

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Title Code - UPENG04488

NATIONAL ENGLISH DAILY

MORNING EDITION PRAYAGRAJ

Sunday 24 March, 2024

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

I'll be back soon': Wife reads out Kejriwal's first message from jail

“Together, we have to make India a great country, the strongest and number one country in the world”



NEW DELHI: CM Arvind Kejriwal's wife, Sunita, is not often seen making public speeches. But on Saturday, with her husband in Enforcement Directorate's custody, she read a message from the CM. In it, the AAP national convener claimed he couldn't be kept behind bars for long and would return to fulfil his promises to Delhi's people. In a digital address streamed live on AAP's social media channels from the CM's residence in Civil Lines, Sunita quoted her husband as saying that he was born to fight wars and was destined for still bigger challenges. "Whether in jail or outside, every moment of my life is dedicated to

the country's service. Every drop of my blood is dedicated to the country," she read. A former IRS officer, Sunita, has so far kept away from active politics. She was recorded reading the letter in the same office in the CM's residence from which the CM regularly addressed the media digitally, with photographs of Bhim Rao Ambedkar and Bhagat Singh and the Indian flag forming the backdrop. He also asked people not to hate BJP for his arrest. "They are our brothers and sisters," he said in his message. "Aisi salakhein nahin jo aapke bhai bete ko zyada din

forward movement. Kejriwal also appealed to AAP volunteers not to stop social and public service just because he was in custody. He assured the women of Delhi that he would fulfil the promise of providing them the monthly Rs 1,000 as honorarium announced in the state budget after his release. "I appeal to all my mothers and sisters to have faith in me. I will soon come back and fulfil my promises. Has it ever happened that Kejriwal hasn't fulfilled his promises?" he said. Urging women to visit temples at least once to pray and seek god's blessings for him, Kejriwal said he must have done "virtuous work" in his previous birth to have been born in a great country like India. Reacting to Sunita Kejriwal's address, BJP maintained AAP was playing the victim card as it is wont to. Delhi BJP secretary Bansuri Swaraj said Saturday's digital address was a "reflection of her own suffering and pain".

India slams Germany remarks on Kejriwal as 'interference'

NEW DELHI: India on Saturday lodged a "strong protest" with Germany against its foreign office spokesperson's remarks on the arrest of Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal, accusing Berlin of undermining the independence of Indian judiciary with its "biased assumptions" about what is an internal matter of India. Calling for a fair trial for Kejriwal in the Delhi excise policy scam case, the German foreign ministry had reminded Indian authorities that presumption of innocence is central to the rule of law. The ministry of external affairs (MEA) summoned the German deputy chief of mission in New Delhi and conveyed a strong protest against their foreign office spokesperson Sebastian Fischer's comments on India's internal affairs.



Fischer made the comment on Friday asked about the arrest at a govt press conference. "We see such remarks as interfering in our judicial process and undermining the independence of our judiciary," said MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal. "India is a vibrant and robust democracy with rule of law. As in all legal cases in the country, and elsewhere in the democratic world, law will take its own course in the instant

matter. Biased assumptions made on this account are most unwarranted," he added. Germany had said it expected that the standards regarding the independence of the judiciary and basic democratic principles will also apply in this case. The official was responding to a question about the arrest of Kejriwal just before the elections and the fact that the Indian Opposition sees the action as politically motivated.

BJP slams Punjab excise policy, seeks probe by central agencies

CHANDIGARH: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) politicians on Saturday sought probes by central agencies into the Sangrur hooch tragedy, in which 21 people have died so far, and of Punjab's excise policy, but Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) hit back saying its govt had helped increase the state's excise revenue. While BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh demanded a CBI investigation, a Punjab BJP delegation led by state chief Sunil Jakhar approached Punjab chief electoral officer (CEO) Sibin C to demand an Enforcement Directorate (ED) probe into "planned corruption" in Punjab's excise policy.

Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma lays down 'indigenous' rules for Bangladesh-origin Muslims

GUWAHATI: Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday laid down certain conditions for the migrant Bangladesh-origin Bengali-speaking Muslims, called "miya", if they want to be recognised as indigenous people of the state: "They should stop having more than two children and practising polygamy as it is not the culture of Assamese people. If they want to become indigenous, they cannot marry off their minor daughters." He wondered how could Bengali-speaking Muslims claim to be indigenous if they encroached on 'satras' (Vaishnavite monasteries) land. "Instead of sending your children to madrassas, educate them to become doctors and engineers if you want to be called indigenous," Sarma said, adding, they should also start sending their daughters to schools and give them the right over their fathers' properties. "These are the differences between them and the indigenous people of the state. If they can give up these practices and imbibe the culture of Assamese people, at some point of time they too can become indigenous," Sarma said. Assam has the second largest population of Muslims after J&K. The 2011 census states that Muslims account for over 34% of Assam's total population. But this Muslim population in the state is of two distinct ethnicities - Bengali-speaking and Bangladesh-origin migrant Muslims and Assamese-speaking indigenous Muslims. In 2022, the Assam cabinet recognised around 40 lakh Assamese-speaking Muslims of the state, who do not have any history of migration from Bangladesh, as "indigenous Assamese Muslims" and a sub-group of the greater native Assamese community, making a clear distinction between the two groups of Muslims.

Sukhu on thin ice as 6 Congress rebels, 3 independent MLAs join BJP

Deepening the political crisis in Himachal Pradesh and posing a serious threat to the Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu govt in the state, six disqualified Congress legislators and three independents MLAs joined BJP in New Delhi on Saturday. The independent MLAs had resigned on Friday. They hit out at the Cong govt in the state, saying



development work join BJP Anurag has stalled since it Thakur said six of the former lawmakers (in pic), despite on thin ice as 6 being Congress Congress rebels, 3 MLAs, supported independent MLAs BJP in the recent

Rajya Sabha elections as they chose to reflect the 'public anger against the Sukhu govt' **NEW DELHI:** Deepening the political crisis in Himachal Pradesh and posing a serious threat to the Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu govt in the state, six disqualified Congress legislators and three independents MLA..

PM chairs 3rd poll meet, final BJP list likely soon

NEW DELHI: The fifth and final list of BJP candidates, including those who would face the poll battle in first phase, is likely to be announced soon as the party's third central election committee meeting in presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi was held on Saturday. Top BJP leaders including PM Modi, party president JP Nadda, home minister Amit Shah, defence



minister Rajnath Singh, Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath, deputy CMs Brijesh Pathak and Keshav Prasad Maurya, and other committee members were present at the meeting. So far, BJP has

released four lists with 291 names. The latest list, unveiled recently, featured candidates from Tamil Nadu, a state set to vote in the initial phase on April 19. Lok Sabha elections, spanning 543 seats, are scheduled to be conducted in seven phases commencing from April 19. With a staggering 97 crore eligible voters, this election is anticipated to be a significant democratic exercise.

