one of the videos, though his backpack, jeans and shoes remain intact.

Delhi police sub-inspector found dead in apparent suicide

NEW DELHI: A sub-inspector of Delhi Police died by allegedly shooting himself with a pistol at his flat in east Delhi, in a suspected case of suicide, officials said on Sunday. The deceased has been identified as K Ganesh, a resident of Telangana who was currently posted at the Madhur Vihar police station here. According to police, the incident occurred in the early hours of Sunday when the family members of the sub-inspector called the police, stating that he was not responding.

'Outsiders, BJP discards in TMC Congress' Lok Sabha polls list'

KOLKATA: Soon after Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee announced party candidates for 42 Lok Sabha constituencies in West Bengal, BJP said that the list is loaded with "outsiders" many of whom are "BJP discards". BJP's information technology cell chief and party's central observer for West Bengal Amit Malviya ridiculed certain names which featured in the list in his X post. Malviya targeted Shatrughan Sinha (Asansol), Kirti Azad



(Bardhaman-Durgapur), Yusuf Pathan (Baharampur), Krishna Kalyani (Raiganj), Mukut Mani Adhikari (Ranaghat), Sujata Mondal (Bishnupur), Biswajit Das (Bangaon) and Biplab Mitra (Balurghat). "TMC doesn't have

enough candidates of its own? Shatrughan Sinha, Kirti Azad and Yusuf Pathan are Bohiragotos (outsiders). TMC didn't find enough sons of the soil for the election" Malviya said in the post. Sujata Mondal, who is the Trinamool Congress candidate from

Bishnupur Lok Sabha constituency is the estranged wife of the sitting BJP Lok Sabha member Saumitra Khan from the same constituency. The remaining four named by Malviya in his post are turncoat MLAs and leaders. Malviya has also criticised Trinamool for re-nominating the sitting party MP from Murshidabad constituency, Abu Taher Khan. "Abu Taher Khan, whose SUV dragged and killed a 6-year-old child, has been fielded from Murshidabad.

Congress avoids strong words for TMC over West Bengal list, says doors of alliance still open

NEW DELHI: Stung by Mamata Banerjee's announcement of all 42 candidates for West Bengal, Congress eschewed strong words for the Trinamool Congress leader, and instead said the party is trying hard to keep all INDIA allies together, and that doors of partnership between them have still not been shut. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said an alliance to jointly fight BJP would be preferable, claiming that alliance can happen any time till the date of withdrawal of candidatures.



Congress spokesman Jairam Ramesh, however, betrayed bitterness by remarking, "I don't know what pressure was there on TMC, but as far as we are concerned, we want to strengthen INDIA alliance in West Bengal... So let's see

what happens." State Congress president Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury on Sunday claimed that Mamata is fearful of PM Modi. "Mamata is worried that if she joins INDIA Alliance, she will have to face Modi. She is worried that if ED and

CBI start visiting TMC on Modi's orders, it could pose a risk to TMC. So, by distancing herself from the alliance, Mamata is sending a message to Modi's office: Don't be upset with me; I'm not part of the alliance and I won't compete with BJP," he said. The comments reflected disappointment with TMC, with which Congress has been trying hard for a tie-up in Bengal and has been demanding six seats. However, Mamata has repeatedly said that she will not join hands with Congress.

400-seat target to amend Constitution: Karnataka BJP MP Anantkumar Hegde

KARWAR: Uttara Kannada BJP MP Anantkumar Hegde has ignited controversy by saying his party needed to win 400 Lok Sabha seats this time to "amend" the Constitution and erase the damage wrought by Congress over the years. He had made similar comments in 2019. Addressing BJP workers in Siddapur taluk on Saturday, Hegde said Congress had amended the Constitution "many times" and adopted "anti-people" policies. "We can undo this damage only by winning two-thirds majority in both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, and we must hold power in at least 20 states to amend the Constitution," Hegde said. The MP stressed this as the "intent" behind BJP's current slogan of "Ab ki baar, 400 paar (this



time, more than 400 seats)". Congress seized on the comment, saying Hegde had "given away his party's conspiracy" to junk "BR Ambedkar's Constitution". In a post on X, BJP said it would seek explanation from the MP and reaffirmed its "unwavering commitment" to upholding the Constitution. In 2019, Hegde had declared that "we have come to change the Constitution". Following a blowback,

mainly from Congress, the MP was forced to apologise. Some believe the row cost him a Union cabinet berth. Hegde's current statement comes amid a strong pitch by that BJP was preparing the ground to change the character of the Constitution and "deny the downtrodden their rights enshrined in the document prepared by Ambedkar". Hegde pointed out how BJP fell short in implementing the Citizenship Amendment Act. He said it faced stiff opposition in the Rajya Sabha.

Women now account for nearly 48% of Ayushman hospitalisations

NEW DELHI: Women account for nearly 48% of authorised hospitalisations under Ayushman Bharat-PM Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), data accessed by TOI show. Top officials in National Health Authority (NHA), implementing agency of the scheme, told TOI that since its launch in 2018, 6.5 crore hospitalisations have been made under the scheme which involved treatment cost of Rs 81,979 crore. Of this, 3.2 crore hospitalisations for Rs 39,349 crore involved women. Officials said scheme utilisation by women beneficiaries has been higher than that of men in 10 states/UTs - Meghalaya (68%), Arunachal Pradesh (57%), Chhattisgarh (56%),

Mizoram (54%), Nagaland (53%), Jharkhand (51%), Tripura (51%) and J&K (50%). According to NHA documents, top specialties under PMJAY which were utilised more by women than men are - cancer (56%), ophthalmology (54%), otorhinolaryngology or ENT-related (51%), and neonatal care packages (57%). "Enrolment under AB-PMJAY scheme is steered by thousands of ASHA and aanganwadi workers across states/UTs. Women also constitute a significant percentage of healthcare providers at local units (AB-Health Wellness Centres). This has helped increase utilisation of the scheme among women, who have traditionally

lagged behind in health-seeking behaviour," a senior health ministry official said. He added that another key change brought in by the scheme which helped increase women's involvement in healthcare scheme was individual enrolment. "Before AB-PMJAY, Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana or RSBY was used to provide health insurance coverage to the unrecognised sector workers belonging to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) category and their family members. Only one card was issued to each family, mostly the men who were the breadwinners. We realised this made women in such households dependent on the men to take them to hospital for

treatment. However, in case of AB-PMJAY, individual Ayushman cards are issued to each member of families covered under the scheme which means now the women do not have to depend on anyone to seek treatment. "The official, who did not want to be quoted, said. Till date, NHA sources said, nearly 32 crore beneficiaries have been enrolled under the scheme and issued Ayushman cards. "Initially, in the first two years of the scheme's launch, only about 10 crore intended beneficiaries were issued Ayushman cards. In the last two years, since the ASHAs were involved, we have issued 20 crore such cards," said a source.

When is Ramzan 2024 beginning in India

NEW DELHI: From next week, Muslims around the globe will engage in the tradition of fasting daily from dawn until dusk with the onset of the holy month of Ramzan. Here is all you need to know about Ramzan: What is Ramzan and how do Muslims observe it? Ramzan is the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar and is considered the holiest month for Muslims worldwide. It is observed by fasting from dawn to sunset, engaging in increased worship, charity, and community activities. During Ramzan, Muslims refrain from consuming food and drink during daylight hours, and focus on spiritual growth, reflection, and community. Fasting (Sawm): Fasting is one of the Five Pillars of Islam. From dawn (Fajr) until sunset (Maghrib), Muslims abstain from eating, drinking, and other physical needs. The fast is broken each day with a meal called Iftar at sunset.

Ring Road in Punjabi Bagh, Delhi, closed for 2 months

● Punjabi Bagh construction in west Delhi continues to clog commuters and emergency services. Project expected.



