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

## Congress razed Rajasthan temples, Rahul Gandhi doubted Army's valour: PM

"Mazboot Modi sarkar mein atankwaadiyon ko ghar mein ghus ke mara jata hai Today, the tiranga has become a guarantee of safety"



JAIPUR/DEHRADUN/ RISHIKESH:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi accused Congress on Thursday of pulling down temples in Rajasthan for "appeasement". "On this land, Congress demolished temples and acquired those pieces of land. Stones were pelted on Ram Navami processions. While Rajasthan's Dholpur sent stones for the grand Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, being built after 500 years of waiting, leaders of Congress made indecent remarks against Ram temple," the PM alleged at a public rally in Karauli, Rajasthan. He added that Congress had made "objectionable comments" about Ram temple and blamed the

party for boycotting the "pran pratishtha of Ram Lalla" in Ayodhya. Speaking in support of BJP's local candidate, Indu Devi, Modi accused Congress of having a long list of sins. "But there is one great sin they committed that cannot be pardoned, the sin of mocking the identity and dignity of Rajasthan. They played the dirty game of appeasement for vote banks," the PM claimed. The PM, who is scheduled to address a rally in Barmer on Friday, also tore into Congress' Rahul Gandhi. "During his speeches

abroad, Congress' Shehzada says 'India is not a nation'. They seek proof of surgical strikes from the armed forces. The Army's bravery is being termed as their 'sycophancy' by Congress' Shehzada. They stand with the tukde, tukde gang," Modi said. Earlier in the day, addressing his second rally in Uttarakhand in 10 days, Modi pitched for a "strong govt at the Centre" to ensure national security. "Our enemies have taken advantage whenever we have had a weak govt in the coun-

try. Mazboot Modi sarkar mein atankwaadiyon ko ghar mein ghus ke mara jata hai (With a strong Modi govt at the Centre, terrorists are killed on their own turf)... Today, the tiranga has become a guarantee of safety on the battlefield," he told a large crowd at IDPL Ground in Rishikesh. The PM, frequently interrupted by a zealous crowd chanting his name, admonished them with a smile, saying, "Please save this energy for April 19 (when polling is scheduled in Uttarakhand)."

## Narnaul school bus accident, Six children died

**Mahendragarh** A horrific road accident occurred when a school bus overturned near Unhani village of Kanina in Mahendragarh. 6 children died and 15 were seriously injured in this accident. Police reached the spot after receiving the information and are investigating the matter. Former Haryana Education Minister Prof. Ram Bilas Sharma reached the hospital to inquire about the condition of the injured after getting information about the Kanina school bus accident. During this, he consoled the families of the deceased children. According to the information, the son of former Sarpanch Sanjay Sharma, nephew of former Education Minister Ram Bilas Sharma, also died in the acci-



dent. Expressing grief over the accident, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the bus accident that took place in Mahendragarh, Haryana is extremely painful. My condolences are with all the families who have lost their children in this accident. Along with this, I wish speedy recovery of all the injured children. Under the supervision of the state government, the local administration is engaged in providing all possible assistance to the victims and their families. Expressing grief

over the accident, President Draupadi Murmu said that the news of the death of many innocent children in a school bus accident in Mahendragarh district of Haryana is heart-wrenching. May God give strength to the bereaved parents and family to bear this cruel loss. I wish speedy recovery of the injured children. Haryana Education Minister Seema Trikha reached the private hospital to inquire about the well-being of 12 students. During this, he told Seema Trikha

that private school operators should stop doing business. Said that private school operators should follow the rules. The minister said that an FIR will be lodged against the driver as well as the principal and owner of the school. He said that opening schools on the Eid holiday is a serious matter. Instructions have been given to all the education officers of the state to take action regarding this. Said that strict action will be taken against schools violating the rules. Regarding the accident, the Deputy Commissioner said that the administration is providing all possible help to the injured. He said that better treatment is being done under the supervision of the administration.

## Citing thin Canadian presence, Canada retrenches India staffers

**NEW DELHI:** Canada has retrenched dozens of Indian staffers from its diplomatic missions in India apparently because of the reduction of Canadian staff available to "effectively manage and maintain in-country operations". India had last year expelled 41 Canadian diplomats to ensure parity in diplomatic presence, following which Canada had shut in-person operations in its Mumbai, Chandigarh, and Bengaluru consulates.

There was no official word on the number of employees retrenched but it doesn't apparently exceed 100. Confirming the "staff reductions", a media relations official in the high commission said the decision was sadly necessary given the departure of Canadian staff last year. "We wish to express our sincere gratitude for the resilience, dedication and service of our local staff in India.

Canada will continue to deliver core services to Canadians in India, including consular support and for trade and business development – so that the citizens of our two countries can continue to benefit from the longstanding ties between Canadians and Indians," said the official adding that Canada's visa application centres in India are operating as normal. "Despite the strained ties, Canada has maintained it has strong connections with Indian citizens, and will continue to welcome them.

## 400 fined Rs 20 lakh for using water to wash vehicles, gardening

**BENGALURU:** A middle-aged man from Vignananagar, near Doddanekkundi in east Bengaluru, who sought to wash his scooter on the occasion of Ugadi on Tuesday was caught by BWSSB officials. Found using water supplied from Cauvery river to wash his vehicle, he was made to cough up Rs 5,000 as fine. According to BWSSB officials, he is the 407th person to be



caught by them in the last one month for using potable water for washing vehicles and gardening. "We have fined 407 persons till April 9 and collected Rs 20.3 lakh from the violators so far," said a BWSSB officer. The board has banned the use of potable water for vehicle

washing, gardening and large construction projects since March 10. It requested the public to use treated water for those purposes. BWSSB officials are also acting on alerts from the public about the misuse of potable water. BWSSB chief engineer Suresh B told TOI that the public too is passing on information to the board about those families using potable water for gardening or cleaning vehicles.

## UP's Chitrakoot defence corridor node to create 15,000 job opportunities

**LUCKNOW:** More than 15,000 people are expected to find employment in Karwi sub-division of Chitrakoot once the UP defence industrial corridor gets ready. Being developed as the largest defence sector oriented project, the expressways authority of UP has identified 102.43 hectare that is going to be developed to cater to manufacturers and companies active in the defence sector. In a step forward



UPEIDA (Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority) obtained environmental clearance for the project recently. Obtaining clearance from the state environment impact assessment

authority was crucial as in February clearance for the Jhansi node of the project, spanning over 1077 hectare, had been secured. "It will be possible to start work and create the defence corridor in the Bundelkhand

## PM's China remark insult to Galwan martyrs: Congress

**NEW DELHI:**

Terming Narendra Modi's remark on China as cowardice, Congress Thursday accused the Prime Minister of disrespecting the martyrs of Galwan clashes, and demanded that he apologise to the country for his clean chit to China on its invasion of Indian territory in 2020. AICC spokesman Jairam Ramesh also accused UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath of giving a clean chit to Pakistan for promoting terrorism in India.

Ramesh slammed Modi's interview to the Newsweek where he called the relationship with China as significant and said "it is my belief that we need



to urgently address the prolonged situation on our borders so that the abnormality in our bilateral interactions can be put behind us." Ramesh said Modi's "ineffective and feeble" response to China was an insult to the country, and that he should apologise to 140 crore Indians for his June 2020 statement that "no one has entered India nor has anyone occupied any post". "The PM had a chance to send a powerful message to China. However, his ineffective and feeble response is likely to only encourage China further in asserting its claim on Indian territory," he said. "The PM's reaction to the China issue is not only disgraceful but also disrespectful to our martyrs who made the supreme sacri-

fice in defending our borders," he added. He also accused the PM of keeping the nation in the dark about his failures in protecting the borders with China. Meanwhile, Ramesh accused UP CM Adityanath of giving a clean chit to Pakistan on the issue of terrorism. Reacting to the Adityanath's statement in Kathua that Article 370 was the root cause of terror, he said, "One is compelled to ask: what about the LeT, ISI, JeM, or any other militant groups? Why link terrorism to a domestic Constitutional provision, one which was introduced when Sardar Patel and Syama Prasad Mukherjee.

## Pegasus-like spyware attack likely on select individuals

**NEW DELHI:** Apple has warned users in 92 countries, including in India, about an ongoing Pegasus-like spyware attack that targets a very small number of individuals – often journalists, activists, politicians and diplomats. Though deployed against a small number of individuals and often involving exceptional costs, mercenary spyware attacks are "ongoing and global", according to an Apple threat notification issued on April 10 that indicated that such attacks have historically been associated with state actors. "Apple threat notifications assist users who may have been individually targeted by mercenary spyware attacks.

## Nasa mission has a Vadodra link: Aroh Barjatya was principal investigator of rocket mission

**VADODARA:** When the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launched three rockets during the solar eclipse from its Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia, the Barjatya family in Vadodara was jubilant and broke into celebrations on Monday. For the son of the Barjatya family was a key rocket scientist involved in the mission to study the disturbances in the ionosphere of the earth's atmosphere created when the moon eclipses the sun. Dr Aroh Barjatya was the principal investigator of NASA's rocket mission that was being watched by the world. "I was a bit nervous ahead of the launch but there was a lot of excitement too. We are happy that the rocket launch was successful and now

we have a lot of work ahead of us as we have to analyse all the data," Aroh told TOI over phone from the USA. NASA mission has a Vadodara link. NASA launched the rockets to determine how the disturbances created by the solar eclipse could affect the satellite and radio communications on the earth. And, the findings will help the scientists in developing technology to predict the disturbances and protect the radio communications during such disturbances. "While NASA funded the mission and launched the rockets, the mission was designed and the instruments were primarily built by our team at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University under my leadership," said Aroh who led the mission.

# RSS workers go on a 51-km adventure march

Volunteers emphasized environmental protection, natural conservation, and hygiene

bicycle from KPUC hostel gate to Patleshwar Mahadev temple of Deora village via Gauhania, Kaundhiara. The workers covered the entire route with slogans of "Bharat Maa Ki Jai", "Jai Shri Ram". City Sanghchalak Honorable Phool Singh ji flagged off this program by showing the saffron flag. A total of 51 volunteers participated in this journey. This adventure journey has been organized to help youth save the environment and make them healthy through such regular exercises. At many places on the way, local volunteers welcomed these workers by showering flowers. After reaching the destination, a cleanliness drive was conducted



and the temple premises were cleaned. After this a banquet program was organised. Program coordinator Shivank Singh said, "The organized journey was

very courageous, the youth today did not want to go even a kilometer on foot or by bicycle, whereas the volunteers have covered a long journey of 50 kilometres."

University Nagar student leader Omkar said, "Today's program has been completed successfully. During such a long journey, everyone encouraged each other and made it successful. After coming here, everyone took a bath in the Tons river. Had a banquet." In this program University Nagar's city campaigner Sandeep, student co-functionary Nandish, Yuvraj Bundeala, Bhaskar Tripathi, Vivek Mishra, Bhava Bharat, Alok Jwala, etc. workers were present.

## Gramodyog Vikas Sansthan in Daraganj, receiving widespread attention

Prayagraj: "Corporate Social Focus" published from Mumbai has featured organization Daraganj Gramodyog Vikas Sansthan as the cover story in its April edition. Organization head Mahesh Pratap Singh said that the organization has been running various welfare schemes at the all India level for the last 37 years. Continuous training programs are being organized to connect the deprived sections of the society and minority community with self-employment under the schemes of Central and State Government and by themselves. It was further told that the organization is also contributing to the ambitious scheme of the government, PM Swa Nidhi Yojana.