Ask Centre to release drought relief funds, Karnataka tells Supreme Court

BENGALURU: Karnataka govt on Saturday moved the Supreme Court seeking a direction to the Centre to release drought relief funds to the state under Natural Disaster Management Act (NDMA). The writ petition filed under Article 32 of the Constitution is scheduled for a hearing next week. "We are forced to wage a legal battle after waiting for five months. Farmers are under severe stress due to the drought and are demanding subsidies. Govt must release a Rs 4,600-crore input subsidy, and we are waiting for a Rs 18,171-crore compensation package under the



National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF)," chief minister Siddaramaiah said. He accused the Centre of breaching provisions of the NDMA. "The state govt presented its initial memorandum in September 2023, and an inter-ministerial central team conducted its visit in the first week of October 2023. We received information that the team submitted its report on October 20. Despite numerous meetings with the PM and other Union ministers, no funds have been released," said the CM. When questioned about the petition's locus, the CM asserted that the Centre's violation of a law enacted by Parliament provides the state govt with a "cause for action". According to NDMA, the CM said, the centre is mandated to dispatch an inter-ministerial central team to drought-affected states within a week of receiving a memorandum requesting drought relief funds, and it is obligated.

Ludicrous, says Jaishankar on China's claims over Arunachal

External affairs minister S Jaishankar on Saturday dismissed China's repeated claims on Arunachal Pradesh as "ludicrous" and asserted that the frontier state was a "natural part of India". In probably his first public comments on China's frequent claims. on Arunachal Pradesh and its opposition to Indian leaders visiting the state, Jaishankar said it was not a new issue. "This is not a new issue. I mean China has laid claim, it has expanded its claim. The claims are ludicrous to begin with and remain ludicrous today," he said in response to a question after delivering a lecture at the prestigious Institute of South Asian,

Arvind Kejriwal moves High Court against 'illegal' arrest ahead of polls

NEW DELHI: Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal moved high court on Saturday, challenging his "illegal" arrest and subsequent remand by Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case linked to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam. While the plea sought urgent hearing, possibly on Sunday, sources in high court indicated that the matter will be listed in due course, on or after Wednesday (March 27) when HC reopens after Holi vacation. On Friday, a trial court had remanded him in ED's custody till March 28 "for his detailed and sustained interrogation". In his plea, Kejriwal, who was apprehended in a swift move by ED on Friday night, contended that his arrest and remand were ille-

gal and that he was entitled to be released from custody immediately. ED had arrested Kejriwal hours after the high court refused to grant him protection from coercive action by the central agency. This is the third time in a week that the chief minister has knocked on the doors of the high court. Earlier, he had moved court for quashing and setting aside all proceedings, including the ED summonses issued against him. In that petition, Kejriwal said he is a "vocal critic" of the ruling party, an opposition leader and a partner in the INDIA bloc, and ED, being under Centre's control, had been "weaponised". After the court sought ED's stand on that plea.

Chief Minister Naib Saini is another name of simplicity: Munish Kathwad

Kaithal: Senior BJP leader and state executive member Munish Kathwad met Chief Minister Nayab Saini at the Chief Minister's residence and congratulated him and congratulated him on assuming the charge of the post of Chief Minister. Munish Kathwad said that during this, there was a detailed discussion on various political issues and especially the development work of Kaithal Assembly was also discussed. Munish Kathwad said that another name of simplicity is Naib Saini. Everyone can meet Naib Saini as the Chief Minister because he is a public leader. Munish said that under the leadership of CM Nayab Saini, we will register a historic victory on 10 out of 10 Lok Sabha seats of Haryana because CM Nayab Saini is a grassroots leader and he knows the problems of the people at the grassroots level. It is



his specialty to communicate directly with people and solve their problems immediately. He said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Nayab Saini, under the policy of Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas, all the work will be done with complete honesty and transparency and there will be a tsunami, not a wave of BJP, in the state. Munish Kathwad said that the country is moving towards a Congress-free India because Congress has done nothing except looting the country. He said that in the last 10 years, the Central and State Governments have done equal

development work in every section and every area under the policy of Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas with complete honesty and transparency. The benefit of which they will get in the upcoming Lok Sabha and Assembly elections. He said that today under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi, the country is becoming famous all over the world and India's economy is continuously getting stronger. Certainly the people of the country will work to ensure BJP registers a historic victory on more than 400 Lok Sabha seats in the Lok Sabha elections. He said that the oppo-

Crucial to address Tuberculosis & its challenges: Fortis Gurugram organizes programme to raise awareness on rising threat of tuberculosis

Gurugram : On the occasion of World Tuberculosis Day (March 24), Fortis Memorial Research Institute, Gurugram organized an enlightening scientific session dedicated to discussing the significant challenges posed by tuberculosis. The session aimed to explain the disease's escalating virulence and resistance, alongside the latest advancements in diagnostic techniques and comprehensive management strategies to end TB. The esteemed Guests of Honour at the programme were Dr Sunil Khetarpal, Director-AHPI, Dr Rakesh PS – Senior Technical Advisor, iDEFEAT TB Project, The Union and Dr Ajay Sharma, President IMA – Gurugram. The programme highlighted the critical role of the private sector in TB eradication, the current standards of TB care in India, and key insights into the disease's diagnosis and early symptoms, contributing



to the national endeavor towards a TB Mukt Bharat. The programme featured participants from Fortis Healthcare, including Mr. Mahipal Bhanot, Senior Vice President and Business Head at Fortis Memorial Research Institute, Gurugram. Dr. Gurvinder Kaur, Facility Director, Fortis Memorial Research Institute, Gurugram, Dr. Manoj Kumar Goel, Director and Unit Head of Pulmonology, Fortis Memorial Research Institute, Gurugram, and Dr. Neha Rastogi Panda, Consultant in Infectious Diseases at Fortis Memorial Research Institute, Gurugram, were among the attendees. Additionally, other

esteemed doctors from the hospital contributed to the success of the program. Dr Manoj Kumar Goel, Director and Unit Head, Pulmonology, Fortis Memorial Research Institute, Gurugram said, "It is important to address tuberculosis and the challenges in screening, diagnosis, and treatment of this deadly disease. Highlighting the symptoms and solutions with communication campaigns is key to tackling the problem. Additionally, raising awareness about the link between tobacco use and TB is key to the mission. Such programs help in exchanging and implying knowledge for better vision and scope in the treatment of TB."

Man gets RI for sexually harassing minor online

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

CP Radhakrishnan appointed as governor of Telangana

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

The Anatomy of Fake News Factories: Unraveling the Damage to Brands

NEW DELHI : In today's digital age, the proliferation of fake news has become a menacing force, capable of wreaking havoc on individuals, institutions, and even entire industries. Among the victims of this epidemic are brands, which often find themselves ensnared in webs of misinformation that tarnish their reputation and erode consumer trust.

Fake news factories operate in a clandestine manner, leveraging the power of social media, click bait headlines, and viral content to disseminate false information with alarming efficiency. These factories exploit the inherent vulnerabilities of



online platforms, where sensationalism often trumps accuracy, and misinformation can spread like wildfire. "As a concerned voice in the community, we recognize the challenges posed by misinformation regarding palm oil.

The dissemination of false information not only leads consumers astray but also jeopardizes the integrity of the palm oil industry.

It is crucial for us to unite in dismantling the web of misinformation. We advo-

cate for the prevalence of precise, scientifically supported information, empowering consumers to make well-informed decisions. Through dispelling myths and promoting open communication, we can cultivate a more nuanced comprehension of palm oil's contributions, advantages, and sustainable practices, enriching India's diverse industries", said Dr.Meena Mehta, an Associate professor who is currently working as a visiting Faculty in Department of Post Graduate Studies and Research in Home Science & Department of Food Science and Nutrition, S.N.D.T Women's University.