Delhi: Due to subway work, Delhi Traffic Police will restrict Ring Road near Punjabi Bagh's Bharat Darshan Park for two months. The subway, flyover, and underground cabling projects have caused traffic jams, causing the Traffic Police to close roads and divert traffic. Traffic from Moti Nagar to Punjabi Bagh roundabout to Vashisht Kumar Gulla Marg has been diverted, per an alert. Ring Road traffic has been diverted by barricades. Shiv Das Puri

Marg, Road 41 near Punjabi Bagh gurudwara and Traffic Training Park will be busy. It said motorists coming from Moti Nagar from Karampura flyover to the Punjabi Bagh roundabout via Bharat Darshan Park should take Vashisht Kumar Gulla Marg, turn right on Road Number 41, turn right at the Traffic Training Park, and turn left toward the roundabout. The Traffic Police also recommend the freshly built flyover for Raja Garden commuters heading to

Punjabi Bagh junction. Commuters from Dhaula Kuan should turn right from Raja Garden Chowk onto Shivaji Marg to reach Zakhira. Motorists should also be patient and follow traffic laws. Punjabi Bagh construction in west Delhi continues to clog commuters and emergency services. Project expected to finish in March to improve medical access and traffic. Traffic delays have commuters questioning construction agency decisions and seeking other routes.

UltraTech receives approval from the CCI to acquire the Kesoram cement company

Delhi: UltraTech Cement's proposed acquisition of Kesoram Cement Business from Kesoram Industries has received approval from the Competition Commission of India (CCI), the fair trade regulator. According to a news statement, the proposed combination relates to UltraTech Cement Ltd's acquisition of Kesoram Industries Limited's grey cement business under a composite scheme of arrangement dated November 30, 2023. The CCI declared that the deal was approved. In India, UltraTech is in the



business of producing and distributing building supplies, ready-mix concrete, clinker, and white and grey cement. Additionally, the business offers building solutions in India. It belongs to Grasim Industries Ltd. as a subsidiary. Grey cement is manufactured by Kesoram Industries

under the Kesoram Cement Business brand. The flagship company of the BK Birla Group, Kesoram Industries, announced in November 2023 that UltraTech Cement will buy its cement division in an all-share transaction valued at about Rs 7,600 crore, including debt.

Turns hikes into two annual lump sum payments at Flipkart

Delhi: This assessment season, none of the workers of the large online retailer Flipkart will receive raises in their yearly pay. Instead, the corporation will provide eligible workers with merit-linked bonuses, where increases would be given in two install-

ments, one in April and the other in October. To put it simply, an employee who receives a 10% raise will not see the increase reflected in their monthly salary, unlike other cases. Two lump sum installments will be given to cover the pay increase. Those working in mid-man-

agement and lower will receive the merit-linked rewards. CEO Kalyan Krishnamurthy sent an email to staff on Thursday stating, "We have enabled wider spread of ESOP (employee stock ownership plan) allocation for the rest of the grades.

Air India is fined Rs 80 lakh by the DGCA for breaking crew duty time regulations

"During a spot examination in January, the regulator discovered infractions such as the fact that both pilots operating a flight were older than 60"

Delhi: Air India has been fined Rs 80 lakh by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for breaking rules for flight duty time limitations (FDTL), which require flight



crew members to follow work and rest guidelines and utilize a fatigue management system (FMS). During a spot examination in January, the regulator discovered infractions such as the fact that both pilots operating a flight were older than 60. Additionally, it was discovered

that the operator (Air India) was not giving the flight crew enough rest each week, nor enough rest before and after ultra-long range flights, nor enough rest during layovers. This is in violation of the current Civil Aviation Requirements pertaining to

FDTL. In addition, the audit revealed cases of overwork periods, incorrectly labeled training records, and overlapping responsibilities, according to a statement from the DGCA. The airline was given a show-cause notice by the regulator on March 1 following the audit, but the agency did not find the airline's answer to be adequate. "Verifying the regulatory compliance by the operator in respect of FDTL and FMS regulations as a proactive step towards ensuring a high level of safety in aviation," according to the DGCA, was the purpose of the spot audit.

Over the past 1.5 years.

Sports sponsors invest 15,000 cr in 2023, amid cricket craze

Delhi: In 2023, sports sponsorships reached 15,000 crore, up 10.95% from 14,209 crore a year earlier, according to GroupM ESP, the entertainment, esports, and sports branch of GroupM India. Ground, team, and franchise fees, athlete endorsements, and media costs are included. Cricket, with 13,701 crore, grew 13% year-on-year and accounted for 87% of total spending. After Viacom18 and Star Sports split the rights for the first time into digital and TV packages for the 2023-27 cycle in April 2023, the IPL may have seen flat growth due to a reduction in advertising investment. However, the ICC Men's World Cup boosted year-end expenditure.

Even with the switch from TV to digital, sports ad spending in 2023

grew by less than 1% over 2022. IPL TV ad spends down 17% in 2023, but digital grew 25%. TV and internet advertising increased by almost 40% during the World Cup compared to the 2022 ICC Men's T20 World Cup. The NFL, with a per-match broadcast value of \$17 million (141 crore), is the only event that surpasses IPL's popularity. Businesses built important consumer connections through relationships with athletic events, teams, and other properties through ground and team sponsorships and franchise fees. Total sponsorship revenue in 2023 was 7,345 crore, a 24% increase from 5,907 crore (\$748 million) in 2022. Ground sponsorship accounted for 42% of total spending, 3,117 crore, up 6% from the previous year.

AAP worried about CM Arvind Kejriwal's security in ED

NEW DELHI: Delhi's cabinet minister Atishi expressed concern on Friday about the safety of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal as he remains in ED custody under Z+ security. Kejriwal was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday in relation to a money laundering case linked to the excise policy. Atishi said that this is the first instance in India's democratic history where a national party leader has been detained before the Lok Sabha elections. She stressed that ED has not been able to produce a single evidence. This shows how fearful the BJP is of Arvind Kejriwal," she charged. "They know that only one leader can challenge them which is why they are making every attempt to trample Arvind Kejriwal and



AAP," the minister added. She stressed that "Arvind Kejriwal is an ideology, an inspiration". "He left his Income Tax job to take to the streets to save democracy. You have arrested him to stop him from campaigning in the Lok Sabha polls. Many Kejriwals will emerge to save the democra-

cy," she said. She raised concerns about Kejriwal's safety in ED custody, questioning the responsibility for his security and criticizing the alleged political conspiracy by the BJP against opposition leaders. "Being the Chief Minister of Delhi, Kejriwal is given Z+ security. Now he is in ED custody.

Grandpa Murthy gives 4-month-old 240 crore Infosys stake

'Milan has approximately 69 lakh shares worth Rs 1,100 crore. Over 69 lakh shares belong to Shruti's daughter Nikita Shibulal Manchanda'

Delhi: As parents give their grandchildren shares, Infy Grandpa Inc. is creating waves. These presents added several grandkids to the promoters group. Ekagrah, his four-month-old grandson, received 15 lakh Infosys shares (0.04% stake, Rs 240 crore) from N R Narayana Murthy (77). The youngest Infosys promoter is Ekagrah, born to



Murthy's son Rohan and daughter-in-law Aparna Krishnan. Murthy's firm ownership dropped to 0.36% after selling the shares. Ekagrah is Murthy's third grandchild. UK first lady Akshata Murthy has two daughters, Krishna and Anoushka. Akshata, Rohan, and their mother Sudha Murthy own 1.05%, 1.64%, and 0.93% of the company, respectively. Tanush Nilekani, Chandra, Nandan Nilekani's grandson, joined his promoter group two years ago with 7.7

lakh shares. Janhavi, Nilekani's daughter, transferred these shares. These shares were valued Rs 106 crore then. Tanush has 33.5 lakh Infosys shares worth Rs 530 crore. Infosys co-founder S D Shibulal and his daughter Shruti Shibulal transferred Rs 2,327 crore in shares to his grandson Milan Shibulal Manchanda and other people. Milan has approximately 69 lakh shares worth Rs 1,100 crore. Over 69 lakh shares belong to Shruti's daughter Nikita Shibulal Manchanda.