## Residents fear dread of eunuchs, leaving administrators defenseless

Prayagraj: These days, the busiest Chowk areas of the city are forced to live a life of terror due to the terror of eunuchs. Let us tell you that the businessmen of Himmatganj police station, Khuldabad, being upset with the illegal extortion of eunuchs, have filed a case against 8-10 unknown eunuchs in Khuldabad police station on 20.03.2024. In the Chowk too, eunuchs have extorted arbitrary money from women in many houses. When they ask for it and don't get it, they start behaving rudely, even abusing and even taking off their clothes. Some women who have heart disease also keep undergoing treatment for it. The residents of the locality have given this information verbally to the police station. The administration seems to be afraid of laying hands on the eunuchs due to the fear of them. The residents of the locality told the administration that due to their attitude, the day is not far when some unpleasant incident will happen, whose entire responsibility will be of the administration.

## Girls opting for trendy wear to beat summer heat

Prayagraj: During summer, people are usually found whining about the scorching sun and soaring temperatures. But there are some who manage to enjoy the season and beat the heat in style. As trends in fashion has taken a u-turn from what it was during the winter months, girls in the city have started stocking up their wardrobes with the latest designs.

While style is all about what suits your personality and grabs eyeballs, summer fashion is all about finding the right combination of fabric, colours and textures to keep you from sweating, protect you from the sun and make you look your best.

This summer, cotton clothes such as kurtis, leggings, floral print tops,

short skirts and shrugs are in demand. Vinayak Singh, a shopkeeper said, "People are buying skirts, long flowy kurtas with straight salwars, long skirts also



various kinds of trousers and plazzo pants for a casual everyday look."

For occasional party wear a combination of indo-western styles of chanderi in dark and deep shades

with minimal brocades and embroidery are in. They, however, prefer wearing capris and shorts with sleeveless tops more than anything else as it makes a

cool style statement. Sushma Verma, a college student, said, "This summer I am looking to wear clothes which are smart and at the same time elegant. For daily wear I usually get into a pair

of jeans or capris and team it up with cotton tops."

Another college student Rashmi Singh said, "My style statement is all about being comfortable with whatever I wear. I usually like shorts with tops as they let your skin breathe and look good."

Accessorizing is an important part which completes a look. Girls prefer to go funky along with their summer wears. In footwear, high wedge sandals and platform heels complement most dresses. Ananya Mehrotra, a student, said, "Wedge sandals look stylish and are comfortable to wear. It goes well with western outfits." Floral prints are high on most girls fashion list and colours such as yellow, orange, pink and red are adorning most shops in the city.

## Body of missing youth found landed in Chetna Sarovar

Mirzapur: The dead body of a young man was found in Chetan Sarovar located in Chetganj of Chilh police station area at around 6 am on Thursday. The police reached the information and sent the body to the mortuary house. Police station head Rita Yadav said that the dead body of a 42-year-old youth was found dumped in Chetan Sarovar located in Chetganj. Nearby villagers saw the dead body and informed the police. Police reached the spot after getting information and took out the body from Chetna Sarovar. The body was

identified as Rajesh Kumar Yadav, resident of Gobarha village. Triloki, a resident of Gobarha village, who arrived as soon as he got information about the dead body, identified the body as his cousin. He told that Rajesh's mental condition was not going well. Whose treatment was going on from Prayagraj. Rajesh was missing from home since Wednesday morning. On Thursday morning, his body was found immersed in Chetan Sarovar. Police have sent the body for post-mortem.

## Parents worried about commission of private schools and shopkeepers

Koraon: The burden on parents due to commission is increasing day by day. As in private schools, the ground is slipping from under the feet of the parents due to the school getting commission from the shopkeepers for providing notebooks, books, dresses and bags to the nursery children. As soon as the new session starts, admissions in schools have started and when a middle class or poor parent starts preparing his children to go to school, his pockets are not only tight but he also has to bear the expenses of a school child. I don't know how many desires have to be suppressed in the process of doing this.

On one hand, the government and departmental officials are focusing a lot on the education of children, but on the other hand, they seem to be shying away from taking any action against the shopkeepers and schools who are busy emptying the pockets of parents and earning a good amount of money. Not only this, all the study materials like dress, notebook, book, belt and tie etc. are given to the children either by the school itself at a reasonable price or they make an arrangement with a shopkeeper and sell them elsewhere. Parents are not able to get those books and other study materials. On which there is no restriction from departmental officers.

Purchasing of expensive copy books is hampering children's education

## Citizens harassed as city faces outages, voltage blues

Prayagraj: Besides outages, low voltage and fluctuations, too, are annoying residents of various localities of the city. Residents struggle with low voltage, voltage fluctuation and power disruption frequently. During peak hours, due to low voltage, residents switch off their refrigerators and televisions. Meanwhile a transformer situated at Lowther Road, George Town, suddenly burnt due to excess overloading. However, it was rectified only after a long effort done by power officials. During that period residents of the same area had to face unscheduled power-cut which also led to disruption of water supply.

Moreover, the residents of other areas, too, are getting no relief from the unending ordeal of power failure. Frequent power cuts are

becoming order of the day. The problem aggravates beyond proportion with local faults occurring at regular intervals. Adding to the woes of resident, the problem of low voltage is certainly like the last nail in the coffin of people continuously reeling under power failure.

For instance, one-third area of the city came across the problem of low voltage due to faulty transmission. The problem occurred at 5 in the evening as a result of which problem of low voltage took place in areas like Khusrubagh, Chauphatka, Kalindipuram, Kareli and Kalyani Devi. This has resulted in disruption of Tube-wells in most parts of the city.

Due to above said problem, water supply was badly affected in Khuldabad, Civil Lines, Lukerganj, Beniganj,

Kaladanda, Himmatganj, Shahganj, Shahnur Aliganj, Patthar Gali, Baidan Tola, Chowk, Bahadurganj, Zero Road and Leader Road.

Meanwhile, if a fault occurs in a transformer or electricity pole, the number of hours of power cuts goes up further. On an average, the city gets power for not more than 18 hours a day, widening the gap between demand and supply.

Roistering, though done in phases, leads to power cuts for nearly five to seven hours a day. The repair of faults in transformers takes another two to three hours. The total number of roistering hour therefore go up to 5-6 hours every day. Authorities concerned wash their hands off the trend and claim roistering in phases is actually the prerogative of Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd. Locals complain

why they are subjected to such power cuts only in areas like Khuldabad, Lukerganj, Beniganj, Kaladanda, Kareli, Atala and Chowk.

The way power is being distributed in another city is wrong and we are disappointed that Mr. Akhilesh's Government is giving Allahabad a step-motherly treatment as people in another city like Kannauj, Etawah, Mainpuri, Amethi, Rampur and Raebareilly enjoy power supply the entire day added an annoyed Ranvir Singh, resident of Kalyani Devi. The irked locals went on to add that the ruling Samajwadi Party has played with their feelings by giving a false claim to provide round the clock power supply. But the fate of the city in terms of power supply is to suffer.

## Potholes on roads due to commission digging teasing the government

Mirzapur: The road to the pucca bridge in the tehsil area has deteriorated. Due to the pressure of vehicles, huge potholes have formed on the road. Thousands of vehicles are moving through the bad road every day. There is a possibility of accident due to potholes. Even after this, the responsible departments are not paying attention to repairing the bad roads. Due to lack of repair on Chunar concrete bridge, there are huge potholes at many places. Due to this many people have been injured in road accidents. The biggest risk of accident remains due to potholes on bridges. The people of the area have demanded repair of potholes in roads and bridges. From time to time, repairs are also done by the department, but the maintenance agency merely supplies food in the name of repairs. Due to poor quality of work, potholes form again.

Apart from this, due to potholes, especially two-wheeler drivers are becoming victims of accidents every day.

The representatives of Chunar area do not raise any voice regarding the bad roads, they wait for the incident to happen and if any major accident happens, they can protest against it

to show off among the public. No representative MLA or MP is taking any serious responsibility towards this. It is noteworthy that due to a dispute at a place on the road leading from Narayanpur Tiraha towards Sonbhadra, a part on the main highway itself could not be completed, so that people coming there is a possibility of major accidents during the day. Neither the government is paying any attention to it nor the public representatives are escaping from the clutches of time. Due to which it seems that the government is grossly neglecting it. The government has to do its own personal development and monkey business. He has nothing to do with the public. There is huge anger among the public regarding this. Samat comes and goes daily for two-wheelers and pedestrians.

Government's claims in matter of roads have failed

Chunar pucca bridge, Jamui railway underpass, road at Narayanpur Tiraha badly damaged

## Cops at KVD to wear dhoti-kurta to present devotee-friendly image

Similar experiment was conducted in 2018

Varanasi: The police officers stationed at the Kashi Vishwanath Dham (KVD) complex in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, will now wear dhoti-kurtas to project a devotee-friendly image. A similar experiment was conducted in 2018. According to temple authorities, male cops would wear dhotis and dupattas (shawls) to mimic priests, while their female counterparts will wear salwar kurtas.

Before deployment, these cops will participate in a three-day training cur-

riculum to improve their soft-skill contact with devotees. The change is intended to improve the devotee experience while avoiding negative preconceptions linked with police outfits. In addition to the new dress, a no-touch policy will be introduced to regulate the throng. Mohit Agrawal, Commissioner of Police, stated that devotees frequently felt insulted by how the police handled crowds. He observed that followers were more receptive of similar behaviours by

temple priests.

A big difficulty occurs when devotees are forced to wait in huge lines for darshan. This causes those waiting in line to become frustrated as their darshan (prayer offering) is delayed. To solve the matter and project a nicer police image, officials have chosen a khaki-free inner sanctum, he added. Agrawal said that they are also looking into measures to improve the image of police officers involved in crowd management and ensure a positive

tourist experience. Officers will not physically move devotees or disrupt lineups while establishing a way for VIP movements. Instead, they would use ropes to guide devotees in different directions without making physical contact, he explained. While crowds were smaller in 2018 than in the previous two years following the refurbishment of the Kashi Vishwanath Dham, police personnel were accused of forcibly removing visitors from the sanctum sanctorum or its doors.

## Shringar material to be offered by Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple to Mata Vishalakshi Temple

Marking internality of Shaiva-Shakt belief

Varanasi: Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple Trust is taking a new positive initiative every day during Vasantik Chaitra Navratri. In this series, the temple trust has decided to offer the adornment material to Shaktipeeth Mata Vishalakshi located in Kashi from Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham. Recently, the trust has also organized Sanatan Puja in Varanasi and other temples of the provincial region by Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple. The need for initiative regarding participation was underlined. In this sequence, this initia-

tive of makeup dedication is being started. It is noteworthy that Baba's Jyotirlinga and Shaktipeeth are located nearby. In view of this auspicious occasion, the Trust has taken the initiative that starting from this Navratri, on every Navratri festival, all the sixteen adornments and festival clothes of the Goddess should be dedicated by Kashipuradhipati Shri Vishwanath Mahadev from Jyotirlinga Peeth. This will be a beautiful example of the manifestation of the internality of Shaiva-Shakti belief of Sanatan Dharma.