JCB India rolls out its 500,000th Construction Equipment

FARIDABAD : India's leading manufacturer of Earthmoving and Construction Equipment JCB India, celebrated the roll out of its 500,000th Construction Equipment. JCB has been in India since 1979 and its products are used in infrastructure development across the country. With six manufacturing facilities in India, JCB proudly exports "Made in India" machines to over 130 countries. The event took place in the presence of JCB's Group Chairman, Lord Bamford at the company's India Headquarters at Ballabgarh. Speaking at the occasion, Lord Bamford said "India is today one of the strongest economies in the world. There has been a significant focus on infrastructure development over the past decade and we are proud to have been a part of this growth through our machines" He fur-



ther added, "We have continued to invest in India since 1979, that was when we set up our first factory here at Ballabgarh. India now plays an important part in our global business, as it is one of our largest markets, and also contributes to the global supply chain for JCB" The 500,000th machine, a Telehandler, is a versatile machine for Material Handling. It is a revolutionary new way to handle Material at heights in a Safer and more Productive manner as compared to traditional options.

JNU teachers condemn 'disruption' of lectures

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



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

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

Annual result of Maharishi Dayanand Public School declared

Chandigarh: The annual result of Maharishi Dayanand Public School, MDAV Bhawan, Daria, Chandigarh has been declared. Providing quality education in the school, the result of each class was 100 percent. The school's pattern NRI Sudarshan Garg, who came from Chicago, USA, honored all the students for their achievements. The school's vice principal Anju Moudgil specially built the selfie booth. This selfie booth became the center of attraction for everyone. NRI Sudarshan Garg congratulated all the students and wished them a bright future. He said that this school in a rural area is building the future of the students properly. Along with studies, emphasis is



being laid on sports, computer education, general knowledge, environment, music, art, science, cleanliness, moral education, awareness etc. Principal Dr. Vinod Kumar said that efforts for excellence in education are always on. The entire staff of the school works hard for the bright and successful future of the students.

Most of the students are securing top ranks and distinctions in various subjects. Dr. Sharma said that the help being given by NRI Sudarshan Garg to the students and the school for providing good education in rural areas is commendable. It is always his endeavor to ensure that no child is deprived of school.

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

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



FLP India Partners with Tamana for CSR Initiative, Donates Smart Boards

New Delhi: Forever Living Products (India) recently conducted an event in New Delhi, where they generously distributed smart boards to be installed in classrooms at Tamana centers for the specially abled. This initiative, spearheaded by the Forever Giving Foundation under the visionary leadership of Rex Maughan, marks a significant stride in the realm of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). The provision of these smart boards, complemented by laptops for ICT training, signifies a progressive step towards empowering individuals with disabilities. Under the visionary leadership of Rex Maughan, the Forever Giving



Foundation spearheads a significant advancement within Delhi's philanthropic

realm. The event also saw performances by students of Tamana. On the occasion Dr.

Shyama Chona and Tamana Chona were also present. Mr. Harish Singla, CSM of Forever

Living Products (India), confirms the potential of the organization to bring positive impacts to individuals facing intellectual, developmental, and other challenges, including those within the autism spectrum. In line with the philanthropic vision set forth by founder Rex Maughan, Forever Living Products (India) and the Forever Giving Foundation remain steadfast in their dedication to initiatives in the education sector. Plans are underway for further initiatives not only in New Delhi but also beyond, reflecting their enduring commitment to societal betterment through education.

Tata Motors inaugurates state-of-the-art registered vehicle scrapping facility near Delhi

Faridabad: Tata Motors, India's leading automobile manufacturer, today inaugurated its fifth Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facility (RVSF), near Delhi; marking a significant stride in its commitment to advancing sustainable mobility. Named 'Re.Wi.Re - Recycle with Respect,' the facility was inaugurated by Mr. Girish Wagh, Executive Director, Tata Motors. The cutting-edge facility deploys environmentally friendly processes and has the capacity to safely disassemble 18,000 end-of-life vehicles annually. Developed in partnership with Johar Motors, the RVSF is adept at responsibly scrapping passenger and commercial vehicles of all brands. This significant milestone follows the resounding success of Tata Motors' four pre-



ceding RVSFs in Jaipur, Bhubaneswar, Surat and Chandigarh, reiterating the company's commitment to advancing sustainable initiatives. Reflecting on the momentous launch, Mr. Girish Wagh, Executive Director, Tata Motors, said "Tata Motors has been at the forefront of driving innovation and sustainability to shape the future of mobility. The launch of our fifth scrapping facility marks a significant step forward in making sustainable practices and responsible vehicle disposal more accessible. Creating value from

scrap aligns with our vision of a building a circular economy. It also contributes to the Government's efforts to promote sustainable automotive practices. This state-of-the-art facility will set new benchmarks in disposing vehicles responsibly and pave the way towards a cleaner, more sustainable future for all." Re.Wi.Re is a cutting-edge facility, purpose-built for dismantling end-of-life passenger and commercial vehicles across all brands, with a focus on employing environmentally friendly practices.

HDFC Bank inaugurates 60 Banking Outlets pan-India, run by VLE's across RBI notified Unbanked Rural Centers

Hisar/Ambala: HDFC Bank, India's largest private sector bank, today announced the inauguration of 60 Business Correspondent (BC) Banking Outlets across RBI notified unbanked rural centers (URCs) pan-India. These new outlets now increase HDFC Bank's URC network presence to 5,020 outlets. Notably, 34% of the Bank's BC Agent network now caters to providing formal financial products and services across 10,602 vil-

lages. The initiative was undertaken in collaboration with CSC eGov. It will help deliver essential banking services to the last mile, directly through physical centres of village-level entrepreneurs (VLEs) acting as micro-entrepreneurs and in turn empowering communities in underserved regions. Customers will benefit from a comprehensive suite of Bank's financial solutions including: Convenient cash deposit & withdrawal

through AEPs-enabled transactions Neighborhood locations for EMI collection of loans Government-backed social security schemes to create insurance safety net Opening Bank accounts for directly receiving government scheme transfer benefits Fixed and recurring deposit options for financial planning Access to credit through loans like SLI and Kisan Gold Card to fulfil household aspirations.

Narendra Modi and Nayab Saini settled in the hearts of the people of the country and the state: Saurabh

Kaithal: State Convenor of Bharatiya Janata Party Haryana Business Cell, Saurabh Chaudhary Goyal said that the BJP government of the state has taken the initiative to improve the future of the youth by providing employment to lakhs of youth without any slip and expense. The results of D Group category have provided a path to a golden future for all those eligible candidates who had applied with full honesty. He said that development man Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini is a true well-wisher and sympathizer of the people of Haryana, who is selflessly engaged in serving the people of the state day and night. The business class of the state is joining the party by expressing faith in the policies of BJP. While talking to journalists here, Saurabh Goyal Choudhary said that this government of Haryana is the first BJP government during whose tenure the children of rural areas have got most of the employment. The important thing is that for the future of the children of

rural areas, the government has provided them an opportunity to progress in the field of education by setting up e-libraries in every village. Like cities, development in villages has also gained momentum in the last ten years and basic facilities have been provided to the people. Saurabh Goyal Chaudhary said that the opposition, which used to spread false propaganda in the name of employment in connection with BJP, has made the opposition issueless by providing employment to thousands of youth across the state under Group D. He said that today, under the able leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Naib Singh Saini, development works worth thousands of crores of rupees are being done in the country. And the state and Modi Naib has settled in the hearts of the people of the country and the state. BJP leader Saurabh Chaudhary Goyal claimed that there is a wave of BJP in the entire country and state.