Insurance sector got Rs 54,000 crore FDI in 9 years

Delhi: Financial Services Secretary Vivek Joshi said the insurance sector has received close to Rs 54,000 crore in FDI in the recent 9 years due to government liberalization of offshore capital flow norms. In an interview he said the government raised the FDI cap from 26% in 2014 to 49% in 2015 and 74% in 2021. He noted that insurance intermediaries' FDI ceiling was raised to 100% in 2019. He claimed insurance businesses received Rs 53,900 crore in FDI between December 2014 and January 2024. Joshi said insurance players grew from 53 to 70 in January 2024. He claimed insurance penetration rose from 3.9% in 2013-14 to 4% in 2022-23 and density from USD 52 to USD 92. A country's insurance sector's progress is measured by penetration and density, among other criteria. Insurance density is the ratio of premium to population (per capita premium), while insurance penetration is the percentage of premium to GDP. Total insurance premium more than doubled to Rs 10.4 lakh crore from Rs 3.94 lakh crore at the end of March 2014. Asset Under Management nearly tripled to Rs 60.04 lakh billion from Rs 21.07 lakh crore in 2013-14. Private insurance companies were invited to register in August 2000.

Shares of Tata Chemicals fall more than 8%

Delhi: With the exception of TCS (NS:TCS), most Tata group shares were trending lower. Tata Chemicals (NS:TTCH) shares were down more than 8%. The following companies saw decreases: Tata Chemicals by 8.12%, Tata Motors (NS:TAMO) by 2.4%, Tata Steel (NS:TISC) by 1.8%, Tata Investment (NS:TINV) by 5%, and Tata Consumer by 2.7%.

Editorial

Did a junior Chinese diplomat wave Beijing's 'olive branch' at EAM Jaishankar?

At a media event organised by a leading Indian newspaper in New Delhi, EAM Jaishankar responded to a junior Chinese diplomat, stating, 'I think it's in our common interest that we should not have that many forces on the LAC, it's in our common interest that we should observe agreements that we have. And today, it's not just in common interest. I believe it's in China's interest as well.' Image: PTI

It is not always that a diplomat from one country shoots a question to a veteran from a purportedly 'adversarial nation'. It is even more rare if the question is fired at the foreign minister of that adversarial nation, that too, a person with long years as a career diplomat, including a stint in the country of the junior diplomat — and at a public function, to boot. The fact is that Chinese diplomats do not say or do things without express instructions from HQ. Such a rarity occurred at a media event organised by a leading Indian newspaper in capital New Delhi the other day. The questioner was Zhou Yongsheng, political counsellor at the Chinese embassy in New Delhi. The respondent happened to be Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, India's External Affairs Minister (EAM), who has been increasingly acknowledged as a key international interlocutor, of course representing his government and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The question was on how China and India, as 'important neighbours', could find common interests and be partners instead of being rivals, Pat came the reply: 'I think it's in our common interest that we should not have that many forces on the LAC, it's in our common interest that we should observe agreements that we have. And today, it's not just in common interest. I believe it's in China's interest as well.' The EAM did not stop there. He referred to the strong troop presence on either side of the LAC for four years now, and had this to say: 'The tension has not served either of us well. So the sooner we resolve it, I genuinely believe it's good for both of us. And I'm still very much committed to finding a fair, reasonable outcome. But one which is respectful of agreements, which recognises the LAC, and doesn't seek to change the status quo.' Jaishankar made an even more pointed observation on domestic politics and border disputes. When asked if the Modi leadership would get more empowered to talk on the issue with more seats in the current Lok Sabha elections, He was reported to have said: 'To me, the territory of India and the fairness of a boundary solution has nothing to do with how many seats. Either it's a good deal or not a good deal. The issue today is not whether you have a political majority or not. It is whether you have a fair deal on the table, that is the issue.' With this in a succinct way, the minister underscored how the border dispute with China was a 'national concern' for India, independent of whoever ruled and whichever party had whatever majority in Parliament. At the event in which envoys of Australia, Bhutan, Germany, Indonesia and Nepal, among diplomatic representatives from many other countries participated, he disclosed how he has remained in touch with his Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, whom he has known for many years, on many of these issues. 'We have been constantly in touch. Even on the morning after the Galwan incident, he was the person I spoke to,' Jaishankar said, reiterating the present situation at the LAC was 'very tense and dangerous'. Ironically, China purportedly waved the proverbial olive branch or at least an olive leaf, if that was it, days after raising objections to Prime Minister Modi's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, the whole of which is in India's possession but which Beijing claims as its own.

Holi: Festival of joy in material

Once Sri Krishna went to his mother and said, "Maa, why is my complexion dark and blue while my beloved Radha's complexion is so clear and beautiful? Radha teases me for my blue complexion." Upon this, Maa Yashoda said, "O Krishna, in deep love and friendship, colour of skin has no meaning, because love and friendship have a range of colours in them, and moreover, why don't you go and put some colours on Radha's face and let her put some colours on your face, so that both of you become the same coloured one? Then nobody will tease you, and then you both will look the same." Hearing this, Sri Krishna joyfully went out and coloured his beloved Radha with so many beautiful colours, and Radha too poured all the colours on Sri Krishna. All the beloved Gopi's (friends and devotees) of Sri Krishna also joined this amazing event. Everyone started pouring colours on each other, and soon they all started to look the same. At that moment, all outer differences vanished, and they all experienced a deep sense of oneness with their beloved Krishna. This was the start of one of the most loved and joyful festivals of colours in Bharat, which we know as Holi. This is the festival of divine love and friendship, of realising our joyful oneness, and of spreading this joy and sense of oneness that we



feel in our hearts to the world out there. When we look around, it feels like we have created a very comfortable life that is materially rich, filled with entertainment media, technology, and everything else that can make our physical life easy and comfortable, but that has not provided us with much joy. In fact, in the name of growth and development, we have actually created a very 'joyless society'. Humans are not happy; there is a sharp rise in all kinds of mental ailments across the world, and people are living materially rich but inwardly lonely lives. The rise in the number of hospitals, old age homes, orphanages, crime rates, and prisons is proof that we have succeeded in creating an utterly 'Joyless society'. In a society where love and friendship are losing their meaning, where purpose is lost, hope is gone, mean-

ingfulness is hard to find, and where even the youth are becoming increasingly joyless, Holi brings some respite. This joylessness is life-negating; this is not the life that our ancestors wanted us to create. But maybe Sri Krishna knew about this kind of possible future, where humans will start to live in their own self-created misery. That is why, thousands of years ago, Bhagwan Vishnu ji took an incarnation on earth as Sri Krishna to give us this message and a secret formula through numerous Leela's (divine playfulness) that life means divine love and friendship, which is equal to joy. As humans, we experience a range of thoughts and emotions. Every thought and each emotion has the tone of a certain colour matched to it. Some of them are life-negating and dark, like fear, anger, jeal-

ousy, and hatred, and some are really life-affirmative and light, like love, friendship, compassion, and appreciation. The beauty of human incarnation is that we can choose which colour we want to inculcate in our lives. Remember, whichever colour of thoughts and emotions we have, we will be able to give only that colour to people around us. If we are constantly delving into the life-negating colours within ourselves, then we will be able to share only those colours with others. It is because we can only give what we have. So, think deeply, feel clearly, and choose mindfully which colours of thoughts and emotions you want to choose and grow in your life. If we can look at the inner heart of any person, we will see that everybody wants to experience the light and life-nourishing colours of

love, friendship, compassion, and appreciation. We all want these colours from our relatives, but our expectations of them will never be fulfilled unless we start to give them out to the world. Also, we must surround ourselves with people who have developed the capacity to paint the world with such beautiful, life-enriching colours. Along with this, one of the most effective ways to cultivate these colours in our lives is to start to appreciate the diversity of actual colours in nature. Just look around and see that on a single tree, a variety of shades of green are on its leaves. Nature continuously shows us abundant diversity and eternal unity amidst this diversity. Let us learn this from nature. Then, let us start to appreciate the light and life-nurturing colours of thoughts, emotions, and behaviours in people around us. The more we appreciate such colours in others, the more we will be able to absorb and cultivate these colours in our own lives too. Holi is the divine festival of joy. Today on Holi, let us remember this beautiful message of Sri Krishna and colour our lives and the lives of our friends and loved ones with the colours of divine joyfulness. Only then will our lives have some meaning, hope, and, above all, shades of divine love and friendship.