# Worshipers surprised by shower of flowers post-namaz at Eidgah

Prayagraj: Like every year, on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, a grand all-religion Eid Milan ceremony was organized under the auspices of Bharatiya Janhit Kalyan Samiti Secretary Razia Sultan near Dwarka Square Eidgah. Hindu brothers, along with organization secretary Razia Sultan, expressed the happiness of Eid by showering rose flowers on about 10,000 Muslim brothers who had come to offer Namaz at Eidgah. Presenting an example of Ganga-Jamuni culture and communal unity, Razia Sultan and her colleagues led about 10,000 prayers present at Eidgah. The residents of the city, the police officers and employees on duty, administrative officers and employees, social workers etc. were showered with roses and greeted on Eid by giving them rose



flowers, sugar syrup and mineral water bottles. Razia Sultan honoured Deepak Bhukar Additional Police Commissioner by giving

him a bunch of flowers. The all-religion Eid meeting ceremony was completed at Eidgah with great joy and happiness. On this occasion,

along with organization secretary Razia Sultan, people like Shyam Sundar Singh Patel, Sadiq Hussain, Engineer Sarosh, Sanjay Hela, Mohd.

Mamun, Minja Qamar, Dr. Pramod Shukla, Mohd. Kamruddin Khan, Engineer Ambika, Israr, Nizam, Kamlesh Patel etc. were present.



## SKIN ALLERGIES ON THE RISE

Prayagraj: With summer setting in, skin allergies including photo-dermatitis and fungal infections have started troubling city residents. Dermatologists in city hospitals say while there has been a jump of 10-15 times in photo-dermatitis cases, the number of fungal infection cases too has increased by about 10 times in the hospitals.

Experts say whereas photo-dermatitis is caused due to prolonged exposure to ultra-violet rays of the sun, fungal allergies are caused by sweating in the hot weather.

"Since summer has already begun, there has been an increase in the number of patients seeking consultation for skin allergies at our clinic. Nearly, half a dozen patients come to our clinic on a daily basis, out of which several cases are that of photo-dermatitis (the number on routine days in other seasons is usually one or two only), whereas the number of fungal infection cases has

risen to 10-12 a day against 0-2 cases on routine days in other seasons. In the case of fungal allergy, there is an itchy disorder due to sweat. It mostly is witnessed in the foot, groins and arms area, whereas photo-dermatitis is because of exposure of the face and outer area of forearms to direct sunlight. In this infection, the affected area becomes reddish and later turns white," says skin specialist Dr. Naveen Kumar Yadav.

Other doctors echoed his views and claimed that though skin infections are prevalent in all age groups, it is more common in the extreme age groups, like children and the elderly, while skin allergies have mostly been reported in the young and middle-age groups. The extreme age group people cannot bear the allergies, so they are less prone to it, but as their immunity is less, they are easy prey to infections. The young and middle-age groups are more prone to allergic reactions because of increased exposure to sunlight.

## ABVP Welcomes Decision to Conduct Offline CUET-UG Exams in One Shift for 13 Subjects

**NTA Should Ensure Transparent Conduct of Entrance Exams on Time: ABVP**

Prayagraj/New Delhi: Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) welcomes the decision to conduct CUET-UG 2024 exams offline for thirteen subjects, including Economics, Business Economics, Accountancy/Bookkeeping, Biology/Biotechnology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Computer Science, English, General Test, Hindi, History, Mathematics, Physics, and Political Science. The decision to conduct exams for these subjects in a single shift will benefit students by addressing concerns about potential variations in difficulty levels across different

exam slots for the same subject. ABVP demands the National Testing Agency (NTA) to consider students' convenience by providing exam centers close to their residences. Special attention must be given to transparency, error-free question papers and the successful management of the examination process to make the offline exams run smoothly.

ABVP National General Secretary, Yagywalkya Shukla, stated, "The decision to hold offline exams for subjects with over one lakh applications will greatly facilitate students. ABVP extends its best wishes to all CUET-UG candidates for their success in the exams and demands NTA to consider all aspects of all the stakeholders' interest to facilitate students in its decision-making for the arrangements of the examinations."

## Eid ul Fitr prayers conducted in both small and big mosques

Prayagraj: On completion of thirty fasts of the holy month of Ramzan, as soon as Sunni Markazi Chand Committee announced the moon, a crowd of buyers gathered in the markets. People had already bought kurtas and pajamas. On the moon night, most of the people prepared for Eid by buying caps, handkerchiefs, slippers, perfume, vermicelli and dried fruits. As soon as the morning came, the crowd of namazis gathered at Idgah, Chowk Jama Masjid, Shah Wasi Ullah Masjid illuminated. People reached around three hundred small and big mosques of the city including Bagh, Khanqah area Shah Ajmal to offer Eid ul Fitr namaz. The largest number of worshipers gathered in Eidgah. Namaz started at the scheduled time of 7:30 in the morning in Eidgah. White kurta pajama. And wearing caps, the elderly, youth and chil-

dren stood in a row and offered obeisance to God in Bargaha Khuda Vand. Everyone prayed for peace, brotherhood and unity in Mulk-e-Hind. Jamaat at 8:30 am in Chowk Jama Masjid. In Jama Masjid, due to large number of namazis and in the absence of street namaz as per government instructions, namaz was offered twice. Whereas in the mosque of Shah Wasi Ullah Roshan Bagh and Khanqah area Shah Ajmal, namaz was offered at 9:30 and 9:30 respectively. Namaz was offered at 10:30. A contingent of RAF along with the police administration was present outside all the mosques for security. The special thing was that even before the namaz, a message was sent to the people that the policemen who were Security has been deployed and they have also come from other cities. In such a situation, arrangements were made for them to sit in



a shady place and along with arrangement for water, they too were congratulated and the Namazis proceeded ahead. And it was also seen that people were courteous to the policemen. We left for our destination only after giving gifts, hugging and congratulating.

Shahi Masjid Bahadurganj, Mecca Masjid Karaili, Wasihabad Masjid, Abdullah Masjid

Railway Station, Zameer Masjid Karaili, Gaus Masjid Sixty Feet Road Karaili, Abu Bakar Masjid Karaili, Mazlum Shah Masjid Jansainganj, Masjid Madina Jansainganj, Bada Tajia Masjid Shahi Masjid Daraganj, Shahi Masjid Meerapur, Masjid-e-Talha Chakia, Munna Masjid Karaili, Masjid Al Fatma, Latarwali Mosque of Baidan Tola, Big Mosque

of Atala, Small Mosque of Daira Shah Ajmal, Rasulpur, Akbarpur, Himmatganj, Bahadurganj, Hatiya, Daryabad, Barnala, Minhajpur, Muslims offered Eid ul Fitr prayers in about three hundred and fifty mosques of the city and countryside including Sabzi Mandi, Barntala, Shahganj, Bakshi Bazaar, Baidan Tola, Budha Tajia, Karaila Bagh, Karaili, Katra, Green

Mosque of Dhobi Ghat and Bargah Ilahi. Children got a lot of ice cream and churmura on Eid. Eid is actually about children only. While children looked happy wearing new clothes, they bought ice cream and churmura from the money received on Eid. They continued to be happy, while some enjoyed the swing of Chakar Choon, while others kept jumping and sliding on the air-filled Mickey Mouse. Congratulatory messages circulated throughout the day on Facebook, Twitter, MMS and WhatsApp, news of completion of thirty fasts and sighting of the moon on Eid. As soon as people met, the messages of congratulating each other verbally and on Facebook, Twitter, MMS and WhatsApp started late in the night and continued till the night of Eid. People also expressed happiness by bursting crackers.

## Lok Sabha polls: Sipping tea with a plate full of politics

Prayagraj: With impending Lok Sabha elections, the ubiquitous tea stalls and cafes here have once again turned into a forum for political debates. People can be seen and heard analysing the political situation and making speculations over different possibilities in the upcoming polls over a cuppa. Declaration of names of BJP candidates from Allahabad and Phulpur Lok Sabha seats on Wednesday has also heated the poll atmosphere. People discussed these names and the fact if they will be able to attract voters in their favour.

Speculations are being made about the victory of different candidates and which party will come to

power. Long discussions, especially in the old city area, are helping voters form an opinion ahead of the voting day. Although tea and coffee stalls are not allowed to remain open till late at night, they are favourite hang-outs for people and supporters of different political parties.

A large crowd, more than usual, is being witnessed at most of the tea stalls during the poll season. Not only workers of political parties but people from all walks of life discuss politics at tea and coffee stalls in Atala, Akbarpur, Khuldabad, Rani Mandi, Loknath, Kalyani Devi, Muthiganj, Bahadurganj, Kydganj, Chakia, Daraganj, Katra, Kareli, Noor Ullah Road etc. "People in Prayagraj are

addicted to politics and have a keen interest in political discussions, usually



at tea stalls," says Abhay Awasthi, a local senior Congress leader. Several cups of tea are consumed as an argument ensues. All have different views on different political issues and political

organisations. It is almost difficult for these discussions to reach a conclusion,

the tea adds the necessary spice to the debate. Chhotu and Sanjay are contractors and move around in the city for their work during the day. They visit different tea stalls every day and thus have an interesting take on the political debates. "The most interesting part of political discussions at these tea stalls is that they do not come to any conclusion. Each participant has logic to counter the opponents' claims. Some are staunch supporters of a particular party and try to gain support through their arguments," they said.

In old city areas, the topic of debate is whether or not the minority community is supporting AIMIM. Sitting outside a tea stall at Atala, a group of residents argue over giving votes to AIMIM. While Rehan, Afzal and others say that AIMIM may get some seats, others immediately rule out their claims. Political discussions at tea stalls in Chakia area were always centred around former MP and Mafiosi-turned-politician Atiq Ahmad ahead of every poll. As Atiq or members of his family have been continuously contesting state and parliamentary elections from 1989 till 2017, his supporters have always held political discussions. However, with Atiq and Ashraf dead, now their old political affiliations and elections are being discussed.

## After retirement, recovery achieved from Police Inspector, and Inspector canceled Instructions for returning deducted amount with interest

Prayagraj: Allahabad High Court has dismissed the separate petitions of Inspector Jai Prakash Ram and Inspector Anar Singh, retired from Uttar Pradesh Police Department. While hearing the case, the recovery order made from his retirement benefits has been cancelled. Justice Prakash Padia, after accepting the petitions of the petitioner, has directed the higher officials of the police department to pay the amount of Rs 5 lakh 81 thousand 444 deducted from the petitioners along with interest within three months. Vijay Gautam, senior advocate of retired police personnel, said. It was said that this deduction was made without departmental inquiry. Senior advocate said that deduction has been made from the petitioners without taking any departmental action and the order of recovery is a violation of Article 300 (A) of the Indian Constitution. Therefore the order of

deduction is against the rules and law. It was also said that in the decision given by the Supreme Court in State of Punjab vs. Rafiq Masih and Thomas Daniel vs. State of Kerala, it has been made clear that the recovery and deduction of excess amount after retirement from Class III and IV employees of the State Government cannot be done, if the employee himself has not taken the money by any fraud or misappropriation. According to the case, both the petitioners were retired from the Uttar Pradesh Police Department. After retirement, deduction was made from his gratuity and pension. It was said that the petitioners have been paid more salary during their service period. The advocate argued that the salary given to the petitioners during their service is absolutely correct in the context of government orders and there was no mistake on their part.

## Sale of ACs goes up as mercury soars

Prayagraj: With mercury hovering above 46 degrees mark and breaking all records, the sale of air conditioners in the city had gone up by 25 to 28% this year in comparison to previous year. The prices too have gone up by 10 to 15%. The distributors are also offering zero percent

interest rate on installment. It is one of the major reasons behind increase in sales of ACs.

In the past 10 days, on an average 30-40 inquiries regarding prices of air conditioners, its efficiency and rating are being received at shops daily.

