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## Congress plans to redistribute wealth to 'infiltrators': PM Modi

**'Distributed among those who have more children, among the infiltrators?' Modi said to a loud "no" from the big crowd'**



**JAIPUR/BANSWARA:** Congress is in the grip of "urban Naxals" determined to execute their beliefs and convictions through the party, PM Narendra Modi said on Sunday while drawing a link between opposition party's pitch for distribution of wealth in its manifesto and his predecessor Manmohan Singh's Dec 2006 statement that minorities have first right to the country's resources. "Just look at their manifesto. What they have said is of grave concern and reflects their plan to implement their Maoist vision on the ground. They have said that if Congress gets to form govt, they would conduct a survey of everyone's assets: how

much gold our mothers and sisters have and their value would be computed, including the silver ornaments of our tribal sisters, the assets of govt employees, everything. They don't stop at that. They go on to say that the assets will be equitably redistributed. Is it acceptable to you? Does govt have the right to expropriate your hard-earned assets? Should the govt seize your assets?" PM said, adding that for women, their gold is not just an ornament but something that is intrinsically linked to their aspiration and self-respect. He connected Congress's manifesto to Dr Manmohan Singh's statement about

minorities having the first right claim on national resources. "Does this tell you whom the assets are going to be distributed among? It is going to be distributed among those who have more children, among the infiltrators?" Modi said to a loud "no" from the big crowd. "Should the assets you have acquired through your toil go to infiltrators? Is this acceptable to you? This is what Congress has proposed through their manifesto. They would conduct a survey of your assets, seize them and then redistribute them. I must caution you that even the mangal sutras of our mothers and sisters are not safe from this

urban Naxal thinking," he said. Modi had earlier attacked Congress manifesto for its "Mughal mindset". The PM's broadsides at Congress came at an election rally in Rajasthan's Banswara, where Rahul Gandhi had announced five of the party's "guarantees" on the sidelines of his Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra on March 7. He reiterated his charge about Congress now being in the group of "urban Naxals". "One of my friends asked those leaving Congress why they were exiting. They said the party was in the clutches of Leftists," Modi said. He said Congress's catchphrase "mohabbat ki dukaan" was part of an elaborate subterfuge for the reality of "fear, hunger and corruption being sold in Congress shops". "I am more like a family member to you. You have known me for the last 23 years. You also know the work my govt has done in the last 10 years.

## Arvind Kejriwal, Hemant Soren in jail, wives lead attack on BJP at rally

**RANCHI:** Two empty chairs for jailed Arvind Kejriwal and Hemant Soren headlined INDIA bloc's bid to turn the tables on BJP at a joint rally here today as the Delhi chief minister's wife Sunita Kejriwal led the offensive by accusing the Narendra Modi govt of conspiring to kill her diabetic husband in Tihar jail by denying him insulin. "Their politics is very dirty. Now there is a camera fixed on his food, each morsel of food is being monitored, what a shame it is. He is diabetic and has been administered 50 units of insulin for the past 12 years now. But inside the jail, he is not given any. They want to kill him," Sunita alleged at the Ulgulan Nyay Rally here. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Kejriwal's AAP colleague and Punjab



CM Bhagwant Mann, RJD's Tejashwi Yadav and SP chief Akhilesh Yadav were among those attended the event. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann, RJD's Tejashwi Yadav and SP chief Akhilesh Yadav were among those attended the event and declared that the ongoing general election was a fight to "save the Constitution and democracy". The chorus was that the opposition bloc would not be intimidated by arm-twisting tactics

like putting Kejriwal and former Jharkhand CM Hemant behind bars. Congress's Rahul Gandhi could not make it to the event, citing illness. Other than the two empty chairs, two giant banners showing Hemant and Kejriwal behind bars were placed at the rally on Ranchi's Prabhat Tara ground. That was to send the message that both will return soon. Kejriwal has been held in an ED case related to Delhi's liquor policy and Hemant in an alleged Ranchi land scam.

**2k of 4.7k MP/MLA cases settled in 2023**

**NEW DELHI:** Supreme Court's constant monitoring of progress in criminal case trials against MPs and MLAs has shown encouraging results with designated courts giving judgments in 2,018 of 4,697 pending cases last year alone. This reverses the trend of the past, when cases against former and sitting took years to be decided by trial courts, allowing elected representatives to continue their political careers unmindful of the threat of disqualification.

## Rahul Gandhi, PM Modi alike in speaking against Kerala, says Kerala CM

**KOZHIKODE:** Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan said PM Narendra Modi and Congress's Rahul Gandhi have the "same voice when they speak against Kerala." Addressing media persons in Kannur on Sunday, Vijayan said both leaders shared a similar mindset in attempting to mask the state's progress with falsehoods. Continuing his scathing attack, he said Rahul is re-contesting from Wayanad after running away from north India. "In the last elections, he came to Kerala and contested. Congress was then able to create some misunderstanding among the people. But soon people realised the real situation, and because of that, Congress was not able to make gains in any of the subsequent elections," he said. He added that Rahul is not even trying to directly oppose Modi or Sangh Parivar, whom he claims to oppose. "Is Congress ready to speak on CAA, which was brought by the BJP govt as part of its agenda of communal division? Didn't Congress hide IUML's flag, fearing BJP?" Vijayan asked. "The situation with UDF is such that Congress workers are beating up IUML cadres for holding flags, and IUML workers are burning copies of newspapers that carried advertisements about CAA," he said. Pinarayi also lashed out at Modi for stating that Kerala was not faring well, ignoring the fact that it ranks first in the health index, the quality of school education index, and the sustainable development index, among others. He said that alleging that Kerala's corruption is on par with Bihar amounted to insulting the two states and added that it is well known that Kerala is the least corrupt state in India. CPM general secretary Sitaram Yechury on Sunday asked Congress if it was fighting the election to bring down the Pinarayi Vijayan govt or Modi govt at the Centre.

## Nothing serious, doctors tell Delhi CM Kejriwal; AAP protests outside jail

**NEW DELHI:** Tihar administration on Sunday stated that senior AIIMS specialists had provided online consultation to chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, hours after AAP alleged that adequate medical facilities were not being given to him as part of a "conspiracy" by Centre to kill him. A statement released by Tihar authorities said, "After a detailed



consultation, Kejriwal was assured there were no serious concerns. He was advised to continue with prescribed medicines, which would be evaluated and reviewed on a regular basis". The statement was issued on a day when senior AAP func-

tionaries and workers protested outside the prison even as Delhi minister Saurabh Bharadwaj highlighted a letter sent by Tihar Jail's director-general a day earlier, requesting AIIMS for a diabetologist. Bharadwaj said this contradicted the central govt and Tihar's claims of adequate medical provisions being available inside the jail for Kejriwal.

## BJP discriminating against South India: Telangana CM Revanth

**BENGALURU:** Building on the allegation of "injustice to south Indian states", Telangana chief minister Revanth Reddy on Sunday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's govt was "discriminating" against the south and this will result in "his downfall". In a freewheeling chat with select journalists, Reddy said multinational companies intending to invest in southern states are being



"threatened" and asked to shift to Gujarat or other north Indian states. "They are directly threatened by the PMO. Their (Modi govt's) intention is that we (south Indian states) fight for spillovers," Reddy said.

He said the discrimination has extended to cabinet berths and top posts over the past 10 years. Reddy said a majority of key constitutional posts in the country, including President and Vice-President.

## PM Modi taunts Sonia for 'running away', taking Rajya Sabha route to Parliament

**BANSWARA/JALORE** Prime Minister Narendra Modi accused former Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Sunday of "lacking the courage" to contest Lok Sabha polls and instead choosing Rajya Sabha route to enter Parliament, while alleging that her party is in such a dire state that members of its "dynasty" will themselves not be voting for a Congress candidate. Addressing an election rally in Rajasthan's Banswara, Modi referenced the Gandhi family's decision to vote for an INDIA bloc nominee instead of a Congress candidate from New Delhi constituency, where they are registered to vote.



AAP's Somnath Bharti is contesting from the seat as the common candidate for the alliance. "Congress is not contesting from the very place where the Gandhi family lives. If the 'shahi' family cannot vote for Congress, they do not have any right to seek your votes either," Modi said, adding: "Here (in Rajasthan), Congress functionaries, during door-to-door campaigning, are urging voters to not vote for Congress candi-

dates...This is the situation of the party. Can you trust them?" Modi continued his criticism of Congress during a rally in Jalore, questioning the party's credibility, and made a pointed reference to Sonia Gandhi's decision to opt out of electoral politics. "Those who cannot contest polls and cannot win elections have run away from the field to enter Parliament via Rajya Sabha in Rajasthan," he said, referring to the five-term Rae

## Repolling at 11 violence-hit booths in Manipur today

**GUWAHATI:** Repolling has been ordered in 11 stations in the Inner Manipur parliamentary constituency on Monday. These centres had seen violence and booth capturing attempts in the first phase on April 19. According to state chief electoral officer Pradeep Kumar Jha, repolling will be held in two polling stations under Khurai assembly segment, four under Kshetrigao segment, one under Thongju segment, three under Uripok segment and one under Konthoujam segment. "Voters of these polling stations are appealed to come out in large numbers to exercise their franchise," Jha said. Over 70% polling was recorded in Manipur in the first phase despite firing by gunmen in which one person was injured.

## Accused can say any time he was minor when crime took place

**BENGALURU:** Karnataka high court has observed that an accused can raise a plea any time that he was a minor at the time of the alleged offence and directed the Juvenile Justice Board to consider afresh the case of a rape-accused teen from Kampli in Ballari district. The teen was accused of sexually assaulting a minor in his neighbourhood. The case was registered on a complaint from the girl's grandmother. Since both the accused and the survivor were aged about 16 and specific age proof was not available about the suspect, an ossification test was conducted, indicating his age between 16 and 18 at the time. The case was then transferred to a special court for cases

under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act, 2012. The accused challenged the move in HC, contending that he should have been tried under the Juvenile Justice Act. After perusing materials on record and several Supreme Court judgments, Justice M Nagaprasanna noted that the petitioner had never attended school. Hence, his school records weren't available. "The ossification test isn't conclusive, as it could vary by a year or two and the variance should be towards the benefit of the juvenile, at least for one year, and the juvenile should be tried as a juvenile by the Juvenile Justice Board and not by a regular court before the magistrate.



## Sangli, Mumbai South Central, and Bhiwandi seat talks stalled



**Delhi:** For weeks, Sangli, Mumbai South Central, and Bhiwandi seat talks stalled. A key deal in Maharashtra's electorally critical Lok Sabha elections was declared by the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) with the Shiv Sena (UBT) contesting 21 seats, the Congress 17 and the Sharad Pawar faction of the Nationalist Congress Party 10.

At Shivalaya, Sena's south Mumbai office, former chief ministers Sharad Pawar and Uddhav Thackeray and state Congress chief Nana Patole announced the seat-sharing arrangement. The Congress claimed

all three Sangli, Mumbai South Central, and Bhiwandi seats, while the Sena (UBT) declared its candidates for the first two and the Pawar faction for the third, stalling seat talks for weeks. Congress eventually gave up the seats. "We took a step back, we did not surrender," Patole told reporters. For the National Democratic Alliance, which hopes to win 400 Lok Sabha seats, and INDIA, which hopes to perform well in one province with strong regional leaders, Maharashtra is crucial. The unified Shiv Sena contested 23 Lok

Sabha seats alongside the BJP, which contested 25. The Congress contested 26 seats and the NCP 22. Sena-BJP won 41 of 48 seats, a landslide victory. The NCP won four, Congress one. Seven NCP-SP and 13 Congress candidates have been announced. The MVA will declare candidates for 13 seats—Madha, Satara, Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg, Raver, Jalna, Dhule, Nashik, Palghar, Thane, Mumbai North, North West, North Central, and South—over the next two days and present a manifesto focused on Maharashtra issues.