Why Donald Lu's Pak testimony in the US Congressional hearing is significant

One of the most interesting and debated Congressional testimonies in recent years was surely that of State Department Donald Lu, Assistant Secretary of State in the State Department. That was not just on social media, but in the House itself. The chair commented on the number of Congressmen at the hearing, while there were clearly a large number of Pakistanis in the audience. It's not just that Donald Lu was the 'accused' in the conspiracy theory launched by Imran Khan, which involved slinging out Khan, allegedly because he decided to visit Moscow. It's that the hearing occurs just after one of the most 'selected' elections even Pakistan has ever seen. It had some unusual features, to say the least. This was an important

testimony for the present government in Islamabad and the Pakistani military, and they were preparing for it in their separate ways. Days before, a Cabinet committee on energy cleared the construction of a section of pipeline to connect to the (already constructed) Iran pipeline, which had been in the works since 2013 but stalled due to US sanctions. According to Lu's testimony, Pakistan did not ask for a waiver, and there is no indication at all that they have the money for it, but that move alarmed Congressmen anyway and led to a directive to 'engage' Pakistan on the issue. Second, days earlier, air strikes were conducted against Afghanistan border areas in reaction to an alleged attack against its own soldiers. Pakistani officials went on record

to talk of attacks on 'safe havens' for terrorists in Afghanistan, which is as ironic as it can get, given that the US has identified at least 12 designated terrorist groups operating inside Pakistan. But the strike became an add-on to the narrative of 'Pakistan in danger'. Also active were a raft of Imran Khan supporters who booed and called out Donald Lu as a liar time and again, until they were removed from the House. In other words, this was domestic politics being played out on US soil. Donald Lu's testimony was a model of bureaucratic caution. He praised the Pakistani people fully but condemned attacks in the run-up to the elections, restrictions on the internet, and that a well-known watchdog had been denied access to half the constituencies.

Rescue of MV Ruen by Indian Navy

On 19 December 2023, writing for gCaptain, Mike Schuler reported The European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR) was continuing to closely monitor the situation of the hijacked Maltese-flagged MV Ruen in cooperation with local Somali authorities. The ship was en route from Gwangyang, South Korea, carrying a cargo of metals, was hijacked on the morning of 14 December in the Indian Ocean at approximately 680 nautical miles (1,260 kilometres), east of Bossaso, Somalia. At this stage the exact demands, motivations etc., of the hijackers were unknown. EUNAVFOR flagship, a Spanish Navy ship ESPS Victoria was dispatched to gather more information and evaluate future action in conjunction with other naval ships in the area. Victoria remained with MV Ruen and entered Somali waters somewhere between Eyl and Xaafun peninsula in Somalia (normal hijack area). With the help of Somali authorities, it was confirmed that MV Ruen had been hijacked. Thus, this became the first successful hijacking involving Somali pirates since 2017. It may be recalled that an earlier attempt by five Somali pirates was thwarted by India Navy. On 15 December an Indian Navy P8 I Maritime Patrol Aircraft arrived in the area and established contact with the crew



who were safely locked up in a citadel. Victoria was joined by the Japanese naval ship Akebono and the Indian Navy destroyer INS Kochi on 16 December. It is important to remember that these hijacking attempts come amid the broader maritime security situation in the Red Sea as Yemen-based Houthis target commercial ships in the region in support of Hamas in Gaza. Later, the pirates broke into the citadel and took the crew hostage. One of the crew was evacuated for a medical emergency. MV Ruen is being managed by Bulgaria's Navigation Maritime Bulgare. The Somali government permitted the shadowing of Ruen even within their territorial waters. Victoria was using its UAV, Scan Eagle to obtain situational awareness by collecting data on the hijacked vessel. However, MV Ruen left this area for some logistics and other replenishment. It was not under the control of the crew.

MV Ruen after having been taken over by pirates would have

been used as a mother ship for other piracy attempts as had been the trend. INS Kolkata replaced INS Kochi during the movement of MV Ruen. And then the next 40 hours of actions will go down in the history of anti-piracy/hijacking operations as a text and standard operating procedure worth emulation by the navies of the world. When INS Kolkata began the operation the MV Ruen was almost 2,600 kilometres (1,400 nautical miles) from the Indian coast. Calibrated actions of INS Kolkata were supported by INS Subhadra, a high altitude long endurance unmanned aerial vehicle, P8 I maritime patrol aircraft and MARCOS (Marine Commandos) air-dropped by a C17 aircraft of the Indian Air Force. These actions had become necessary since the pirates had opened fire on the warship INS Kolkata while they were being warned to surrender or face consequences. The actions taken by the Indian Navy were under international law, i.e., in self-defence and to counter pira-

How EU-India FTA, IMEC are fundamental to saving Europe from Chinese dominance

"Cacio pepe" is a pasta dish that has come to signify typical Roman cuisine over time. It is, however, in its simplicity, the witness of millennial trade between India and Italy, the will and need to connect the Mediterranean with the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean. Cacio, or pecorino romano, is a cheese that has been traditionally made in the agro romano, the farmland controlled and influenced by Rome. The pepe, or pepper (both longum and nigrium), increased in popularity in Rome around 30 BC, and

eventually over 70 per cent of Roman recipes required the use of Indian pepper. This simple dish stands for the importance of the trade and trade routes between India and Europe (and Italy), which have been strategically important for over 2,000 years. The first major change in these trade routes was when Constantinople became the hub for trade between Europe and India, once Egypt fell to Islam. The fall of Constantinople to the Ottomans in 1452 started the

race between European powers to find a new route to India. Vasco da Gama, in 1498, "discovered" a longer route around the Cape of Good Hope, landing again in Kerala, from where the Romans used to load their pepper. The third change was the actual creation of the Suez Canal, which brought back the Roman route. Only this time were the Mediterranean and the Red Sea finally connected, rather than shipping goods to Alexandria by land and barge from Berenice. The persistence

with which Europe has pursued its links with India, eventually leading to European colonisation of India and the Indo-Pacific, has demonstrated the importance of the Europe-India trade routes. The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), launched during the G20 in New Delhi in September 2023, only tried to politically secure this trade route by including countries that the United States-New Delhi partnership viewed as politically safe and strategic.

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.

CAPSULES

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 a similar 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: Jawaharlal 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)



BJP candidate Naveen Jindal will win from Kurukshetra Lok Sabha constituency with record breaking votes: Saurabh Chaudhary

Kaithal: BJP Business Cell Haryana Co-Convenor Saurabh Goyal Chaudhary claimed that famous industrialist and BJP candidate from Kurukshetra Lok Sabha constituency Naveen Jindal will create history by winning with record breaking votes. BJP's storm is blowing across the country and this time under the able leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP will create history of crossing 400. BJP leader Saurabh Goel Choudhary was talking to reporters after congratulating BJP candidate Naveen Jindal from Kurukshetra Lok Sabha constituency. BJP Business Cell co-coordinator Saurabh Chaudhary Goyal said that BJP candidate Naveen Jindal is settled in the hearts of the people due to his friendly and clean image and is a favorite of 36 communities. Naveen Jindal will hoist the flag of victory on the basis of public blessings and record



breaking development works done by the BJP government. He said that the victory of Naveen Jindal will be the victory of the people of Kurukshetra parliamentary constituency and Naveen Jindal will get record breaking work done in Kurukshetra parliamentary constituency by following the policy of Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas. Even today, the public is getting full benefit of the public interest works done by Naveen Jindal during his tenure as MP in Kurukshetra parliamentary constituency. He said that every BJP worker and official should think of himself as Naveen Jindal and get involved in publicity and

go door to door about the development works done by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini and the public welfare measures implemented by him. By publicizing the policies, connect people with BJP and appeal to them to vote in favor of Naveen Jindal. BJP leader Saurabh Goyal Chaudhary claimed that the people of the country have known that their interests are safe only in the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and for the third time the people have announced to hand over the command of the country to Modi.

