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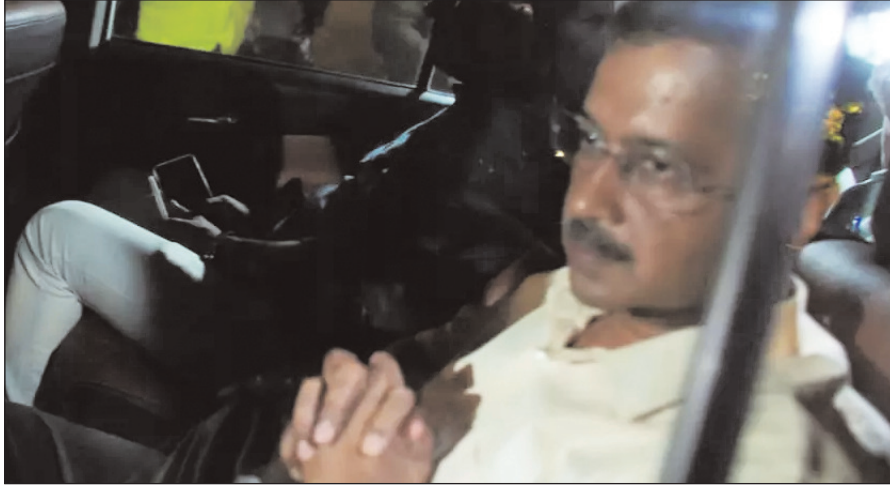
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UNIQUE GIFT OF KRIYAYOGA ASHRAM AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE TO GIVE IMPETUS TO WORLD BUILDING AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.

HC's refusal to give him relief, ED arrests Arvind Kejriwal

● Kejriwal is the second CM to be arrested while still in office, the first being Jayalalitha



NEW DELHI: In a dramatic turn of events, Enforcement Directorate on Thursday arrested Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal in the alleged liquor scam case, plunging his party, AAP, into a major crisis and putting a question mark on his continuation in office.

ED's action came hours after Delhi high court turned down Kejriwal's plea seeking protection from any coercive action by the agency, which had issued nine summonses to him to face questions arising from their investigation into the excise policy case in which senior party leaders Manish Sisodia and Sanjay Singh, besides the CM's

close aide, Vijay Nair, and BRS MLC K Kavitha have been arrested. Kejriwal is the second CM to be arrested while still in office, the first being Jayalalitha. His arrest comes less than two months after Hemant Soren was arrested, shortly after stepping down as Jharkhand CM. AAP rushed to Supreme Court challenging the arrest but was denied a late-night hearing.

Soon after the setback for Kejriwal in HC, an ED team reached his official residence to question him.

Flagstaff Road, where the CM's resi-

dence is located, witnessed dramatic scenes as AAP supporters and senior party functionaries rushed there, amidst a lot of slogan shouting, and police barricaded the road with heavy deployment and Rapid Action Force personnel standing in riot gear. Drones buzzed overhead even as Section 144 was imposed in the area. The ED team took Kejriwal into custody after conducting a brief search and questioning him about his role in the alleged manipulation of the excise policy to award liquor vends to a cartel

of traders in exchange for Rs 100 crore in bribes, which is alleged to have been used to fund AAP's political campaigns. ED officials did not give any details or state the grounds for the arrest. Kejriwal had refused to take questions from ED citing his engagements like campaigning for elections and visit to a Vipassana camp and claiming that the summonses by the agency were illegal, vague and politically motivated. He had approached HC after a local court rejected his stand questioning the validity of ED's summonses.

Armed with cash donation info, IT to reassess Congress liability for 7 years

NEW DELHI: Income tax authorities are poring over data collected during raids in Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat, allegedly pointing to large cash payments to Congress, as they seek to complete the reassessment proceedings for financial years 2013-14 to 2019-20 by March 31. The move — based on information collected during raids on Megha Engineering, entities linked to D K Shivakumar and some individuals who were allegedly linked to a former Madhya Pradesh CM — has been challenged by Congress in Delhi HC, which heard the matter on Tuesday but reserved its order for three of the seven years. "We have told the court that we are in advanced stages of completing the assessment and we are awaiting the



order, which is expected any day," a source said. Some of the searches had allegedly thrown up data suggesting cash payments in excess of Rs 100 crore. While tax authorities refused to give any assessment of the scale of demand that may be raised, they said the department was looking into the accounts of state units and other wings as they were all under the Indian National Congress umbrella. The party risks losing tax exemption available to political parties for seven years in case the reassess-

ment concludes it received individual contributions exceeding Rs 20,000, the threshold set under the law, violation of which attracts punishment. On its part, sources said Congress has maintained that 'panchnama' and other details were not shared with it. Tax authorities, however, said more than a dozen notices were issued in the cases which started a few years ago. These are in addition to another one dating back to the financial year 1993-94, where a demand of Rs 11-12 crore has now risen

to Rs 53 crore, including interest. The case was flagged by senior Congress leaders on Thursday, claiming that the tax department was seeking to raise bogus demands. Sources in govt, however, countered it and said Delhi High Court had

dismissed Congress' appeal, which has been pending before SC for seven-eight years and the next hearing is scheduled on April 1. The case has been bunched with at least two others related to withdrawal of tax exemptions for Janata Party and BSP.

They said the demand on Congress had not been raised, but a notice was issued earlier this month. The investigations into the party's tax affairs have also shown that there were multiple permanent account numbers (PANs), sources claimed.

Stop accepting inflows in overseas ETFs: Sebi to MFs

Mumbai: Markets regulator Sebi has asked fund houses not to accept any more contribution in schemes which invest in exchange traded funds listed on foreign bourses from April 1. The Sebi direction comes as these ETFs are set to exhaust the RBI-imposed aggregate upper limit of \$1 billion worth of investments, fund industry officials told TOI.

Despite several representations to RBI over the years, the central bank is yet to increase this investment limit. Recently when the RBI governor was asked about a possible enhancement of the limit, he said that "when the rupee shows stability, the central bank will look into this issue". The Sebi move comes at a time when India's foreign exchange reserves are at about \$636 billion, nearing the all-time high of \$645 billion, which was recorded in Oct 2021. The genesis of the RBI-imposed restriction on overseas investments by MFs dates to Feb 2022. At the time, the combined MFs had a limit of \$7 billion for direct investments in stocks listed overseas. In addition, the fund houses had a limit of \$1 billion through ETFs listed on foreign bourses. In Jan 2022, MFs' aggregate investments in stock listed abroad were near the \$7-billion limit. Sebi asked fund houses to not invest any more in those stocks. However, Sebi said that in case fund houses saw some redemptions from their portfolios that reduced their overseas exposure through investments in stocks, they could re-invest to fill that gap but should never exhaust the RBI-imposed limit.

An email from MF body Amfi to fund houses said: "The investment in overseas securities (in other overseas scheme - other than overseas ETFs) may continue till further communication from Sebi." Currently, MFs are at 84% of the \$7-billion limit and at 95% of the \$1-billion cap, a top executive at a fund house said. While RBI has an annual limit of \$250,000 per person limit for Indian individuals to spend foreign exchange.

Congress conveniently blaming its irrelevance on 'fin trouble': BJP

NEW DELHI: BJP on Thursday made a point-wise rebuttal of Congress' claim that its accounts have been frozen by the income tax department out of political vendetta saying the opposition party fearing defeat is ranting against Indian democracy and institutions as the governing party also justified the move to recover taxes due from Congress. "Congress is going to



be totally rejected by the people and fearing a historic defeat, their top leadership addressed a press conference and ranted against Indian democracy and institutions. They are conveniently

blaming their irrelevance on 'financial troubles'. In reality, their bankruptcy is moral and intellectual, not financial," said BJP president J P Nadda. Senior BJP leader and an MP Ravi Shankar Prasad said the press conference of Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi held the press conference in the utter desperation of defeat and has created an alibi today.

"Congress failed to file tax returns for years, I-T department's recovery move (is) justified," Prasad said. BJP functionary further said, "How much will Rahul lie?...Please apologise for castigating institutions." Prasad claimed that Congress did not file income tax returns in time, leading to the freezing of its account with a purpose to extract political mileage by playing the victim card.

Congress moves EC against 'Modi parivaar' and 'Guarantee' advt.

NEW DELHI: Alleging misuse of state resources for the poll campaign of PM Narendra Modi, Congress on Thursday complained to EC against "Modi Parivaar" and "Modi ki Guarantee" advertisements and sought their removal and action against those behind it. A delegation of Congress leaders met EC and handed over a set of complaints about alleged violations of the model code of con-



duct by BJP and demanded immediate action.

Congress delegation lodged a complaint against BJP's "false advertisements" invoking the 2G allocation issue and alleged that party was pursuing a

decade-old narrative that had been discredited through a comprehensive judicial process. The party prayed for removal of the advertisement and action against its authors and publishers. In another complaint, Congress sought removal of 'Modi Parivaar' advertisement, alleging that it highlights how state resources are being misused for a veiled campaign advertisement.

EC wants the govt to stop this WhatsApp message with PDF

The Election Commission has directed the Centre government to immediately stop sending bulk WhatsApp messages to people under the "Viksit Bharat Sampark". The 'Viksit Bharat Sampark' seeks feedback and suggestions from the public. The initiative aims to highlight the government's achievements. The message comes with a PDF that has a letter from PM Narendra Modi.

The direction was issued to the Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, after the Commission received complaints about the matter. Recently, the Kerala Congress



tagged WhatsApp parent Meta and complained about the message in a series of posts. The post had a screenshot that mentions WhatsApp's 'Policy on government and political use', claiming that the messages are a clear violation of the policy. The Congress called the PDF file with PM Modi's attached message as 'political propaganda'.

The Trinamool Congress too raised objections to the message and requested the Election Commission to act against this "blatant violation" of

the Model Code of Conduct. The Election Commission is also said to have received some complaints through the cVIGIL app of the poll panel. **What Election Commission said** The Election Commission said that the move is a part of a series of decisions taken by the Commission to ensure a level-playing field.

Asking the government to ensure there is "no further delivery" of the bulk WhatsApp messages to people, the Commission sought

an "immediate" compliance report on the matter from the ministry.

What government said On its behalf, the ministry told the Election Commission that the messages along with a letter from Prime Minister Narendra Modi were sent before the Model Code of Conduct came into force on March 16 with the announcement of Lok Sabha 2024 poll schedule. "... due to system architecture and network limitations it is possible that some letters.

Cos with hand in mining, thermal power are major donors to JMM

RANCHI: The main donors to governing Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) are companies with mining interests and thermal power plants in the state between 2021 and 2023, the latest EC data shows. JMM had got Rs 13.5 crore in donations.

through EBS between 2021 and 2023. JMM also voluntarily disclosed in its contribution report to EC in 2021 that it had received Rs 1 crore from Hindalco Ltd in FY 2019-20. However, data uploaded by EC based on EB information shared by SBI has no bond being bought by Hindalco Ltd; this could be because the bond may have been bought prior to April 12.