"Sales had increased by 20% in the last week of

March," said a distributor at Civil Lines. Customers are lining up to inquire and purchase ACs, he added. "We have postponed our idea to purchase LED and decided to purchase split air-conditioner," said Rohit, a resident of Salori. "It has become difficult to survive in such weather and if we

could afford the burden of AC in terms of its price and electricity bill, why should we not get it installed at our house," he added.

A five-star 1.5 tonne split AC is now selling for over Rs 42,000 in comparison to Rs 38,000 last year. Moreover, last year's five-star model had been

downgraded to four-star this year. These are priced at Rs 32,000.

"Earlier, consumers have postponed the idea to buy ACs due to heavy increase in prices. Now, they have no alternative because of the extreme hot weather," said a leading distributor at Allahpur. "Consumers

demand split ACs because these are more effective despite the difference in prices," he added.

"Consumers tend to buy ACs when the nights become hot and unbearable. And, in current weather conditions, ACs are the best options," another distributor added.

## Editorial

### Demystified CAA for the common man

The Citizenship Act of 1955, designed for the purpose of acquiring and determining Indian citizenship, traces its origins to the constitutional provisions of our country. The shift from the initially implemented Citizenship Act of 1955 by virtue of the 1986 and 2003 amendments signifies how India as a country is shifting towards a citizenship law from jus soli (citizenship by birth) to jus sanguinis (citizenship by descent). It has undergone multiple changes, but the amendment proposed and implemented by the NDA Government has been, by so far, the most protested one Indian political economy has ever witnessed.

It is a well-established fact that historically, there has been continuous migration across India's borders from Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh into India. The Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019 (CAA, 2019), provides a pathway to citizenship for refugees from these countries who have faced religious oppression, notably individuals belonging to Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Christians, Parsi, and Sikh communities who migrated before December 31, 2014. Initially, migrants to India had a waiting period of up to 11 years. Now, with the CAA 2019, migrants belonging to the above-mentioned category have only a waiting period of up to five years, and the categories of persons not mentioned in the amendment law do not have an opportunity to avail the fast-track process of obtaining citizenship. Nevertheless, the old laws shall still apply to the rest in the same manner as they were applied prior to the amendment. The amendment in question is exempted in its application to certain parts of north-east India. Protestors, however, argue that the CAA violates the Assam Accord, exacerbating apprehensions about identity and culture. Additionally, critics contend that the Act discriminates against Muslims, exacerbating religious tensions and eroding India's secular fabric. The proposed legislation also includes changes concerning Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) cardholders. The CAA proposes modifications to the Act, allowing for the cancellation of OCI registration in case the individual breaches any laws specified by the central government, however, after providing an opportunity to be heard as per the principles of natural justice. This Act was brought in for humanitarian reasons and the government's commitment to ensuring security for persons under threat of religious persecution. If that's true, one needs to assess why there were nationwide protests breaking out in 2019 and currently after the notification of CAA rules in 2024. There are prevalent misconceptions regarding the citizenship of Indians, which are under no threat from the newly implemented law. The CAA is under heavy scrutiny by the citizens of India and by international stakeholders as discriminatory against a primary minority religion and persons who migrated to India due to the threat of religious persecution post-2014. The protests and public upheaval against the Act cannot be understood in a uniform sense. The common discourse of dissent against the CAA is that it is perceived to apply to Indian citizens. The answer to it is quite simple. The CAA does not apply to existing Indian citizens at all, irrespective of their religion. Another key question that must be understood is the fact that CAA is not applicable to migrants who have entered India post-2014, regardless of their religion or faith. CAA is largely misconstrued on the basis that it is supplementary to the National Register of Citizens, and the government has made it clear that both are in no way connected. The NRC issue was primarily concerning Assam, as previously mentioned, due to the signed Assam Accord. Article 14, as envisioned by the drafters of the Constitution of India.



# How US considers virtue signalling its superpower right

Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had termed India and the US natural partners. President Joe Biden has described the US-India relationship as among the "most consequential in the world". It is beyond doubt that the multifaceted bilateral ties have deepened and expanded exponentially in the previous years. The change is particularly visible in the areas of defence, security, and technology. India conducts the highest number of military exercises with the US and is a member of QUAD. There is also some speculation, rather premature, about India getting associated with 'pillar two' of AUKUS (a trilateral security partnership for the Indo-Pacific region between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States). The sides have decided to co-produce jet engines for fighter aircraft, marking a historic leap in technology sharing. India also became the first non-NATO ally to receive armed U.S. Predator drones. Washington reportedly provided critical diplomatic intelligence and munitions support to India in the aftermath of the Galwan misadventure by China in June 2020. A landmark 'Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology' (iCET) has been set in motion to build open, accessible, secure, and



resilient technology ecosystems and value chains. The interests of both countries are broadly in alignment. The US has said time and again that it wants to see India as a major power. We enjoy a strategic convergence of outlook on a wide range of issues, including the challenge of Chinese expansionism. There is an ever-growing realisation of the enhanced mutual benefits of working in concord. All the same, Washington cannot desist from giving pinpricks to India (and, for that matter, other countries too). Recently, the US State Department issued a gratuitous statement after the arrest of Chief Minister Kejriwal, saying, "We encourage fair, transparent, timely legal processes." The Ministry of External Affairs summoned the US deputy chief of mission to convey its displeasure. "We take strong objection to the remarks

about certain legal proceedings in India," the Ministry stated publicly, adding, "In diplomacy, states are expected to be respectful of the sovereignty and internal affairs of others. This responsibility is even more so in case of fellow democracies." It is ironic that a country where policemen who caused the death of a young Indian woman went scot-free should be sitting in judgement about the Indian judicial system. In January of last year, Jaahnavi Kandula, a 23-year-old Indian student, was struck by a speeding police car in Seattle. The body cams recorded the cold-blooded cops sniggering, "She was 26 anyway....She had limited value." This comes as no surprise to knowledgeable observers who find the American legal system under stress and even politicized. Earlier in March, the American Spokesperson

expressed "concern" about the notification of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, saying, "We are closely monitoring how this act will be implemented. Respect for religious freedom and equal treatment under the law for all communities are fundamental democratic principles." Those principles obviously do not apply to the US, judging by the treatment meted out to certain minorities and immigrants. New Delhi slammed the remarks as "misplaced, misinformed, and unwarranted" due to a "limited understanding of India's pluralistic traditions".

There are several other such examples, and the US is not the sole culprit. The US' interference historically has not just been verbal or material but has also extended to overthrowing governments. Between the 1950s and 1980s, Washington was instrumental in orchestrating regime changes in Iran, Chile, Vietnam, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and the Congo. In recent decades, it has done the same in Iraq, Libya, and Afghanistan, and arguably in the Middle East through the Arab Spring movement. According to the Pew Research Center report of June 2023, a median of 82 per cent surveyed across all countries—big and small; developed and developing—

say the US interferes a great deal or a fair amount in the affairs of other nations. This sentiment was particularly pronounced in Italy, Greece, South Korea, Israel, Japan, Spain, and Sweden. His interference has had serious consequences, leading to hundreds of thousands of deaths, the dislocation of millions, the wanton destruction of material and property, and widespread misery and instability. Yet it has not dulled the fervour of the practitioners in plying their trade. This propensity gives rise to many questions. Why do they consciously ignore the golden principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries? Do they suffer from a superiority complex? Is it because they have appointed themselves custodians of value-based politics and good governance, notwithstanding their own track record or conduct? It is all the above and more. Western sea-faring nations have engaged in coercive diplomacy for centuries, imposing their cultural, religious, and mercantile practices on far-away lands and even colonising them. Old habits die hard. The US' continued interference in the internal affairs of other countries is very much a form of power projection. They do it simply because they can.

## Why Western democracies should stop virtue signalling India's democratic institutions

In India, Kejriwal's arrest was debated in the media as it should be for a few days. The rallies his party organised were permitted by Delhi Police (that comes under the Centre and not the state) yet only a motley bunch of supporters, not more than a handful arrived, mostly from Punjab, the only other state apart from Delhi where Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is in power. Food from home, unlike for other prisoners was provided for Kejriwal and utmost care was taken of his health while he vowed to run the state from his new premises. Indians showed faith in the ED and other investigation agencies and moved on quickly to other trending news. But much to the surprise of Indians,

it was the Western media and Western governments that seemed to be more concerned about Kejriwal's arrest and the "doom", according to the West, that it spelt for democracy. The US State Department was quick to weigh into Kejriwal's arrest. The US not once but twice reiterated its call for a "fair and transparent trial" for Kejriwal as well as raising concerns over Congress' claims that their bank accounts had been frozen to prevent them from campaigning in the upcoming elections.

This misplaced concern was also parroted by the United Nations. Stephane Dujarric, spokesperson for Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, said,

"What we very much hope that in India, as in any country that is having elections, that everyone's rights are protected, including political and civil rights, and everyone is able to vote in an atmosphere that is free and fair." The Ministry of External Affairs took a strong stance against the aspersions cast on India's judicial and electoral processes and remarked that such comments constituted a clear interference in India's internal affairs. However, Western virtue signalling is not new to India. Their self-righteous woke Western academia, policymakers and media often find comfort in India's left-leaning, anti-Modi and anti-Bharat lobby.

## A giant leap towards safety, efficiency

Indian Airspace Flight Information Regions. Image courtesy CAPA Centre for Aviation. The Indian government just initiated the process of having a unified Indian Single Sky Harmonised (ISHAN) air traffic management (ATM) operating from the centre of the country with central control in Nagpur. Currently, India has four Flight Information Regions (FIRs) - Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and a sub-FIR in Guwahati. The government plans to merge all four into one. Effectively, India will have 'One Airspace'. This will allow seamless flow of air traffic across the country and to neighbouring countries. It will streamline the entire air-space management. The move will mean not only optimising air traffic management but also hasten air movements, bring cost savings to airports and airlines and improve safety. It will also improve civil aviation situational awareness with a common air picture available across the country. On average, Indian carriers ferried 4.17 lakh passengers a day on domestic flights in 2023 and the average daily domestic flight count stood at 2,891. The ISHAN

process has been initiated by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) by seeking bids from consultants who would prepare a concept and how to source technologies from Indian and global companies. The Indian Air Force (IAF) Integrated Air Command and Control System (IACCS) is a good example of such integration.

**Current FIR system**  
In aviation, a flight information region (FIR) is a specified region of airspace in which a flight information service and an alerting service (ALRS) are provided. The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) delegates which country is responsible for the operational control of a given FIR. The concept of FIRs first came up around 1947. India is the major air navigation service provider in the Asia-Pacific region and controls over 5 million square kilometres. The plan now is to consolidate control over the entire India-based FIRs under a unified command centre in Nagpur. It will involve necessary secure seamless digital connectivity, integration of civil and in some cases military radars, connectivity of all air traffic controls (ATC),

infrastructure development, controller training, relocating some controllers, and migration to the new system.

**Implementation of plan**  
After the implementation of the plan, the air traffic controllers of each area control would not be required to coordinate domestic flights flying in upper airspace (above 25,000 ft), as they would all be handled by air traffic controllers (ATCOs) in Nagpur. The ATCOs in every region or airport would then only work to guide the flights approaching or taking off from an airport until it enters the upper space which is referred to as 'Area control' in aviation parlance.

The concept is already in use in Chennai and Kolkata where the Chennai area controllers handle flights of Bangalore, Trichy, and Hyderabad and Kolkata area controllers handle flights of Bhubaneswar and Varanasi. **Benefits of combined single airspace**  
Once operationalised, the unified airspace will first give a combined air picture to all ATCs across the country. It will indicate traffic flow, congestion and emergencies at any point to all.