DUROPLY CELEBRATES HOLI MILAN WITH ITS SKILL PARTNERS ACROSS INDIA EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO THEM

New Delhi : Duroply, India's premium and most experienced among the leading plywood companies, celebrated the festival of colours Holi, by expressing heartfelt gratitude towards its Skill Partners across India. Duroply Skill Partners (contractors and carpenters) play a critical role in educating customers on the importance of using branded Plywood. Mr. Akhilesh Chitlangia, Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, Duroply, said, "Our mission at Duroply has been to adorn the home interiors of Indians with quality plywood that lasts generations. Our Skill Partners share our commitment and therefore, most of them are with the Company for generations. As lasting home interiors bring spring of happiness to a family's life, we choose Holi to express our gratitude to our Skill Partners as they symbolically bring happiness to a family by



explaining to them the enduring advantages of using branded plywood. Duroply Skill Partners play a decisive role in ensuring that the customers buy the right plywood. Holi symbolises the coming together of one and all welcoming vibrant hues of the colourful spring season. We personally visit our Skill Partners across India to celebrate our everlasting bond." Duroply has over 12,000 committed Skill Partners across India who share a common vision of Duroply to see every household use branded plywood because of several benefits to the customers. Duroply remains steadfast in its mission to provide innovative plywood and veneer solutions

that enhance durability and elevate the standards of interior craftsmanship across the nation. As our nation embraces the festive spirit and looks forward to a prosperous future, Duroply reaffirms its commitment to core values of quality, durability, and partnership. The Holi Milan celebrations underscore the Company's dedication to these principles, offering gratitude to Skill Partners whose unwavering commitment has shaped Duroply's successful journey. Through initiatives like these, Duroply continues to prioritize the well-being and morale of its stakeholders, recognizing the team that shares the same values as that of the brand.

CAPSULES

Bharti Hexacom Limited Initial Public Offer to open on Wednesday, April 03, 2024

GURUGRAM : Bharti Hexacom Limited ("Bharti Hexacom" or "the Company"), shall open its Bid / Offer in relation to its initial public offer (IPO) of Equity Shares on Wednesday, April 03, 2024. The total offer size of Equity Shares of face value ₹ 5 each comprising an offer for sale of up to 75,000,000 equity shares by Telecommunications Consultants India Limited ("Selling Shareholder") (The "Offer For Sale"). The Anchor Investor Bidding date shall be Tuesday, April 02, 2024. The Bid/Offer will close on Friday, April 05, 2024. The Price Band of the Offer has been fixed at 542 to 570 per Equity Share. Bids can be made for a minimum of 26 Equity Shares and in multiples of 26 Equity Shares thereafter. The objects of the Offer are to (i) to carry out the Offer for Sale of up to 75,000,000 Equity Shares by the Selling Shareholder; and (ii) achieve the benefits of listing the Equity Shares on the Stock Exchanges. (The "Objects of the Offer") This Equity Shares are being offered through the red herring prospectus of the Company dated March 22, 2024 filed with the Registrar of Companies, Delhi & Haryana (The "RHP") and are proposed to be listed on the BSE Limited ("BSE") and the National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("NSE"). (The "Listing").

LocalCircles Survey: 42% of parents claim school tuition climbed 30-50% post-Covid

Delhi: Parents are concerned about rising tuition rates as schools reopen for the new school year. LocalCircles found that one in two parents reported fees rising by 30% or more in the preceding two years. It indicated that 8 percent of parents reported a fee increase of more than 50%, while 42 percent reported a 30-50% increase.

They said that new books and other educational fees at the start of a session increased this. It indicated that 8 percent of parents reported a fee increase of more than 50%, while 42 percent reported a 30-50% increase. They said that new books and other educational fees at the start of a session

increased this.

Data reveals that reputed private schools in tier 1 and 2 cities charge Rs 1 lakh to Rs 4 lakh for annual all-inclusive fees. Between Rs 50,000 and Rs 2 lakh in tier 3 and 4 cities. However, Action Committee Unaided Recognised Private Schools President Bharat Arora said that fee hikes have been "reasonable".

"The school managing committee decides how much to raise the fee—sometimes 9-10% or even 2%. No school can raise fees without DOE approval, he said.

The LocalCircles study contained 27,000 parent answers from 312 Indian districts.

WFI takes over sports when the panel is dismissed

Delhi: After the suspension on the national federation was lifted, the Indian Olympic Association abolished the wrestling ad-hoc committee, stating that "there is no further need" for it to continue. The national federation now has full administrative control over the sport.

According to IOA, the decision was also influenced by the way the trials for the Olympics qualifying event next month went. Last December, following WFI's suspension by the Sports Ministry, the panel was established.

CBSE removes 20 schools, including 5 in Delhi, for malpractices

Delhi: The CBSE revoked the affiliation of 20 Indian schools after they were found guilty of wrongdoing. Last December 21, the CBSE dispatched a two-member team to 34 schools to prevent sham candidates from being sponsored in the Board Exams. According to officials, 34 schools were inspected in one day, and many were found guilty of negligence. 11 schools received advice and 23 received show-cause warnings from the CBSE Affiliation Unit based on these



complaints. Board endorsed the decision late last year. The following Delhi schools lost affiliation: Siddhartha Public School, Bharat Mata Saraswati Bal Mandir, National Public School, Chand Ram Public Senior Secondary School, and Marigold

Public School. Two Rajasthan schools, Prince UCH Madhyamik Vidyalaya in Sikar and Global Indian International School in Jodhpur, and two Chhattisgarh institutions, Dronacharya Public School and Vicon School in Raipur, have lost their affiliation.

Kathua's Kartar Public School is disaffiliated in Jammu & Kashmir. Rahul International School in Thane, Pioneer Public School in Pune, San RNS Academy in Dispur, and Sardar Patel Public School in Bhopal lost affiliation in Maharashtra. In Uttar Pradesh, Loyal Public School in Bulandshahr, Trinity World School in Gautam Buddha Nagar, and Crescent Convent School in Ghazipur lost affiliation. Ryan Einstein International School in Uttarakhand.

The main causes of the rise of GATE qualifiers is the incorporation of AI and data science

Delhi: The number of people registering for the Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) 2024 has increased due to a number of factors, including the return of traditional classrooms following the pandemic, increased knowledge of GATE's future prospects, and a strong desire for further education, research, and career opportunities in public and private sector organizations. With almost 8.26 lakh applications for 30 test papers, the exam saw a 23% rise in registrations over the previous year. 6,53,292 of these candidates showed up for the test. 1,29,268 candidates in total qualified on all GATE test papers in their respective categories, a continuous increase of more than 29,000 above the almost one

lakh candidates from the previous year. Experts speculate that the ability to select two-paper combinations and the addition of Data Science and AI (DA) as a topic paper may

have contributed to the increase. The addition of new and varied fields to GATE over the years has increased its prominence as a route to postgraduate programs in India and abroad by reflecting the changing needs of academia and industry. Therefore, the concentration in 2022 was on Environmental Science & Engineering (ES) and Humanities & Social Sciences (XH), whereas Geomatics Engineering (GE) and Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering (NM) were the new arrivals in GATE 2023. More than 50,000 applications were

received for the recently introduced DA paper, of which about 39,000 appeared and about 8,000 qualified in various categories, according to Chandra Sekhar Seelamantula, the organizing chair of GATE-2024 and a professor in the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore's Department of Electrical Engineering. "There are numerous reasons for the increased subscription to the GATE exam," he says.

The exam is becoming more and more well-liked in PSU (Public Sector Undertaking) and academic circles. According to Prof. Rajive Kumar, member secretary of the AICTE, the rising number of GATE applications is encouraging for postgraduate admissions.