## Netas feel superior after this class 5 passout



**Delhi:** Giridhari Barik (69), who has made bespoke garments for Odisha politicians for 40 years, said Biju Babu was a sharp dresser. CMs like Biju Patnaik of Janata Dal or JB Patnaik of Congress, Giridhar Gamang, Hemananda Biswal, Communist party veterans Lokanath Choudhary and Sivaji Patnaik, and today's young Turks trust Barik with their measurements. Before the 2024 LS polls, Barik, the 'Master', is

inundated with requests to stitch kurta-pyjamas for lawmakers from all parties. "You may think that I am bragging but my first client was none other than Biju Patnaik," he remarked. "On October 2, 1983, Biju Babu inaugurated Khadi Niketan in Ashok Nagar, Bhubaneswar, where I had a tailoring shop. Kailash Sahu, the store owner, suggested I sew Biju Babu a kurta. Biju Babu grudgingly said all his kurtas are

made in Delhi, but if he loved the fit, he would let me stitch them forever. His great height, long hands, and broad shoulders made it difficult. Barik stated I have stitched all his kurtas since then. Barik measured over 150 Odisha leaders, including CM Naveen Patnaik, for whom he stitched kurta-pyjama.

The manner of politicians has changed over time. Most choose cotton, but linen is popular now.

## CAPSULES

### 1 in 4 Congress, 1 in 5 BJP from political families

**Delhi:** Given the political churn, not all political family candidates are running for the same party as their elders. Multigenerational politics is seen in the fact that one in four Congress candidates in the Lok Sabha elections are from political families, compared to one in five (of the 424 announced) Bharatiya Janata Party candidates. Thus far, 87 of the 424 BJP candidates are from political families, compared to 65 of 250 Congress candidates. For this analysis, a political family has a grandparent, parent, or elder sibling who is an elected or nominated member of Parliament or a state assembly or a key political party position. Analysts expect the BJP's list to include many political families for two reasons. First, the party has always prioritized winnability. Two, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated in Parliament that candidates who follow their elders are fine. The BJP's Andhra Pradesh candidate is D Purandeshwari, daughter of Telugu Desam Party founder NT Rama Rao. She and BJP candidate Kiran Kumar Reddy (former CM) were Congress members. His Congressman father was connected to Indira Gandhi and PV Narasimha Rao. BJP candidates come from anti-Congress political families. Its Bihar candidate is the son of former Bettiah MP Madan Kumar Jaiswal. Newada candidate Vivek Thakur is the son of former Union minister CP Thakur. In Gujarat, the BJP nominated Poonamben Madam, daughter of six-term MLA and former mayor Hemantibhai Madam. Bharatsinh Dabhi, son of two-term MLA Shankarji Okhaji Thakor, is another seasoned state candidate. BJP candidates from political families include Bansuri Swaraj, daughter of late Sushma Swaraj in New Delhi, BY Raghavendra, son of BS Yedyurappa (the sitting MP from Shimoga who was refiled), and former chief minister Basavaraj Bommai, son of SR Bommai.

## Raj Cong treasurer joins BJP

**Delhi:** Sitaram Agarwal, Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee treasurer, joined the BJP after losing the 2023 State Assembly election to Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari. Over 300 people from all backgrounds joined the BJP at its State headquarters alongside Mr. Agarwal. Congress candidate Mr. Agarwal lost against BJP's Ms. Kumari in Vidyadhar Nagar, Jaipur. Former Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot knew him. His BJP membership was witnessed by Ms. Kumari and senior party officials Narayan Lal Panchariya and Onkar Singh Lakhawat.



Jannayak Janata Party leader Raghuveer Singh Tanwar, who ran in the 2023 Assembly elections, All-India Reserve Bank Employees' Union former national secretary G.N. Pareek, Vishwakarma Industries Association president

Jagdish Somani, Hanuman priest Sudarshan Maharaj, and Municipal Councillors Kesharmal Sharma, Dhapa Devi, and Mahesh Agarwal joined the BJP.

### Misa and Rohini, Lalu Prasad's daughters, are listed

**Delhi:** Misa Bharti and Rohini Acharya, the daughters of Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) president Lalu Prasad, are two of the party's 22 announced candidates for the Bihar Lok Sabha, the latter of whom is running for office for the first time. From Saran (formerly Chhapra), Rohini has been fielded, and her older sister Misa is from Patliputra.

## Met museum head talks art of repatriation

**It's not easy running one of the world's largest museums with more than 1.5 million works spanning 5,000 years. And certainly not easy amidst heightened scrutiny over looted objects and mounting pressure for repatriation. Max Hollein—who took charge of the Metropolitan Museum of Art (Met), New York as director in 2018 and CEO last July—knows this all too well. Fresh from signing a MoU with India's Ministry of Culture, being "blown away" by the Sanchi Stupa, Jantar Mantar and the Kanheri Caves and ahead of delivering a lecture at the CSMVS**

on Friday, Hollein remained composed as he sat down for a chat about policing its art and artefacts with a problematic past recent restitutions and keeping the museum relevant in an age of sensory overload. What kind of collaborations do you foresee with the signing of the MoU with India's culture ministry? It marks a continuation of our close collaboration on multiple levels and reflects our mutual willingness to further expand on that partnership. We've done a number of important exhibitions on Indian art. We've

run fellowship programs in India for a decade to train the next generation of conservators. The MoU signals our commitment to continue mounting important exhibitions at the Met, ideally ones that will have strong resonance in India and can also be exhibited in India. We want to foster collaborations between institutions, bring more staff together and develop more fellowship programs focused on educational and cultural exchange. The US government was reported to return over 1,400 artefacts to India last

year, including 15 sculptures that were housed at the Met. What is the current status of the repatriation I'm unable to provide specific details on that. However, the works that we have restituted — sculptures (ranging from the 1st century BCE to the 11th century CE, and include terracotta, copper, and stone) were sold by Subhash Kapoor (Indian American art dealer currently serving a prison sentence. In India for running a smuggling racket) — that were transferred to the Manhattan District Attorney.

## For the LS elections in Tamil Nadu, AIMIM will back the AIADMK



**Delhi:** In anticipation of the April 19 Lok Sabha elections in Tamil Nadu, the AIMIM declared its backing for the AIADMK, which is led by Edappadi K Palaniswami. Asaduddin Owaisi, the president of AIMIM, stated on "X" that the "alliance would also continue for the Assembly elections in Tamil Nadu," presumably alluding to the state

elections in 2026. "The AIADMK has vowed never to form an alliance with the BJP again and has declined to form one now. Additionally, it has promised to oppose NPR, CAA, and NRC. As a result, AIMIM offers AIADMK its support for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. For the Assembly elections, our coalition will likewise persist," Owaisi declared.

Interestingly, AIMIM fought three seats in the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections. of 2021 in alliance with TTV Dhinakaran's Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (AMMK). Back then, the BJP-led NDA included the AIADMK. For the next election, AMMK will now be a part of the state's BJP-led alliance. 39 Lok Sabha seats are held by Tamil Nadu.

## SAD Releases First List Of Seven Names For Anandpur Sahib,

**Delhi:** The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) unveiled its initial slate of candidates for seven Lok Sabha seats in Punjab on Baisakhi. On the list are Gurdaspur's Dr. Daljit Singh Cheema, Anandpur Sahib's Prem Singh Chandu Majra, Patiala's N K Sharma, Amritsar's Anil Joshi, Fatehgarh Sahib's Vikramjit Singh Khalsa, Faridkot's Rajwinder Singh, and Sangrur's Iqbal Singh Jhunda. prominent Shiromani Akali Dal leader Daljit Singh Cheema wrote on X, "Sukhbir Singh Badal made a list of seven prominent leaders of the party as candidates for the 2024 Parliamentary Elections. selecting "Khalsa Sirjana Divas," a historic and



holy event, as the ideal day to sound the poll bugle. With the announcement on March 26 that the BJP would stand independently for all 13 Punjabi parliamentary seats, all hopes of forming an alliance with the SAD for the next Lok Sabha elections were abruptly dashed. Among the BJP's oldest allies was the SAD. The

SAD and BJP, in spite of their alliance, did not have the expected success in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. In spite of the pro-BJP trend observed in other regions of northern and central India, the Congress managed to capture eight seats. The Aam Aadmi Party won one seat, the SAD won two, and the BJP took home two seats.

### For the LS polls campaign, AAP leader Atishi will travel to Assam

**Delhi:** According to party sources, AAP leader and Delhi Minister Atishi would spend three days in Assam the next week in order to promote the first phase of the Lok Sabha elections, which is scheduled for April 19. Atishi will participate in election rallies and roadshows.

### Girders launched between Kalyan & Kasara till early Sunday morning

**MUMBAI:** The Central Railway launched a girder on the bridge between Khadavli and Vasind stations shortly till early Sunday morning and also girders for FOB between Asangaon and Atgaon. Due to the girder work and related rail blocks, passengers were inconvenienced with late night suburban train cancellations for Kasara. Six Mail and Express trains were rescheduled while ten other long distance trains were regulated due to the girder work. Girders were also launched for FOB between Shahad and Ambivali station. As a result, the suburban local train for Kasara leaving CSMT at 12.15am on Sunday was short terminated at Thane.



## The curtains have fallen on the Forever Global Rally 2024

**New Delhi:** The curtains have fallen on the Forever Global Rally 2024, culminating in a dazzling display of achievement for Forever Living Products. Spanning from April 9th to 13th, this grand event unfolded amidst the vibrant energy of New Delhi, promising an unparalleled experience meticulously crafted by Forever. The event took place at Indira Gandhi National Stadium. Gathering delegates from over 160 nations, the rally showcased the expansive reach and influence of Forever across the globe. With its captivating ambiance and comprehensive itinerary, the event captured every essence, offering transformative training sessions, interactive workshops, and heartfelt recognition for unwavering dedication. As India graciously hosted this year's rally, it not only provided a platform for business but also lent a significant boost to tourism,



benefiting thousands engaged in the hospitality and tourism sectors. The event witnessed an impressive turnout of over 30,000 attendees from all corners of the country. Aidan O'Hare, President of Forever Living Products, emphasized the significance of navigating global challenges and seizing opportunities, making FGR 2024 a melting pot of innovative ideas and boundless inspiration. Gregg Maughan, CEO of Forever Living Products, expressed his heartfelt gratitude to all the Forever Business Owners worldwide, particularly acknowledging the exceptional audience

in India. He elaborated on the compelling reasons to join the Forever family, followed by a remarkable ceremony honouring outstanding achievements. Mr. Harish Singla, CSM FLP India, remarked, "The week-long extravaganza featured a diverse lineup of master classes, recognitions, inspiring testimonials, and lots of entertainment ensuring attendees returned home with cherished memories and invaluable insights. Forever Business Owners from over 160 countries converged to explore new products, exchange strategies, and celebrate collective triumphs.