## Prelude to conflict? Israel's Gaza exit, tense Eid and Iran's guessing game

The Gaza war has taken a dramatic turn in the past few weeks. It all started on 1 April when an Israeli strike in Syria targeted the Iranian Consulate in Damascus resulting in the death of seven members of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) including General Mohammad Reza Zahedi, the seniormost commander in Lebanon and Syria. It is difficult to say what angered Iran more; the death of a prominent IRGC commander or the fact that the attack targeted its consulate building in a foreign land, which, as per international

conventions is treated as sovereign territory and any military attack on it therefore, is an act of war. Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei announced that Israeli regime "must be punished and will be punished" for the attack, while President Ebrahim Raisi said it will "not go unanswered." The attack and the Iranian pronouncements in the following days have led to a mad scramble in Israel. Israel has recalled military personnel from leave and has put all surveillance systems on full alert. Air defence and anti-missile systems are monitor-

ing the skies while the GPS systems have been disabled to disrupt guidance to incoming missiles. People have been reported emptying shelves in markets of food, water and medicines and are being moved to bomb shelters. There are reports that Israel is evacuating its embassies in the region too. The US too is on alert and is busy safeguarding its assets in the region. Despite the US claiming that it had no knowledge of the attack, Iran has made it clear that the US was a party to the attack and that 'it had given the green signal for it.

In a surprise move, on 7 April, Israel suddenly decided to pull out troops from Gaza, especially southern Gaza where it had been conducting ground operations for the past few months. The IDF confirmed the development and stated that its 98th division had "concluded its mission" in Khan Younis and it was leaving the Gaza Strip to "recuperate and prepare for future operations." One brigade of troops has been left in a small enclave which divides the Gaza Strip into two halves, north and South.

## Air India was fined Rs 1.10 crore by the DGCA for safety infractions

The aviation regulator DGCA fined Air India Rs 1.10 crore for operating Boeing 777 aircraft that were leased to the United States in breach of safety regulations. This is Air India's second penalty in a week from the regulator. A former Air India pilot filed a complaint with the regulator, claiming that the airline was operating Boeing 777 aircraft to the US without the necessary emergency oxygen supply system in place. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) conducted a thorough inquiry into the situation and served the airline with a show-cause notice. "Since the said operations of the leased aircraft were not in line with regulatory/ OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) performance limits, DGCA has initiated enforcement action and imposed a penalty of Rs 1.10 crore on Air India," according to a notification from DGCA. Air India did not immediately



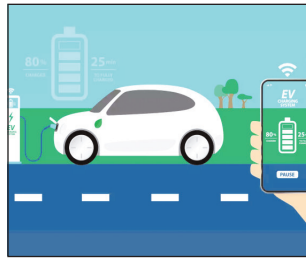
respond to inquiries regarding the punishment. The announcement said that following receipt of a voluntary safety report by an airline employee accusing Air India aircraft on specific long-range terrain-critical routes of safety violations, the regulator conducted a thorough investigation. A show-cause notice was sent to Air India, according to the DGCA, since the investigation's first findings suggested the airline was not in compliance.

The press release omitted certain details. Before pursuing enforcement action, the DGCA examined the airline's answer to the show

cause notice in light of the performance limitations outlined in the documents provided by the OEM and the requirements outlined under applicable statutory provisions, according to the announcement. The pilot, who had been a B777 commander, lodged a complaint with the airline on October 29, 2023, over its policy of not having the necessary emergency oxygen supply equipment on board. According to reports at the time, the issue was that Air India was using leased B777 aircraft on flights that had a chemically manufactured oxygen system that lasted for around 12 minutes.

## The government is seeking proposals to establish ACC units for battery storage under the PLI program

Delhi : The Center declared that selected bidders would be able to establish massive battery production facilities with a 10 GWh capacity and an estimated budget of Rs 3,620 crore by participating in rebidding under a PLI initiative for Advanced Chemistry Cells (ACC). Starting on Wednesday, the global tender documents can be seen online. Bids will be accepted on April 23, 2024, and the deadline is April 22, 2024. Manufacturing of technology-neutral ACC in India is encouraged by the PLI project 'National



Programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell Battery Storage'. "With this bidding process, the prospective applicants can submit their bids to set up a domestic manufacturing facility for ACC, which will help them qualify for incentives under the PLI ACC scheme," the ministry of heavy industry

said. The country's capital goods, automotive, and heavy electrical equipment industries are the three that the ministry supports in their development and expansion. Mahendra Nath Pandey, the Union Minister of Heavy Industries, stated that the ministry is fully committed to advancing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a developed and self-sufficient India. It is also supporting the expansion of India's manufacturing capabilities and exports in the automotive and automobile component sector.

## Punjab National Bank Q3 Results: Tripled net profit, improved asset quality

Delhi: Punjab National Bank (PNB) recorded a net profit of Rs 2,222.8 crore for the December quarter of FY 2023-24, increasing 253.49 percent from the previous year. The bank's gross NPA dropped from 9.76 percent last quarter to 6.24 percent. Net NPA for the quarter was 0.96

percent, up from 3.30 percent year-over-year. The stock rose 0.84 percent to Rs 102 on BSE at 2.50 pm. In Q3 FY24, the bank's net interest income (NII) rose 12.13 percent to Rs 10,293 crore and operating profit rose 10.75 percent to Rs 6,331 crore. PNB credit cost rose 61 bps to

1.26 percent in Q3 FY'24 from 1.87 percent in Q3 FY'23. As of December 23, New Delhi bank provision coverage ratio (PCR) rose 911 bps YoY to 94.28 percent. As of December 31, 2023, the Bank has 10,108 domestic branches with 12,455 ATMs and 29,768 BCs.

## The Centre places a 15% import charge on gold and silver findings

Delhi: "Gold or silver findings" are little components like hooks, clasps, clamps, pins, catches, and screw backs that hold jewelry. A Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs announcement boosted gold, silver, and coin import duty to 15% through 5% Agriculture Infrastructure Development Cess (AIDC). The move is meant to prevent gold and silver import duty abuse. According to the notification, "gold or silver findings" denote a minor component such as a hook, clasp, clamp, pin,



catch, or screw back used to hold jewelry in place. In addition, the finance ministry raised import tariffs on precious metal-containing

development cess) with SWS exemption. Since gold imports have increased in the last two months, a government official told Reuters that the action intends to prevent tariff circumvention on gold and silver bars. Just click here Financial minister Nirmala Sitharaman proposed an agriculture infrastructure and development cess (AIDC) on alcohol, gold, silver, cotton, peas, apples, petrol, and diesel in the 2021-22 budget. Government imposed 2.5% AIDC on gold, silver, and dore bars.

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## HDFC Bank expects ROE to return to pre-merger levels in 4-5 years

Delhi: HDFC Bank's return on equity was above 17% before the merger with Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (HDFC), but it dropped to 15.8% as of December-end. It expects to restore a key financial metric to pre-merger levels after 4-5 years. "We will see a period of consolidation for 4-5 years during which growth rates and some metrics will differ from what we were used to in the bank, but this is a different institution after the merger," Reuters said. "We



are focused on profitable growth and will see return on equity return to pre-merger levels in 4-5 years," the person said. The source added the economic environment and the bank's strategy deci-

sions to adapt will affect other indicators including net interest margin, deposit and loan growth.

HDFC Bank shares have fallen more than 15% since the institution released its third-

quarter FY24 earnings on January 16. The bank saw a 33% YoY increase in net profit to ₹16,372 crore and a 24% YoY increase in net interest income to ₹28,470 crore. Analysts worry about the bank's profitability and deposit growth. Retail deposits increased 2.9% QoQ while the bank's deposit base grew 1.9%. Since March 2023, management has prudently lowered the wholesale deposit base from ~17% to 16% of total deposits in December 2023.

## Tata Steel reports a profit in Q3 despite losses in Europe's operations

Delhi: Despite its European business continuing to lose funds, Tata Steel managed to turn the corner in the quarter that concluded on December 31 because of improved profitability in its India operation. In comparison to a loss of ₹2,502 crore in the same quarter last year and ₹6,511 crore in the previous quarter, the company recorded a consolidated profit of ₹522 crore during the quarter. The domestic division of Tata Steel, which posted a pre-tax, depreciation, and interest profit of ₹8,257 crore as opposed to ₹5,335 crore the previous year, was the main driver of the turnaround. A loss of ₹2,872 crore before tax, depreciation, interest, and special items was declared by Europe in



the meantime. "The end-of-life state of several of its heavy end assets continues to cause production shortfalls for the UK business," stated Koushik Chatterjee, executive director and chief financial officer of Tata Steel.

He added that the margins of the better performing Netherlands company were also affected by the muted demand. Tata Steel's managing director and chief

executive, T.V. Narendran, insisted that the business climate remained challenging even if the company made progress during the quarter.

"Global operating environment has been complex, with economic slowdown in China and geopolitics weighing on commodity prices in general," he stated. According to him, China exported 7-8 million tonnes of steel per month during the December quarter, the most since 2015. This has hurt profitability as well as global steel pricing, he claimed. "Despite this context, Tata Steel India has delivered better margins aided by higher deliveries as well as realisations on a QoQ basis," he stated.

## Payments Bank banned from selling new FASTags

● "During the audit, various complaints were received from the auditor that the bank did not cooperate with them in carrying out the audit"

Delhi: After an audit discovered that Paytm Payments Bank was not complying with the service level agreement, Indian Highways Management Company (IHMCL), NHA's toll division, prevented the bank from issuing new FASTags. New toll plazas in the National Electronic Toll Collection, which covers the whole NH network, are also prohibited. IHMCL has also asked why Paytm Payments Bank should not be penalized for non-compliance.

However, the bank's FASTag customers will be unaffected. Paytm is a major Electronic



Tolling Tool issuer. Paytm Payments Bank ignored inquiries and requested delays. NHA officials said other businesses are under investigation and may face similar action in the coming weeks. After the RBI froze savings bank account openings, the move was made. IHMCL said it imposed limitations after an audit after many customer complaints.

"During the audit, various complaints were received from the auditor that the bank did not cooperate with them in carrying out the audit," the agency acknowledged as "a matter of concern".

## Beauty industry expanding more quickly than fashion: CEO of Myntra

Delhi: In the beauty market, where well-funded competitors like Reliance and Tata Group have been rapidly expanding, Walmart's Myntra is placing its bets. There is a noticeable rivalry in the area. Huda Beauty, a Dubai-based brand, was added to Reliance's Tira and Myntra's lineup last week. Nandita Sinha, the CEO of Myntra, projects that the personal care and beauty sector would reach \$30 billion by

### In FY22, Byju's losses exceeded 8, or, up 80%

**Delhi:** Due to delayed MCA filings, failed edtech startup Byju's consolidated losses rose to Rs 8,245 crore in FY22. The company lost Rs 4,564 crore in FY21. In FY22, operations revenue rose to Rs 5,014 crore from Rs 2,280 crore. The startup's auditor, BDO (MSKA & Associates), called the firm's continuous losses and disputes with lenders over a \$1.2 billion term loan B "material uncertainty" that "may cast significant doubt on the group's ability to continue as a going concern". "However... The management has undertaken various measures to improve its operating financial condition, is also in the process of securing necessary funding arrangements and exploring sale of assets as needed, and hence is confident regarding the future viability of the group," stated the auditor. According to reports, Byju's is in talks to raise \$150-300 million through a rights issue at a valuation of about \$2 billion, nearly 90% lower than its peak valuation of \$22 billion, due to a liquidity shortage. The company's FY22 losses climbed by over 80% due to rising expenses, which rose to almost Rs 13,000 crore from Rs 7,027 crore in FY21. Byju's noted that WhiteHat Jr. and Osmo's performance affected its financials. Two of the company's key acquisitions lost around Rs 3,000 crore in FY22. "These businesses were scaled down significantly

## In a further setback to the Commonwealth Games, Singapore declines to serve as host

**Delhi:** The Commonwealth Games in 2026 will not be held in Singapore or Malaysia, further casting doubt on the multi-sport competition's future. After Australia's costs skyrocketed, the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) has been working feverishly to locate a new host. Last year, Victoria pulled out due to skyrocketing expenses. Although Malaysia was offered a £100 million (\$126 million) sweetener by the CGF, the country declined the offer last month due to financial concerns. Any potential host is eligible for financial assistance. The two sports organizations released a joint statement with little additional information, saying only that "Commonwealth Games Singapore and Sport Singapore have studied the feasibility of hosting the 2026 Commonwealth Games and have decided not to make any bid to host the



"Questions have been raised about the future of the Games, which are held every four years and feature most of the competing teams from former British colonies"

Games." Questions have been raised about the future of the Games, which are held every four years and feature most of the competing teams from former British colonies, in light of Victoria's abrupt withdrawal and the lack of a clear replacement. The last time an English city held the Games was Birmingham in 2022.