Can Arvind Kejriwal manage Delhi from jail? Legal experts comment

Delhi: After Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) National Convenor Arvind Kejriwal was remanded to the Enforcement Directorate (ED), who will lead the Delhi government? Atishi Marlena, Delhi's finance minister, has often suggested that Kejriwal will rule from prison. How feasible is this legally and practically? The 1951 Representation of the People Act prohibits parliamentarians convicted of certain crimes from office for six years. The Lieutenant Governor (LG) can recommend President's Rule in Delhi under Article 239 AB if there is a 'breakdown of constitutional machinery,' among other conditions. Saket District Court Advocate Karambir Kamal says that I see no legal obstacle to Kejriwal



running the administration from jail. However, being in detention makes public representation harder. When detainees cannot work as public representatives, the law will take effect. Practically every matter and paper requires jail administrator approval. Otherwise, Kejriwal cannot sign. Do not call a cabinet meeting there. Senior Advocate Mohit Bhardwaj says that Chief Ministers meet and sign files with their ministers. He'll accomplish that how? How will you handle the two visits a week jail rules allow?

Someone will have to be appointed. There is no legal, practical, or constitutional way for a Chief Minister to govern from jail. Make a case for President's Rule if the government is headless. Elder Advocate Sumit Yadav Before conviction, MLAs might be suspended for appeal. An MP/MLA in custody can vote and attend the assembly. The presumption is innocence. Since the person is in custody, the court can allow such activities. Government cannot function without court approval. He needs authority to sign files, meet ministers, etc. The Supreme

Court ordered Subrata Roy to negotiate the sale of Sahara properties from Tihar Jail, which had conference facilities. The Narada Scam in West Bengal last year led to the arrest and home imprisonment of various Trinamool Congress politicians. The High Court authorized them to remain as ministers and bring paperwork to their dwellings for review and signing. Practically, it's hard yet achievable. Arvind Datar, Senior Advocate He is simply charged, not convicted. Anyone can be jailed to lose power otherwise. The court.

Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Hosts

New Delhi: The Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia hosted a heartwarming "Love Walk for Humanity" on the eve of Valentine's Day, February 14, 2024 curated and presented by Dr Sanjanaa JonThe Love Walk for Humanity aimed to transcend the traditional celebration of Valentine's Day by fostering love and compassion for humanity. In a world grappling with conflicts, attacks, and hatred, the event aimed to build a collective love for humanity, extending beyond personal relationships to include care for the environment, animals, and all aspects of life. Distinguished guests in attendance included Raghav Chandra, Managing Director, Audi Delhi South, H.E Demeke Atnafu Ambulo, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ethiopia to India.

Unconventional' Haldi Ceremony Photos Are Released by Kriti Kharbanda



Delhi: In a dreamlike ceremony, Kriti Kharbanda and Pulkit Samrat exchanged vows. Ever since, the pair has been captivating their followers on social media by posting glimpses of their memorable day. They stunned us by revealing a number of unguarded photos from their Haldi ceremony after revealing their wedding photos. Kriti shared a ton of pictures from their happy marriage on her Instagram account. With their biggest smiles, the couple coated themselves in Multani mitti rather than the traditional Haldi. She revealed, "Hamari haldi thodi

unconventional thi," in an open discussion of the matter. Specifically designed for Pulkit and me, haldi ki ek chutki for Sagan comes in a pack of Multani mitti. The reason for this is that the bride and groom need to look radiant. P.S. I am really appreciative of the individual who restrained me as the others hurled Pulkit into the swimming pool. Pulkit looked gorgeous in a yellow kurta,

while Kriti looked elegant in an ethnic orange suit. They gave each other big couple objectives and were the perfect complement to one another.

Khosla Kumar Makes a Film in Telugu

Delhi: Khosla Kumar, who made her feature film debut in Yaariyan 2, is getting ready for her next Telugu movie. Hero AND Heroine, a Telugu-Hindi film, will feature her in the lead role after receiving mixed reviews for her previous performance.

Suresh Krissna directed the movie. In a previous interview with Zoom, she shared her acting history and expressed her delight about this new endeavor. When she thought back on her 17-year-old first film, she said she had begun her modeling career in Delhi before attempting her luck in Mumbai.

Remembering her early days, she acknowledged that she had no contacts and had no idea how to go with her career. She was cast in a big movie with Akshay Kumar, such as Ab Tumhare Hawale Watan Saathiyon. She acknowledged that she had no idea how big the project was.

Review of Ae Watan Mere Watan: A tale of caution



Delhi: The new movie by Kannan Lyer, which stars a stilted, over-the-top Sara Ali Khan, is a sure-fire prescription for failure. It has every element: corny acting, clunky conversation, cheesy music, stifling scenery, tense staging, emphasized melodrama, and wasted potential. AE Watan The most recent addition to a fast

expanding collection of Hindi movies that are so narrow-minded in concept and execution that they couldn't place first in a high school skit competition is Mere Watan. It is based on the life of Usha Mehta and the underground radio that she helped establish and illegally operated in the early 1940s to spread the message of unity

and rebellion among Indians and revive the Quit India Movement after the British had banned the Congress Party and imprisoned all of its major leaders. The show is produced by Dharmatic Entertainment, the streaming division of Karan Johar's Dharma Productions.

"Body on Me" by Nora Fatehi gives Badshah's "Ek Tha Raja" a fiery twist

Delhi: It's a well-established fact that Nora Fatehi never stops looking for new opportunities in her career. Together with Badshah on his album "Ek Tha Raja," she released the hit song "Body on Me," which is an absolute hit! Returning to the vocal domain, "Body On 'Me"



draws inspiration from Alexandra Stan's "Mr. Saxobeat", a legendary

smash song from the 2000s. The sounds transport you to a bygone era, where new songs are infused with Badshah's fusion to ensure that fans worldwide have a wild time. We can't help but wonder now: will Nora Fatehi and Badshah appear in a music video.

Manisha Rani: An artiste is an artiste regardless of the medium

Manisha Rani, primarily known for her dance reels, ventured into a new space by participating in Bigg Boss OTT 2. She won the recently concluded 11th season of Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa, a show she joined as a wildcard contestant. Talking about the point of debate, she said, "Fans aise hi nahi bann jaate. There must be something special about people with that kind of a following. An artiste is an artiste, regardless of the medium. One might become

a part of a TV show with a director shooting with them, but people who create reels and influencers also put in the same amount of hard work. Although they don't get a TV show or the guidance of a director, they wake up in the morning, move around with a ring light, direct, and shoot themselves. Influencers also work as hard as those who work 12-hour shifts. Both put in the effort, but the difference is that one has access to TV and the other has social media as a platform to showcase their talent. I believe an influencer or TV actor whoever works hard deserves to win." She continued, "Bhale hi sab ko lag raha ho ki aaj Manisha Rani jeet gayi, but I have been struggling to reach here since 2012. I also have a journey. Jo bhi log famous hote hain ya naam banaate hain, uske peeche ek struggle story hoti hai. Uske peeche ek lambi story hoti hai aur mehnat kar ke yahaan tak pohochte hain."



The estranged wife of Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Aaliya

Delhi: Aaliya and actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui may be attempting to mend their marital bond. The marital issues between Nawazuddin and Aaliya were public knowledge, and Aaliya had previously criticized Nawazuddin on social media. However, it appears from Aaliya's most recent post that they're making an effort, particularly on her end. Aaliya posted a video on her social media networks. She most recently appeared on Bigg Boss



OTT 2 as a participant. A collection of pictures showing Nawazuddin, Aaliya, and their kids is included in the video montage. "Celebrating 14 years of wedded bliss with my one and only," says the post's caption. Cheers to your

anniversary. On their 14th wedding anniversary, Aaliya sent her best wishes to her estranged husband Nawazuddin Siddiqui, despite the backlash and mocking from the public. Nawaz, she claimed, is

her one and only true love. Aaliya Siddiqui shared the photo and wrote, "It took over 19 years to get out of the relationship that I treasured." However, my children have always and always will be my top focus in life. There are, nevertheless, a select few connections that transcend friendship; this one is one of them, and since I am delighted in it, I wanted to share my joy with each of you. She started it by accusing her divorcing spouse of abuse.