## EC publishes a "rate list" for enticing competitions

**Delhi:** you can get a buffet or a packed lunch that includes two curries, rice, achaar, roti, and sweets for Rs 80. You can also get a mini meal of chhole bhature or poori aalu for Rs 37. You can also get a small cup of tea or coffee for Rs 6. These prices do not include the cost of a roadside eatery or canteen. Every cup of tea or coffee, packed lunch, or small meal provided to a political worker conducting a campaign during the capital election will be tracked and contributed to the candidate's overall poll expenditure. Not only will food costs be important, but so will the price of the



chairs and tables that will be used at candidate polling places or during election gatherings. The candidates' election expenses also include the cost of renting vehicles for campaigning, posting posters, banners, and hoardings, hiring a man to beat a drum, hiring horses and elephants for a road show, and hiring videographers, photographers, and drones to record the events.

Every penny spent by the candidates is tracked from the time of nomination filing to the casting of ballots, with the total amount not to exceed the Rs 75 lakh cap on election expenses set by the Election Commission of India. The tariff list of services and materials utilized by the candidates is prepared by each returning official, according to the officials.

## Bournvita and Other Drinks Will No Longer Be Listed as "Health Drinks"

**Delhi Divya:** The Central Government ordered all e-commerce sites to remove all so-called drinks and beverages, including the well-known milk supplement Bournvita, from the 'healthy drinks' category, dealing a severe blow to fitness drink businesses. The National Commission

for Protection of Child Rights (NCPDR) undertook an investigation and came to the conclusion that the FSS Act of 2006 did not specify a health drink, thus the Ministry of Commerce and Industry issued the order. "National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPDR), a

statutory body constituted under Section (3) of the Commission of Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005 after its inquiry under Section 14 of CRPC Act 2005 concluded that there is no 'health drink' defined under FSS Act 2006, rules and regulations submitted by FSSAI.

## CAPSULES

### April 26: Delhi municipal elections

**Delhi:** In the third year, individuals from Scheduled Caste are eligible to run for the mayor's position. According to sources within the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), three candidates are vying for the position. Sources from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) stated that they will decide quickly whether to run for office. The BJP had put up candidates for both positions last year, but they later withdrew their nomination. On April 26, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) will hold secret ballot elections for the positions of Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

### Delhi industries department approves 21-acre e-waste facility

**Delhi:** Senior officials said the industries department has finalized the plan for a 21-acre facility in northwest Delhi's Holambi Kalan to house a recycling center and training facility for e-waste handling and processing. The Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (DSIIDC) has invited private applicants to set up the complex, which will have an integrated ecosystem for e-waste management supply chain, on a public-private partnership (PPP) basis by April 15.

According to the project report, the integrated complex will be placed at the Urban Extension-2 road and have six primary sections: disinfection, dismantling, refurbishing manufacturing and recycling, testing, and training. "We will give the private operator 21 acres to create buildings, utilities, roads, and machinery.

## Delhi plans to plant 2.3 lakh trees and 3.8 lakh bushes in parks

**Delhi:** To reduce dust pollution and increase green cover, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi plans to plant 2.3 lakh trees and 3.8 lakh bushes in parks, schools, open spaces, and roadsides this year. In 2023-24, the city planted two lakh trees and 3.25 lakh plants. The horticulture department requested zonal office requirements to complete the assignment. "We will plant when the details are acquired. An officer stated schools, hospitals, parks, and below flyovers are used for this. He stated that the



government will continue roadside tree planting in some colonies at homeowners' request. MCD plans to carpet or repair 50 km of interior roadways by Oct. to

reduce dust. Between April 2023 and February 2024, 139 km of roads were resurfaced or repaired. A civic council wants to resurface 180km of roads by Oct. Road

maintenance and resurfacing are ongoing. After winter, we started dense carpet work on damaged areas. Work is being done with MLA or Mukhyamantri Sadak Punarnirman Yojna non-plan head funding "said the official. Our 52 mechanical road sweepers are for PWD roads. He added that 195 water sprinklers, jet machines, and 30 mobile anti-smog guns are reducing dust pollution on roadways. PWD gave MCD 60 anti-smog weapons to reduce dust near construction sites.

## One-year DDA flat maintenance with RWAs

**Delhi:** Delhi Development Authority would give residents' welfare societies maintenance work within a year of creation to ensure flat maintenance. This will also apply to Diwali Special Housing Scheme 2023 units. This conclusion followed Real Estate Regulatory Authority criteria. A maintenance fee is normally collected by DDA during allotment. It has maintained flats for 10-20 years, depending on the scheme. A DDA official stated that applicants must join the registered



agency or RWA to maintain common services. Per pocket, one RWA will be registered. All new DDA plans require upfront monthly costs for one year, depending on flat type. "DDA shall do daily maintenance from maintenance charges for one year or until

RWA is formed, whichever comes first. An RWA will get the balance maintenance fund if it is founded before one year. If a RWA is not created within a year, it will be done on actuals "said the official. "For subsequent years, the necessary arrangement will be communicated

to the residents," he said. Residents expect standard changes to speed up DDA flat maintenance, which had been delayed for a long period. The authority defined maintenance as green space maintenance, campus, colony, and housing pocket cleaning, light fitting replacement in common areas, lift maintenance and operation, and common area electrical bill payment. "After transfer, the urban authority will be responsible for common areas in many housing pockets.

## DPCC issues SOP to seize, dispose of plastic

**Delhi:** The Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) has a regular operating system for seizing and disposing of unlawful plastic items sold or used in the city. According to the amended plastic waste management laws, illegal plastic will be defined and DPCC staff will investigate various locations. It said that only a waste-to-energy plant would dispose of seized plastic products including polyethylene, earphones, silverware, etc. The DPCC seizure procedure requires a team of authorities to take samples of plastic carry bags and sheets from the unit during inspection of all producers, importers, and brand owners and include them in the report. Teams must seize, transport, and store non-authorized plastic objects at the



DPCC lab until disposal. "The unit owner/occupier must pay for seizure, loading/unloading, transportation, storage, waste-to-energy plant disposal, etc. A recent DPCC portal document indicated that the team would take geotagged photos and video of the seized samples and the full seizure procedure of banned/non-permissible stuff. It said that "all the seized non-permissible plastic carry bags/sheets/

banned SUP items shall be disposed of through a waste-to-energy plant." The Centre banned 19 single-use plastics manufactured, imported, stocked, distributed, sold, and used in July 2022. From December 2022, 120-micron carry bags were forbidden. Earbuds with plastic sticks, balloon sticks, flag sticks, candy sticks, ice cream sticks, thermocol for decoration, and more were among the 19 items.

## Leachate treatment facility, maintaining the green space

**Delhi:** A month after opening its first engineered landfill in Tehkhand, Municipal Corporation of Delhi assigned its operation and maintenance to an experienced agency. The civic authority noted that managing the leachate treatment facility, maintaining the green space, and most significantly, leveling ash from two waste-to-energy plants—Okhla and Tehkhand—requires competence. The site can hold 10 lakh tonnes of ash, and 12,000 tonnes have been dumped. "While the horticulture department has planted a 30-meter strip around the designed landfill, the weighing bridge, roads, and drains need a dedicated system for maintenance. Leachate treatment plant operation will



also be monitored by the agency "official. Three approach roads allow trucks to easily transfer rubbish to the landfill site. The peripheral boundary wall is 3.5 meters high. MCD will submit a maintenance plan for approval after the model code of conduct is lifted. MCD constructed a 7.5m-deep trench over 15.5 acres and covered it with 500 mm of soil and five

layers of geosynthetic material before dumping ash to prevent leachate percolation and groundwater contamination at the designated landfill. "We're dumping ash garbage in a corner and preventing vehicles from entering the pit. To prevent stacking damage, automobiles are driven carefully. Once a corner is filled, we gently scatter and layer ash "Source: official. The

landfill's operating and maintenance terms require MCD to deploy a liner every time ash is added to reduce dust pollution. "An constructed landfill cost Rs 42.3 crore and was inaugurated last month. The urban local body contributes 53.3%, the Centre 35%, and the state 11.7% to this budget. MCD gets Rs 300 per tonne for ash dumping. Here, 400 tonnes of ash are deposited everyday.

## Currency circulation increases despite 2k note ban

**Delhi:** Despite the elimination of Rs 2,000 banknotes, the currency in circulation increased by Rs 1.3 lakh crore in FY24 from Rs 33.5 lakh crore at the end of March 2023 to Rs 34.8 lakh crore. Growth has slowed the most since 2018. In FY24, currency in circulation as a proportion of GDP fell since 4% is slower than GDP growth. CIC grew 7% last year and over 10% the year before due to a pandemic cash rush. Currency in circulation grew 0.5% to Rs 35.3 lakh crore in the week ended April 5. RBI data shows that the increased issue of Rs 500 notes has more than offset the withdrawal of Rs 2,000 notes. ON May 19, 2023, RBI announced their withdrawal. In March 2024, Rs 2,000 notes were worth Rs 8,202 crore, down from Rs 3.6 lakh crore a year earlier. The value of Rs 500 notes rose to Rs 30.1 lakh crore from 25.8 lakh crore a year before.



## Editorial

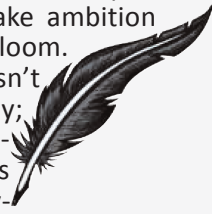
### Sustainable Development

Surveys often rely on self-reported data, they may be influenced by cultural factors, personal biases, and momentary emotions. In contrast, objective measures such as GDP per capita, human development indices, and inequality metrics offer more concrete and quantifiable indicators of a country's overall well-being. By examining factors like income distribution, access to healthcare and education, and environmental sustainability, these methods provide a more comprehensive understanding of the factors that contribute to citizens' quality of life. Additionally, objective measures are less susceptible to fluctuations and can provide policymakers with reliable data to assess long-term trends and formulate effective policies to address societal challenges. In conclusion, while happiness surveys might sometimes feel as accurate as trying to forecast the weather with a broken umbrella, they do serve a purpose in highlighting the whimsical nature of human contentment. Perhaps, as we navigate the maze of statistics and subjective feelings, we can take solace in the fact that happiness, much like the perfect cup of coffee or the quest for the ultimate meme, is a journey rather than a final destination. So, let's raise a toast to the quirks of happiness surveys, the absurdity of statistical rankings, and the delightful chaos of being human. After all, if laughter is the best medicine, then a good chuckle about happiness rankings might just be the cure for our existential woes. Until 2023 Report was a publication of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, a global initiative of the United Nations, and from 2024 onwards, it is a publication of the Wellbeing Research Centre at the University of Oxford. At first glance, it looks like the work of a genius—a report compiled after in-depth research and collated by the world's most esteemed institutions.

However, once you start noticing the details, their inaccuracies and biases inadvertently start jumping at you like a bunch of Bernie Sanders fans squeaking about wealth redistribution at a corporate dinner. Our first stop on this merry-go-round of analysis is the cultural carnival of the survey questions. Picture this: a questionnaire designed with all the cultural sensitivity of a bull in a china shop, asking respondents if they smiled or laughed yesterday as if happiness were a universal language spoken with a grin. It's as if the report believes the entire world shares the same sense of humour as a dad joke enthusiast at an open mic night. Job security? Income inequality? Access to education and healthcare? Who needs those when you can simply ask if someone had a good laugh yesterday? Speaking from personal experience, I am not sure about yesterday, but I did laugh a lot today, and that was when I looked at the World Happiness Report 2024.