MCA secretary Bhandarkar resigns for 'personal reasons'

Pune: Shubhendra Bhandarkar has resigned as secretary of the Maharashtra Cricket Association (MCA). The 55-year-old told TOI that he put in his papers for "personal reasons". It is understood that Bhandarkar tabled his resignation during an Apex Council meeting at the Gahunje stadium on Saturday. He had served as treasurer in the previous setup which had Riyaz Bagwan as the secretary. Bhandarkar was in Nashik last week to attend fast-bowling talent spotting programme 'Maha Speed Star'. Kamlesh Pisal of Satara District Cricket Association has been 'nominated' as caretaker secretary. As per the MCA constitution, either a Special General Meeting or an Annual General Meeting needs to be called to elect a replacement.



'Don't shout at me': CJ I DY Chandrachud scolds lawyer during electoral bond hearing

NEW DELHI: Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud reprimanded senior advocate Mathews Nedumpara after a heated exchange during a hearing on electoral bonds on Monday. "Don't shout at me," the CJ said, adding, "This is not a Hyde Park corner meeting, you are in the court." Nedumpara was questioning the SC's ruling, stating that "the entire electoral bond judgement was delivered behind the citizens back." This prompted disagreements from the bench and when CJ I tried to intervene the lawyer continued arguing over him and raised his voice, prompting a stern reaction from the CJ. "You want to move an application, file an application. You have got my decision as Chief Justice, we are not hearing you," the CJ added. The Supreme Court pulled up the State Bank of India for not disclosing all the details related to electoral bonds, calling its attitude "unacceptable". The 5-judge bench led by CJ I D Y Chandrachud directed the directed SBI chairman to file an affidavit by Thursday 5pm, confirming that all details of the Electoral Bonds including the unique alphanumeric and serial numbers of redeemed bonds have been disclosed.

Congress Working Committee meets to finalise Lok Sabha election manifesto

NEW DELHI: The Congress working committee, the party's top decision-making body, met on Tuesday to discuss and approve the party's manifesto for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and former party chiefs Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi were present at the meeting. Other senior leaders, including Ambika Soni, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, P Chidambaram, Digvijaya Singh, Ajay Maken, and Kumari Selja, also attended. The manifesto committee had sent the draft document to the CWC for approval. The CWC will finalise the draft manifesto with five 'guarantees' for justice. The party is focusing on 'five nyay' (justices) - 'Bhagidari Nyay', 'Kisan Nyay', 'Nari Nyay', 'Shramik Nyay', and 'Yuva Nyay', each with five guarantees. Congress president Kharge and Rahul Gandhi announced these guarantees. The party's central election committee, led by Kharge, will discuss and finalize candidates for the remaining seats. The party has announced 82 candidates for the seven-phase Lok Sabha polls starting on April 19.

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.

Political Parties Use WhatsApp, Influencers for Poll Campaign

Delhi: Ad gurus and political analysts believe political parties are using WhatsApp and social media influencers to influence voter psychology ahead of the world's largest election. Political parties are heavily exploiting social media to promote their successes and seek voter support for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The BJP is sending electors a customized 'Letter from the Prime Minister' on WhatsApp, which has over 500 million monthly users in India, to highlight the Narendra Modi government's successes and request feedback. The BJP developed the website 'My First Vote For Modi,' where users may commit to vote for Modi and submit a video explaining why. The website has several short videos about NDA-era development. The Congress' Rahul Gandhi WhatsApp group is reported to allow the leader to answer questions. Districts monitor WhatsApp information to ensure it reaches the public and corrects the party's voter base. The party with more WhatsApp groups can reach voters faster and better. It allows them to rapidly display their achievements with a huge user base and influence voters by drawing parallels with the opposition.

Unlock the Magic with Croma's Summer Campaign 2024 - Spectacular Offers on Air Conditioners, Refrigerators, Room Coolers, and more!

CHANDIGARH/LUDHIANA/PATIALA: Croma has announced its Summer Campaign, till May 2024. With the onset of summer, the most awaited Summer Sale presents the perfect opportunity for customers to prepare their homes to combat the rising temperatures with the latest gadgets with irresistible deals and ease of payment. Consumers will find 1.5 Ton Split ACs starting at just Rs 1,500 across stores and croma.com. Customers can bring any electronics and take home a new AC. Enjoy the benefits up to INR 45000 and other benefits on an extensive

range of 250+ air conditioners, 300+ refrigerators, room coolers, and fans with attractive exchange and upgrade options, cashback offers, and flexible EMI plans of up to 24 months. The offers include Inverter Split ACs starting from just INR 24990, providing an affordable way to keep your home cool and comfortable, and also has exchange benefits of up to INR 6500 on ACs. Room Coolers are available from Rs.4,500 ideal for those looking for cost-effective cooling solutions. For those interested in premium cooling, the LG INV/AC 1.5 Ton 5-star AC, origi-

nally priced at INR 91,990, is now available for just INR 53,490, delivering savings up to INR 45,000. Additionally, the Bajaj PMH 18 DLX Room Cooler is now offered starting at INR4,500, making high-quality cooling more accessible, convenient, and affordable. Customers can also take advantage of up to 24 months of Easy EMI on refrigerators, making it easier than ever to upgrade your kitchen appliances. Croma Own Label offers mega deals on its host of cooling appliances. Get a Croma BLDC Fan complimentary with every Croma

Inverter AC for efficient cooling. With a Croma Side-by-Side Refrigerator, get Croma Coffee Maker at no extra cost. Choose a Croma Water Purifier and get a Croma Air Fryer complimentary, for healthier cooking. Buy a Croma Cooler and get a complimentary Croma 750W Mixer Grinder. Additionally, enjoy No Cost EMI for up to 18 months on purchases over INR 5,000. This is a perfect chance to enrich your home with Croma Branded products with advanced technology with ease of payments and complimentary products.