After Supreme Court notice, Patanjali MD apologises over misleading advertisement



NEW DELHI: Facing contempt threat from Supreme Court for violating its order by giving misleading advertisements of its products, Patanjali Ayurveda managing director Acharya has tendered unconditional apology to the court and assured that mistake would not be repeated in future. Balkrishna filed his affidavit in the SC that issued showcase notice to him on March 19 asking why contempt proceedings shouldn't be initiated against him for violating its order. The SC

had passed the order on Indian Medical Association's petition against misleading ads of Patanjali. and targeting of allopathy treatment. The deponent will ensure that such advertisements are not issued in future. By way of clarification, not as a defense, the deponent begs to submit that its intention is only to exhort the citizens of this country to lead a healthier life by consuming products of the Respondent No. 5 including for lifestyle ailments through the use of age old literature.

Jawa Yezdi Motorcycles brings its Mega Service Camp to Delhi NCR



GURUGRAM : Jawa Yezdi Motorcycles is set to extend its highly successful Mega Service Camp to Noida, Delhi. Following multiple successful service camps across states, the three-day event will take place in Noida from March 8th to March 10th, exclusively catering to Jawa motorcycle owners of the 2019 and 2020 models in the region. The service camp will be held at Shree Ji Motors-A-34, Ground Floor (South Hall), Sector 63, Noida-201309. As part of the camp, owners of 2019-2020 Jawa motorcycles are entitled to a comprehensive vehicle health check-up and a free replacement of select parts. Leading original equipment suppliers, including Motul, Amaron, and Ceat Tyres, will be actively participating to assist customers. In a continued commitment to long-term customer satisfaction, Jawa Yezdi Motorcycles is offering complimentary extended warranties based on the motorcycles' health evaluation. Additionally, a designated zone will be set up for owners interested in upgrading their motorcycles to assess the exchange value. Building on the success of previous service camps, which served over 1000 Jawa motorcycles, the brand will be announcing Mega Service Camps across multiple cities in the coming months. This initiative underscores the brand's commitment to prioritizing customer satisfaction and delivering an unparalleled ownership experience. Owners of Jawa Yezdi Motorcycles are encouraged to reserve their slots at the nearest brand dealership. Don't miss the opportunity to ensure your motorcycle receives top-notch care and experience the commitment to customer satisfaction firsthand.

Himachal crisis: 11 lawmakers, including 6 from Congress reach Uttarakhand

NEW DELHI: A total of 11 MLAs, including six rebel Congress legislators who were suspended from the party for cross-voting for BJP nominee Harsh Mahajan in the Rajya Sabha polls, arrived in BJP-ruled Uttarakhand on Friday. Amid the ongoing crisis within the Congress Party in the state, a bus carrying the legislators arrived in Rishikesh's Taj Hotel and the 11 MLAs, including six rebel Congress MLAs and three independent MLAs, were seen entering the hotel under heavy security. The 11 MLAs landed at Jolly Grant Airport in Dehradun on Friday at around 2:40 PM, from where they left in a car towards the hotel in Rishikesh. The development comes two days after chief minister Sukhu met the Congress top brass in Delhi and gave a report about the current political situation in the state. "Some MLAs are sad. They have been kept under CRPF security. Is this how democracy will remain strong? Horsetrading weakens the democracy," Himachal Pradesh chief minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said on Friday. "I have just come to know through social media that they (rebel MLAs) were taken away from the hotel in Panchkula and a charter plane flew from Chandigarh airport. I don't know where it will land. This is because their family members were putting pressure on them to return," Sukhu added. Disqualified by Himachal assembly speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania, the six Congress members - Rajinder Rana, Sudhir Sharma, Inder Dutt Lakhnpal, Devinder Kumar Bhutoo, Ravi Thakur and Chetanya Sharma - were ousted after they abstained from voting on the budget soon after they had cross-voted against their party.

Man crashes on to car from train, dies

BENGALURU: A white hatchback moving towards Mehri Circle on Ballari Road direction was about to emerge from the road underbridge near Windsor Manor around 1.30pm on Tuesday when the driver's vision went blank as the car's windshield was shattered. The driver applied the brakes immediately and it took a while for him to realise that a man had fallen on his car's front windshield from the railway tracks above. The passenger, Gourishwaran, was a resident of Vellore in Tamil Nadu. He rolled on to the road from the car's bonnet. As passersby began trying to resuscitate him by pouring water into his mouth, High Grounds police reached the spot. They shifted the man on to the pavement even as an ambulance arrived. However, the man had already died of severe head injuries. High Grounds police, who alerted the railway police, searched the man's pockets and found a mobile phone that was switched off.



Realme redefines the mid-premium segment with the realme 12 Series 5G starting from INR 16999

Hisar: realme, India's Most Reliable Smartphone Service Provider, announced the launch of the realme 12 Series 5G today. The realme 12 Series 5G introduces two standout smartphones: the realme 12+ 5G and the realme 12 5G, and marks a significant milestone in realme's journey, aligning with its revamped strategy 'Make it real' and a refreshed brand identity that resonates with young users. Offering the PLUS experience and raising the standard of mid-range smartphones, the realme 12+ 5G is a standout smartphone, boasting segment's first 50 MP SONY LYT-600 main camera with Optical Image Stabilization (OIS), a 2X In-sensor zoom, and a Cinematic 2X Portrait Mode for capturing clear, DSLR-like portraits. It also comes equipped with a 112° ultra-wide camera, a 16MP HD selfie camera. It features a 120Hz Ultra-Smooth AMOLED Display, and 67W SUPER VOOC charging and a massive 5000mAh battery for long-lasting use. It also houses notable features like storage and dynamic RAM of up to 256 GB, and IP54 dust and water resistance. Running on the user-friendly realme UI 5.0 based on Android 14, the realme 12+ 5G is available in Pioneer Green and Navigator Beige, two storage variants: 8GB+128GB, priced at INR 20999 and 8GB+256GB, priced at INR 21999. For the 8GB+256GB variant.

buyers can avail Bank offers worth INR 1000 with no cost EMI up to 9 months on realme.com & Flipkart. Customers will get realme Buds T300 worth INR 3998 on the purchase of the smartphone from mainline channels.

Students delighted with CCL match passes at Rayat & Bahara

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



lock horns against Bengal Tigers on March 8 followed by yet another clash

against Riteish Deshmukh - led Mumbai Heroes on March 9. Celebs like Sohail Khan, Sunil Shetty, Jenelia Deshmukh would also be featured in this match. The series of promotional activities before the matches will continue wherein fans can hunt for their free VIP passes and gift hampers. Fans can get information about these activities and complimentary match passes through the team's official website and social media platforms.

"Indian Govt should recognize Bengali as Classical Language" – Dr. Parimal Kanti Mondal, Bongo Bhashi Mahasabha Foundation

New Delhi :

The Bangabashi Mahasabha Foundation (BBMF) hosted an International Bengali Conference and Awards Ceremony at the Vishwa Yuvak Kendra in New Delhi recently, focusing on the challenges faced by Bengalis both nationally and internationally. Bongo Bhashi Mahasabha Foundation also urged the Indian Govt to recognize Bengali as Classical Language. Renowned figures such as Shri Tathagata Roy, Former



Governor of Tripura, Meghalaya, and Arunachal Pradesh, Shri Biplaj Roy Goodwill Ambassador, IIA India, Official Partner UNESCO, National and International President of BBMF Dr. Parimal Mondal, and General Secretary Dr. Shubhro Chakrabarty graced the

event alongside distinguished guests from India, Bangladesh, Canada, Australia, England, and Germany. The conference celebrated the accomplishments of Bengali speakers across various domains including art, literature, culture, health-care, social service, entre-

preneurship, management, journalism, and cinema. Chief guest Dr. Tathagata Roy, the Former governor said, "Despite Bengali being the fourth most spoken language globally, UNESCO's recognition of it as the 'sweetest language' and its ancient origins dating back to 3500 BC, it is yet to be acknowledged as a Classical Language by the Indian government. This underscores the importance of uniting Bengalis worldwide under one umbrella to advocate.

Confluence, a beacon of cultural exchange, successfully

New Delhi: Confluence, a beacon of cultural exchange, successfully hosted the grand "Bharat Mahotsav" festival at The Bhavan in London. The festival served as a platform to celebrate 'Amrit Kaal: Realising New India's Vision 2047,' bringing together a diverse array of talents, dignitaries, and performers. The festival was hosted by Lord Raj Loomba, the Lord Loomba CBE Member of the House of Lords Lord Temporal. The chief guest for the event was Dr. Sandhya Purecha, Chairperson of the Sangeet Natak Akademi, Government of India. The guests of honour for the event were: Mr. Dusty Lane, Producer, Actor, Camera, and Electrical Department; Ms. T.J. Myers, Hollywood Actress, Producer, and Director; Dr. Gaurav Grover, Chairman of NDSWA; Mr. Mahendrasinh C. Jadeja (Dada), International Business Consultant and Social Activist;

Mr. Darshan Singh Grewal, BJP Vice President (Overseas) and former mayor of Hounslow; Mr. Devinder Tyagi, Entrepreneur and Hotelier; Ms. Crystal Daiva, Entrepreneur Perfumes and Swarovski Jewellery Maker, among others. The media partners for the event are Lyca Radio and Lyca Gold. Every day at the Mohotsav, there was a different activity on February 15, 2024. The festivities commenced with 'Swadeshi Manch' cultural performances, a music concert, dance performances, and dramas at The Bhavan, London, and an association with Sanskriti. There was a song launch by Dr. Amitabh Shrivastav (Amy) and Rahul B. Seth: "In every chord of 'Aham Bharatiyam,' weaves a tapestry of Indian pride, resonating with the soul of a nation, steadfast and wide" at Bhawan. Performing artists like Padma Shri Mahabir Singh Guddu, Ms. Suhani Dhanki Mody, Ms.

Ragasudha Vinjamuri, Ms. Radhika Vekaria, Dr. Kamla Kaushik, Mr. Josh Moreland, Mr. Vishal Srivastav, Mr. Sandip Soparrkar, Ms. Simran Ahuja, Mrs. Vaishali Singh Choudhary, and others graced the stage with their exceptional talents. On February 16, 2024, the "Swadeshi Parade" (fashion show) and 'Swadeshi Manch' (cultural performances) continued at The Nehru Centre, London, featuring a fashion show by renowned designers Ms. Rina Dhaka, Designer Dr. Smita Shrivastav of Smitha Banaras, promoting sustainable Banarsi handloom fashion, and Ms. Simran Ahuja, who handled the choreography. The show stopper was Sandeep Soparrkar. Simultaneously, on the same day, "MAAN KI BAAT" through the melody of 'Maan ki Baat', echoed nationwide, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji's vision finds resonance, fostering.