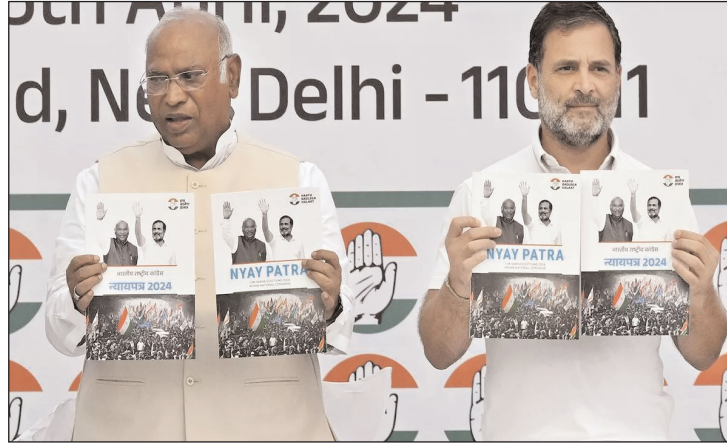
Another flaw that the report indulges in is interpreting "aspirations" as unhappiness. Individuals from developing countries might be a lot more aspirational or ambitious; it does not necessarily make them unhappy with their lives.

In fact, the opposite can still be argued. Someone who draws meaning from their everyday struggle, one who wants to turn their start-up into a billion-dollar venture, might be extremely content with their life, wishing to take it to another level. Imagine hustling day and night, dreaming of a better future, only to be termed "depressed" by some reports that mistake ambition for anguish and growth for gloom. This year's World Report isn't the only one under scrutiny; the entire notion of happiness surveys seems flawed as it effectively ends up conveying nothing. Take the UN report averaging self-reported happiness scores from.



# Manifesto of any party is bound to lure the public into populist promises

Although the election manifesto of any party is bound to lure the public into populist promises, now it is being seen that some parties not only have to make exaggerated promises in their manifestos, but also have to work hard to fulfill them. I am also forced to do so. Actually, it is expert in making election promises and fulfilling them but when the Aam Aadmi Party came into political existence, it fulfilled many promises and also sought votes from the public in the name of work. The Aam Aadmi Party government also distributed free raadi in such a way that other parties are also forced to not only make promises of distributing free raadi to the public, but also have to distribute free raadi to some extent. However, providing facilities to the public cannot be called freebies, because that budget is for the benefit of the public, if any of the governments does not commit scams and provides facilities to the public with that money, then it would not be appropriate to call it freebies. Because no one in the country gets as much freebies as the politicians, not even a single bureaucrat. But during the campaign for the last Lok Sabha elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself had called the free facilities provided to the



public as 'free rabri', but in his two terms of last 10 years, he has made dozens of promises not only to lick the free rabri, but have also made claims of giving free rewardis. Like giving 5 kg ration every month to 80 crore people, giving Kisan Samman Nidhi amount of Rs 500 per month to farmers, giving gas cylinders under Ujjwala scheme etc. However, like the previous elections, the Congress Party has also released its manifesto for this time's Lok Sabha elections, which it has named as Haraya Nyaya Patra. On this day in 1868, the British and Indian Army defeated Tewodros II's army in Ethiopia. But there is a lot of discussion about this manifesto. Some political experts say that if Congress had done such things during its tenure as it has promised in the manifesto, then the public would have believed in it and people would defi-

nately have believed that Congress is true to its promises. But earlier he did not work as much at the grassroots level as was expected from him and now he has to make election promises to return to power. At the same time, some political experts say that BJP has started considering it as its birthright on everything, hence it is not able to digest the promises made by Congress to the public in its 'Poshan Patra'. It is obvious that the party wants to stop the leaders of the other party from even campaigning. How will he like the manifesto of another party made keeping in mind the public interest? Actually, Congress has named its manifesto as Nyay Patra. In this manifesto, the Congress Party has promised the public to give 5 justices and 25 guarantees if the government is formed. Congress President

Mallikarjun Kharge, former President Sonia Gandhi and leader Rahul Gandhi issued a manifesto at the Congress headquarters and organized public meetings in Jampur and Hyderabad the very next day. Gave. While releasing this manifesto, Manifesto Committee Chairman P Chidambaram had explained in detail what promises have been made by the Congress. He said that after coming to power, Congress will immediately restore the status of full state to Jammu and Kashmir. The First Schedule of the Constitution will be amended to include the tribal areas of Ladakh. Engagement with Pakistan fundamentally depends on its willingness and ability to end cross-border terrorism. Congress will scrap the Agneepath scheme and implement common recruitment procedures followed by the Army, Navy and Air Force. Also guaranteeing economic and social security to the soldiers. The Chinese intrusion in Lakh and Galyan Shahap in 2020 dealt the biggest blow to Indian national security in decades. On June 19, 2020, PM Narendra Modi gave a clean chit to China, due to which our negotiating position became quite weak. areas occupied by china Issuing a manifesto before the public before the elections has become like

the birthright of the political parties in India, whether they adhere to it or not after coming to power, it is their choice. The reason for this is that neither the people who win the elections and send them to the government, neither pressurize these parties to fulfill their promises nor ask questions. Nor is the Election Commission able to muster the courage to ask the elected government why it does not fulfill the promises made by it to the people? It is said that now the leaders of these parties have started calling their announcements as guarantees in their election speeches, but the public still does not ask what happened to their previous guarantees? Recently, on April 5, Congress also released its manifesto, about which a lot of discussion is taking place from political circles to the public. On one hand, BJP leaders i.e. the ruling party allege that Congress had not done anything earlier, so why is it now misleading the public by making false promises. From Prime Minister Narendra Modi to all his big leaders and ministers, they are busy cornering Congress and apart from calling this manifesto of Congress a way to deceive the public, they are also calling Congress as one that hurts the faith of Hindus.

## How non-violent Jainism thrived in the warlike Deccan

A Kannada-speaking king died in 975 CE, after starving himself for three days at his guru's monastery. His name was Marasimha II, and his kingdom was based near present-day Bengaluru. Marasimha, according to his court poet, had spent his life in war: he had participated in campaigns in Madhya Pradesh, slaughtered rival families, and even piled up the skulls of his enemies. Yet, in the last year of his life, he had erected Jain temples, and his ritual suicide was in a Jain monastery. Marasimha's kingdom disappeared within a few decades of his death, but Deccan Jainism retained its following for almost 500 more years. This is one part of its story. By the time of Marasimha's

death, Deccan Jainism was already a grand old religion, counting among its adherents the plateau's most powerful rulers, ascetics and litterateurs. Historian RN Nandi writes in Religious Institutions and Cults in the Deccan that Jain monks began to appear in inscriptions from the 4th–5th centuries CE. Also around this time, other practices from North India, including permanent stone temples to gods and the use of Sanskrit in political settings, appeared in the Deccan. All these offered potent symbolic and political tools to newly emerging kingdoms, such as the Kadambas in present-day Banavasi and the Early Western Chalukyas in present-day Badami. Deccan Jainism was woven into

medieval South Indian kingship from the outset. In Bahubali and Badami Chalukyas, Jainism scholar Hampa Nagarajaiah notes that one of the earliest free-standing examples of Deccan architecture is Jain: it's a temple on the Meguti hill at Aihole, built in the 7th century by Ravikirti, a Jain courtier of the Chalukya king Pulakeshin II (610–642 CE). The temple's dedicatory inscription was composed by Ravikirti in Sanskrit. It shows that he was familiar with the political aesthetic of the Sanskrit cosmopolis—the sprawling medieval geocultural world that connected Sanskrit-speaking courts from Vietnam. to Afghanistan. The Meguti hill, where Ravikirti built.

## Outcomes may encourage Putin to escalate military engagements

Furthermore, the election outcomes may encourage Putin to escalate military engagements.

notably through the second mass mobilisation of reservist forces for operations in Ukraine. The Putin regime during this tenure can be increasingly seen as pivoting towards a strategy that emphasises the assertion of a Slavic Russian identity alongside the promotion of Russian cultural superiority within its sphere of influence. This strategic orientation seeks not merely to reaffirm Russia's historical and cultural legacy but also aims to reinforce its status as the predominant power, thereby cementing its hegemony in the face of Western encroachments and influence. Integral to understanding this dynamic is the ideological framework influenced by thinkers like Aleksandr Dugin, whose notions of a Russian cultural revival play a pivotal role.

Dugin, a prominent figure in Russian intellectual circles and often touted as Putin's ideological guide, advocates for a renaissance of Russian cultural and spiritual values as a foundation for national policy and geopolitical strategy. His philosophy, often encapsulated in the concept of Eurasianism, posits Russia as a civilisational state that transcends the traditional nation-state model, characterised by its unique Slavic identity and

Orthodox heritage. This conceptualisation envisions Russia as the guardian and promoter of a multipolar world order, in which its cultural and moral values stand in stark contrast to the perceived materialism and moral relativism of the West. Under Putin's leadership, there is a visible alignment with Dugin's ideas, as evidenced by the regime's efforts to promote Russian language, history, and cultural symbols throughout the region. The emphasis on Slavic brotherhood and the spiritual bonds that unite the Russian people with their neighbours in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus serves not only as a tool of soft power but also as a means of constructing a coherent identity narrative that can counterbalance Western cultural hegemony.

The pursuit of this strategy involves a multifaceted approach, including the support of Russian-speaking communities abroad.

the promotion of Russian Orthodox Christianity as a unifying spiritual force, and the leveraging of cultural institutions and media to disseminate a narrative that highlights Russia's role as the defender of traditional values and a bulwark against the encroachment of globalist influences. By championing this revival of Russian cultural dominance, Putin's regime endeav-

ours to solidify its regional influence, thereby reinforcing its position as a central actor in the reshaping of the global geopolitical order in accordance with Dugin's vision of a multipolar world rooted in distinct, civilisation-specific values and norms. A significant element of Putin's geopolitical strategy can include efforts to undermine the bipolarity dominated by the US and its allies, shifting the narrative towards multipolarity, particularly in military terms. This entails forging stronger ties with countries like India and China, enhancing economic and military cooperation, and counteracting the effects of Western sanctions and diplomatic isolation. Such a strategy not only diversifies Russia's strategic options but also challenges the so-called unipolar dominance of the West, advocating for a more equitable global power distribution, which other global south countries like Brazil and South Africa will welcome. Despite these ambitious geopolitical initiatives, Putin faces considerable domestic challenges, including managing elite power dynamics within Russia and mitigating the economic impacts of his policies. Selecting a successor represents a delicate endeavour that necessitates navigating various interests and factions within the Russian political landscape.