Editorial

Indian students flouting cautionary advisories

To prevent violent attacks against Indian students and other Indians, the current Biden administration has provided security, both on and off campus, and in the community at large. But do some Indian students put themselves in harm's way by flouting cautionary advisories on dangerous areas? Four Indian students have been killed in two weeks according to a news report dated 2 February 2024. They were 19-year-old Shreyas Reddy Beniger from the Linder School of Business, Ohio, Neil Acharya of Purdue University, Vivek Saini from Panchkula in Haryana. The latest is Sameer Kamath, an Indian-American pursuing his doctorate in mechanical engineering at Purdue University again. In addition, Akul Dhawan was found dead of hypothermia outside the University of Illinois UIUC in Champaign. G Dinesh of Telangana and Nikesh of Andhra Pradesh were found gassed to death in their flat in Connecticut. Kuchipudi and Bharat Natyam dancer Amarnath Ghosh, age 34, was shot to death in St Louis Missouri. Paruchuri Abhijit of Boston University was found dead in his car, making up the ninth death so far in 2024. There is at least one death of an Indian every day across the US, says an American community leader Mohan Nannapaneni, founder of volunteer-based non-profit organisation TEAM Aid. These are mostly students and H-1B employees who have recently come to America. Are some Indian students lonely and feeling alienated far from home? Do some of them, unable to fit in socially or cope academically, persist in their studies there due to societal and parental pressures emanating from back in India? Though more often than not, Indian students who go to American universities are exceptionally bright and are there on earned scholarships. But are they mature and experienced enough in the Western cultural mores and milieu to avoid bullying and ridicule? Sometimes, there are underlying mental health issues even amongst gifted students which are activated by the pressures of academics and fitting in. Some die of physical illness and natural causes. Perhaps the lack of seeking timely medical attention in an alien medical system is to blame. Again, this is a phenomenon that affects foreign students even here in India, because many tend to neglect themselves in the absence of relatives to keep an eye on them. In January 2024, a young girl graduate student Jaahvi Kandula was run over by a speeding policeman Officer Kevin Dave in a police car at a street intersection crosswalk in Seattle. To compound matters, the manslaughter caused by the police car being driven at 119 kmph was laughed off by another Seattle Police Officer Daniel Auderer, who said Kandula's life had 'limited value'. He dismissed the proposition that officer Dave was at fault and that a criminal investigation was necessary. The Ministry of External Affairs in India has said a total of 403 Indian students have died abroad from various causes since 2018. The largest number of deaths occurred in Canada followed by

Britain. Several voices in India are being raised against the necessity of sending Indian students to study abroad. Perhaps the answer lies in sending them to better regulated and safer places such as Singapore where the spectre of racism is largely absent. It seems that most of the White world, including Australia and New Zealand, has a racist problem that their governments are struggling to quell. The lure of obtaining lucrative jobs in Europe and America by studying and graduating from their universities.

There are two kinds of people. One who likes salted caramel, the other, sugary sweet tarts; one who loves to hike, the other to lounge at a beach; one who loves cats, the other dogs. There are two kinds of people the world over, and then there is MS Dhoni. He studies the dialogues of an advert that he has to deliver, just as closely as he reads and decodes his opponents; he thrives under the spotlight of leading his side, just as much as he loves his almost reclusive solitude; he is reticent at most times in the public eye, as much as he taunts playfully and holds a room when surrounded by his people; he lets the whole world watch his every move on a cricket field, as much as he guards his innermost thoughts; who is cool and calm under the pressure of a last-ball finish, as much as he is enraged enough to storm onto the field when he had no business being there, to confront an umpire; who is extremely rigid about the seemingly banal things in life like the way he likes his dosa, or the juice he drinks, and yet is so carefree when it comes to the seemingly big things - like renouncing his captaincy.

I remember covering the series when Sourav Ganguly famously finished a press conference to say the words "Just one last thing, lads..." and dropped his retirement bomb. That sent a shock wave back then, but you expected the theatrics with dadi, as he is fondly called otherwise. That was the era of drama and on-upmanship. It was the need of



that hour, that time. And then of course, someone like MS came along. There were too many stark differences between the dadi era and the Dhoni era that followed, but we won't go into any of that. That is not at the heart of this narration. But there's a reason I bring up the dadi announcement, made at a time when social media was not the monster it is today. So I get the intent behind that and the manner in which it was made. Living in a time now when every movement of a public figure is somehow caught on camera and splashed across social media platforms, MS Dhoni's abstinence from the same, is remarkable. To understand this you somehow have to understand the man. And the only way you can truly get him, is if you interact with him face to face. There is no WhatsApp culture with MS (surprise, surprise). I worked

with the Chennai Super Kings franchise for close to five years. That is a long time when you look at career goals and what you want to do, because there has to be constant evaluation and recalibration. This obviously doesn't apply to the man who held on to the same position at CSK for 17 long years. I think I was lucky to be a part of a set up back then with all the senior hands in the system at their peak. Age was not on their side, but the vigour was sky-high because the franchise had just come out of a 2-year suspension. I guess to this day, if you ask anyone who walks down the corridors of Chepauk or the India Cements building, the 2018 season would be remembered as one of the best years for this group. A miracle season that only MS could have manifested. I'll circle back to this in just a bit. Chennai Super Kings, I realise

now, is the equivalent of Gryffindor of Harry Potter world - the House that every young wizard entering the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, desires to be a part of. It's the right of passage. And it sounds about correct doesn't it? CSK has witnessed a lot of wizardry over the years too. So I only have gratitude. Not because of getting an opportunity to work with CSK alone, though I am certain that is on everyone's bucket list. But because I got to spend time and get glimpses into what made MS, well MS. I just want to share what I believe makes MS think the way he does. I want to connect the dots so you get a picture - maybe not the complete one - but a semblance of it, to fathom just why the hero you grew up idolising, or who inspired you to take up the sport, or who made you the leader you are today, does what he does and in the way he does it in.

We talk of MS making things happen on the field. We see him controlling and taking charge of the moments that somehow define the game and the end result. I think a lot of that comes from the way he thinks off the field too. Staying in control of the little things that eventually lead him to the big one. He resides in the small moments yes, but his sight is always on the bigger picture. Even the night after that 4th IPL title win, MS was already in the future. The squad had executed a fantastic turnaround from the horror season that 2020 was. That win in 2021 was a superb one, given the

situation and MS approaching his big 40. And even when the whole group was celebrating the season that was, MS was already thinking of title number 5. That's the kind of person he is. He is able to compartmentalise his life to fit into boxes that make it part of a massive assembly line in the machinery of his brain. He believes that one needs to focus on moving from point A to B and henceforth to get to the ultimate goal - if that is infact Z. That's what you see on the field too. He talks about the process so much. It's a phrase that I am sure many of us in the sporting and broadcast industry would have casually scoffed at, at some point. But there is so much truth to that phrase or mantra because that is what he has constantly lived by. It has worked for him, and so he continues to believe that it will. Every franchise has its traditions, routines, certain things that they do. There are a few traditions in CSK too. And one of those is the inaugural team dinner. It is held just before the start of every season. The entire group from players, support staff, management, owners and families are invited to reflect on the past seasons and look to the future. There are a few moments that are highlighted, MS usually makes a speech, sometimes he refrains. It is a very private affair and is off camera, not for the media or even to post on their own platforms. In a world where every franchise lives on creating, curating and publishing real to reel and turn interactions to digital imprints.

Occasional protests were witnessed that were germane

Occasional protests were witnessed that were germane due to the death of long-time dissident leader Navalny in an Arctic jail, the arrest of some opposition leaders, and the disqualification of others. But the Russians are at war, which might be the key to understanding. Some might oppose it, as is natural, and would want a change in the leadership. But when the question of Russian nationalism and patriotism confronts them, they want a leader who can withstand the external pressures and win it for them. Russian history attests to that. The Russians have an uncanny ability to handle pain and adversity. This also explains Putin's wide margins of victory, apart from the fact that this has been a trend all

along with weak, not so popular, and credible opposition candidates or parties. The there-is-no-alternative (TINA) factor also operates in such a scenario. Regime change agendas of the West and continuous tirades against their strongest opponent add to his appeal. Ironically, the West is equally responsible for Putin's victory. Well, Russia says it has its own democratic governance model. Apart from the Russian pride and Putin redeeming their pride back after the greatest humiliation in the wake of the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war is being perceived, at a popular level, as the war by the West against Russia as the Grey Zone warfare and one-sided narratives predominate their respective global

spaces. The unprecedented Western sanctions may have definitely impacted the Russian economy and policy. But the Russian 'war economy', which has performed as well, if not better, than their Western partners, growing at over 3 per cent, has gone in Putin's favour. During his 24 years, the GDP seems to have grown by over 11 times to \$2.2 trillion, and its debt-to-GDP ratio went down from 92 per cent to 23 per cent of GDP. Consequently, with a declining population, per capita income also went up by 10 times, and inflation is said to be down to 3.5 per cent from a high of 36.6 per cent in 1999. All these do have an impact on people's political preferences. Hence, Putin's approval ratings.