C.M. BJP leader Saurabh Chaudhary met with political advisor Bharat Bhushan

Kaithal: BJP Business Cell Haryana's co-convenor Saurabh Chaudhary Goyal met Chief Minister Manohar Lal's political advisor Bharat Bhushan Bharti at his Chandigarh office regarding the interests and problems of the traders, commission agents and shopkeepers of the state. And discussed in detail and honored Bharat Bhushan Bharti by giving him a flower bunch. On which Bharat Bhushan Bharti assured BJP leader Saurabh Chaudhary Goyal that the problems of commission agents, traders and shopkeepers will be resolved by placing them before Chief Minister Manohar Lal. After this, while talking in a meeting here today, State Co-ordinator of BJP Business Cell, Saurabh Chaudhary Goyal said that the Manohar Government of the



state is continuously taking many commendable steps in the interests of traders, commission agents and shopkeepers and there is no impact on the interests of traders and commission agents. Will not let it come. The interests of traders and commission agents are completely protected only under the BJP government. He said that he is continuously meeting traders and commission agents in various districts across the state and during this time he is making them aware of the broker and trader friendly

policies of the Modi Manohar government. Due to which traders and commission agents are joining the party day by day by expressing faith in the policies of BJP. Along with this, BJP leader Saurabh Chaudhary Goyal also held a formal meeting with Haryana Cow Service Commission Chairman Shri Manohar Lal Garg at the Chandigarh office and discussed about the service of mother cows and cow shelters. Saurabh Garg Choudhary, while expressing his gratitude to Haryana's cow devotee Chief Minister

for increasing the budget passed recently for cow welfare, cow promotion and protection of mother cows in the state, said that Chief Minister Manohar Lal himself is a cow devotee and the state government is a true cow devotee government. Through Govardhan Yojana, youth will get employment opportunities by serving cows, that is, Govardhan Yojana will prove to be a milestone for the youth. This scheme will inculcate the spirit of cow devotion among the youth. Along with this, the youth.

IndianOil to power Asia Road Racing C'ship

New Delhi: IndianOil is set to storm the Asia Road Racing Championship, becoming the first Indian company to fuel an overseas motor racing event, even as chairman Shrikant Madhav Vaidya said the company is launching fuel for Formula 1 cars to compete with global majors dominating the Grand Prix circuit. IndianOil will supply the superior grade gasoline under the STORM brand name for all the six rounds of the race till 2026 under an agreement signed with championship promoters on Wednesday. The championship began in 1996 and is endorsed by Federation Internationale de Motorcyclisme (or international motorcycling federation) in 1997. It is recognised as the Asian continental championship for FIM. Racing Championship IndianOil is set to fuel the Asia Road Racing Championship and launch fuel for Formula 1 cars. Chairman Shrikant Madhav Vaidya announced their plan.

Wheat arrives, and traders/millers wonder how prices will move this year

"Govt. has offered the agitating farmers the guaranteed purchase of three oilseeds, maize, and cotton at the MSP from those wanting to switch from wheat and paddy. The agricultural minister has explained the idea"



Delhi: The food ministry hopes the minimum support price (MSP) standoff will be resolved before wheat procurement, which has been advanced by a month, without affecting purchases. Most states start wheat procurement on March 1, but the government has allowed them to start

earlier this season. Start following our WhatsApp channel here. Most states expect to start procurement March 1-15. Among the big states, Uttar Pradesh will start purchase on March 1, Food Secretary Sanjeev Chopra said. He claimed the protests would not

impact operations. Many Delhi farmers are from Punjab and Haryana, which contribute the most wheat to the central pool. Western Uttar Pradesh, where the protests are growing, produces a lot of wheat.

The national government has offered the

agitating farmers the guaranteed purchase of three oilseeds, maize, and cotton at the MSP from those wanting to switch from wheat and paddy. The agricultural minister has explained the idea. Chopra believes proper communication can overcome the issues. He

reported outstanding wheat crop conditions without early warning. "If the weather stays this way for the next 10-15 days, we can expect a bumper harvest," Chopra said. The government wants to produce 114 million tonnes of wheat in 2024 and will decide how much to buy in the next days. "UP, Bihar, and Rajasthan are focused areas for wheat procurement this season, and we are trying to open more procurement centers there where arrivals and production are higher," Chopra added. Wheat procurement rose to a record 43.3 million tonnes in 2021-22 during the rabi marketing seasons of 2019-20 (April-March).

Along with education, values are also necessary to build a bright India: R.C.

Karnal: A special program was organized at Indus Public School, Sector 8. The main objective of which was to introduce parents and children to values along with education. The top JEE-Mains students of Genesis Classes were also honored at the event. Both education and culture play an important role in the development of children. Education is not just through books but is a medium to understand and learn all aspects of life. Education provides students with the ability to think, understand, and solve problems. Sanskar, on the other hand, is a means of informing a per-

son's character and conduct. Sanskar is the tacit education that makes a person understand the difference between right and wrong. It supports thoughtfulness, lived emotions, and understanding social values. It has often been seen that the times that are going on today The union of education and values makes a person wise, alert, and guided. This not only makes a person a good citizen but also a dedicated and empathetic human being. Director General of Police Dr.R.C. was the chief guest in this program. Mishra, Haryana Police participated and Colonel Arun Dutta arrived as the guest of

honour. SP Chauhan, Chairman Indus Public School and Anthem International School, Jitendra Singh Ahlawat, Managing Director, Genesis Classis, Alka Chhabra, Principal Indus Public School, Rajbir Dabur, Director Brahmanand Academy, Mukesh Bansal, Chairman Max International School, Jitendra Gambhir Principal Max International School, Atma Ram Bhardwaj, Principal Max Gurukul, Anu Gupta, SDVM Hooda Panipat, Amit Chopra, Principal Anthem School, Ashish Nehra, Director Amatir Kanya Gurukul, Kurukshehra, Kushn Kumar, President Pehchan.

The sealing action continues to annoy traders



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

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

Blood donation camp held at Basanti Mata Mandir, Dangar Khera

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

The camp was joined with all enthusiastic approach who motivated community to donate blood. Vinod Kiroriwal spoke to donors. He highlighted the importance of blood donation. "Blood is essential to help patients survive surgeries, cancer treatment, chronic illnesses, and traumatic injuries. This lifesaving process starts with one person making a generous donation. Donating one pint of blood can save three lives, he said. He also asked students not to believe in some myths about

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

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

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

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

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

Ex-model held for stalking motivational speaker for 6 months

Delhi: Police arrested Deepesh Thakur, 26, for stalking a motivational speaker on her multi-city tours over a period of six months. A fashion model and son of a prominent hotelier in Maharashtra, Thakur had been relentlessly following the speaker to her events, aspiring to marrying her. According to police, Deepesh meticulously tracked the speaker's movements, attending all her programmes across the country.

His obsession escalated to the extent that he would book rooms in five-star hotels in advance ahead of her scheduled appearances, even flying from Mumbai to attend the events in different cities.



AIIMS gives tout complaints WhatsApp no.

Delhi: AIIMS Delhi has a WhatsApp contact for reporting touts exploiting patients. Starting February 29, 9355023969 will be dedicated. The administration ordered on Wednesday that the hotline would only be for reporting such incidents, including soliciting bribes, and that the security department would monitor it 24/7. The number will be publicly displayed in English and Hindi around the institution. We send a rapid response team to verify complaints immediately. If a complaint is valid, outsourced security professionals will be relieved and regular guards suspended pending investigation. Supervisors in each region will likewise be held accountable.

Delhi Development Authority auction for Phase-III on March 5

Delhi: On March 5, the DDA will auction Phase III of its Diwali Special Housing Scheme. The program offers 257 penthouse, high-income, and middle-income units in Dwarka's various areas. Sector 19B has two penthouses, 123 HIG units, and 132 MIG in Sector 14. DDA stated their tentative reserve prices. 5 crore, 2.1 crore, 1.44 crore While e-auction registration and online earnest money deposits close on February 28, the auction will be held on March 5. The deposits for MIG flats are 10 lakh, HIG flats 15 lakh, and penthouses 25 lakh. Participants must register on the e-auction portal for Rs 2,500 per flat. It added that this sum is non-refundable and non-adjustable. DDA began e-booking 2,093 premium flats and penthouses in Dwarka Sector 19B, Sector 14 and Loknayak Puram on November 23. It has 170 super HIG, 946 HIG, 14 penthouses in Dwarka 19B, 316 MIG in Sector 14 and 647 MIG in Loknayak Puram.

Government allows donor egg & sperm in surrogacy

NEW DELHI: There is new hope for couples dreaming to become parents via surrogacy. The Centre has amended Surrogacy (Regulation) Rules, 2022 to allow use of a donor gamete – ova or egg cells and sperm – if one of the partners is certified to have a medical condition that prevents use of his or her own gametes. In usual circumstances, a couple undergoing surrogacy must have both gametes from the intending couple. story But Surrogacy Amendment Rules, 2024, that have been notified by the government, state that the district medical board must certify that either spouse is suffering from such a condition. It further says that "surrogacy using donor gamete is allowed subject to the condition that the child to be born through surrogacy must have at least one gamete from the intending couple". It adds, "Single women (widow or divorcee) undergoing surrogacy must use self-eggs and donor sperm to avail surrogacy procedures."

Three Naxalites were killed in a clash with security forces

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

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

Prime Fresh Limited (PFL) Wins Bid for APEDA approved Packhouse for a 5 year Lease

Chandigarh: Prime Fresh Limited (BSE: 540404) is pleased to update & inform that it has been selected as a winner during the process of TENDER BIDDING & SELECTION (On a lease/rental for 5 years) for the APEDA Approved Fully Integrated Agro Packhouse in Gujarat-Ahmedabad. This is a Multipurpose, Multi Products & Omni sales channel facility having peak potential to generate a sale of 25 TPD of Fruits, vegetables & other Agro Products. The said facility is situated

very strategically closure to Ahmedabad Airport & Wholesale fruits market at Naroda (Ahmedabad). This facility also connects to major Agri belts, Port and Domestic City Business opportunities. The facility is spread across close to 60000 sq. fts of land area along with massive construction & modern packhouse infrastructure approved by APEDA. The Development is a major landmark achievement for PRIME FRESH LIMITED as it helps strengthens the Exports Capabilities of PFL and

also it can help improve revenues from other verticals such as Domestic F&V Supply chain, Ripening, Storages and other packing & repacking services. The Facility is equipped with all the modern facilities, cold storages, ripening chambers and other infrastructure such as sorting, Grading & packing facilities. The cumulative capacity has a potential for 40 TPD of inwards and outwards of Agro produce once it starts stabilizing & operating at full capacity over the coming few years.