## Subianto govt can help India-Indonesia ties in 4 ways

The recent presidential and parliamentary elections in Indonesia were conducted in a relatively secure and peaceful manner, but there are concerns about widespread vote buying and systemic vote rigging during the vote recapitulation process. Many have also spoken about democratic backsliding with the return of dynastic politics in Indonesia. While official results could take several weeks to arrive, historically accurate quick counts show Prabowo Subianto, current defence minister and former

Indonesian army lieutenant general, has won the election by a significant margin. His opponents, former Jakarta governor Anies Baswedan and former Central Java governor Ganjar Pranowo, though, have not conceded defeat. Baswedan had contested the election promising "change" as an alternative to the status quo, while Pranowo spoke about the vision to make Indonesia an "advanced nation". But Subianto and his vice-presidential candidate Gibran Rakabuming Raka, the

eldest son of current President Joko 'Jokowi' Widodo, managed to convince the general public by offering several promises, which included the continuation of Jokowi's plan to focus on resource-based industrialisation and free lunch programmes for all students. Prabowo's unofficial election victory has been widely welcomed by many leaders across the world. Among those who have directly conveyed the congratulatory message is Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In a post on X, Modi expressed

hope to advance the goals of strategic partnership between India and Indonesia. Leaders of countries with close relations with Indonesia, such as Australia, Malaysia, and Singapore, have also congratulated Prabowo. But all these congratulatory messages, especially from Western countries, seem to have eclipsed an important reality: Prabowo's record of human rights violations in Indonesia and East Timor, which isn't seen as a significant issue anymore in the international community.



## CEOs who were also promoters or members of the promoter family

Delhi:

According to a Deloitte report, the average CEO salary in India was Rs 13.8 crore, up 40% from pre-COVID-19 levels. Short- and long-term incentives account for more than half of the total compensation. The average CEO remuneration, according to the Deloitte India Executive Performance and Rewards Survey 2024, is Rs 13.8 crore, while the average compensation for CEOs who were also promoters or members of the promoter family is Rs 16.7 crore.

There are two main reasons why promoter CEO salary exceeds that of professional CEO compensation. Because promoter CEOs tend to have longer tenures overall, professional CEOs undergo changes in office more frequently than promoter CEOs. "However, it's also critical to recognize that promoter CEO compensation varies great-



ly, which has an impact on the higher averages," stated Anandrup Ghose, Partner and CHRO Program Leader at Deloitte India. Despite an increase in CEO salary, Deloitte reports that over 50% of target compensation is "pay-at-risk." Pay-at-risk for professional CEOs is 57%, a significantly greater percentage than for promoter CEOs (47%).

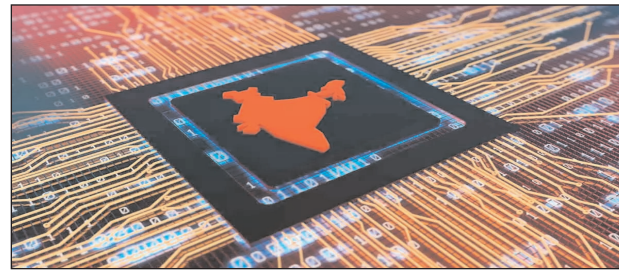
Twenty-five percent of the target remuneration for professional CEOs comes from long-term incentives, most of which are provided in the form of share-linked incentives. "The wide gap between median and average CEO com-

penetration (Rs 9.3 crore versus Rs 13.8 crore) indicates the wide range of compensation numbers and some outliers on the higher end," it stated. Most businesses utilize a comprehensive scorecard that combines financial and non-financial measures and targets to evaluate the performance of their CEOs and CXOs. CEO and CXO incentives, however, are still skewed toward financial company-level objectives in those scorecards. Boardroom discussions have also moved from discussing the necessity of share-based compensation to discussing how these incentive schemes benefit stakeholders."

## Fourth-largest exporter of digitally Provided services

Delhi:

With almost a fifth of global trade in services, India is now the world's fourth-largest exporter of digitally provided services. The World Trade Organization (WTO) recently released its Global Trade Outlook and Statistics report, which states that India's exports of digitally delivered services reached \$257 billion in 2023—a 17 percent rise from the year before. Compared to China and Germany, which both had growth of 4%, the nation's performance was far better. The World Trade Organization (WTO) projects that in 2023, global exports of digitally deliv-



ered services reached \$4.25 trillion, rising 9% YoY and making up 13.8 percent of global exports of goods and services. In contrast to the decline in global and regional commerce in products in 2023, exports of digitally provided services remained strong. The research also stated that exports increased by 11% and 9% in Europe and Asia, which account for 52.4 percent and 23.8

percent of world exports, respectively. 41.2 percent of global exports of digitally delivered services in 2023 were made up of business, professional, and technical services. These were followed by computer services (20.5%), financial services (16%), services related to intellectual property (10.9%), insurance and pension services (5.2%), telecommunications services (2.6%).

## Irdai cuts pre-existing disease waiting time from 4 to 3 years

Delhi: After the three-year waiting period, health insurers cannot deny pre-existing condition coverage. Starting April 1, 2024, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI) has changed health insurance policy pre-existing conditions and moratorium period

(MP) criteria. PED coverage waiting periods have been decreased from four years to three years, while moratorium periods have been shortened from 96 to 60 months in health insurance policies. Insurance companies demand "no look back" during this time. "The previous definition used

the term "look back," which was ambiguous," stated Policy Ensure CEO and Co-founder Rahul M Mishra. The amended policy specifies that policies can't be appealed for non-disclosure or misrepresentation after the MP unless fraud is demonstrated."

## CAPSULES

### It's the first outflow of small-cap money in 2.5 years

Delhi: While midcap fund flows fell to multi-year lows in March, smallcap funds had a net outflow for the first time in 2.5 years, which could be viewed as an anomaly. This came after capital markets regulator Sebi ordered mutual funds to conduct stress tests on their small- and midcap fund portfolios in March and expressed worries over froth in certain small- and midcap stock pockets. The overall net equity inflows in March decreased by 16% to ₹22,633 crore due to the smallcap outflows and the slowdown in midcap flows. The net inflows into equity funds decreased by 16% to ₹22,633 crore from the previous month due to concerns about regulatory advice and restrictions on inflows into smallcap schemes by institutions like Kotak MF and ICICI Pru Smallcap Fund. But market experts thought the smallcap flight was an anomaly brought on by regulatory warnings.

### Insurance company can't deny claim due to pre-existing condition

Delhi: The Supreme Court has ruled that an insurer cannot deny a claim based on a medical condition mentioned by the insured in the proposal form after the policy is issued. Justices D Y Chandrachud and B V Nagarathna further stated that a proposer must inform the insurer of all material circumstances. It emphasized that the proposer is presumed to know all insurance facts and circumstances. The proposer can only disclose what he knows, his obligation of disclosure includes material facts that he ought to know in the ordinary course of business. "Once the policy has been issued after assessing the medical condition of the insured.

## DGCA requests that airlines determine when to introduce new crew policies

Delhi: The action was taken after the Delhi High Court requested that, at its upcoming hearing, the DGCA provide a provisional date for the updated standards to go into effect. "You may kindly indicate the timeline required to prepare a roadmap for implementation of the revised FDTL (Flight Duty Time Limitation) norms and the timeline for subsequent implementation of the same, in light of the observations made by the Hon'ble Court during the aforementioned hearing." Crew members and industry experts were angry when the regulator, which



had said on January 8 that the updated FDTL rules would go into effect on June 1, decided to postpone them until March 26. At the time, officials with knowledge of the situation

stated that the move was made in response to criticism from The DGCA, which had earlier claimed that the updated regulations met international safety

requirements. The new regulations stipulated that pilots must now take a 48-hour vacation at the end of each week instead of the previous 36 hours, and that pilots doing night operations could only stay on the air for a maximum of 10 hours, as opposed to the previous 13 hours. Additionally, the definition of night duty was extended by one hour, to 6 am from midnight.

Airlines had worries, saying they would need 20% more pilots to implement the stricter guidelines, while pilots applauded the higher standards.

## Lakshadweep's first private bank to open a branch is HDFC

Delhi: The sole private sector bank with a branch in the Union Territory is HDFC Bank, a private lender that recently established a branch at Kavaratti Island in Lakshadweep. By providing a broad variety of services with an emphasis on personal banking and digital banking — which includes customized digital solutions like QR-based transactions for retailers—this branch seeks to improve the banking infrastructure in the Union Territory. HDFC Bank maintains branch-



es in the chilly regions of Kashmir, the southernmost point of Kanyakumari, and, as of late, the popular tourist destination of island. "This demonstrates our dedication to providing our clients with exceptionally convenient service no matter where they are," stated S. Sampathkumar, Group Head of Retail

Banking at HDFC Bank. "We look forward to serving the financial needs of individuals, businesses and becoming a trusted partner in their financial journey and contributing to the overall development of the island," stated S. Sampathkumar.

## Former SpiceJet COO Kashyap starts a company for aircraft chartering

Delhi: Arun Kashyap founded Sirius India Airlines, an aircraft charter business, a few days after leaving his position as COO at SpiceJet. The company and the Dubai-based Transworld Group have partnered to introduce Airavat Aviation, the latter's upscale private aviation brand, to the Indian market. Asia, Europe, Africa, and the Middle East are already home to Airavat Aviation. The JV intends to offer fractional ownership and charters in India and beyond, according to Sirius India Airlines. Arun Kashyap departed SpiceJet to form Sirius India Airlines in partnership with Transworld Group, introducing the premium Airavat Aviation brand to the Indian market. Plans are for operating a Hawker 4000, expanding to three planes,



**"They also recommend trash management plans, decentralization of protest sites, leadership commitment, budgetary obligations, and mayor in council"**

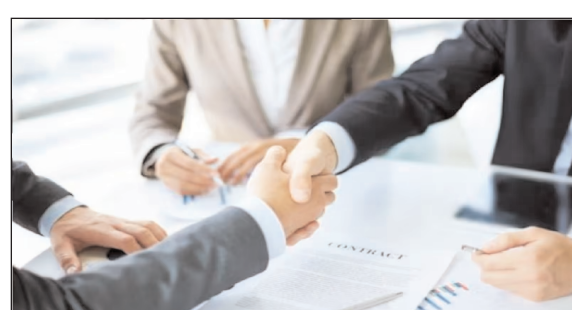
and offering charter and fractional ownership options. Parties are required by Urja's Citizens Charter to take action regarding trash management, traffic, pollution, safety, green cover, and digitization.

They also recommend trash management plans, decentralization of protest sites, leadership com-

mitment, budgetary obligations, and mayor in council. Air India, SpiceJet, Akasa Air, and Indigo flight cancellation fees are compared, with a focus on the significance of comprehending refund procedures, time-dependent fees, and variances based on price classes and booking dates.

## Hindujas purchase a 60% share in India mutual fund division

Delhi: The Hinduja Group is entering the mutual fund business in India by purchasing a 60% share in the American asset manager Invesco, just as the Jio Financial Services-BlackRock joint venture is preparing to upend the market. The acquisition of Reliance Capital and its subsidiaries—which include businesses engaged in asset reconstruction, research and securities broking, life, health, and general insurance—and its court clearance mark the next step for the bank-to-automobile behemoth. Having bought a stake in Religare Asset Management in 2012, Invesco became the sixth largest foreign operator in the nation's mutual fund market. It oversees property valued at Rs



85,393 crore. For roughly Rs 460 crore, it had acquired 49% of Religare, and four years later, it had acquired the remaining 51%. Via its subsidiary IndusInd International Holdings (IIHL), domiciled in Mauritius, the Hinduja Group has dominated the transaction. Owing IndusInd Bank and Reliance Capital in India, Sterling Bank & Trust in the Bahamas, Afrinex Exchange in Mauritius, and Beryllus Capital in the UK, Switzerland, and Singapore, IIHL is a company with around 600 stockholders. At that time, Hinduja had

stated that a plan to conduct IIHL's initial public offering in a foreign jurisdiction was being considered by numerous stockholders who wished to quit the company. Hinduja stated: "This is another step in our journey of value creation for our shareholders" after signing the agreement with Invesco. Our goal was to make IIHL a dominant force in BFSI. Because it desired a domestic partner with a robust distribution network, Invesco is giving up most of its control over the mutual fund business in India.