When India took steps to implement the Citizenship

Amendment Act, not many countries took a deeper look at it. Not much opposition was visible among the Indian public. Why did the US State Department unconsciously react to it? Did such a knee-jerk reaction serve any American interest? Did it benefit any community that the US State Department perceived as a potential victim of CAA?

Without any doubt, such a reaction only supplements the growing areas of mistrust between India and the United States in recent times. It serves only one purpose. It helps create cracks in the painstakingly constructed strategic partnership between the two countries by successive administrations in Washington and New Delhi. American stand on the Indo-Canadian Nijjar episode, Washington's inaction over anti-India separatist groups targeting Hindu temples and Indian consulates in the US, India's neutrality over the US-Russian Cold War in Ukraine, its hesitation to be fully on board with the US in containing China, India's selective participation in the US-sponsored Indo-Pacific Economic Forum, New Delhi's strong position to defend the interests of the developing countries in WTO negotiations, and several other



factors have come in the way of realising the full potential of strategic partnership. American policymakers are aware of modern Indian history. The US reaction to CAA is perhaps not "misplaced, misinformed, and unwarranted". The expression of "concern" and desire to carefully "monitor" the implementation of the CAA by the US government are based on cautious calculation and strategic considerations. The Indian government officials have conveyed multiple times to their US counterparts the rationale behind the CAA, and the Ministry of Home Affairs has made it amply clear that the implementation of the CAA will not adversely affect the Muslim citizens of India. The American diplomats residing in India are also aware that CAA has been politicised to serve the interests of the opposition parties. The main reason the US State Department is reportedly "concerned" over a purely domestic issue in India is the American irritation over India's determination to maintain its strategic autonomy,

notwithstanding its desire to sustain strategic companionship with Washington on selected issues. Despite about a quarter of a century of US efforts to make India a very close strategic partner that would support US positions on international affairs, Washington's ambition remains distant. India has adopted a measured stand on the Ukraine War, has not abandoned its strategic relations with Russia, maintains its strategic partnership with Iran, and follows a foreign economic policy that suits India's interests the most. However, India, at the same time, has not done anything that would adversely affect the US. The US policy community needs to appreciate that India does not support the Russian war efforts in Ukraine, India does play an active role in addressing the unconventional warfare in the Red Sea, and though not part of US-led international efforts, India does support the idea of managing the aggressive role of China in the Indo-Pacific by being part of the Quadrilateral Security Initiative.

Attack on Gwadar: Crucial lessons for Pakistan

Striking Gwadar has immense geopolitical significance, as such attacks are designed to scare away whatever investment and economic activities are being carried out in the coastal city and also reveal the vulnerability of CPEC. Image Courtesy: AP

The attack on Gwadar's Port Authority Complex on March 20, 2024, is yet another reminder of the grim trajectory of militancy in Pakistan. Within days of a major terrorist attack in North Waziristan, in which seven Pakistan Army soldiers, including two officers, were killed, militants targeted a facility that houses government offices, including those of security agencies.

On March 18, between the two

attacks, the Pakistan Air Force conducted strikes on multiple targets in Spera district of Khost Province and Barmal district of Paktika Province, in Afghanistan. The Pakistan Foreign Office had issued a press release stating that, in addition to the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), commanders of the Hafiz Gul Bahadur Network (HGB) were also the "prime targets" of these airstrikes. The Majeed Brigade, affiliated with the banned Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), claimed responsibility for the attack. The lethal Guerilla Cell Majeed Brigade formed in 2011 is named after a guard of former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who was killed while attempting to assassinate the PPP founder. It is known for mostly targeting security forces and Chinese interests in Pakistan.

A press release from Inter Services Public Relations said that a group of eight terrorists attempted to enter the Port Authority Colony but were successfully thwarted by security forces personnel. "Own troops employed for security responded immediately and effectively engaged the terrorists, and in ensuing fire exchange, all eight terrorists were sent to hell," said the statement. They also reported the deaths of two Pakistani soldiers in the attack while stating that the security forces in Pakistan 'remain determined to thwart attempts at sabotaging

peace and stability of Balochistan'. In yet another incident on March 21, two soldiers were killed after a suicide bomber struck a military convoy on Tank Road in Dera Ismail Khan. It is reported that the attack also injured at least 22 personnel. These incidents reveal that, far from being neutralised, separatist militants remain a potent threat in Pakistan.

Previous Incidents
This is not the first time Gwadar and its environs have been targeted by insurgents. Here, separatism and geopolitics combine in a lethal cocktail as militants target Chinese interests in what is supposed to be the 'jewel in the CPEC crown'.

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New era begins for Mumbai Indians and Gujarat Titans

AHMEDABAD: A mix of style and substance is what makes Hardik Pandya stand out from the other cricketers of his generation. Neatly spiked hair, designer clothes and a chiselled body to go with a smart cricketering brain have made him the go to cricketering property in India, fast-tracking him the boy whose family once struggled to make ends meet into a world of constant spotlight.

The spotlight in Ahmedabad on Sunday will again be on Pandya, who led Gujarat Titans with distinction in the last two IPL seasons. This time for a different reason, though.

Having shifted allegiance to Mumbai Indians in a much hyped trade, Pandya will be under scrutiny as he leads the five-time champions against his former team. That he must lead this Mumbai Indians side comprising Rohit Sharma, the franchise's former captain and also the captain of the national



side, adds intrigue to the IPL soap opera. Another subplot is that Pandya will be leading his team out against Titans, a team he captained admirably for the last two seasons. GT are now led by Shubman Gill, an exciting prospect himself. In fact, the Titans batting core has a similar look to that of the last two seasons. The bowling looks weak, though, with pace spearhead Mohammed Shami ruled out. The onus will be on Umesh Yadav and Mohit Sharma and the Afghan spin duo of Rashid Khan and Noor Ahmed. As for Mumbai, starting

strongly has never been Mumbai their forte, an anomaly they will be looking to correct. Rohit Sharma will be looking to get some runs under his belt ahead of the T20I World Cup in June. Another batter with a point to prove is Ishan Kishan. With Suryakumar Yadav missing from action, Pandya, Nehal Wadhwa, Tilak Varma, Tim David and Dewald Brevis will have to shoulder additional responsibility in the middle order. The prospect of watching Jasprit Bumrah and Sri Lankan pacer Nuwan Tushara, who recently took a hat-trick against Bangladesh.