This achievement supports company's assets light growth model saving almost 15 crores (Rs.15,00,00,000) of future capex and providing a huge impetus to PFL's ambitious growth plans over the coming 3 years. Prime Fresh Limited, listed on BSE SME platform is a fully integrated Agri value chain company, established in 2007. Prime Fresh operates Pan India across 17 states and 85 districts for its Fruits and Vegetables Supply chain Business. PFL has multiple collections centre.

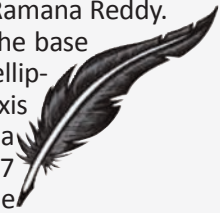
Editorial

Telangana Martyrs' Memorial: World's largest stainless steel structure

Hyderabad now has the world's largest seamless stainless-steel memorial—the Telangana Martyrs Memorial, or Amara Jyoti. Dominating the landscape for miles and close to the State Secretariat, the elliptical-shaped structure has a giant, yellow flame in carbon steel atop it. The memorial has been built as a tribute to those brave people who gave up their lives over the past five decades, or so, for the statehood of Telangana. This international distinction didn't come easy. Amara Jyoti has been four years in the making. Prior to this, the conceptualisation and ironing out of the logistics took two years; hence, it necessitated altogether six years. The construction began in 2019, and it was inaugurated in June, 2023. It also took a huge amount of manpower. Over 5,000 construction labourers (approx), around 100 engineers, and 500 technicians contributed to making this memorial plan a reality. About 4,500 stainless-steel plates, weighing over a hundred tonnes, were used for the structure, along with other materials. Finally, it cost nearly Rs 180 crore. However, it was an investment eminently worth the cost and effort for the state government and the workforce, considering that it holds so much symbolic value. The steady stream of visitors that are pouring in is also appreciating this monument. The crowds are getting bigger considering it is located in the central part of the city and beside the famous Hussain Sagar Lake. The memorial is spread over a total area of 3.29 acres of land. There is a large, well-landscaped garden, and the memorial structure with its highly polished, reflective exterior stands within this green space. The built-up area of the memorial, including the garden, is about 2.88 lakh sq feet (26,800 sq metres). The artist-sculptor who developed the concept, designed the memorial, and also supervised the project from start to finish, K Venkata Ramana Reddy, explains that he already had exposure to many famous monuments, including memorials around the world in 80 countries, but, for the purpose of this project, visited many countries to study the kind of war memorials they had.

"I submitted five designs, of which the one you see was approved by the Telangana state government," he reveals. The stainless-steel material (316 L) was procured from Sweden. The 4,500 sheets were assembled into approximately 450 large plates in Dubai and shipped to Hyderabad in containers. Here, onsite, these stainless-steel plates were assembled, i.e., welded together with flawless precision and laser technology, to create a smooth, seamless exterior with a mirror-like finish. Of course, the interior walls and slabs used concrete. Globetrotters may find the Amara Jyoti somewhat reminiscent of the famous Chicago Bean or Cloud Gate and the Bubble at Karamay in China. However, Ramana Reddy is quick to rebut the comparisons, though he does appreciate the Chicago Bean. As he points out, "The Chicago Bean or Cloud Gate is a public art project and not a memorial. Moreover, it is smaller in length, breadth, and width." The Bubble is widely considered a copy of the Chicago Bean design. Making Amara Jyoti was a very tough task and required painstaking attention to detail, explains Ramana Reddy.

reeling off more statistics. The base of the lamp, or diya, has an elliptical shape with a major axis length of 54 metres and a minor axis length of 37 metres. From the terrace, the diya rises to a height of 26 metres and is 45 metres from ground level.



Though historically intimately linked, two separate events took place recently, nearly 1,000 miles away from each other. The central sector of the Indo-Tibet boundary in Uttarakhand, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan directed Army formations to work for the rehabilitation of the border villages of Nelang and Jadung, near the Line of Actual Control in Chamoli district. During the 1962 Indo-China war, both villages were abandoned, and their residents were relocated to safer nearby areas.

Far away in the east, at the Tawang War Memorial in Arunachal Pradesh, the Indian Army, along with the Tawang administration and the local Monpa population, commemorated the 74th anniversary of the arrival of Maj Bob Khathing in the area. In 1951, the Manipuri Naga officer took over the administration of the border town of Tawang, south of the McMahon Line; a communiqué of the Defense PRO in Guwahati thus explained, "After the valiant Major undertook a treacherous march from the plains of Assam to Tawang, negotiating Sela and Bomdila passes during peak winters, leading a contingent of 200 Assam Rifles troops and 600 porters for a difficult maiden mission, thus materialised the formal



establishment of Indian civil administration at Tawang." The above two events are linked as the takeover of both places' administration is the result of a decision of the Himmasinghji Border Defence Committee created by the Army Headquarters on November 12, 1950. Let us remember the facts. On October 7, 1950, the communist troops advanced in eastern Tibet, and after smashing the ill-trained and ill-equipped Tibetan army, Chamdo, the capital of Kham Province, fell to the invaders. On November 7, Sardar Patel, the deputy prime minister, despite his poor health, sent a long letter to the prime minister about the implications of the Chinese invasion of Tibet for India's northern border. Five days later, the dying Sardar (who passed away on December 15) constituted

this committee to examine the possibility of Chinese communist troops occupying the areas south of the McMahon Line or elsewhere on the Indo-Tibet border and "to consider the feasibility or advancing outposts of the Assam Rifles in order to forestall such ingress". Gen Himmatsinghji, deputy minister of defense (chairman), it included Lt Gen Kulwant Singh, K Zakaria, head of the Ministry of External Affairs' historical division, SN Haksar, joint secretary also from MEA, Group Captain MS Chaturvedi from the Indian Air Force, and Waryam Singh, deputy director of the Intelligence Bureau. After discussing at great length the advisability of pushing forward a post to Tawang, it was decided to go ahead. It was also decided to send troops

to Nelang (then written Nilang) and Jadung (then Jadhung), two tiny villages south of the Tsangchok-la, the pass marking the watershed in the area, in the Chamoli district.

The Role of Jairamdas Daulatram

One man was central in the setting up of Maj Khathing's expedition to Tawang; it was Jairamdas Daulatram, the governor of Assam. It is sad that his role has been more or less forgotten today. On December 10, 1950, he managed to get the concurrence of the Ministry of External Affairs headed by Nehru; a Joint Secretary concurred with the Committee, "We cannot agree to a unilateral occupation of Tawang by the communists." The ball then started rolling, and preparations for the expedition began. Maj Khathing received detailed instructions from Nari Rustomji, the advisor to the governor, on behalf of Daulatram himself.

Eight Tasks

Precise tasks were given to the young and bold officer.

The first task was to occupy Tawang. Khathing was asked to explain to the local population and Tibetan officials that he was "doing no more than is being done by the administration in other parts of Indian territory;" in 1914, Tibet had agreed to the McMahon Line, north of

Tawang being the boundary. The major was ordered to "treat any Tibetan or other officials you may meet with courtesy, but nevertheless let them understand that jurisdiction in the area vests in you and not in them." He was directed to submit detailed reports about the Tibetan 'influence' in the area and the nature of taxes collected. He was further told to abolish all existing taxes and substitute them with lighter taxes to be paid to the Political Officer, representing the Indian government: "There will be no forced labour and everything needed will be duly paid for." An important task was to communicate to the local people that "none of their religious practices The sixth point was that in case Khathing met with armed opposition, he was to cable Shillong (the governor's office) immediately, "indicating the strength and position of opposing forces." Fortunately, due to Khathing's intelligence and diplomatic skills, this would not be necessary, and 74 years later, he was still considered by the Monpas as their liberator. Khathing was also asked to keep daily wireless telegraphic contact with Daulatram after crossing the Se-La pass. It is what Khathing did, and his dispatches and cables still make fascinating reading.

Why Somalia asked Turkey to defend its territorial waters

Somalia's President Sheikh Hassan Mohamud. Reuters File In Somalia, President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud has made a strategic play. The Somali government has approved a maritime security pact with Turkey. Ankara has been authorized to build up, train, and equip the Somali navy. Not just that—they will also defend Somalia's territorial waters. Turkish warships could be patrolling Somalia's coast, and they could be active in the Indian Ocean for the duration of ten years.

There are many reasons why Somalia selected Turkey. Somalia has been dealing with a terror insurgency for almost two decades. Recently, there has been a rise in piracy along the Somali coast.

Also, there is chaos in the Red Sea with the Yemen-based Houthis disrupting global trade. All these are important reasons, but Somalia's primary target is different. Ethiopia is Somalia's neighbour and nemesis. The maritime deal is aimed at countering Ethiopia and stopping it from executing its port plan. Ethiopia is landlocked. But the Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, wants it. He believes that a port is essential for Ethiopia's growth. So on January 1 of this year, Ethiopia struck a deal with Somaliland to allow it to use its coast to build a navy. Somaliland is not officially an independent nation. It is considered a breakaway part of Somalia. In the entire international community, no country

has recognised Somaliland. It tried to separate from Somalia in 1991. Since then, it has been de-facto independent. Of course, Somalia was outraged by their port deal, too, because it won't end there. Reports say that Ethiopia could officially recognise Somaliland's independence, and Mogadishu will never allow this. It wants Ethiopia to rescind the offer, and that's where Turkey comes in. The new maritime deal could help Somalia. The deal could "convince" Ethiopia to back down. After all, would Abiy Ahmed dare to take on the Turkish navy? As Turkey is a NATO member, an attack on one member is an attack on all of NATO. So Ethiopian aggression is almost out of the question.