## Go First resolution procedure has been extended by the NCLT



Delhi: The deadline for finishing the Go First airline's grounded resolution procedure has been extended by the NCLT insolvency tribunal by an additional sixty days. The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has granted Go First three extensions, this time from April 4 to June 3. The resolution professional (RP) of Go First requested an extension of the timeframe to finish the corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP), and the Delhi-based NCLT granted the plea with a two-member bench. The deadline for finishing CIRP was extended by the NCLT from February 13 to April 4. This came about following the tribunal's November 23rd, 2018, 90-day extension that expired on February 4th. The Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code (IBC) stipulates that CIRP must be completed in 330 days, including the period required for legal proceedings. In accordance with the Code's Section 12(1), CIRP must be finished in 180 days. However, a corporate debtor is sent for liquidation if CIRP is not completed within the maximum time of 330 days, including any extensions or litigation periods.



## Students delighted with CCL match passes at Rayat & Bahara University and PU

Chandigarh

In view of the enthusiasm of the youth for the Punjab De Sher (PDS) matches to be played under the aegis of Celebrity Cricket League (CCL) at the PCA Stadium, Mohali, organisers continued their promotional events on Thursday. The organisers visited various educational institutions mainly Rayat & Bahara University and Punjab University and had a meet and greet with students. The various games were played with fans and the winners were honoured with exciting gifts and



free VIP passes. Punjab De Sher will lock horns against Bengal Tigers on March 8 followed by yet another clash against Riteish

Deshmukh - led Mumbai Heroes on March 9. Celebs like Sohail Khan, Sunil Shetty, Jenelia Deshmukh would also be featured in this

match. The series of promotional activities before the matches will continue wherein fans can hunt for their free VIP passes and gift hampers. Fans can get

information about these activities and complimentary match passes through the team's official website and social media platforms.

## Government allows donor egg & sperm in surrogacy

NEW DELHI: There is new hope for couples dreaming to become parents via surrogacy. The Centre has amended Surrogacy (Regulation) Rules, 2022 to allow use of a donor gamete – ova or egg cells and sperm – if one of the partners is certified to have a medical condition that prevents use of his or her own gametes. In usual circumstances, a couple undergoing surrogacy must have both gametes from the intending couple. But Surrogacy Amendment Rules, 2024, that have been notified by the govern-



ment, state that the district medical board must certify that either spouse is suffering from such a condition. It further says that "surrogacy using donor gamete is allowed subject to the condition that the child to be born

through surrogacy must have at least one gamete from the intending couple". It adds, "Single women (widow or divorcee) undergoing surrogacy must use self-eggs and donor sperm to avail surrogacy procedures."

## He was born to play Test cricket: childhood coach

NEW DELHI: Sunil Subramaniam could never quite put his finger on why he failed to break into the Indian team despite being one of the country's best left-arm spinners in the early 1990s.

It rankles, but the pain pales in comparison to the joy his most illustrious ward, Ravichandran Ashwin, brought to his life, years after he had quit playing competitive cricket. The 57-year-old, who taught Ashwin the nuances of spin bowling in his formative years, takes great pride in saying that the senior India spinner "was born to play Test cricket." "I had a lot of confidence that he would become a good Test player and a quality Test bowler, first a match-winner for the state then a match-winner for India," Subramaniam told PTI.

"At that time, it was difficult to say that his journey would be this long. As he was on his journey, it became obvious he would have a long

career. "I'd be lying to say that we think that he is going to end up playing 100 Tests. But, I certainly knew that we had a Test cricketer in the making, and a good one at that," he added.

Despite enjoying a fairly successful career in first-class cricket, Subramaniam is best known as Ashwin's childhood coach, but he has no qualms about it. "When I met him in 2007, at the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association's bowler's camp, the journey started there. We had to discover the next generation of bowlers. "Slowly, he progressed from first-class cricket to Test cricket, his bowling evolved, and he understood how to study the wicket. "When you play first-class cricket, you have a different mindset compared to Test cricket; you take time to adapt to the environment.

, but he took no time at all, and it felt like he was born to play Test cricket."

## Women On Top Presents WOT Award Show 2024 in Collaboration with Whisky Samba

Gurgaon: Women On Top of their Game Awards, in collaboration with Whisky Samba, is set to recognize 100 exceptional women achievers across three cities. With the theme 'Inspire Inclusion,' this celebration of International Women's Day goes beyond traditional awards, spotlighting the grit, grace, and sass that makes women true powerhouses in their fields. The Awards will unfold in a series of glamorous evenings, starting at Whisky Samba in Gurgaon on March 6th, moving on to the picturesque Antares Goa on March 10th, and culminating in the vibrant city of Hyderabad on March 12th.

Each location promises a unique and unforgettable experience, reflecting the diversity and dynamism of the women being celebrat-

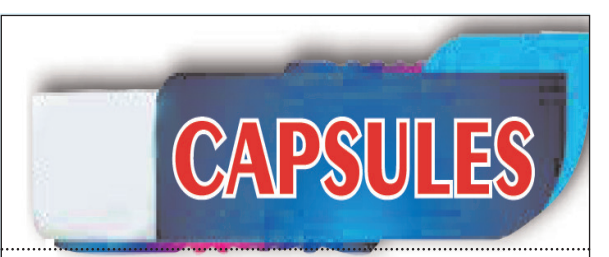


ed. The Women On Top Awards 2024 is an invite-based event, ensuring an exclusive gathering of influencers, creators, and exceptional women who have made a significant mark in their respective industries. The awards acknowledge women from across categories who have broken barriers, challenged stereotypes, and paved the way for others. Shalini Arora Kochhar, the powerhouse behind Women On Top, beams with excitement: "Forget your typical accolades –

these awards are a wild celebration of women's grit, strength, and unbreakable spirit. Living in a world that's always changing, our theme is simple: 'Inspire Inclusion.' It's a rallying cry to give a big shout-out to the remarkable women who, against all odds, are rocking the success story!" Mr. Ashish Dev Kapur who began the tradition of hosting the awards at his prestigious outlets adds "It's an absolute honor to award these remarkable women across three cities.

## Nadda, Sonia among 41 unopposed Rajya Sabha candidates

Delhi: Although the results were published on February 27, 41 of 59 candidates essentially clinched their victories since the nomination withdrawal deadline passed. Bharatiya Janata Party president JP Nadda, IT minister Ashwani Vaishnaw, education minister Dharmendra Pradhan, and former Congress chief Sonia Gandhi were among 41 unchallenged Rajya Sabha candidates. The other 15 seats—10 for Uttar Pradesh, four for Karnataka, and one for Himachal Pradesh—are expected to be contested, especially in UP and Karnataka, where political opponents have run candidates. In Uttar Pradesh, where the BJP is expected to win seven of 10 seats in this biennial election, Sanjay Seth will challenge Samajwadi Party for the third seat.



## Agra's Jama Masjid metro station renamed before opening



Delhi: Jama Masjid metro station in Agra was renamed Mankameshwar in honor of the nearby old Mankameshwar Temple. Agra's metro train operations are about to begin, after substantial preparations. The Uttar Pradesh government renamed Jama Masjid metro station Mankameshwar in honor of the neighboring old ankameshwar Temple, even though all metro station names were announced during the project launch. In an interview with India, UPMRC Deputy General Manager Panchanan Mishra said that the station's signage now shows the new name, as ordered by UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. He said the first Agra metro corridor has 13 stations, six of which are priority. Jama Masjid was the priority corridor's sixth and final station, following Tajmahal East Gate. Mankameshwar Station is its new name.

## China witnessed a sharp increase in labor protests

Delhi: Citing rights groups, VOA News stated that beginning August 2023, labor protests in China have rapidly increased. The founder and executive director of China Labor Watch, Li Qiang, stressed that the rise in labor demonstrations is being influenced not only by China's economic recession but also by factors like the "implosion" of the real estate sector and a decline in manufacturing. According to the China Dissent Monitor, a project of the international rights organization Freedom House, which is based in New York and analyzes protests in China, labor protests more than tripled in the fourth quarter of 2023 compared to the same period in 2022. Analysts claim that China's persistent economic problems and subpar working conditions are the causes of the unrest. According to Monitor, labor issues over pay and workplace safety are frequently the cause of worker protests.



## 'Real leg spinner': Sachin heaps praise on para cricketer Amir

NEW DELHI: Legendary batsman Sachin Tendulkar commended the dedication of para cricketer Amir Hussain Lone, hailing him as a "real leg spinner" during their participation in the opening match of the Indian Street Premier League in Mumbai. Talking to social media, Sachin expressed admiration for Amir's distinctive playing style, labeling him an inspiration to

all. The 34-year-old cricketer, known for his unique approach, bowls using his legs and bats using his shoulder and neck. "Defying odds with every delivery, Amir stands out as the real leg spinner!" You're an inspiration to all," Sachin wrote on X. Discovered by a teacher who recognized his talent, Amir entered the world of para cricket and has been actively

participating in professional cricket since 2013.

The 34-year-old cricketer faced a life-altering accident at the age of eight, losing both his arms in an incident that occurred in his father's mill.

Sachin on his trip to Jammu and Kashmir in February met Amir after a promise that he kept while sharing a video of Amir playing cricket.

## The uncle- nephew have been in a factional conflict



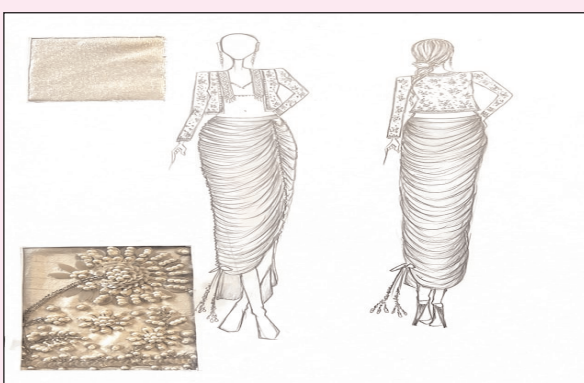
Delhi: Sharad Pawar's Nationalist Congress Party faction got a new emblem from the Election Commission. NCP faction Sharad Pawar was given the symbol "Man Blowing Turha". "As per the request received, "Man Blowing Turha" is allotted to the group/party in all Maharashtra parliamentary constituencies," the Election Commission said.

The Election Commission gave the NCP's symbol 'Wall Clock' to Ajit Pawar, a major loss for Sharad Pawar.

The uncle and nephew have been in a factional conflict since July 2023, when Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar revolted against Sharad Pawar and joined the BJP-Shiv Sena alliance, splitting the NCP.

## Basanti Unveils "Renaissance: A Rebirth" Collection at Jaipur Marriott's Fashion

New Delhi: Basanti, the celebrated fashion house, is set to make waves with its debut at the Jaipur Times Fashion Week on the 10th of March 2024, hosted at the luxurious Jaipur Marriott. The event promises to be a spectacle, showcasing the brand's commitment to innovation and growth through its groundbreaking collection, "Renaissance: A Rebirth for BASANTI." Divided into two distinct chapters, each segment captures the essence of Basanti's evolution and the brand's deep understanding of the modern Indian woman's diverse lifestyle. Chapter One: Prints and Resort Wear,



Continuing the journey, the collection moves into a captivating array of prints and resort wear, where Basanti has long been a pioneer in India's fast fashion landscape. This chapter embodies freedom and exploration, offering a fusion of style and comfort for the contemporary

woman who seeks both elegance and ease.