The Commonwealth Games Associations that are interested are actively participating in the selection process to choose the host of the 2026 Games.

### 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.

## Regulation of coaching centers by the government will reduce academic stress

**Delhi** The majority of Indian parents envision their kids going into one of the two most significant professions: engineering or medicine. Regrettably, the aspirations of parents have resulted in lucrative opportunities for coaching centers, which have proliferated throughout the nation.

These tutoring facilities produce "entrance-ready children" by having students repeat classes and tests incessantly. Guidelines for managing bullying and preventing suicides brought on by academic stress in coaching centers were released by the central government in January 2024. The



standards state that pupils under the age of sixteen cannot be admitted to coaching centers. The new standards from the national government require tutoring centers to be registered and strictly regulated. The guidelines state that coaching centers should have the bare minimum of amenities, offer additional academic support

to students who struggle with learning, give students weekly holidays instead of holding exams right after, have counselors and psychologists on staff, and regularly assess and assist children's mental health. The new central guidelines issue a strong warning against creating distinct batches according to student accomplishments.

## April-May new syllabus textbooks for Class 3 and 6

**Delhi:** According to NCERT Chief Prof. Dinesh Prasad Saklani, new textbooks for classes 3 and 6 under the redesigned syllabus would be released in April and May. Saklani told this outlet that other class texts will only be updated and amended to

reflect new advances. NCERT has also created a 15-day foundation course for Class 3 and a month-long bridge program for Class 6 to help CBSE, KVS, and NVS students transition to the new syllabus. revised books for Classes 3 and 6 under the revised syl-

labus will be released in April and May. We'll post these books. Because of the syllabus change, we have added a bridge course to help kids transfer to the new books. "He claimed teachers will be trained before instructing. "The plan to release the

## Early skill development in school is crucial

**Delhi:** Child development is vital to their future. Children must build a firm foundation during these years to become better people. School definitely shapes a child's personality. Most parents associate education with academic performance, which is crucial, but education is more than that. Today's fast-changing world emphasizes life skills over grades. School without opportunity to develop talents prevents students from becoming well-rounded. Children must thrive in academics and learn physical, creative, and emotional abilities to live in this competitive environment. The following criteria stress the necessity of early holistic skill development in school: Children are more creative with a skill-based curriculum. Young students learn new abilities faster and are more cre-

ative and innovative when exposed to fresh situations. Schools should encourage dance, singing, and sketching since the benefits go beyond learning those abilities. Traditional schooling teaches students to evaluate themselves by grades. However, early skill-based learning prepares students for the real world beyond test scores. As they experience life, children set goals. Most students are still unsure of their job path after graduation. Because they never discovered their inner passion and talents, they focused on memorizing information without applying them. School skills will help kids identify their strengths and shortcomings early on. Instead of just passing examinations and getting good grades, they'll learn with a purpose.

### 75% of JEE(M) applicants take both tests in order to increase their score

**Delhi:** Three out of four participants in the next JEE-Main 2024 have chosen to sit for both exam sessions, demonstrating a growing trend of individuals looking to maximize their chances of scoring well and raising their ranks. 48.3% of candidates have opted to attend both sessions, according to registration data for the April session, while another 27.9% have registered to attend the second session. Similar patterns were seen in the January session.

## India tops the Wada list of drug offenders

**Delhi:**

India topped the list of nations with the greatest percentage of dope offenders in 2022 testing data published by the World Anti-Doping Agency (Wada), which was a humiliating admission for the nation's anti-doping apparatus. In all, 4,064 Indian samples (including urine, blood, and athlete biological passports) were gathered. A total of 3.26% of the sample, or 127 Indian athletes, were found to have used illegal drugs. The samples were



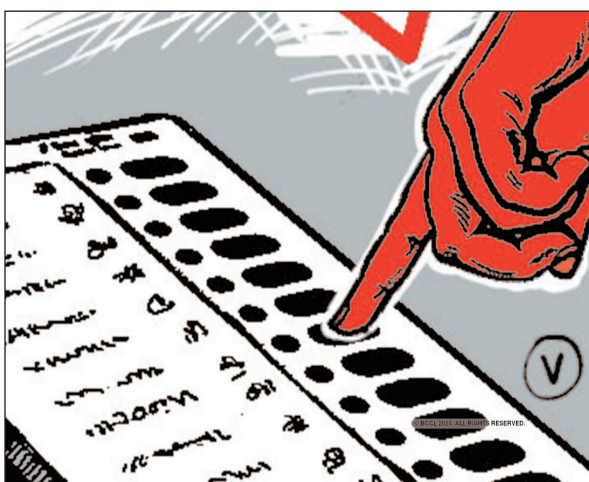
examined at the JLN stadium's National Anti-Doping Laboratory (NDTL). The statistic was based on drug test failures in countries where testing laboratories examined over 2000 samples. With 1.8 percent, or 11 incidences of adverse analytical findings

(AAFs), or the highest number of failed EPO-Receptor Agonists (ERA) tests performed per laboratory (blood), India also ranked #1 among all other nations. This demonstrates the extent to which the threat permeates the Indian sports ecosystem and underscores the

necessity for India to establish a strong system of science and research. The data also demonstrated the absence of fundamental awareness regarding prohibited supplements and medications among Indian coaches, physicians, and physiotherapists working with teams from various disciplines. Among the 4,169 samples examined, South Africa has 80 dope failures (2.04%), ranking it second on the list. Bangkok's testing facility came in third place.

## How do on-duty police officers cast their ballots?

**Delhi:** The general elections in India are scheduled to begin on April 19. According to the Election Commission of India (ECI), there will be seven stages to the polls, with results to be published on June 4. Officers assigned to polling places have two ways to cast their ballots: via mail ballot or an Election Duty Certificate (EDC). Over six years have passed since these techniques were overseen. Officers assigned to polling places are given a form to complete by the Election Commission (EC). After finishing, they get an EDC. Any polling place in their constituency is acceptable for an officer with an EDC to cast their ballot, not only the one where their name is on the



list. Officers on poll duty may also choose to vote via mail. They complete a certain form, which is gathered and arranged according to constituency. The Returning Officer (RO) of the relevant constituency is then given the separated forms. 543 Elections for Lok Sabha seats will begin on April 19. Seven waves of voting are planned: April 19, April 26, May 7, May 13, May 20, May

25, and June 1. On June 4, the votes will be tallied. In the 2019 elections, which will see the BJP-led NDA compete for a third consecutive term as the opposition seeks to offer voters an alternative, about 97 crore individuals are eligible to cast a ballot. All police personnel are assigned to poll duty due to the significant scope of the General Elections.

## MOOC exams will be offered offline starting in July

**Delhi**

**Beginning in July**, students enrolled in Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) through the Swayam site will have the opportunity to take course exams through their universities and independent colleges. The Consortium of Educational Communication (CEC) has permitted universities and autonomous colleges to administer exams locally for MOOC online learners in an effort to improve the low exam registration rates relative to enrolled students. Currently, about 37.6 lakh students are enrolled in MOOCs, but only about 8.1 lakh students are enrolled in exams. "MOOC exams were administered by NTA, at a cost to students of about Rs 600. The exam is administered online, which may be



challenging for certain people. As a result, for the convenience of the students, universities and autonomous institutions are now permitted to administer MOOC exams. The CEC director, professor Jagat Bhushan Nadda, stated at the EMRC, DAVV, "It will be free of cost." According to Nadda, MOOCs—which are available on the government of India's Swayam platform—are a kind of online learning in which students can virtually enroll in courses designed and instructed by distinguished subject matter experts in digital

higher education. Students can take examinations to receive academic grades through Swayam, participate in discussion forums, and access high-quality, expanded educational resources. "Once enrolled the learner will be able to appear for the exam on course completion from July onwards," Nadda said. Professor Renu Jain, the vice-chancellor of DAVV, added, "We will begin administering exams for MOOCs courses in July. A variety of MOOCs have been created by EMRC for students.

### Indians pursuing MBA aspirations in Canada were at a 5-year low in 23

**Delhi:** In 2023, there was a significant decline in diplomatic ties between India and Canada. Additionally, there was a five-year low in the number of applicants for graduate management education (GME) that went to Canada. India ranks fourth among the countries where Indian students choose to study for an overseas MBA degree. Experts claim that because of Canada's economic conditions and dearth of employment prospects, Indians are even becoming wary of participating in exchange programs there. Down from 10% to 6% although the reduction never stopped.

### Memorandum of Understanding signed between GGSIPU and University of Ladakh

**Delhi:** An agreement was formed by the University of Ladakh (UoL) and Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University (GGSIPU) to support research and educational initiatives for professors, students, and scholars. According to an official release, both universities will collaborate to organize and carry out lectures, workshops, and conferences at the state, national, and worldwide levels as part of this project. The students will have access to field trips, trainings, internships, placements, and much more under this Memorandum of Understanding. According to the statement, they will collaborate to conduct research and study projects as well as create MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) and learning modules in the fields of entrepreneurship, information and communication technology, and value-added skill enhancement programs for students.

## CAPSULES

### Send requests for fee increases to Delhi's private schools through the Directorate of Education prior to the start of the new term

**Delhi:** According to officials, the Delhi Directorate of Education has requested that private schools in the city that are looking to raise fees submit their plans no later than the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year. No private, unaided school in Delhi that has received land from the government is allowed to raise tuition without first receiving approval from the Directorate of Education. "These are standing directives that are a component of private schools' affiliation requirements. As per the circular, should a school choose not to submit the proposal, it would not be permitted to raise any fees until the Directorate of Education has given its proposal approval. If the DoE receives a complaint about a fee increase that was made without prior consent, it will enforce punitive measures against schools in accordance with the law.

### 30% of students at IITs are still unplaced

**Delhi:** In January, the Indian Institutes of Technology initiated a new cycle of student placements nationwide, with an average of 30%-35% of students still awaiting placement. Compared to last year, the hiring pace has slowed slightly. Most campuses have once again set up counters where new businesses can sign up to recruit people. Certain IITs have stepped up their efforts to locate organizations that are open to hiring.