The recent development concerning the UPI affects international banking and finance systems at their most fundamental level.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his recent visit to the UAE announced the extension of the service of the UPI payment system in UAE which is a significant development not only between India and the UAE, but in the West Asian region as a whole. India's relations with the West Asian region could not realise the true potential immediately after independence, owing mainly to the countries of the region being bound by their obligatory Muslim solidarity with Pakistan. This, however, has changed dramatically over the past two decades, especially after the 9/11 incident and the global war on terror. India's West Asia policy is rooted in four important pillars that include the people, energy security, trade and security. It was in 2005 that the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh formulated the 'Look West' policy and then in 2014, PM Modi announced the need for 'Link West' along with the 'Look East' Policy. Within the region, it is UAE which has slowly emerged as India's key partner and a trusted ally. UAE, by its location and its stature in the region, forms a key pillar of India's West Asia policy. UAE is an integral part of all-important regional forums including the GCC, Arab League etc. It

is also part of the I2U2 or the West Asia Quad comprising India, Israel, the US and the UAE. India's bilateral relations with the UAE rest on three important pillars including trade and investments, energy and the Indian community in UAE. The landmark agreement CEPA (Comprehensive Economic Partnership) signed on February 18, 2022, laid the foundation for an exponential increase in trade and economic partnership and is an example of a special relationship between the two nations. The recent development concerning the UPI affects international banking and finance systems at their most fundamental level. This involves two elements: cross-border financial transactions and associated payments, as well as the cross-border establishment of premises. There are many international agreements signed to make the international banking system more effective. The International Banking law was also developed to stop large amounts of bank fraud. Banking law involves a wide number of private agreements among the private parties. In recent years, there has been an explosion in both types of activity and, with it, the need for international agreements as to how the business of international banking and finance should be conducted. These agreements which are signed among the sovereign

countries are enforced using domestic legislation. There are three purposes. First, they may serve to facilitate the conduct of cross-border business. In this category, one finds agreements on technical standards, standardised contracts (master agreements), codes of conduct.

harmonised accounting and disclosure standards, arrangements for cross-border payment, netting and custodial services.

and a wide range of legal conventions and agreements governing financial services in general. Second, international agreements may have as one of their objectives the deliberate expansion of cross-border competition in banking and finance. The General Agreement on Trade in Services and the OECD Codes of Liberalisation are examples of agreements in this area, as are the relevant directives in European Union Legislation and the financial services clauses of the FTA and NAFTA. The third purpose of international agreements is to promote or maintain financial stability. The Basel Committee.

on Banking Supervision is certainly the best known of these committees, while the Euro-currency Standing Committee is certainly the oldest, having been set up in the early 1960s to monitor and assess the implications of the newly established Euro-currency markets.

Russia-Ukraine war enters third year: Bloody stalemate, no signs of breakthrough

In the book 'The Fathomless Caves', Kate Forsyth, the author, describes war as, "An unpredictable beast. Once unleashed, it runs like a rabid dog, ravaging friends and foes alike. It can drag on for years, a slow attrition of nerve and fortitude, or be over in one brilliant flash, an extravagant configuration of flame and blood and sweat." The Russian-Ukraine War fits well into the above description. When President Putin launched 'special military operations' to 'demilitarise and denazify' Ukraine on February 24, 2022, it was universally given that the

war would be over in a few days, with Russia inflicting a crushing defeat on Ukraine. Ironically, two years later, the conflict rages on, degenerating into a state of stalemate with little change in the ground situation. Although a classic limited war, its politico-economic impact has been felt far and wide, with serious geo-strategic ramifications. Militarily, it has gone on to redefine the very nature of warfare. The Russian offensive commenced as a typical military campaign, preceded by missiles and airstrikes, followed by a large-

scale ground invasion along multiple fronts. The northern thrust was launched from Belarus towards Kyiv, the southern one was from Crimea, and the south-eastern push was from Luhansk-Donetsk towards Kharkiv. In the wake of heavy losses and stiff Ukrainian resistance on the outskirts of Kyiv, the Russian Northern thrust stalled within a month, towards the end of March. By April, the Russian Army had retreated to consolidate gains around the Luhansk and Donetsk areas. However, the Russians did succeed in capturing Mariupol in May after a pro-

longed siege. Having stabilised the situation, in August, the Ukrainian forces launched a limited counterattack in the south and a month later in the north-east, succeeding in recapturing Kharkiv and Kherson by November, thus forcing the Russians to withdraw east of the Dnieper River. With winters setting in, the pace of operations had slowed down. The Ukrainians resorted to launching a number of drone strikes against the Russian bases. A period of lull was used by the belligerents to consolidate their positions and gear up for the next phase.

Tata AIA Life launches Tata AIA Rising India Fund



AMBALA: Tata AIA Life Insurance (Tata AIA), one of India's leading life insurers, has launched the Tata AIA Rising India Fund, a Fund that opens a unique avenue for consumers to participate in India's growth story. The New Fund Offering (NFO) will remain open until March 31, 2024, with units being offered at an NAV of Rs. 10 per unit during the NFO period. The Rising India Fund will invest in key sectors and companies, that are driving the Atmanirbhar Bharat story. These include infrastructure, manufacturing, banking, digital, defense, etc. The fund will invest in companies across market caps and would be sector agnostic, enabling the fund manager to harness diverse opportunities driving India's growth engine. On the NFO launch, Harshad Patil, Executive Vice President, and Chief Investment Officer (CIO) of Tata AIA,

said, "In the recent years, India has displayed its global influence by becoming the fastest growing major economy. Through this new fund, we would like to offer our consumers an avenue to participate in and benefit from this incredible journey. Our consumers have always benefited from the long-term growth potential of the Indian equity market by investing in the ULIP funds that Tata AIA offers. We will continue to strive towards generating the alpha in our fund performance. With a robust research process and a bottom-up stock selection approach, we are committed to providing lasting value and returns to our policyholders. Mr. Samit Upadhyay, President - CFO & Head of Products and Propositions of Tata

AIA, said, "At Tata AIA, we are committed to craft innovative insurance solutions that cater to diverse requirements of consumers including financial security, wealth creation as well as health & wellness. The New Fund Offer, Tata AIA Rising India fund, can be availed along with our unique Param Rakshak (PR) series, featuring Pro-Fit, Param Rakshak solution, Param Rakshak Plus solution, etc. These solutions are embellished with attractive features that not only deliver superior, consistent, and risk-adjusted long-term returns but also prioritize the safeguarding of your loved ones' future. We are confident that consumers will find the PR series proposition with the new fund offer quite attractive.

27 Years of Track Record for HDFC Top 100 Fund



CHANDIGARH / LUDHIANA:

HDFC Top 100 Fund, an open-ended equity scheme predominantly investing in large-cap stocks ("the Fund"), has successfully completed 27 years in 2023. Over the past 27 years, the Fund has delivered Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of ~19%. Further, a SIP of Rs 10,000 invested systematically on the first business day of every month (total investment Rs 32.90 Lacs) in HDFC Top 100 Fund would have grown to Rs. 7.98 crores by February 29, 2024 (See complete performance details given at the end). This

performance is a testament to the fund's ability to navigate market fluctuations and deliver growth to investors. The portfolio construction follows a bottom up approach to stock picking blended with top down sector and macro trends. The Fund follows a diversified style with a blend of GARP (growth at reasonable price) and value. In

stock selection, the focus is on quality of business models, management and financial metrics. Portfolio construction is based on risk-reward of opportunities available at any given point in time. As per the mandate, more than 80% of the portfolio always remains invested in the well-established large cap companies.

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

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

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

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



Crompton strengthens its sustainability footprint in the agricultural sector

KARNAL: Crompton Greaves Consumer Electricals Ltd., renowned for its innovative solutions in the pumps industry, is proud to announce its fourth consecutive win of another landmark solar water pumping system order under the prestigious PM-KUSUM scheme for the state of Haryana. The latest order, sanctioned by the New & Renewable Energy Department Haryana and HAREDA includes the supply, installation, and commissioning of 7.5 HP DC; 10 HP AC and 10 HP DC solar photovoltaic water pumping systems which are worth over Rs. 9 crores. This achievement is part of a larger initiative led by the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) and the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE), aiming to replace and establish new connections for 6.5 Lac pumps across India. Total orders accrued till now from HAREDA stands at Rs 65.6 crores. Moreover, Crompton has secured a Letter of Empanelment for 2500 solar pumping systems in Maharashtra from MSEDCL (Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Co. Ltd) for 500 systems and MEDA (Maharashtra Energy Development Agency) for 2000 systems. Another Letter of Empanelment has been received for 1000 solar pumping systems in Rajasthan from Commissionerate of Horticulture, Rajasthan. Total value of Letters of Empanelment received amounts to appx Rs 85 crores, marking another step forward in its commitment to agricultural sustainability. This significant development, coupled with the recent fourth order from Haryana and LOE from Maharashtra and Rajasthan.

The world's largest instant drink manufacturer, Rasna, ropes in actress Tamannaah Bhatia as their new brand ambassador.

Ludhiana : Summer is here, we know it Coz Rasna's New Campaign is out! This year like every year Rasna has come out with a fresh new campaign that not only highlights their 21 Vitamins and Minerals that energise us but also highlights the emotions it stirs up that of Vitamins of Love, Happiness, Josh and Success. On the basis of deep market research and blind product taste results, Rasna is reformulated



as a vitamin, mineral, and glucose drink with real fruit extracts. The new ad is a result of extensive market research done Pan India to help us understand our customers and

their evolving needs. It focuses on the natural, healthier, and great taste aspects targeted towards SEC A and B households and repositions it as a tastier, thicker, and healthier drink that

satisfy rational aspects as well as working as a catalyst in providing energy, Josh, happiness, and the most important vitamin, Vitamin Love. Today Rasna is not only the world-famous innovation Rasna soft drink concentrate, but also Rasna Instant powders, which come in many formats viz. 750gm pouch makes 33 glasses, 500gm makes 22 glasses, 400 gm makes 17 glasses, sachet making single glass.

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

Ambala/HISAR: HDFC Bank and TD Bank Group (TD) today announced an expanded relationship supporting Indian students planning to study in Canada. With this agreement, TD and HDFC Bank are announcing a new referral program. HDFC Bank will refer students planning to study in Canada to TD's International Student GIC Program, which enables students to conveniently comply with the Government of Canada's Student Direct Stream (SDS)



study permit pathway. This referral partnership builds on the two banks' existing relationship where TD has acted as HDFC Bank's main correspondent banking partner for Canadian Dollar clearing since 2015. As part of the Canadian government's requirements to

apply for an expedited study permit, students are required to provide proof of financial support, which is accomplished via a Guaranteed Investment Certificate (GIC) from a participating Canadian financial institution. The TD International Student GIC Program is

designed to enable students to open accounts digitally and help them meet their study visa and living expense requirements. HDFC Bank is India's leading private sector bank. As of December 31, 2023, the Bank's distribution network was at 8,091 branches and 20,688 ATMs across 3,872 cities / towns. TD is the second largest Bank in Canada and sixth largest in North America by assets, and serves over 27.5 million customers around the globe.

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

GURUGRAM / FARIDABAD : ICICI Bank announces that its retail mobile banking app, iMobile Pay, has on-boarded over one crore customers of other banks. This significant achievement comes just over three years after ICICI Bank made the app open for customers of other banks. ICICI Bank was the pioneer in launching mobile banking app in 2008, expediting the way for digital banking in India. In December 2020, it became the first bank to make the app interoperable by extending the benefit of its services to customers of other banks. Since then, customers of any bank can use iMobile Pay by following a few simple steps: link their savings bank account with the app, generate a UPI ID and enjoy a wide range of convenient services. These include making payments to any UPI ID



or merchants, paying bills, recharging online and transferring money to any bank account, payment app and digital wallet. Further, users can also open a savings account, apply for a home loan or credit card among other banking services provided by ICICI Bank. With over one crore customers of other banks using iMobile Pay, there has been 26% growth in the overall transactions value in this financial year till the end of February 2024 (April-February), compared to the same period last year. During this period, the average ticket size increased by 16%. Commenting on this remarkable achieve-

ment, Mr. Sidhartha Mishra, Head- Digital Channels and Partnerships, ICICI Bank stated, "We have consistently aimed to innovate and simplify banking for our customers. The fact that our retail banking app has on-boarded over one crore customers from other banks in just three years is a testament to iMobile Pay's significant role in providing seamless digital banking experiences. With iMobile Pay, we are revolutionising the way customers manage their finances and conduct transactions. We have built a simple, seamless, secure, and accessible banking platform that offers over 400 services.