The trailer for Bade Miyan Chote Miyan, starring Tiger and Akshay, will be released on March 26

Delhi: The new poster for Pooja Entertainment's Bade Miyan Chote Miyan is unveiled, teasing the exciting trailer's March 26 release date! The action-packed extravaganza of the year, Bade Miyan Chote Miyan, has an official trailer debut date announced by the makers. Along with Manushi Chhillar and Alaya F, the star-studded cast includes Akshay Kumar as Bade Miyan and Tiger Shroff as Chote Miyan in the official poster. You'll experience some



breathtaking moments with Bade and Chote Miyan. This isn't just a movie; it's an exhilarating, thrilling, and emotional rollercoaster that will leave you wanting more. On social media, Tiger

Shroff and Akshay Kumar posted, "#BadeMiyanChoteMiyan! REAL ACTION ka ek bada dosage lekar aa rahe hain! March 26 is when the #BadeMiyanChoteMiy anTrailer drops!" In

collaboration with AAZ films, Vashu Bhagnani and Pooja Entertainment produce Bade and Chote Miyan. Ali Abbas Zafar wrote and directed the film, and Vashu Bhagnani, Deepshikha Deshmukh, Jacky Bhagnani, Himanshu Kishan Mehra, and Zafar produced it. On this EID, April 10, 2024, Akshay Kumar, Tiger Shroff, Prithviraj Sukumaran, Sonakshi Sinha, Alaya F, and Manushi Chhillar will all have significant roles in the movie.

In "Jazbaati Hai Dil," Vidya and Pratik chemistry lit the place on fire

The upbeat song features words from a new age with a modern sound quality. The song's graphics are filled with subtle flashes of humor. The dynamics of the song shift as it goes along due to the chemistry between Vidya and Pratik's characters



upbeat song features words from a new age with a modern sound quality. The song's graphics are filled with subtle flashes of humor. The dynamics of the song shift as it goes along due to the chemistry between Vidya and Pratik's characters. The song was composed by the well-known group Lost Stories, and Armaan Malik and Ananya Birla sang lead vocals. The rhythmic symphony "Jazbaati Hai Dil" will

have listeners humming along in no time. The song, which features lyrics by the gifted Kunaal Vermaa, has upbeat beats and new sensations that are ideal for a party that involves dancing. 'Do Aur Do Pyaar,' an Ellipsis Entertainment production presented by Applause Entertainment, is directed by Shirsha Guha Thakurta. The movie is scheduled to open in theaters on April 19.

Trailer for The Great Indian Kapil Show: Gutthi, played by Sunil Grover, is back!

Delhi: The Great Indian Kapil Show trailer, starring Kapil Sharma, was released. The catch is that Sunil Grover reprises his role as Gutthi! The show, which is already available to stream on Netflix, will feature celebrities including cricket player Rohit Sharma, Aamir Khan, and Ranbir Kapoor. Archana Puran Singh goes back to her designated chair as well. 'The Great Indian Kapil Show' teaser on Netflix is



finally out. With his legendary character, Gutthi, Sunil Grover, who was a major contributor to the show from its inception,

makes a comeback. In the teaser, Kapil rebrands his program and gives a preview of the celebrity cameos that will soon be announced. Netflix will only be able to view the show on Saturdays at 8 p.m. starting on March 30. The trailer's accompanying tagline said, "Let's laugh like never before!"

So, this time around, the gang is back—hum international jaa rahe hain!

For her job, Adah Sharma spent nights in a dance bar. "Want to appear credible."

Delhi: In order to look credible on screen, actress Adah Sharma disclosed that she spent evenings in a dance club for her role in "Sunflower 2." Adah remarked, "I wanted to look convincing and it's about how you sit and stand and how comfortable your body is, even when you're not performing. It's



not just about when you're dancing." The "Kerala Story" actress admitted that on occa-

sion, she stayed up until five in the morning to watch. "They were gracious enough to let me stay in the bar and watch," the actress continued. I made an effort to project their confidence when interacting with clients. The main actors in it are Mukul Chaddha and Sunil Grover.

The Goat Life has a spectacular opening weekend at the box office

Delhi: The Goat Life, also known as Aadu Jeevitham in Malayalam, is off to a phenomenal start at the box office. Prithviraj Sukumaran, a well-known Malayalam actor, plays the film's main character. Oscar winner A.R. Rahman composed the soundtrack for the movie. The movie is an adaptation of Aadu Jeevitham, the novel of the same name. Amala Paul was very important to the movie. Eighty crores was the budget for making the movie. The film's principal actor, Prithviraj Sukumaran, actively promoted it, which greatly contributed to its excellent buzz. The film is expected to have a huge opening weekend in Kerala, his home state, where advance bookings are reported to have surpassed 1 crore gross. In the international market, advance reservations have also gotten off to a great start.

RCB hit back: Murali Kartik's 'trash' remark for Yash Dayal receives cryptic response



NEW DELHI: India's former left spinner Murali Kartik, who is currently commentating in IPL 2024, embroiled himself in a controversy for his remarks on Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) pacer Yash Dayal. The left-arm pacer Dayal grabbed headlines for all the wrong reasons last year during his time with the Gujarat Titans. He was smacked for five successive sixes by Kolkata Knight Riders' batter Rinku Singh.

Also Read: How to watch IPL 2024 live in

USA, Canada and MENA region. But it did not have any bearing on Dayal's future in the IPL as he was bought by RCB for Rs 5 crore at the IPL 2024 auction. While doing commentary during the RCB vs Punjab Kings match on Monday, Kartik made a remark on the move saying, "someone's trash is someone's treasure". Kartik drew a lot of criticism on social media for calling Dayal "trash", and RCB also decided to give a befitting reply as they posted a three-word message with a pic-

ture of Dayal. "He's treasure. Period," RCB posted on X. Talking about the match, Virat Kohli's 77 and a finishing act by Dinesh Karthik helped RCB beat Punjab Kings by four wickets for their first win of this IPL season on Monday. Master batsman Kohli smashed 11 fours and two sixes in his 49-ball blitz as hosts Bengaluru chased down their victory target of 177 with four balls to spare to bounce back from their loss in the opener of the lucrative T20 tournament.

IPL 2024: Chennai Super Kings boss over Gujarat Titans

CHENNAI: Not for nothing are Chennai Super Kings considered a different beast at home in the IPL. Despite opting for a brand-new bowling template and boldly fielding only one specialist spinner at the MA Chidambaram Stadium here on Tuesday, Chennai were too good for Gujarat Titans during their comprehensive 63-run victory.

After the batting trio of Rachin Ravindra, skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad and Shivam Dube powered CSK to a mammoth 206-6, the bowling unit, which comprised only one tweaker in left-armer Ravindra Jadeja, did more than enough to restrict GT to 143-8.

Super Kings thus notched up their second successive win, while Titans endured their first defeat of the season.

Defending a huge total at the venue referred to as the team's fortress, CSK were in cruise control throughout the second half. Medium pacer Deepak Chahar (2-28) set the tone by removing both openers GT skipper Shubman Gill and Wriddhiman Saha in his first spell, following which his bowling colleagues took the onus to get the job done.

With both Matheesha Pathirana (1-29) and Mustafizur Rahman (2-30) finding a place in the playing XII,



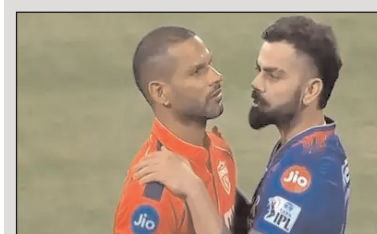
Chennai sent down as many as 18 overs of pace, indicating a clear deviation from their usual template of choking the opposition with spin. Barring 'local lad' B Sai Sudharsan (37 off 31 balls, 3x4), who came on as an 'Impact Player' in the chase, none of the Titans batters showed good application on a pitch that hardly had any demons on it. Earlier, invited to bat first, Super Kings were off to a blazing start on a belter, courtesy Ravindra's belligerent Ravindra (46 off 20 balls, 6x4, 3x6) provided the opening burst and picked up from where he left off. He had also scored an aggressive 37 against RCB in the opener. Ravindra ruled the Powerplay, at the end of which CSK were 69-1.