KKR's Harshit Rana draws criticism for his 'flying kiss' send-off

NEW DELHI: Kolkata Knight Riders' fast bowler, Harshit Rana, has incurred a penalty of 60 percent of his match fees due to breaching the IPL Code of Conduct during the team's Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 encounter against Sunrisers Hyderabad at Eden Gardens, Kolkata, on Saturday.

Rana's actions constituted two Level 1 offences under Article 2.5 of the IPL's Code of Conduct, resulting in fines of 10 percent and 50 percent of his match fees for the respective breaches. Rana admitted to the infractions and accepted the sanctions imposed by the Match Referee, whose decisions are



final and binding for Level 1 breaches.

During the match, Rana's animated celebration drew attention as he dismissed Sunrisers Hyderabad's batsman, Mayank Agarwal, prompting controversy and criticism. After claiming Agarwal's wicket with a bouncer,

Rana exuberantly blew a flying kiss towards the departing batter, a gesture deemed inappropriate by many, including legendary Indian cricketer Sunil Gavaskar, who expressed disapproval during commentary. **WATCH:** "He should not have done that."

Rishabh Pant is set to play for Delhi Capitals after obtaining fitness certificate

NEW DELHI: Rishabh Pant is all set to make his long-awaited return to competitive cricket for the Delhi Capitals (DC) in the upcoming edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) after obtaining the fitness certificate from the National Cricket Academy (NCA).

Sources tracking the development have told IANS that Pant, who has been undergoing extensive rehabilitation at the NCA in Bengaluru since April last year, got his fitness clearance and left the NCA two to three days ago. The IPL 2024 season will mark Pant's return to

competitive cricket action since the two-match Test series in Bangladesh ended in December 2022. A couple of days after the series ended, Pant miraculously survived a near-fatal car crash while on the way to his hometown Roorkee on December 30, 2022.

Harmanpreet Kaur's sensational 95 propels MI to WPL playoffs

NEW DELHI: Captain Harmanpreet Kaur played a blistering unbeaten innings of 95, propelling Mumbai Indians to a convincing seven-wicket victory over Gujarat Giants in their Women's Premier League (WPL) match in Delhi on Saturday.

This triumph secured Mumbai Indians' spot as the first team to qualify for the playoffs. Chasing Gujarat's total of 190 for seven, Harmanpreet's explosive knock came in just 48 balls, featuring 10 fours and five sixes. Alongside opener



Yastika Bhatia, who contributed 49 runs in 36 balls, the defending champions successfully chased down the target, reaching 191 for three with a ball to spare. Despite losing wickets before reaching 100 within 13.3 overs, Mumbai faced a challenging task of needing

72 runs off 30 balls. Harmanpreet, dropped on 40, switched to "beast mode" and took charge of the innings, forming a crucial partnership of 93 runs with Amelia Kerr. Harmanpreet's boundary-laden onslaught, especially in the 18th over against off-spinner

Sneh Rana, reduced the required runs to a manageable 23 off 12 balls. Mumbai Indians sealed the win, placing them at the top of the chart with 10 points. Earlier, Gujarat Giants had posted a competitive total of 190 for seven, driven by dynamic fifties from skipper Beth Mooney (66 runs) and D Hemalatha (74 runs). The duo's explosive second-wicket partnership of 121 runs set a strong foundation for Gujarat's innings, but Mumbai's successful chase secured their dominance.

'Even if we lose...': KKR skipper Shreyas Iyer to Harshit Rana before the last over against SRH

NEW DELHI: Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) managed to clinch a narrow 4-run victory against Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) in an Indian Premier League match filled with twists and turns at the iconic Eden Gardens in Kolkata.

KKR skipper Shreyas Iyer admitted to experiencing jitters as Heinrich Klaasen of SRH mounted a ferocious assault while chasing a daunting target of 209 runs. "Right from the 17th over, I had butterflies in the stomach! To be



honest, I thought anything can happen in the last over," confessed Iyer. With SRH needing 13 runs off the final over, the odds seemed to favor them, especially

with Klaasen in blistering form. However, Iyer's decision to entrust the ball to the young Harshit Rana proved to be a masterstroke. Rana rose to the occasion,

dismissing both Klaasen and Shahbaz Ahmed, effectively sealing KKR's victory. "Harshit was a bit nervous when he was coming to bowl (the last over).

'Kohli's greatness reduced...': Harbhajan warning for RCB megastar ahead of IPL 2024

NEW DELHI: Despite being an unstoppable run-machine in the IPL, Virat Kohli has yet to conquer the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai while representing the Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB).

Kohli holds a significant lead over other players in the IPL, amassing 7263 runs from 237 matches with an impressive seven centuries and a striking rate of 130. However, this dominance takes a dip at the Chepauk, where his average is just 30, and his strike rate is 111. In light of these statistics, former India off-spinner Harbhajan Singh emphasised the importance of Kohli producing a stronger performance when the Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) face the defending champions



Chennai Super Kings in the inaugural match of this year's IPL at the Chepauk on March 22. "The greatness of Virat has been reduced in terms of his overall performance at that venue. It is a tricky venue to bat, especially as an opening batsman against a sort of weird tennis ball type bounce." They've (CSK) got the great (Ravindra) Jadeja bowling stump to stump. He'll get the oddball to turn and then the oddball to stay low. It's really tricky," Harbhajan told StarSports. In fact,

Kohli has been dismissed in the Powerplays three times in his last five innings against CSK, and Harbhajan pointed out that the star batter will need to find a way to extend his time at the crease. "If he's actually prepared to bat about 20 overs, then he can put together a match-winning performance because two hundreds at the accessible Chinnaswamy do not necessarily guarantee the same at Chepauk," he said. Kohli has yet to score an IPL century at Chepauk.

Cricket's eyes on their captain Rishabh Pant, Delhi Capitals went

in for the match against Punjab Kings with more supporters in the stands than the hosts. But that was all that was different from their last season's script. At IPL's newest venue in Mohali's Mullanpur stadium, PBKS' Sam Curran and Liam Livingstone exposed Capitals' lack of potency as they knocked off the 174-run target with four balls and four wickets to spare. Curran's 63 off 47, coming in at No. 4, coupled with Livingstone's unbeaten 38 off 21 displayed how seasoned T20 players go about their business. Livingstone's muscled six over long-on off debutant medium-pace Sumit Kumar to fin-



ish the game was a statement in itself. The build-up to the match was all about the Capitals and the emotional comeback of their captain. Two World Cup winners in David Warner and Mitchell Marsh set the tempo with an exhilarating start that yielded 39 off the first 20 balls of the game. And then they hit a sand pit, losing wickets at reg-

ular intervals and struggling to keep up with the run rate. Pant, expectedly, looked a bit rusty but showed a glimpse of his old self with an exquisite cover drive off Harshal Patel before falling softly to the same bowler's slower bouncer for a 13-ball 18. As has been the story for Capitals in the last season, dearth of efficient domestic

batting talent forced them to play four overseas specialists batters with Axar Patel tasked with heavy lifting down the order. Their only move that worked was sending Abhishek Porel as an Impact Player at No. 9 when they were struggling at 138/7 in the 18th over. Porel's

onslaught on Harshal in the last over, which yielded 27, helped him finish unbeaten on 32 off 10 balls and gave Capitals a fighting chance. Again, the bowling looked inept barring Ishant Sharma, Axar Patel and Kuldeep Yadav. In the end, however, a couple of dropped catches and some wayward bowling ensured that Curran and Livingstone were always in control during the chase.