Tasva, the Indian Menswear Brand by Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail and Designer Tarun Tahiliani Continues Expansion; Unveils 6th Store in Delhi

NEW DELHI: Tasva, the Indian menswear brand by Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Ltd. and celebrated designer Tarun Tahiliani, is pleased to announce the launch of its sixth store in Delhi, situated in DLF Avenue, Saket. Strategically located within DLF Avenue, Saket, the new store is poised to serve the discerning clientele of the city and its environs, presenting a diverse array of meticulously curated wedding and occasion wear that seamlessly amalgamates comfort with style. The opening of Tasva's sixth store in Delhi marks a significant milestone in the brand's journey, underscoring its growth trajectory and unwavering dedication to delivering



unparalleled fashion and lifestyle products. Encompassing an expansive area of 2,041 sq. ft., the new store showcases an impressive assortment of kurtas, bundhis, sherwanis, bandhgalas, achkans, churidars, aligarhis, and an array of accessories such as safas, brooches, pocket squares, shawls, stoles, mojaris, and more. The store's elegant ambience harmonizes seamlessly with its exceptional collection, ensuring an unparalleled shopping experience. Tasva's team of profi-

cient stylists is committed to comprehending the unique preferences of customers and providing tailored assistance. Each garment epitomizes Tarun Tahiliani's distinctive style, meticulously crafted with impeccable attention to detail to achieve the quintessential Tasva fit. Leveraging fabrics such as silk, banarasi brocade, velvet, and cotton that pay homage to the rich legacy of Indian textiles, the collection features traditional embroideries such as zardozi, aari, chikankari, and

gota work, seamlessly blending the elegance of Indian craftsmanship with contemporary silhouettes for the global Indian. haring his thoughts on the unveiling of the new store, Tarun Tahiliani, the Chief Design Officer, Tasva, said, "Tasva has been a long-held dream of mine, made possible by Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail. The name itself represents the finest version of oneself, which we have worked hard to accomplish through the brand. For the longest time, I've heard that ethnic wear is uncomfortable, and Tasva is an attempt to rectify that. We have designed garments that provide our consumer, the Indian Man.

Man gets 3-week parole to arrange for fine amount

New Delhi: Delhi High Court has granted three weeks' parole to a man convicted under the NDPS Act on the ground of arranging funds for payment of fine in terms of the sentence awarded to him. "This court is of the considered opinion that since the parole apart from re-establishing social ties, is sought on the ground of arranging funds for payment of fine, there appear to be sufficient reasons for releasing the petitioner on parole," said Justice Anoop Kumar Mendiratta. The single judge bench observed that there were sufficient reasons for releasing the convict on parole, subject to him furnishing a personal bond of Rs 25,000 to the satisfaction of the jail superintendent. One Harish Yadav was convicted and sentenced to 10 years. Later, he was further sentenced to simple imprisonment of six months in default of payment of fine.

House asks CS to fix problems in govt hospitals within a week

New Delhi: Complaining of shortage of medicines and inadequate lab tests in hospitals, mohalla clinics and dispensaries, Delhi Assembly on Friday passed a resolution demanding a solution to the issue within a week.

The Legislative Assembly directed chief secretary Naresh Kumar to eliminate shortcomings in state-run health facilities and present a daily report to the health minister.

"A meeting of the Delhi Legislative Assembly will be convened on Friday, March 22, at 11 am, where the chief secretary will personally present a detailed report on this matter through the health minister," the resolution read. It was passed by a voice vote in the House. The resolution was brought after govt realised that a similar move last week to address water and sewer-related issues had resulted in Delhi Jal Board acting on a war footing under



direct supervision of the chief secretary and resolving a large number of problems raised by MLAs across the city.

Health minister Saurabh Bharadwaj said the city's poor were distressed due to the shortage of medicines and laboratory tests in mohalla clinics, hospitals and dispensaries.

He told the House that medicines and other supplies are procured through a standard process and new tenders are issued every year before the current one expires. "A tender was issued for medicines on Dec 21, 2022. The officials

continued to conduct technical evaluations of that tender while the previous one expired.

The current tender is also expiring in March but the supplies of medicines have not been received," Bharadwaj said. Due to this, medicines are running out. "Why is no action being taken against the health secretary, director-general of health services and officials of the central procurement agency who are obstructing the supply? Such officials should be prosecuted under the Criminal Act," Bharadwaj said.

Polls pitchfork illegal colonies to centrestage

NEW DELHI: It's inevitable that once the poll bugle is sounded in the capital, unauthorised colonies and their residents get the kind of attention they crave for round the year. Regularisation of these colonies and their redevelopment have always been one of the hot button issues raised ahead of parliamentary and assembly elections in the capital.

Since 2008, when Sheila Dikshit-led Congress govt promised regularisation of 1,639 such settlements, spread over



1,218 colonies, the assurances of better civic amenities, piped water supply, sewer connection to each household and better road network have been considered as the ticket to electoral success. With the issuing of provisional regularisation certificates to

2 Indian Coast Guard sailors arrested for minor's rape

Mumbai: Two navics (sailors) of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) were recently arrested for allegedly sexually assaulting a colleague's minor daughter in the city. The crime took place in the home of one of the accused last year. The two accused were

arrested following an FIR registered. The case was registered following a complaint by the minor through an email to senior ICG officials on March 8. The two have been booked for gang rape. The two sailors were produced before the court on

Wednesday, which remanded them to four days in police custody. They have been booked under Indian Penal Code sections 376DA (punishment for gang rape of a woman under 16), 506II (criminal intimidation) and 34 (common intention).

Unlock Aaftab for 8 hours a day: HC

New Delhi: Delhi High Court directed the Bihar Jail authorities to allow Aaftab Poonawala, the main accused in the Shraddha Walker murder case, to remain out in the open for eight hours in jail premises, before lodging him in a solitary cell at night. A bench of justices Suresh Kumar Kait and Girish Kathpalia granted the accused relief on a petition filed by him, contending that under the garb of security, he cannot be kept in solitary confinement. Aaftab's lawyer claimed that unlike other inmates who are taken out for eight hours a



day, Aaftab is allowed to be out for an hour each in the morning and evening before being sent back to solitary confinement for the remaining time. "We direct the jail authorities to unlock him for eight hours, as applicable to other prisoners, and during the night, he be lodged

in a solitary cell," the court observed, while hearing the plea. Justifying the strict conditions imposed on Aaftab, the counsel for the jail authorities submitted that the accused was not kept with other inmates due to a threat perception as he may be attacked. He said a trial court had earlier

passed directions with respect to giving security to Aaftab after he was attacked while being taken to the forensic science lab in Rohini. However, urging the court to intervene, Aaftab's lawyer said his client is in any case allowed "zero" human interaction in jail. He further informed the court that Aaftab is being kept in solitary confinement even though he has not committed any "jail offence". Aaftab is accused of strangling his live-in partner Walker and chopping her body into pieces in 2022.

ED opposes closure report in Rs 25,000-crore MSCB scam

MUMBAI: Enforcement Directorate (ED) has filed an intervention application in court opposing the closure report by Economic Offences Wing (EOW) in the Rs 25,000-crore Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank (MSCB) scam. It is the second time the agency has filed such an application. The first one was rejected four years ago when the case was under investigation. Recently, EOW submitted a closure report in the MSCB scam after further investigation against Dy CM Ajit



Pawar and MLA Rohit Pawar, prompting ED to intervene. ED initial intervention in 2020 came before filing of the chargesheet in the money laundering case that the agency was investigating. The court had rejected the ED inter-

vention application, stating that the agency was not the complainant or the aggrieved party. Now since the chargesheet has been filed in the case and the court had taken cognisance of it, ED took the stand that it is an 'aggrieved' party

now as the EOW's closure report will affect their case. In 2023, ED filed its first chargesheet against Jarandeshwar Sugar Mills, linked to deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar.

The chargesheet mentioned Ajit Pawar's connection to the company but did not name him as an accused. Subsequently, a supplementary chargesheet was filed naming NCP MLA Prajakt Tanpure and others. Recently, ED attached a sugar mill owned by a company of Rohit Pawar.

Guidelines issued to make campuses inclusive for transpersons

MUMBAI: In an effort to make college campuses more inclusive, the state govt has for the first time come out with detailed guidelines for transgender students. Initiating action against colleges for refusing admissions on the basis of gender, reserving a section in hostels for transgender students and establishing cells to address issues of discrimination, mental harassment, sexual exploitation or any other violence against them, are some of the guidelines enlisted in the government resolution (GR) on Friday. The GR has come close on the heels of the govt's first-ever policy for transgender individuals approved by the cabinet earlier this week. In December last year, the department had asked colleges and



universities to offer free-of-cost education to transgender students and bear their entire

tuition fees. Institutions have been asked to strictly follow the fee waiver policy in the new guidelines. These are in line with the National Education Policy, 2020, that speaks about making campuses inclusive for all students. A govt official said the department's policy was ready and since the state came out with its overarching policy, they also decided to release specific guidelines for higher

education institutions. To cater to the needs of all transgender students, colleges are expected to appoint coordinators to provide counselling, academic guidance and career advice. All non-agricultural universities, private and deemed universities and affiliated colleges in the state are expected to strictly follow the provisions of The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, stated the guidelines. Institutions need to adopt an inclusive policy to tackle issues of gender bias, negligence and segregation based on sexuality, it added. ensure equal opportunities for these students, institutions should organise awareness activities for both students and teaching/non-teaching staff.

Cattle traders 'forced to pay protection money', lodge plaint

MUMBAI: The cattle traders have lodged a complaint that despite paying all the government taxes, including cattle taxes, they are forced to pay "protection money" to the goons on the highway. Adil Kathawala, a cattle trader, has lodged an FIR at Deonar police station against four persons, including two transporters who threatened them to book them in false cases and extorted Rs 60 per cattle every time they transported goats to Karnataka traders.

The Deonar police have booked Ganesh Nakate, Vinod Nakate, and Pratik Nanaware, who had been extorting money from the cattle traders for several months. The cattle traders have been regularly paying



the protection money of Rs 60 per goat to transport them out of Mumbai. However, trouble started in January when the extortionists stopped one of Kathawala's trucks carrying 196 goats at Kalamboli in Navi Mumbai for six hours, leading to the death of nine goats, causing a huge loss to the trader. The trader decided not to pay them.