While Ravindra hammered the Titans bowling attack into submission from the word go, Ruturaj (46 off 36 balls, 5x4, 1x6) made the most of an early reprieve to lay a solid foundation. Dube, CSK's designated spin hitter in the middle overs, took no time to settle down, playing his role to perfection with an influential 23-ball 51 (2x4, 5x6).

CSK could not have asked for a better start as Ruturaj was dropped on one by R Sai Kishore off Azmatullah Omarzai's opening over. Sai Kishore, stationed at first slip, made a mess of a regulation catch and Ruturaj duly accepted the gift.

At the other end, Ravindra made mincemeat of new-ball partners Omarzai

Virat Kohli hugs an emotional Shikhar Dhawan in a heartwarming gesture



NEW DELHI: Virat Kohli and Shikhar Dhawan share a deep bond both on and off the cricket field. As former teammates for the Delhi state team and longtime representatives of the Indian cricket squad, they have shared the field for over a decade.

Following Royal Challengers Bengaluru's first victory in the IPL 2024 season, triumphing over Punjab Kings at home, Virat was captured engaging in a heartfelt moment with his old teammate and close friend Dhawan. The scene saw Virat consoling Dhawan, sharing warm embraces, and eventually breaking into laughter together.

Sevilla FC seriously considering friendly in India, says club president Jose del Nido Carrasco

PANAJI: Jose Maria del Nido Carrasco grew up as the grandson of a Sevilla FC vice-president, son of a Sevilla president, and has held different roles at the six-time Europa League champions for 17 years. Now, he's the president of the Spanish club, looking to help grow the club internationally, particularly India. A lot of European clubs have joined hands with Indian clubs but none of the tieups lasted long. We want to establish ourselves as an option for



Indian football fans, and that requires perseverance and patience. We believe that the journey with Bengaluru United

brings together that necessary perseverance and patience. This is an association of football clubs, but we also have

common interests. We are clubs that look to the future with technology as part of their DNA. We believe that our relationship will last because we share two common pillars: vision of the future and ambition. We want the agreement to last a long time and in fact help Bengaluru's growth with technology and sporting methodology. We also trust that this season will end with promotion (from second division to I-League) and Bengaluru will confirm.

'Woh kehte hai na ki jaisi sangati waisa...': Sehwag's hilarious reasons behind slump

NEW DELHI: Virender Sehwag is known for not mincing his words and the former India opener was at his hilarious best while doing hindi commentary in the IPL 2024.

In a video that went viral on social media, Sehwag was seen trolling his former IPL team Punjab Kings on air during their match against Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Monday. Sehwag took a humorous jibe at PBKS saying that his pace of scoring runs slowed down due to the team's lackluster per-



formances."Jab mein Punjab mein gaya tab mera strike rate kam ho gaya. Woh kehte hai na ki jaisi sangati waisa behave karte ho. Toh waha ki sangati waisi hi thi. Jeet te the nahi, khel te acha the nahi, toh mera game aur thoda kharab ho gaya,"

Sehwag said while speaking on Jio Cinema. Sehwag represented Punjab Kings for two seasons before retiring following IPL 2015. Throughout his IPL career spanning 104 matches, he accumulated 2728 runs at an impressive strike rate of

155.44. He was a part of the team when Punjab under captaincy of Australia's George Bailey finished runners-up in 2014. Sehwag also served Punjab as mentor from 2016 to 2018. Punjab Kings, Delhi Capitals and RCB are the only teams in IPL history yet to clinch the coveted title.

Punjab suffered a four-wicket defeat against RCB in their second match of the season in Bengaluru on Monday after Virat Kohli played a match-winning knock of 77 off 49 balls.

Guwahati to host two IPL matches

KOLKATA: Following the initial heartbreak, people of Assam in general and Guwahati in particular were treated to the best Holi-day news when the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced the full schedule of India Premier League (IPL) on Monday evening. After successfully hosting the two 'home'

games of Rajasthan Royals last season, the cricket fans of the northeast were eager for more, but they were a bit disappointed when the schedule for the first 15 days of 2024 IPL was unveiled on February 23 with no match scheduled in the city of Guwahati. However, as per the full schedule announced by BCCI, "factoring in the polling dates and venues for the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections across the country", Barsapara Cricket Stadium will host the last two league matches of the Royals. Last year, RR hosted Punjab Kings and Delhi Capitals in Guwahati. "Rajasthan Royals have opted for a second venue in Guwahati and will play their final two home matches in Assam. They will first host Punjab Kings on May 15th and later play Kolkata Knight Riders on May 19th,

which will also mark the conclusion of the 17th season of IPL," BCCI said in a statement. Elated with the news, Ranjit Barthakur, chairperson of Rajasthan Royals, told, "Having successfully conducted two matches last season, we are delighted to be bringing the Indian Premier League (IPL) matches again to the northeast. Barsapara Stadium and the city of Guwahati were lit in pink last time, and we are expecting the fans in Assam and the northeast to welcome back their own Royals with open arms again." "The preparations around the city and at the stadium will get underway now, and we are thankful to Assam Cricket Association (ACA) for allowing us to play games here. We want to provide the best matchday experience.

IPL 2024: Rachin, Dube power CSK to 206/6 against Gujarat Titans

NEW DELHI: Rachin Ravindra kicked off with an impressive start, while Shivam Dube concluded with a spectacular flourish as Chennai Super Kings set a commendable target of 206 for 6 against Gujarat Titans in an IPL match in Chennai on Tuesday. Ravindra swiftly amassed 46 runs off just 20 balls during the Powerplay, setting a dynamic tone, while Dube, known for his prowess against spinners, unleashed his powerful strokes to score a brisk 51 runs in just 23 deliveries, adding immense pressure on GT's bowlers with his five massive sixes. Amidst this display, skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad's well-crafted 46 off 36 balls also made a significant impact, contributing to yet another impactful



batting performance by the team on a hard and bouncy track. Let's not overlook CSK's Rs 7.60 crore acquisition, Sameer Rizvi, who made a memorable IPL debut by smashing Rashid Khan for two sixes and scoring 14 runs off just 6 balls. Rachin, who has already become a darling of the CSK fans, enthralled all and sundry with his audacious stroke-play. While he missed out

again on a half-century but team's 'spiritual skipper' Mahendra Singh Dhoni would be all smiles knowing that his choice was perfect to the T. The three sixes -- a flick behind the square and one over long-on off the normally profligate Umesh Yadav and one off Azmatullah Omarzai were hit with so much disdain that it did put Gujarat Titans in a spot. There were some crunchy cover drives as well as

Ravindra let his skipper Gaikwad breathe a little easy at the other end. Finally, it was GT's 'Go-To' bowler Rashid, who drew the first blood but more because of smart work from Wriddhiman Saha, who removed the bails in a flash after the Black Caps opener lost his balance and moved out of his crease trying to whip the delivery. Saha's next stumping was way easier.

Indian Super League: Two-window ban for Hyderabad FC

PANAJI: Hyderabad FC have been barred from registering new players for the next two windows after they were handed a transfer ban by the All India Football Federation's player status committee. The Indian Super League (ISL) club has been punished for repeat offences after defaulting on salaries to several players and officials. "The club is banned from registering any new players for two entire and consecutive registration periods. The club can register new players only for the next registration period following the complete serving of the relevant sporting sanction," the AIFF's player status committee said on Wednesday. The ban will be effective from the next registration window, starting mid-June to August end. The second transfer window is scheduled for January 2025 which effectively means Hyderabad cannot register players.