Chapter Two: Glamour and Sophistication for the Modern Bride, The grand finale unfolds with a chapter exuding glamour and sophistication, dedicated to the modern bride and tailored for special occasions. Drawing inspiration from

the desires and aspirations of their clientele, this segment is a tribute to accessible luxury that resonates with the modern Indian woman. "Basanti's creative process is deeply rooted in the preferences and evolving needs of their clients. The collection seamlessly blends style, quality, and accessibility, ensuring that each piece becomes a timeless wardrobe essential for the modern woman. This collection is not just a reflection of our brand's journey; it's a celebration of the modern Indian woman and her boundless spirit of reinvention," says Utkarsh Ahuja.



## India's Tiktok ban has set gold standard for the world on how to deal with Chinese threats



"He also emphasized the need for India and the US to maintain a shared vision of an open and inclusive internet, as an alternative to China and its allies who have created a version of the 'splinter net.'"

US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) commissioner Brendan Carr is on his very first visit to India. During the visit, he reportedly acknowledged India's proactive measures against cybersecurity threats from Chinese companies or those associated with its political

ideology. In an exclusive interaction with Economic Times, he said that India's actions against potential commercial and security risks in the growing digital economy could serve as a model for the world. He said that India's

actions on the short-video platform TikTok and telecom equipment suppliers Huawei and ZTE have "set the gold standard in terms of appropriate and strong actions to deal with the threats posed by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP)."

Carr suggested that the US could learn from India's approach to device safety and security, and the authorization process to ensure only trusted devices are used in telecom networks. He also emphasized the need for India and the

US to maintain a shared vision of an open and inclusive internet, as an alternative to China and its allies who have created a version of the "splinter net."

Carr reportedly expressed concern about countries allied with China potentially engaging in heavy censorship and creating a closed Internet. He stressed the importance of monitoring data localization to ensure it does not hinder the free flow and operation of the internet. Carr also highlighted the need for 'common sense guardrails' to regulate tech companies, especially those working with emerging technologies like artificial intelligence (AI).

## Hyundai Verna and Royal Enfield Himalayan Win Top Honours at car

NEW DELHI : The 2024 car&bike Awards were held at Sofitel BKC, Mumbai on February 27th, 2024. In its 19th edition, celebrating the best cars and bikes to be launched in calendar year 2023, Hyundai's all-new sedan Verna and Royal Enfield's adventure bike, the new Himalayan emerged with maximum scores. A 7-member jury, each for cars and bikes, consisting of senior automotive journalists from carandbike.com editorial team, and external automotive experts, voted in this process. The winners were chosen based on a thorough and elaborate

assessment programme that included experiencing these vehicles on the Madras International Circuit over two days followed by a proprietary scoring and voting process validated and audited by Divergent Insights, one of India's well-known, independent market research and analytics firms. The car&bike Awards are one of India's oldest and most reputed automotive awards. This year, more than 50 vehicles were nominated for the awards. "The car&bike Awards recognizes and honours the best amongst all new cars and bikes launched in a

calendar year. The year 2023 was a rather interesting one for the automotive industry with some path-breaking launches in the four-wheeler domain and more so in the two-wheeler space. Also, record sales numbers in a very tough year. To acknowledge the efforts of the automotive industry, this year's jurors had their work cut out to determine the best of the lot.

As always, we took a scientific approach with the help of our jury and our audit partners to justify our top picks. My best wishes to all the winners.

## The sealing action continues to annoy traders



Delhi: The Connaught Place businessmen met NDMC vice-chairman Satish Upadhyay over the drive to shut businesses for property tax nonpayment. The traders requested a uniform tax assessment method (UAM) for tax calculation and filed a representation. Upadhyay agreed to talk to chairman Amit Yadav. The New Delhi Traders Association (NDTA) claimed they supported recovering proper dues but not the recovery campaign, which violated the NDMC Act. "NDMC assesses, and after 30 days if payment is not made, the council can issue notice for recovery, seal bank account, attach premises, or rent. NDTA's Atul Bhargava argued the act doesn't seal stores.

NDTA noted that landlords and tenants had suffered for years due to unclear assessment, resulting in crores of rupees in unpaid dues. Huge liabilities prevented tenants from running shops, resulting in closures. "I assured traders to address the issue in collaboration with key stakeholders, including senior council officials, the lieutenant governor and the ministry of home affairs," Upadhyay stated, committing to a single tax system. "MCD has embraced the UAM, which is convenient and the right choice for all. Two years ago, the council proposed amending the NDMC legislation to implement UAM to the home ministry. "Later some observa-

## Blood donation camp held at Basanti Mata Mandir, Dangar Khera

Abohar: Nojawan Ekta Sabha, Dangar Khera was organised blood donation camp at Basanti Mata Mandir, Dangar Khera. In this drive, more than 85 people visited the blood donation camp.

The camp was joined with all enthusiastic approach who motivated community to donate blood. Vinod Kiroriwal spoke to donors. He highlighted the importance of blood donation. "Blood is essential to help patients survive surgeries, cancer treatment, chronic illnesses, and traumatic injuries. This lifesaving process starts with one person making a generous donation. Donating one pint of blood can save three lives, he said.

He also asked students not to believe in some myths about

donating blood causing harm to the donor. Blood donation is a selfless act that not only helps others in need but also provides several health benefits for the donors themselves.

Regular blood donation helps maintain healthy blood viscosity and reduces the risk of heart attacks and strokes. It helps in controlling the levels of iron in the blood, which can be beneficial for the cardiovascular system. Donating blood helps in maintaining good blood flow and prevents the accumulation of excessive iron in the body. This can reduce the risk of various health conditions related to iron overload, such as hemochromatosis. When you donate blood, your body

works to replenish the lost blood by producing new blood cells.

This process stimulates the production of new red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets, which can help improve overall blood cell function. Rajinder Kiroriwal, Rajinder Sangwal, Jagdev Kiroriwal and Vinod Kiroriwal, praised all donors and volunteers who made the camp a success by selfless act of blood donation, promotion, and motivation.

Raju, DK, Dhiraj, Sandeep, Mainpal, Sanjay, Kuldeep, Surinder, Ashwani, Rampal, Rakesh, Rajesh and Vicky, Ravinder, Prabhu Dyal, Vinod Kumar, Prem, Andeep, Parveen, Sita Ram, Mainpal and Arvind Jalandhara are special participated.

## Ex-model held for stalking motivational speaker for 6 months

Delhi: Police arrested Deepesh Thakur, 26, for stalking a motivational speaker on her multi-city tours over a period of six months. A fashion model and son of a prominent hotelier in Maharashtra, Thakur had been relentlessly following the speaker to her events, aspiring to marrying her. According to police, Deepesh meticulously tracked the speaker's movements, attending all her programmes across the country. His obsession escalated to the extent that he would book rooms in five-star hotels in advance ahead of her scheduled appearances, even flying from Mumbai to attend the events in different cities.

## ICICI Prudential Life Insurance maintains industry-leading claim settlement ratio for the third quarter of fiscal 2024

HISAR/KARNAL: Life insurance is an essential component of financial planning, providing financial security to the family and/or dependents. It is a promise made by the company to ensure the financial well-being of the family in case of untimely demise of the policyholder. It is a tool to alleviate the financial distress caused by the loss of a loved one. Claims are the moment of truth for the industry and therefore one must purchase a policy from a brand they trust. Evaluating the claims settlement ratio and the average time taken to settle a claim can be a good indicator of a customer-friendly life insurer. The turnaround time too is critical as it ensures that the beneficiaries receive the claim proceeds quickly. However, the onus does not squarely lie with the insurance company. Customers also shoulder the responsibility of truthfully disclosing all material information at the time of purchase, this ensures a quick and hassle-free claims experience for the nominees. As mandated by regulations, life insurers declare their claim settlement ratios on a quarterly basis. After all individuals buy life insurance to ensure their dependents are financially secure in case of any eventuality. The chart below depicts the claims settlement ratio of a few life insurance companies. Notably, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has a consistent claim settlement ratio track record, featuring a noteworthy.

98.6% claims settlement ratio for the initial nine months of FY2024.

Consistency in the claim settlement ratio is important as it provides peace of mind to the policyholder that his/her family will not be financially vulnerable when they are not around. The claim settlement ratio of ICICI Prudential Life in Q1-FY2024 was 98.10%, Q2-FY2024 was 98.14% and Q3-FY2024 the ratio stood at 98.52%. Notably, the average claim settlement turnaround time for non-investigated claims was only 1.3 days for nine months ended December 2023 after submission of all relevant documents. ICICI Prudential Life also has a 'Claim For Sure' service initiative which ensures all eligible death claims are settled in one day after receiving all documents. Should any delay occur in processing a claim under this initiative, ICICI Prudential Life compensates the beneficiary with interest accrued on the claim amount. Furthermore the Company offers home pick-up of claim related documents, apart from enabling its digital touch-points such as WhatsApp, Mobile App and Website to lodge and track claims significantly improve customer experience. For the first nine months of this fiscal year ICICI Prudential Life settled 3,070 claims under 'Claim For Sure' amounting to Rs 214.70 crore.

## 2 Cong MLAs join BJP in Arunachal Pradesh

Delhi: Congress suffered a blow in Arunachal Pradesh as two of its legislators Ninong Ering and Wanglin Lowangdong, along with National People's Party's (NPP) Mutchu Mithi and Gokar Ba joined BJP in the presence of CM Pema Khandu in Itanagar. TNN 4 Congress, National People Party

MLAs join BJP in Arunachal Pradesh ahead of elections in Arunachal Pradesh, Congress legislators Ninong Ering and Wanglin Lowangdong, along with NPP's Mutchu Mithi and Gokar Basar, joined BJP. BJP had 49 MLAs, Congress and NPP had four each. Ering expressed regret for not being able to

join BJP in 2019. Mutchu fulfilled supporters' wish to join BJP. 4 opposition MLAs join BJP in Arunachal Pradesh. Senior Congress MLA Ninong Ering, former union Minister Wanglin, NPP's Mutchu Mithi and Gokar Basar joined the ruling BJP in Arunachal Pradesh ahead of the upcoming elections.

## Three Naxalites were killed in a clash with security forces

NEW DELHI: Three Naxalites were killed in a clash with security forces in Chhattisgarh's Kanker district on Sunday. The encounter occurred in a forest area in Koyalibeda during an anti-Naxal operation led by the District Reserve Guard and the Border Security Force. The bodies of three Naxalites and two weapons have been recovered so far, with the operation still ongoing, confirmed superintendent of police Indira Kalyan Elesela. This comes a day after a Maoist was killed in an encounter

with the District Reserve Guards (DRG) in Chhattisgarh's Sukma on Saturday. The exchange of fire took place in the Burkhalanka jungle area. The body of the Naxal was found during a search operation conducted by the DRG. The state has been hit by violence recently. Earlier this week, two men were killed in Sukma village allegedly by Naxals who suspected them of being police informers. The deceased were identified as Sodi Hunga and Madvi Nanda, residents of Duled village.