Despite the losses incurred, the extortionists kept calling, threatening, and demanding money, which irked the traders. All traders decided to protest and lodge a complaint, said a police official. Kathawala, in his complaint, alleged that he has been in the cattle trade business since 1997 and supplies cattle to various other parts of the state at

wholesale rates. The cattle traders knew the risks involved in challenging the extortionists, who had until then operated with impunity. However, the traders also recognized the importance of standing up for their rights and the need to send a strong message that they would no longer tolerate such exploitation.

"Karnataka butchers who often come to Deonar abattoir to buy goats decided that we will send them goats, and they will pay for the transportation. So four to five traders supplied them with goats. Six months back, we engaged Nakate and Vinod Nakate for transporting goats to Karnataka. One truck carries around 200 goats at one time

LG nod for special zones at IGI Airport

New Delhi: LG VK Saxena has given the nod for setting up a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) and Free Trade Zone (FTZ) at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport in the capital.

SEZ and FTZ will be related to cargo infrastructure and other allied services. Once operationalised, they will give a fillip to the logistics sector and catalyse economic growth apart from spinoffs for generating employment, the LG office said.

Officials said LG approved the proposal, taking note of the strategic importance of developing an SEZ at the airport hub after ensuring that DDA would give the go-ahead for the same as per the provisions of the Master Plan of Delhi 2021. To be spread over an area of nearly five acres, the SEZ would create economic activities through exports, warehousing, trading and related services at the airport complex. "It will also liberalise and reduce procedural complexities in terms of application.

Tata Sons looks to sell Rs 9,000 crore TCS shares to reduce debt



MUMBAI: Tata Sons is looking to raise about Rs 9,362 crore (\$1.1 billion) from selling the shares of its cash cow unit Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on Tuesday as it plans to reduce debt on its books. The holding company of the \$150-billion salt-to-software conglomerate aims to restructure its balance sheet to avoid a mandatory public listing under RBI's 'upper layer' NBFC norms. The 'upper layer' NBFC tag requires companies to follow a stringent disciplinary structure with a mandatory listing within three years of being notified. According to Tata Sons' FY23 report, it has debt of Rs 21,909 crore and cash & bank balances of Rs 451 crore on its books. RBI rules require

Tata Sons, which is registered as a core investment company with the banking regulator, to be listed by Sept 2025. But the company, controlled by a group of public foundations, Tata Trusts, has been exploring options to avoid the IPO. According to RBI, for the CIC status, a firm has to meet two conditions: First, it has to have an asset size of more than Rs 100 crore, and second, it has to have public funds. If either of the two conditions fail, then it cannot continue to be registered as a CIC with the regulator. Tata Sons' assets are mainly its investments in operating companies like TCS, Tata Motors and Tata Steel, and they are worth more than Rs 100 crore.

Elon Musk defends ketamine use, says it's beneficial for Tesla investors

Elon Musk defends ketamine use, says it's beneficial for Tesla investors "For investors, if there's something I'm taking, I should keep taking it," Musk said on his usage of ketamine. In an interview released on Monday, Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk openly discussed his use of ketamine, a drug known for treating depression and managing pain. The entrepreneur, aged 52, acknowledged his use of the anesthetic—commonly utilized for pain relief and depression treatment—after US media reports suggested his drug consumption was unsettling investors. Musk suggested that his prescribed usage of ketamine plays a role in his effective management and subsequently benefits Tesla investors. "Ketamine is helpful for getting one outside of a negative frame of mind.

Opt for Hybrid funds to help cut tax outgo - 10 mutual fund

Wealth managers recommend conservative investors to opt for hybrid schemes before the financial year closes to save on taxes in mutual fund investments. The government's removal of indexation benefits for pure debt schemes in Budget 2023-24 shifts focus to hybrid funds with 35%-65% equity allocation for tax efficiency.

Tax planning guide: Opt for Hybrid funds to help cut tax outgo - 10 mutual fund schemes to consider

Tax benefits of hybrid funds: As the financial year comes to an end, it's important to keep a tab on your tax outgo for



FY 2023-24. Wealth managers advise conservative investors to consider hybrid schemes before the financial year ends to save on taxes in mutual fund investments, states a report. The government's removal of indexation benefits for pure debt schemes in Budget 2023-

24 makes hybrid funds with 35% to 65% equity allocation a viable option. Indexation, which adjusts inflation with the asset's cost, lowers tax liability. Certain schemes like balanced hybrid, multi-asset, and dynamic asset allocation still offer indexation benefits.

Bank of Japan ends negative rates, closing era of radical policy

TOKYO: The Bank of Japan ended eight years of negative interest rates and other remnants of its unorthodox policy on Tuesday, making a historic shift away from a focus of reflation growth with decades of massive monetary stimulus. While the move will be Japan's first

interest rate hike in 17 years, it still keeps rates stuck around zero as a fragile economic recovery forces the central bank to go slow in any further rise in borrowing costs, analysts say. The shift makes Japan the last central bank to exit negative rates and ends an era in which

policymakers around the world sought to prop up growth through cheap money and unconventional monetary tools. In a widely expected decision, the BOJ ditched a policy put in place since 2016 that applied a 0.1% charge on some excess reserves financial institutions.

LIC shares slip after 17% salary hike

MUMBAI: Shares of LIC were down by over 2% on Monday after the corporation announced a 17% wage revision. The salary increase was announced by govt on Friday before the election code of conduct kicked in a day later. The corporation's shares are now down 23% from the 52-week high of Rs 1,175 on Feb 9. On Friday, the country's largest insurance company said that govt approved a wage revision for LIC employees, effective August 1, 2022.



The corporation explained the hike, stating that a revision occurs once every five years. The statement said that due to the hike, there will be a 17% upward revision in the overall wage bill.

The increase aligns with the wage negotiation deal signed between the Indian Banks' Association and bank employees. LIC's wage revision incorporates an enhancement in NPS contribution from

10% to 14% for nearly 24,000 employees who joined after April 1, 2010. TNN We also published the following articles recently Noida revises fee for three parking clusters Noida Authority approved three contractors for surface parking in city clusters with revised fees. New tender initiated after scrapping previous contract. Residents get relief with revised parking fees. Multilevel facilities accommodate 12,000 vehicles.

China accuses Evergrande of \$78 billion fraud, among worst ever

China Evergrande Group's alleged \$78 billion revenue overstatement escalates the legal peril of founder Hui Ka Yan, who now stands at the center of one of the biggest financial fraud cases in history. The nation's top securities regulator said the developer's onshore unit inflated revenue by recognizing sales in advance in the two years through 2020 that led up to its default. It imposed a 4.18 billion yuan (\$581 million) fine against the unit. Evergrande's alleged fraud dwarfs that of



Luckin Coffee Inc. and Enron Corp., dealing a blow to the reputation of its former auditor and the country's financial oversight. It fuels concern about how widespread such accounting issues are,

just as the new China Securities Regulatory Commission chairman is trying to tighten oversight. "The CSRC fines may serve as a warning to owners of other defaulted developers that failing to collabo-

rate with authorities over debt restructuring could mark the latest blow for Hui, once among Asia's richest tycoons, who oversaw a sprawling empire that spanned real estate to electric vehicles. Evergrande was one of China's biggest developers, taking on massive debt to expand across the country as condo sales boomed. The group received a liquidation order from a Hong Kong court in January, marking the largest collapse in China's three-year real estate crisis.

Millionaire grandchildren! Not just Narayana Murthy's grandson, these Infosys co-founders' grandkids also hold stake in company

Millionaire grandchildren of Infosys founders! Infosys founder NR Narayana Murthy gifted his four-month-old grandson shares worth over Rs 240 crore, making him one of India's youngest millionaires. The transfer of 15,00,000 Infosys shares reduced Murthy's stake from 0.40% to 0.36%. But do you know that other grandchildren of Infosys co-founders also hold stakes in the company. Millionaire grandchildren! Not just Narayana Murthy's grandson, these Infosys co-founders' grandkids also hold stake in company



his four-month-old grandson. Ekagrah is the third grandchild of Narayana Murthy and his wife, author-philanthropist Sudha Murthy. Ekagrah was born to Rohan Murthy and Aparna Krishnan in November last year. The 0.04% stake is valued at over Rs 240 crore, making Ekagrah Rohan Murthy one of the youngest millionaires in India. He is the youngest in the Infosys promoter group. Following this transaction, which was revealed in an exchange filing, Narayana Murthy's stake in Infosys

has come down to 0.36%. The stock exchange filing specified the transfer of shares "from Narayana Murthy-promoter to master Ekagrah Rohan Murthy-promoter group." Narayana Murthy's daughter Akshata Murthy, also the First Lady of the UK, has two daughters, Krishna and Anoushka. Within the Murthy family, Akshata holds a 1.05% stake in Infosys, while her brother Rohan has a 1.64% stake, and their mother, Sudha Murthy, owns a 0.93% stake.

Adani calls report on bribery probe by US prosecutors false

Adani Group companies have denied receiving any notice from the US Department of justice regarding bribery allegations. US prosecutors investigate potential bribery involving Adani entity and founder Gautam Adani, including Indian renewable energy company Azure Power Global Ltd. Adani Enterprises and Ports refute allegations, stressing commitment to high governance standards and anti-corruption laws.

Adani calls report on bribery probe by US prosecutors false Adani Group companies haven't received any notice from the US Department of justice regarding a probe into whether the Indian conglomerate may have engaged in bribery, according to exchange filings. Bloomberg News reported last week, citing people with direct knowledge of the matter, that US prosecutors have widened their prob-

le of the Adani Group to focus on whether an Adani entity may have engaged in bribery as well as the conduct of the conglomerate's billionaire founder Gautam Adani. The probe, which is also looking at Indian renewable energy company Azure Power Global Ltd., is being handled by the US Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York and the Justice Department's fraud unit in Washington.

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issues are, just as the new China Securities Regulatory Commission chairman is trying to tighten oversight. "The CSRC fines may serve as a warning to owners of other defaulted developers that failing to collabo-

rate with authorities over debt restructuring could mark the latest blow for Hui, once among Asia's richest tycoons, who oversaw a sprawling empire that spanned real estate to electric vehicles. Evergrande was one of China's biggest developers, taking on massive debt to expand across the country as condo sales boomed. The group received a liquidation order from a Hong Kong court in January, marking the largest collapse in China's three-year real estate crisis.