## Cellecor Gadgets Ltd. Launches Air Conditioner Range

**Chandigarh:** Cellecor Gadgets Limited, an emerging consumer durables company on India's fastest growing electronic goods landscape, is pleased to announce launch of Air Conditioner Range. Over the years, Cellecor has provided a diverse range of products such as Mobiles, Smart TVs, Washing Machines, Kitchen Appliances, Smart Wearables, and Hearables, ensuring customer satisfaction. And conquered the Home Appliances market and now strongly expanding its roots in the emerging demand for ACs. Cellecor's dedication to offering a comprehensive tech solution has led us to unveil Air Conditioners.

As a part of its long-term business growth plans, Cellecor ventured into the home appliances sector and has experienced remarkable growth in this segment. This success has prompted Cellecor to broaden its product offerings. This April, Cellecor is plan-



ning to introduce its new line of ACs, providing affordable comfort to its valued customers. As summer has begun to sneak in and mercury has begun to go up the demand for ACs will soar high. So, to provide more cooling and more smiles, Cellecor has come up with a range of Air Conditioners.

With the lifestyle landscape evolving, ACs have become a necessity rather than a luxury good. So, they are venturing into this space with a mission to provide comfort in both rural and urban areas. It has also been noticed that the per capita income has increased, which signifies that people have more to spend on their comfort. That's the reason why ACs have become affordable to numerous people. One of the major reasons why Cellecor would ace this product cate-

gory is that we provide it's ACs at nominal rates, and if we trace the trends of the past we can see a rise in prices of fans and coolers, but a comparably constant price of ACs, so this has made air conditioners a better deal to buy. Moreover, now electricity has reached every corner of India and there are no frequent power cuts. Even if there are power cuts in some areas, people have the option of inverters which can run heavy appliances like ACs as well. Cellecor products are affordable, they are expecting an average of 50 to 60 crores in sales growth for ACs. To make it more convenient for the masses, Cellecor also provide EMI options. To start with, Cellecor Air Conditioners will be available in two distinct capacities, precisely 1 and 1.5 tons, and boast.

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## Hazoor Multi Projects Ltd. Board to Consider Fund Raise

**Chandigarh:** Hazoor Multi Projects Ltd. (HMPL) (BSE: 532467), a leader in Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) contracting services, has announced that its board will meet on 12 April 2024 to consider the proposal for further raising of funds for company's growing business needs, by way of issue of Equity Shares, Warrants, other securities, convertible instruments through Preferential Issue, Private Placement, Qualified Institutional Placement, Rights Issue, or such other permissible method as may be decided by the Board, or any combination thereof, and to approve ancillary actions for the fund raising, subject to such statutory/regulatory approvals as may be necessary. Hazoor Multi Projects Ltd. stands at the forefront of India's rapidly evolving infrastructure landscape, having strategically ventured into the development of a business vertical dedicated to providing high-quality and reliable Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) contracting services.



Responding to the escalating demand in the nation-building process, HMPL has swiftly emerged as a key player in the industry. Over the past few years, HMPL has achieved remarkable milestones by successfully undertaking leading projects for the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC), utilizing both EPC and Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) execution methods. Notably, the successful completion of the Wakan Pali highway in 2019, despite the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, marked a pivotal moment for HMPL. The company further solidified its presence by taking on Package 11 of the prestigious Samruddhi Expressway and contributing to the NH 48 highway project, demonstrating a commitment to excellence in

project execution. The journey thus far has been characterized by HMPL's ability to forge successful partnerships, essential for the triumph of the projects undertaken. A robust management team, proficient in both technical and commercial aspects, has been instrumental in steering the company toward consistent growth and success. The foundation of HMPL was built on a commitment to meeting timely schedules, maintaining high-quality standards, and prioritizing safety – principles that have guided every endeavor.

Recognizing the importance of collaboration, HMPL has successfully synergized commercial and technical capabilities to deliver the best value services to key clients, including MSRDC and the National Highway Authority (NHA).



## Not asking India to cut down oil imports from Russia: US

**NEW DELHI:** Two senior treasury department officials, who are in India to discuss what is Phase 2 of the Russian oil price cap, said Thursday the US and others imposing the cap, are seeking to minimise Kremlin's profits and stifle its Ukraine aggression, but without destabilising the global energy market or forcing India to slash its imports from Russia. The officials, however, said allowing unrestricted Russian oil trade will remain unacceptable. Eric Van Nostrand, assistant secretary for economic policy, and Anna Morris, assistant secretary for terrorist financing and financial crimes, said the US isn't asking India to cut down its oil imports from Russia, adding the price cap isn't meant to block the flow of Russian oil. Russia accounted for a third of India's oil imports last month. Nostrand said it's important to keep the oil supply going in the market and that what the US is seeking to do is to limit Putin's profit. Russia has the option of selling under the price cap or to sell at deep discounts if it doesn't follow the Western regulations. The officials were speaking at an event organised by Ananta Centre. The US and an international coalition opposed to Russia's war on Ukraine had implemented a price cap, \$60 per barrel, on Russian oil, allowing them to support trade in Russian oil only if it was sold at or below the price cap. The second phase was launched in Oct last year to tighten the enforcement of the cap and to restrain the Kremlin's ability to export oil through alternative shipping ecosystems. "There is no curbs, we have not asked India to reduce Russian oil buying," said Morris, adding US hasn't sanctioned any Indian entity for importing or refining Russian crude. With India exporting oil products.

## Sarvhit Party supported Abhay Singh Chautala

**Kaithal:** The election campaign of Indian National Lok Dal Principal General Secretary Abhay Chautala got a boost on Thursday when Sarvhit Party announced support to INLD in the Lok Sabha elections. Party state president Jasbir Tanwar made this announcement in a press conference held at Koel Complex on Thursday morning. Abhay Chautala expressed his gratitude to senior party leaders including Jasbir Tanwar for their support and said that he will contin-



ue to fight for the lower class. Extending support, Sarvhit Party leader Jasbir Tanwar said that some people in the state say that even MLAs do not work. Whereas even in the opposition, only Abhay Chautala was seen raising his voice. Be it in the Assembly or outside the Assembly, farmers or the people

of Haryana, Abhay Chautala was seen to be the only leader who has continuously raised the voice of these classes. Keeping in view his integrity, Sarvhit Party leaders have decided to support INLD in the Lok Sabha elections. Jasbir Tanwar also said that efforts are being made to create a two-

party formula in the country, Sarvhit Party is against this system. Because due to two parties, workers are not heard, workers and common people are heard only in regional parties. Welcoming Jasbir Tanwar and his team, Abhay Chautala said that the leaders of Sarvhit Party are welcome. The campaign launched by Sarvhit Party against drugs is commendable. He is grateful for their support and pledges to raise the voice of the lower class in the Lok Sabha by defeating the BJP.

## Lost & not found: 22% rise in misplaced, stolen phones

**NEW DELHI:** Delhi witnessed a rise of 22% in the number of lost and stolen mobile phones in 2023 compared with the previous year. From 2.8 lakh such cases in 2022, the figure jumped to 3.4 lakh last year. Police have not revealed the details of the recovery, but sources said it was minuscule. The reasons behind the spurt and the dismal recovery are many. Gangs use technology to make the police's job of tracing these phones difficult. These criminals operate in an organised network. Snatchers,



robbers and thieves work together, selling stolen phones at discounted prices to mobile shop owners. These shopowners then tamper with the phones' IMEI numbers and resell them to unsuspecting customers

or even ship them to other countries, allowing them to earn significant profits from this criminal activity, cops say. Lost & Not Found: 22% Rise In Misplaced, Stolen Phones Last year, Delhi Police's

Crime Branch busted a gang that employed a sophisticated smuggling method. The gang prepared and packed several bundles, each containing 40 phones, into bags. These bags were then handed over to drivers or cleaners of tourist buses plying on the Delhi-Nepal route. The gang would inform their accomplices in Nepal about the bus numbers beforehand. A key member of the gang received between Rs 1,500 and Rs 2,500 per phone, depending on its condition, through hawala channels.

## Rajesh Chetan's poems made one laugh, tickle and also showed sarcasm

**Mumbai:** Poet Rajesh Chetan, who has taken Indian culture, values and values across the world by weaving them into words, waves and rhythms, captured the hearts and minds of the people of Mumbai in the two comic poet conferences organized here in three days. He opened such a box of his humorous creations on the extended platform that poetry lovers kept chanting 'Once more-once more'. Rajesh Chetan, famous for his sarcasm, sarcasm, patriotism and experimentalism in poetry, was also successful in drenching the people of Mumbai with humor. Rajesh Chetan, who has left a deep impression on the conscious and unconscious mind, is considered an 'inexhaustible character' of poetry in the literary circle. Rajesh Chetan started



his presentation in the comic poet conference under the banner of Rashtriya Kavi Sangam organized by All India Agarwal Conference, Mumbai Metropolitan Region and Agarwal Samaj Navi Mumbai (Nerul-Kharghar-Panvel) with these lines Next door neighbor knows how to put moon on the flag Waving the flag on donations is not their cup of tea Rajesh Chetan has so far hoisted the flag of his poetic talent in a dozen countries. After them, the flow of creations of Arun Jaimini, Dr. Kirti Kale, Dr. Arjun Sisodia, Sanjay Bansal, Mahesh

Dubey took the viewers and listeners far into the ocean of joy. Congress, Rahul, Akhilesh, Bhagwant Mann, Pakistan, Hurriyat, Khalistan, Justin Trudeau remained at the center of the poets' humorous compositions. In these programs Principal Chief Commissioner of Customs, Mumbai Pramod Kumar Agarwal and Principal Commissioner of Income Tax, Mumbai Satish Goyal attended as the special guest, Vijay Singhal (IAS), Vice Chairman and MD CIDCO as the Chief Guest and Shantanu Goyal (IAS) Joint MD, CIDCO as the Guest of Honour. The event was held at Nehru Center Auditorium Worli and Terana Medical College Auditorium Nerul (West), Navi Mumbai.

## The BPCL Sanawar Polo 2024 Hosted by the Old Sanawarian Society

**New Delhi:** The BPCL Sanawar Polo 2024, hosted by the Old Sanawarian Society, unfolded amidst the vibrant ambiance of Delhi's Jaipur Polo grounds on a delightful afternoon of March 30th, 2024. Polo aficionados gathered to witness this prestigious event, which was co-hosted by entrepreneur Sunayana Chibba. Some of the esteemed guests present at the event were Arjuna Awardee Col Billy Sodhi (Senior Most Living Polo Player in India), Polo Players Jai Shergill, Youngest Polo Player Jaiman Shergill, Jaimal Shergill, Donna Chadha, Amarjyot Hundal, Pankaj Sappuru President OSA, Riyad Kundenmal, Uday Kalyan, Angad Kalan also part of Indian World Cup team, Mau Shergill, Afsana Cherian Kapoor, Rajendra Singh Chadha, Aparna Verma to name a few. The event featured two exhilarating exhibition matches: traditional Polo and Cycle Polo, with teams predominantly composed of Old Sanawarians. Adding to the



spectacle were the officers of the 61st Cavalry, showcasing their equestrian prowess. The splendid performance by the Army Band further enhanced the atmosphere. Attendees numbering over 300 included distinguished personalities from the National Capital Region (NCR), notable alumni of Sanawar, senior bureaucrats, leading industrialists, accomplished scientists, renowned doctors, eminent artists, and prominent figures from the film and media industry. During the presentation ceremony, 14 revered Old Sanawarian Polo players were honored with Lifetime

Achievement Awards. Among them were several Arjuna awardees who had represented and captained the Indian Polo team since the 1960s. The esteemed gathering paid tribute to these stalwarts, with Col. (Retd.) H S Sodhi VSM, the senior most among them, gracing the occasion as the Chief Guest. The presentation party included representatives from the Title Sponsor Bharat Petroleum, Co-Sponsor Hero Insurance Broking, Gifting Sponsor Shaza Life, the Headmaster of The Lawrence School, Sanawar, and the President of The Old Sanawarian Society.