## Strengthens its commitment to providing equal work opportunities

KARNAL: Amazon India today announced the launch of Women in Night Shifts (WINS) at one of its large Sort Centre in Haryana. In addition to Amazon's existing initiatives, WINS is designed to provide a safe and supportive work environment for women, ensuring equal opportunities for both men and women to work in various shifts, and championing inclusivity for all. In some states in India, regulations prohibit the employment of women in night shifts in warehousing operations primarily stemming from concerns about women's safety and wellbeing.

Therefore, safety, security, and wellbeing take centre stage to enable the WINS initiative. Amazon India has actively engaged with state governments to advocate for equal work opportunity for all. Through dedicated efforts and collaboration with authorities, the company has successfully enabled night shift operations for women across select sites in Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Punjab, and now, in Haryana. "We believe in creating equal opportunities and addressing barriers that women

face in the workplace and are thankful to the government for their support in enabling women to work in night shifts," said Liju Thomas, Director of HR, India Operations, Amazon India. "The launch of WINS reiterates our commitment to promoting gender equality and nurturing a safe work environment for our employees and associates. We prioritize the safety and wellbeing of our associates offering comprehensive measures, such as transportation facilities, and enhanced security arrangements for those working in night shifts. We intend to extend this initiative

to other sites in Haryana, reinforcing our commitment to a diverse and secure work environment." Amazon has implemented various measures aimed at enhancing the safety and well-being of its associates. These measures include improved facility lighting, provision of escorted pick-up and drop services, running gender sensitization trainings, deployment of female staff in supervisory and support roles, and conducting sessions with safety experts to address the unique challenges associated with working in night shifts.



## First 18 IPL 2024 matches attracted over 40 crore views



Delhi: Disney Star's live broadcast of the first 18 IPL 2024 matches attracted over 40 crore views, a record. The broadcaster has 12,380 crore minutes of watch time, up 15% from 2023. Television Viewership Rating rose 17% year-over-year. This increase in viewership showed fans' unwavering support for IPL on TV. Star Sports will celebrate supporters with a special week starting April 15 to acknowledge their enthusiasm.

Emphasizing the 'Ajab fandom of IPL,' this project highlights fans' unique ways of engaging with their favorite sports and teams. Indian Sign Language Feed and AI technology in TATA IPL 2024 broadcasts have also been well appreciated, attracting a wider audience and making the viewing experience more accessible. IPL coverage has been enhanced by shows like "Cheeky Singles," starring Carry Minati, which offer new viewpoints

and diverse information. Disney Star airs TATA IPL 2024 on 14 channels in 10 languages, including an Indian Sign Language feed for Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing, and Visually Impaired fans. The 17th edition of the tournament's marketing campaign, "AJAB IPL KE GAJAB RANG," emphasizes that a fan's true colors are exposed via their team's journey in the competition, with each spectator experiencing each IPL moment differently.

## Lorenzi Apparels Ltd. Receives Trading Approval for listing of its Bonus Shares

CHANDIGARH: Lorenzi Apparels Ltd. (BSE: 540952, NSE: LAL), a prominent player in the realm of manufacturing, designing, and marketing readymade garments, has announced that it has received the trading approval for listing its bonus shares from NSE and BSE effective 16 April 2024. Lorenzi Apparels Ltd. is a prominent player in the realm of manufacturing, designing, and marketing readymade garments, catering to the diverse fashion needs of both men and women. With a comprehensive array of formal, semi-formal, and casual wear, it prides itself on delivering quality attire that resonates with contemporary trends and timeless styles. Operating through retail outlets and e-commerce platforms, the company ensures that a fan's true colors are exposed via their team's journey in the competition, with each spectator experiencing each IPL moment differently.



stitching, sewing, finishing, inspection, and packing. While maintaining stringent quality standards, Lorenzi Apparels Ltd. also engages in strategic partnerships with third-party contractors for garment production on a job work basis. These collaborations involve the dissemination of detailed technical specifications, including designs, patterns, quality standards, and fabric preferences. By leveraging the expertise of external manufacturers and providing precise guidelines, the company ensures the realization of its vision for exceptional appar-

el, while fostering a network of trusted collaborators. Lorenzi Apparels Ltd. is not only committed to delivering superior quality garments but also places a strong emphasis on sustainability and ethical manufacturing practices. The company actively seeks to minimize its environmental footprint by implementing eco-friendly production processes and sourcing materials responsibly. Moreover, it upholds fair labor standards throughout its supply chain, fostering safe working conditions and equitable treatment for all involved parties.

## CAPSULES

### DU tops CUET-UG 2024 with 26 lakh applications

Delhi: A research of CUET-UG 2024 application trends found that Delhi University (DU) is the most popular undergraduate university among 261 participating HEIs. DU has received around 26 lakh applications for its UG programs, which have 80,000 places in affiliated institutions and departments. This falls short of previous year's 28.3 lakh. This figure is not final because aspirants can add universities, institutions, and courses. The final number closer to counseling will likely be larger. There are five universities with over four lakh applications and 13 with over two lakh registrations. Two private universities had over four lakh applications, and two Delhi-based state universities have over three lakh. CUET-UG applicants can apply for several institutions and courses, and 13.47 lakh candidates are applying for UG admissions to central, participating state, deemed, and private universities this year. The next most applicants are Banaras Hindu University (8.4 lakh) and Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University (BBAU), Lucknow (5.1 lakh). Of 261 HEIs, 41 received over one lakh applications, including central universities like University of Allahabad (4.8 lakh), Jamia Millia Islamia (2.6 lakh), Central Universities of Haryana and Karnataka (2.3 lakh each), Jawaharlal Nehru University and Visva-Bharati (1.6 lakh each), and Aligarh Muslim University (one lakh). Private universities Amity University, Noida (4.97 lakh), Chandigarh University (3.3 lakh), and Lovely Professional University (2.4 lakh) are in the top 10.

## NBT bookstore at the Vishwavidyalaya metro station

Delhi: The National Book Trust (NBT) bookstore at the Vishwavidyalaya metro station, which has long been a favorite among DU academics, researchers, and instructors, has been closed for the last two to three months. In an effort to reopen the bookstore renowned for its extensive collection of high-quality books across disciplines, lecturers at Delhi University have now written to NBT. The academic community and other metro passengers would be saddened by this, as NBT has been a significant national publishing house. To better serve readers and the Delhi University community, we, the university community, kindly ask that you



reopen this bookstore." "It will be very regrettable to lose another bookstore, especially one that is so handy for commuters, teachers, and students. "It is indeed ironic that at a time when govt has con-

stantly trumpeted its commitment towards the Indian languages and native literature in higher education through New Education Policy, The shop opened on August 19, 2015, and stocks books published by

## For 12 disciplines with over 100k registrations, offline CUET-UG is likely

Delhi: A top official said the Common University Entrance Test for Undergraduate Admissions (CUET-UG) may be performed offline in at least 12 subjects with over 100,000 registrations. English, physics, chemistry, and general examinations may alter depending on applicant numbers. National Testing Agency exams will be offered in hybrid mode for the first time between May 15 and 31. Computers will be used for other disciplines. Official



data revealed around 1.35 million CUET-UG applicants this year. They include 717,000 men, 630,000 women, and seven who identify

as third gender. Candidates can take six topics.

English has the most candidates with over a million, followed by

general test (830,000), chemistry (700,000), physics (680,000), mathematics (490,000), biology (390,000), economics (214,000), Hindi (200,000), business studies (190,000), accountancy (180,000), political science (161,000), and history (137,000). Data is being analyzed, according to UGC exam chair M Jagadesh Kumar. "But generally, papers with large registrations such as general test, English, Hindi, physics, chemistry, maths.

## PhD admissions will be based on NET results

Delhi: The National Eligibility Test (NET) results will be accepted for PhD admission starting in 2024-2025, according to a University Grants Commission announcement, doing away with the necessity for separate entrance tests. The expert committee's suggestions served.

as the basis for the decision. The NET scores of candidates who meet several requirements will be a major factor in their admissions; the scores are good for one year. The test is currently administered twice a year in June and December, and the results determine a candidate's eligibility for junior research fellowships and assistant professor appointments. According to UGC Chair M Jagadesh Kumar, higher education institutions should give students more freedom by utilizing NET, enabling them to use their scores to enroll for PhD programs at different universities. Furthermore, the NET is administered every two years, giving students more chances to be admitted into the PhD programs they want to pursue. "We urge all

Higher Education Institutions to utilize NET exam results for PhD admissions, commencing with the 2024-2025 academic year," Kumar continued. According to UGC's official announcement, NET applicants will be eligible for admission to three categories starting in June 2024: admission to a PhD program solely; admission to a PhD program without a JRF and an assistant professor appointment; and admission to a PhD program with a JRF and an assistant professor appointment. "Together with the candidate's marks, the UGC NET score would be released in percentile form for use in the PhD admissions process. According to UGC Regulations, 2022, JRF-qualified applicants are admitted to the PhD.

## Teamo Productions HQ Ltd. Producer Mohaan Nadaar's "Bina Shakkar Ki Chai" Completes First Shooting Schedule

CHANDIGARH: Teamo Productions HQ Limited (TPHQ), under the leadership of producer Mohaan Nadaar, successfully completed the first shooting schedule of its latest cinematic endeavor, "Bina Shakkar Ki Chai," a film that intricately weaves together the myriad emotions that color life's canvas. The ongoing project will cost about INR 40 Million and is expected to generate INR 55-60 Million of revenue for the company. The shooting for the project will be completed by 5th May 2024. The movie is scheduled to be projected / showcased at vivid festival circuits starting 31st May 2024 and thereafter will be released across various plat-



forms. Mohaan Nadaar, Managing Director of Teamo Productions HQ Limited (TPHQ), expressed profound admiration for the directorial prowess of Sai Deodhar, affirming, "We are immensely proud of Sai Deodhar, whose directorial vision breathes life into this enchanting narrative. 'Bina Shakkar Ki Chai' is not just a story; it's a testament to the indomitable spirit of individuals who dare to dream. As we embark

on this cinematic journey, we are thrilled to announce the successful completion of the first shooting schedule, setting the stage for what promises to be a truly captivating film experience." Director Sai Deodhar, reflecting on the essence of the film, shared, "With 'Bina Shakkar Ki Chai,' we aim to craft a poignant tale that resonates with audiences on a deeply human level. I am filled with gratitude for the dedication and talent of our

ensemble cast and crew." The cast comprise of the legendary Revathi, Seema Sajdeh, Rajesh Sharma, Shruti Prakash, Revathi Pillai (of Kota Factory fame), Lalit Prabhakar, among others. Ketki Pandit, Co-Founder and Producer at TPHQ, said, "As we celebrate the completion of the first shooting schedule, we are excited to witness the magic unfold on screen, touching hearts and inspiring audiences." Shrabani Deodhar, CEO of TPHQ and National Award-winning filmmaker, commented, "We look forward to bringing this slice of life to audiences, reminding them that amidst life's challenges, joy and fulfillment can be found.

## IP initiates the foreign student admissions procedure

Delhi: The international student admissions procedure for 2024-25 at Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University has begun. Vice-chancellor Mahesh Verma declared, "The university is also planning to allot a separate hostel for the international students on its East campus from the academic year 2024-2025," during a gathering held on the Dwarka campus to release the admission brochure for international students. Mustapha Jawara, the Republic of Gambia's high commissioner, was also present at the function. The Dwarka campus now has over 150 international students from 26 different nations. The majority of them.