Star Health eyes NRI business through GIFT

CHENNAI: Star Health and Allied Insurance Company will offer dollar-denominated insurance from GIFT City for NRIs. The company is launching international insurance product suite from the facility in FY25. Star Health is the first health insurance company to be granted registration to establish an International Financial Services Centre international office in GIFT City. It plans to commence operations with a branch by the end of this month, facilitating access to health insurance solutions in US dollars for the global Indian community, the company said in a statement on Monday. Noting that the facility will enable the company to significantly expand its global reach and business, it said, the company will offer NRI-focused insurance.

Supreme Court stays government notification activating fact-check unit

NEW DELHI: Putting a premium on freedom of speech and expression on internet, a three-judge Supreme Court bench on Thursday stayed the Centre's March 20 notification operationalising PIB's fact check unit (FCU), which is intended to stop fake posts and distortions of actions of Union govt. The SC said the matter involves serious constitutional issues related to Article 19 freedoms. Setting aside Bombay HC's order that had refused to grant an interim stay on setting up a fact check unit to identify fake and false content on digital media about



the Centre, the Supreme Court on Thursday said, "The impact of the rule on fundamental right of speech and expression would call for an analysis by HC." HC's third judge, to whom petitions have been assigned after a

split verdict from division bench, is scheduled to commence hearing on FCU's validity from April 15. Solicitor general Tushar Mehta repeatedly pleaded for at least a day's time to respond to appeals

filed by Kunal Kamra and Editors Guild on the ground that he has not been provided copies of the petitions and that he would like to give a proper response based on official documents about FCU. Before brushing aside

SG's plea about being handicapped to respond in the absence of papers, SC bench of CJI D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra gave a detailed hearing to senior advocate Darius Khambata and lawyer Shadan Farasat who dug in with their argument that FCU would erase freedom of speech as it would ask intermediaries to take down any post that was critical of govt. It is the most inappropriate time, given that the elections are round the corner, to notify the FCU under PIB, which is the mouthpiece of Union govt.

NEW DELHI: Setting aside Bombay HC's order that had refused to grant an interim stay on setting up a fact check unit (FCU) to identify fake and false content on digital media about Centre, Supreme Court on Thursday said, "Impact of the rule on fundamental right of speech and expression will call for an analysis by high court." HC's third judge, to whom petitions were assigned after a split verdict from division bench, is scheduled to commence hearing on FCU's validity from April 15. Solicitor general Tushar Mehta repeatedly pleaded for at least a day's time to respond to appeals filed by Kunal Kamra and Editors Guild on ground that he has not been provided copies of the petitions and that he would like to give a proper response based on official documents about FCU. Before brushing aside SG's plea about being



handicapped to respond in absence of papers, SC bench of CJI D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra gave a detailed hearing to senior advocate Darius Khambata and lawyer Shadan Farasat who dug in with their argument that FCU would erase freedom of speech as it would ask intermediaries to take down any post that was critical of govt. It is the most inappropriate time, given that elections are round the corner, to notify FCU under PIB, which is the mouthpiece of Union govt, they said. Khambata said interme-

diaries are not ready to challenge rules for fear of losing "safe harbour" status under Information and Technology Rules. SG kept repeating his plea for a day's time to enable him to prepare a formal response instead of talking from memory of what he had argued before Bombay HC, where a division bench had given a split verdict. The matter has now been assigned to a third judge to determine which opinion of the two judges in the division bench was correct - one striking down Rule 3(1)(b)(v) and the other upholding it.

Drive on wrong side, you could land in prison

NAGPUR: Nagpur has become the first city in Maharashtra to file FIRs, instead of levying fines, against people driving on the wrong side. Between March 4 and 19, 265 FIRs were filed. Police say the action is likely to deter violators as they would now be compelled to go to court for a bail. The stern measure is seen as a fall out of a terse observation of the Nagpur bench of Bombay High Court division bench, comprising justices Nitin Sambre and Abhay Mantri, which said that "merely issuing challans would not help in

strictly enforcing the rules". Commissioner of police Ravinder Singal told TOI that this year, so far, 76 people have died on roads, which is less in comparison to last year. "The focussed action against violations like wrong-side driving has helped curb the number of accident deaths," he said. "Usually, e-challans are issued against such violators, but since wrong-side driving is rampant, we started registering FIRs instead. Police will continue to act tough against people found violating traffic rules and endangering lives

of others," said Deputy commissioner of police (traffic) Shashikant Satao, adding that Nagpur is the first in the state to start filing FIR against wrong-way driving. The number of challans issued for wrong-side driving has doubled in a year. In 2022, the number was 3,957, which went up to 6,554 in 2023. However, traffic police admit that a significant number of violators get past the traffic policemen or CCTV cameras unscathed. During a tour of the city, found that despite having fairly wide roads.

Food delivery boy arrested for harassing software engineer

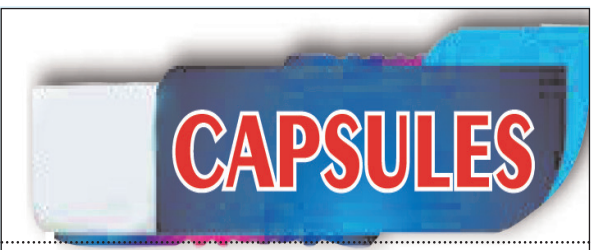
Bengaluru: A 27-year-old delivery boy of an online food aggregator was arrested on Thursday for allegedly harassing a software engineer at her home in AECS Layout, south-east Bengaluru, on March 17. Akash B, from Chincholi in Kalaburagi district, who stays at a PG accommodation in Kundalahalli in Bengaluru, has been accused of sexually harassing the 30-year-old woman, Anitha (name changed), after he delivered dosa to her home. During interrogation, Akash claimed he had touched her "accidentally" and had "no bad intentions". But he was silent when asked why he had followed her into the kitchen though she had asked him to wait near the door for water. TOI had reported about the incident, 'Food delivery boy sexually harasses techie, 30, at home', in these columns on Thursday. Anitha said as Akash delivered the food she had ordered online around 6.45pm, she asked him as "a matter



of courtesy" if he would like to have some water. Akash left the place after having a glass of water only to return within a few seconds. He asked Anitha to allow him to use her washroom and the engineer obliged. After coming out, he again asked for water. When she went into the kitchen to bring water, he followed her and allegedly grabbed her hand. Anitha said she took a frying pan and hit Akash on his back who later escaped using the stairs. A senior police officer said Akash has been staying in the city for the last four years. He had earlier worked as a delivery boy for various companies and has been associated with his current firm.

Centre notifies PIB's fact check unit

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



Fans stumped by fake IPL tickets

CHENNAI: As another season of Indian Premier League (IPL) begins, connemen have struck again by creating a fake website and selling tickets for a non-existent stand at Chepauk, home to Chennai Super Kings. The scamsters put up a website named book.myshow-premium.net, which was designed to resemble the official ticketing portal, bookmyshow.com. The counterfeit site offered what appeared to be early access to match tickets for those who registered a new account. It listed tickets at prices starting from ₹1,650, which were lower than the prices (starting ₹1,700) set by Chennai Super Kings (CSK). On the blackmarket, they cost upwards of ₹25,000. The fake website offered tickets in the 'A-Upper' stand at Chepauk for the CSK vs Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) match on Friday, March 22, though the stand had been demolished years ago to make way for the new Kalaingar M Karunanidhi (KMK) stand. After users completed registration, the fraudulent site navigated them through a payment process that was different from usual, by asking for payments to be made to a specific UPI ID and to then submit transaction details. A confirmation message and an order ID would then appear, falsely congratulating the user. Unlike legitimate platforms that issue a QR-code e-ticket right away, this scam site claimed that tickets would be emailed to the user's registered address only 12 hours before the match. Rohit, who fell victim to the scam, spent ₹8,250 for five tickets following a notification on his phone that offered early access to tickets. He got suspicious after viewing the final transaction page, which led him to check the legitimacy of the operation with the bookmyshow help centre. That's when he realised he had been conned. We also published the following articles recently Work in progress: QR-coded tickets, no signage stump commuters at Esplanade Esplanade's Green line debut faced signage and QR scanner issues, resolved by Metro staffers. Lighting improved, volunteers guided, and different ticketing systems were clarified to passengers. The station continues work for better operations.

Army veteran gets BJP ticket from DK

Captain Brijesh Chowta, Indian Army veteran, and entrepreneur, is the BJP candidate for Dakshina Kannada Lok Sabha. Chowta served in Assam and Manipur with the Ghatk team. His commitment includes the Udupi-Chikkamagaluru constituency. New parents urge Paris Olympics ticket rule change to allow infants without individual seats. Margaux Giddings and Tom Baker seek policy revision, while Adrien Pol and others hope for a U-turn against discriminatory regulations.

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

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



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

Upon landing at an airport in London, approximately at 7:30 pm, the passenger received initial medical attention before being transported to a hospital for further treatment. EVA Air confirmed the occurrence on the BR67 Bangkok-London flight on March 15, though the specific London airport involved was not disclosed.

HC notice to govt on honoraria to imams, muezzins

New Delhi: Delhi High Court on Thursday issued notice to Delhi govt and Delhi Waqf Board on a PIL challenging govt's policy of utilising its funds to pay salaries/honoraria to imams and muezzins.

The court said that if help is extended to one institution, other similar religious institutions would also come forward seeking such help.

The court, impleading Delhi govt's finance department as a party in the case, ordered all the respondents to file their responses in four weeks. The next hearing is on July 22. The court was hearing a PIL by Singh, a lawyer, stating that the Constitution provides that the state shall be secular and, therefore, by paying salaries/honoraria to people of one religion, Delhi govt's policy to give financial help to people of one religion goes against the Constitution.

New Delhi: Most signboards on Mathura Road and Bhairon Marg now indicate the way to Bharat Mandapam instead of Pragati Maidan.

The entire exhibition centre has now been renamed Bharat Mandapam, even on the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) website. ITPO officials said the name of the entire complex had been changed although there was no written direction or order available on ITPO's website, which is under the Union ministry of commerce. On Thursday, many workers were seen putting up the

Adieu to Pragati Maidan, road signs read Bharat Mandapam



new signboards, informing the public on how to reach the different gates of Bharat Mandapam. Some signboards, for example at the underground transit corridor and other nearby roads, still read Pragati Maidan. Originally, under the redevelopment plan of

the entire Pragati Maidan complex — which included a gigantic international exhibition-cum-convention centre — this complex was named Bharat Mandapam by Prime Minister before the G20 Summit. But the entire 123-acre complex was not renamed until now.

According to the ITPO website, the convention centre project was conceptualised as per the directions of the prime minister in Dec 2015. The cabinet committee on economic affairs approved it in Jan 2017. The project has a total built-up area of 4.2 million square feet, with the convention centre that can accommodate 7,000 people, six exhibition halls with an area of 1.5 lakh square metres and underground parking. If one takes Mathura Road, an oval orange structure stands tall inside the complex. This convention centre, spread over an area of four acres.