## Landlord, nephew kill man for using 'foul language' in northeast Delhi

**NEW DELHI:** A 47-year-old man, employed as a marshal with the DTC, has been killed allegedly by his landlord and landlord's nephew for using foul language in northeast Delhi's Karawal Nagar area. While suspect Rahul (30) was arrested, landlord Sunil (50) remains at large, police said on Wednesday. After receiving a PCR call at 12.15am on Monday regarding the incident, a police team was rushed to the spot to find that victim Satvir had been rushed to the hospital. "When admitted, the victim was unconscious, displaying injuries to his limbs but none on vital areas" said Joy Tirkey, DCP (north-east).

## Bumrah, Ishan, Suryakumar Yadav star as Mumbai Indians demolish Royal Challengers



**NEW DELHI:** A magical Jasprit Bumrah fifer was followed by fireworks from Ishan Kishan and Suryakumar Yadav as Mumbai Indians blew away Royal Challengers Bengaluru by 7 wickets for their second win in a row in Mumbai on Thursday. Making a mockery of the 197 chase, the MI batters were in carnage mode as they slammed the hapless RCB bowlers left, right and centre, wrapping up the game in the 16th over itself. It was a fourth straight defeat for RCB and their fifth in six matches as their

downward spiral continued on the points table. Kishan went ballistic to make 69 off just 34 balls (7x4s, 5x6s) and Suryakumar dazzled with a 19-ball 52 with four sixes and five fours, as Mumbai Indians overhauled RCB's 197-run target in just 15.3 overs. RCB huffed and puffed but put up a challenging 196/8 courtesy skipper Faf du Plessis (61), Rajat Patidar (50) and Dinesh Karthik's 23-ball 53 not out but the total proved to be far from enough. The tone for an aggressive reply on a

placid deck was set by Kishan, who tore into Mohammed Siraj to collect 23 runs off the India pacer's second over, hammering him for three sixes and a four. The onslaught continued when RCB introduced Glenn Maxwell in the sixth over, with the MI opener swatting two fours and a six to race to his first fifty of the season off only 23 balls. Kishan once again forged a vital stand for Mumbai in company of Rohit Sharma, with the pair putting on 101 runs off 53 balls for the first wicket.

## Kohli's touching gesture, appeals to crowd to stop booing Hardik

**NEW DELHI:** It seemed crowds' unruly behaviour towards Hardik Pandya took a backseat in Mumbai Indians' last match against Delhi Capitals at Wankhede Stadium. But that was not to be as the MI skipper found himself again at the centre of backlash from fans during the clash against Royal Challengers Bengaluru. Number of times, Hardik's teammates, players from the opposition and commentators have frequently come to his defence, urging the crowd to show him the respect he deserves. In a match where partisan crowds passionately cheered for Indian stars Rohit Sharma and Virat



Kohli, there were intermittent moments of booing directed at MI skipper Pandya. As Pandya walked out to bat, amidst the boos, a section of the crowd began chanting 'Hardik...', with Kohli promptly encouraging fans to support the Indian all-rounder. Hardik then

silenced the boos by smashing three sixes in his quickfire 21 not out off just 6 balls. Talking about the match, Suryakumar Yadav and Ishan Kishan provided the fireworks with the bat after Jasprit Bumrah's magical five-wicket haul as Mumbai pummelled RCB by seven wickets.

## Indian Super League announces schedule of final and playoffs

**The venue for the final will be disclosed shortly, according to Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL), the league's governing body. "The season final will be held on May 4. The fight for a place in the final starts from April 19 with the knockout matches,**

followed by the semi-finals in home-and-away format," the ISL said in a statement. In the ISL 2023-24 season, the top two teams from the league stage will secure direct berths to the semi-finals. Meanwhile, teams ranking third to sixth will

engage in single-leg playoffs, adopting a knockout format to determine the remaining two semi-finalists. This season of the ISL has witnessed intense competition, with Mumbai City FC and Mohun Bagan contending for the League Winners Shield.

## Blessed to have Bumrah...': MI skipper Hardik Pandya after win over RCB

**NEW DELHI:** After Mumbai Indians secured a comprehensive seven-wicket victory over Royal Challengers Bengaluru in their IPL match, skipper Hardik Pandya showered praise on Jasprit Bumrah for his outstanding five-wicket haul, expressing his gratitude for having such a talented bowler in the team. The fiery half-centuries by Ishan Kishan and Suryakumar Yadav, combined with Bumrah's stellar performance with the ball, played pivotal roles in Mumbai Indians' tri-



umph over RCB at the Wankhede Stadium on Thursday. **POINTS TABLE | ORANGE CAP | PURPLE CAP** Pandya's acknowledgment of Bumrah's contribution highlights the importance of teamwork and the valuable impact each player

brings to the team's success in the IPL. "Always good to win. The way we have won - it is quite impressive. The impact player has given the opportunity to use an extra bowler if we require. It gives me a cushion as well. The way Ro (Rohit) and (Ishan) Kishan batted,

giving the platform, it was important for us to finish it early. We did not speak about it. That is the beauty of this team, players know what to do. I am blessed to have Bumrah in my side. He does it over and over again. He practices a lot.

The amount of experience and confidence he has is tremendous. Whatever the situation requires - last game I had to take some time, and this game's scenario was different," In Pandya said at the post-match presentation.

## Jasprit Bumrah creates history, becomes first bowler in IPL to...

**NEW DELHI:** Mumbai Indians pacer Jasprit Bumrah dished out an emphatic performance against Royal Challengers Bengaluru as he returned astonishing figures of 5/21 at Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Thursday. Bumrah's performance was truly magnificent, as he had two opportunities for a hat-trick, propelling him to the top of the purple-cap leaderboard. He now shares the summit with Yuzvendra Chahal, both having secured 10 wickets. Bumrah's five-wicket



haul marked a historic moment in IPL history as he became the first bowler ever to achieve this feat against RCB. He now also holds the record of taking most wickets against RCB with 29 scalps surpass-

ing Ravindra Jadeja and Sandeep Sharma record of 26 wickets. Additionally, he joined an elite group, becoming only the fourth bowler, alongside James Faulkner, Jaydev Unadkat and

Bhuvneshwar Kumar to secure two five-wicket hauls in IPL history. In a contest where his fellow pacers erred consistently, Bumrah's accuracy and mastery over variation helped him rule the roost once again. Mixing up his fiery yorkers perfectly with sharp bouncers, Bumrah snaffled the inform Virat Kohli (3) early on to extend his ordinary run at the Wankhede Stadium while playing the IPL. Bumrah handed MI the major breakthrough yet again when Faf's fabulous innings.

## RCB don't have enough bowling weapons, so batters need to score extra: Faf Du

**NEW DELHI:** Succumbing to their fifth defeat of the season, Royal Challengers Bengaluru Faf du Plessis on Thursday admitted that his side's bowling firepower isn't enough, emphasizing the need for the batters to step up to com-



pensate for the weakness as the IPL progresses. The 7 wickets mauling at the hands of Mumbai Indians at the Wankhede was RCB fourth straight defeat. "I feel like from a batting perspective, we have to push for that 200. We don't have as many weapons in our bowling. So it comes down to the batting. "From a bowling perspective, we have lacked penetration. We have to get them two or three down in the powerplay. Always

feels like we are on the back foot after the first four overs," Du Plessis said after seven-wicket loss to MI. Du Plessis feels RCB were few runs short of a winning score as the dew played a big part in the second innings. "Very tough pill to swallow. It was very wet out there, it will be nice to win a toss somehow. Credit to MI how they came out and made our bowlers make a lot of mistakes. Anyone that came in and found the middle of the bat.

## I need to somehow win some tosses': Plessis after defeat against Mumbai

**NEW DELHI:** Five-time champions Mumbai Indians (MI) are finally getting their mojo back as they emerged victorious over Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) by seven wickets in a high-scoring Indian Premier League match at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Thursday. MI registered their second successive win after three straight losses in the 17th edition of the tournament.

This was also the sixth consecutive defeat for RCB against MI at the Wankhede, with the last win coming way back in 2015. After a heartbreaking loss, RCB skipper Faf du Plessis lamented the team's defeat to dew and said that it's high time for him to win some tosses. **POINTS TABLE | ORANGE CAP | PURPLE CAP**



"It's a tough pill to swallow - a combination of two things, very wet (the conditions with dew), I need to somehow win some tosses, secondly, they played really well, put the pressure on us and we made a lot of mistakes (especially during the powerplay). We knew dew would be a factor, we might have needed to make 250+, but they made 196 look very less. You know when there's dew coming, you'll

have to bat big, the ball was very wet, it was changed a few times and the bowlers struggled," Du Plessis said at the post-match interaction. Du Plessis also lauded MI pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, who picked up a fifer, for his outstanding show. "We also lost a few moments and were going well when myself and Patidar were going, but they did come back well. Everytime you see him

with the ball in his hand (on Jasprit Bumrah), you think you'll have to put him under pressure. But he has so many skills, bowls well under pressure, he bowls with the same action and has a lot of variations. I think he has become even better under the guidance of Lasith Malinga. We will have to find ways with the bat, get those big scores, we know our bowling is not our strongest suit.

## Monterrey knock out Messi's Inter Miami from CONCACAF Champions Cup

**NEW DELHI:** In a stunning quarter-final clash, Mexican side Monterrey secured a convincing 3-1 victory over Inter Miami, sealing a 5-2 aggregate win and advancing to the semi-finals of the CONCACAF Champions Cup. Monterrey displayed superiority in all aspects of the game, with goals from Brandon Vazquez, German Berterame, and Jesus Gallardo securing their spot in the next round. Despite Argentine superstar Lionel Messi's inclusion in Inter Miami's lineup after his injury absence, Monterrey proved to be too formidable for the MLS side. The match began with Monterrey's US international striker Vazquez testing Inter Miami's goalkeeper Drake Callender early on, showcasing.

## CAPSULES

### The beauty of this team...': Hardik hails MI's all-round brilliance after RCB rout

**NEW DELHI:** Jasprit Bumrah's exceptional bowling display, marked by a five-wicket haul, dismantled the Royal Challengers Bengaluru's innings, setting the stage for Mumbai Indians' comfortable seven-wicket victory on Thursday. Bumrah's remarkable figures of 5 for 21 earned him the player-of-the-match award, as he spearheaded Mumbai Indians' bowling attack, restricting the star-studded RCB lineup to a total of 196-8. After winning the toss, Mumbai Indians' captain Hardik Pandya opted to field first at their home ground in Mumbai. Following Bumrah's brilliant bowling performance, Mumbai Indians' batting duo of Ishan Kishan and Suryakumar Yadav delivered sharp fifties, guiding their team to a comprehensive victory. "Always good to win. The way we have won - it's quite impressive. Impact player has given the opportunity to use an extra bowler if required. It gives me a cushion as well. The way Ro and Kishan batted, giving the platform, it was important for us to finish it early. We didn't speak about it. That's the beauty of this team, players know what to do," Hardik said at the post-match interaction. Hardik also lauded Bumrah for his superb bowling display and Surya for his breathtaking shots. "Blessed to have Bumrah in my side. He does it over and over again. He practices a lot. The amount of experience and confidence he has is tremendous. (Surya) I did tell him when he scored the fifty that welcome back.