'Ageing' Shami needs to take cue from Anderson: McGrath

NEW DELHI: Legendary Australian pacer Glenn McGrath believes that the current Indian pace attack has much to offer before the next generation can take over. McGrath also encouraged Mohammed Shami to draw inspiration from the longevity of England veteran James Anderson. McGrath made these remarks on the day when India secured an impressive 4-1 Test series victory over England at home. "We have to wait and see the next generation coming through. (Jasprit) Bumrah has still got a bit to go, (Mohammed) Shami is a little older, and (Mohammed) Siraj has been around for a little while but still has plenty left. So, the (current Indian) bowling attack has still some life left," McGrath told PTI.

On the sidelines of an MRF Pace Foundation event in Chennai.

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

1.26 percent in Q3 FY24 from 1.87 percent in Q3 FY'23. As of December 23, New Delhi bank provision coverage ratio (PCR) rose 911 bps YoY to 94.28 percent. As of December 31, 2023, the Bank has 10,108 domestic branches with 12,455 ATMs and 29,768 BCs.

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

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



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

used catalysts. The duty has been raised to 14.35 percent, including 10 BCD and 4.35 AIDC (Agriculture Infrastructure

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

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

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



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

affect other indicators including net interest margin, deposit and loan growth.

HDFC Bank shares have fallen more than 15% since the institution released its third-quarter FY24 earnings

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Payments Bank banned from selling new FASTags

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

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

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



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

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

Beauty industry expanding more quickly than fashion: CEO of Myntra

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

Moto Hero wants e-bikes over 4 lakh

Delhi: "The benefit with EVs is that we not only sell them in India, but also target global markets with them." The Vida electric scooter costs Rs 1.2 lakh (ex-showroom), but Gupta claimed the company will introduce cheaper models. "Vida will be mid-priced and cheap. A last-mile B2B commercial is under consideration. We consider it a promising and substantial segment." He stated Zero will be a premium, performance-oriented offering for 400cc-plus petrol motorbike buyers. "We are working on it and expect the motorcycle to be priced at around Rs 4-5 lakh." Gupta said the two-wheeler sector, which had been under pressure for years due to onerous circumstances for entry-level customers, is improving. "First, the category is underdeveloped and has great potential. As consumer confidence rises, the segment is showing green shoots. Capital expenditures by the government are also increasing revenue and employment.

India's phenomenal tech leap has thrown up enormous opportunities: Amitabh Kant



India's reforms and technological leap have positioned the country as a global outlier of development. With a focus on digitization, technology adoption in banking, and a thriving startup ecosystem, India is carving its niche in the new world through its strengths and collaborations. India's phenomenal tech leap has thrown up enormous opportunities: Amitabh Kant

hope in a world riddled with global turmoil, said India's Sherpa G20, Amitabh Kant. In a discussion with Times Internet vice chairman Satyan Gajwani and Zscaler CEO Jay Chaudhry, Kant spoke about India's unique and transformational approach in digitising a country of 1.4 billion people.

He also delved into the specifics of how adoption of technology on a large scale transformed banking in India, leading to the country executing 128

billion fast payments in 2023, the highest in the world. "India has made a phenomenal technological leap, and this throws up enormous opportunities for people like Jay because cybersecurity is going to be the next big thing in India," Kant said. Speaking on India's digital infrastructure, Gajwani said, "Today is a representation of India's strength at the global level. India has been very receptive to technological innovation and enablement of bots.

India GCC export revenue: \$46 billion or \$120 billion?

Sandeep Panat's research suggests that GCC exports from India may be much higher than previously estimated. Nasscom's methodology and revenue per employee calculation have been criticized. This has implications for policy and analysis of India's tech sector. India GCC export revenue: \$46 billion or \$120 billion? Sandeep Panat, Founding Partner, Wizmatic Consulting

And that's the figure that most go by. Sandeep Panat, founding partner at Wizmatic Consulting, a Pune-based consulting & business advisory, has over the past six months been poring over the financial statements filed by some 1,000 foreign companies in India with the registrar of companies (RoC) for FY2023, and has come up with a GCC export figure of \$120.5 billion, more than 2.5 times that of the Nasscom one. There is some confu-

sion around how foreign IT services companies – the likes of Accenture, Capgemini, DXC – should be treated. Nasscom says they include them in IT services, not in GCCs. Panat's GCC list includes these companies, but he says even if he were to remove them, the total GCC export revenue would still be about \$103 billion, more than twice the Nasscom figure. If Panat's estimates are correct, then the industry has been hugely underestimating the contribution.

Delhi tourism to organise heritage walks at 50 places

NEW DELHI: Delhi's tourism department is organising heritage walks at 50 different locations across the capital from Saturday. These walks will continue till March 31 with the first inaugural walk scheduled at Mehrauli Archaeological Park. According to the tourism

department's website, Mehrauli Archaeological Park, which is uniquely dotted with ruins from early medieval times to the 19th century, is one of the most popular heritage sites in the city. The major attractions at Mehrauli Archaeological Park include the mosque and tomb of Jamali, a

royal tomb which is the first building in the sub-continent to use the true arch, a beautiful step well with subterranean rooms and residence of a British official (which was built out of a tomb). The site is adjacent to another historically important place, the Qutub complex.

WTO talks end with no progress on agriculture, fisheries

ABU DHABI: WTO talks ended here with ministers making no headway on key issues – agriculture and fisheries, while India and other countries are likely to agree to extension of customs duty waiver for e-commerce by another two years. Trade ministers from across the world refused to budge from their stated positions on reducing farm subsidies or lowering subsidies, resulting in the impasse continuing despite talks being extended by over a day. Indian officials appeared satisfied with the outcome, arguing that they did not yield ground on any of the issues and the permanent peace clause on procurement of foodgrains for the public distribution system



gave govt the freedom to buy as much as it wanted despite the "flawed formula" which counted payments above Rs 3.20 a kg of wheat or rice as subsidy. The permanent peace clause means that despite breaching the ceiling of 10% of value of production, linked to prices prevailing in 1986-88, countries cannot be dragged to WTO for violation of trade rules.

Some countries were pushing WTO members to link the issue of public stockholding of grains to overall reform of global farm trade, which India and other members of G-33 were unwilling to accept, arguing that the issue was delinked from the overall talks and the members had failed to come out with a solution for more than a decade.

Special trading session: Sensex settles marginally higher

NEW DELHI: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty settled at record high closing levels during special trading session on Saturday. Nifty closed up 0.18% or 39.65 points at 22,378.40, while Sensex climbed 0.08% or 60.80 points to 73,806.15. Sensex reached a new record high of 73,994.70, gaining 249.35 points or 0.33% during the session. Nifty also hit its lifetime peak of 22,419.55, after advancing 80.8 points or 0.36%.

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies reached an all-time high of Rs 394.06 lakh crore. BSE and NSE are conducting the special trading session to assess their preparations in handling major disruptions or failures at the primary site. NSE and BSE were under scrutiny by the markets regulator after a major trading outage in February 2021 due to telecoms glitch, causing the exchanges failing to migrate to the disaster recovery site. The first part of the

trading session took place from 9:15 am to 10 am on Primary Site, and the second part from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm on the Disaster Recovery site. In separate circulars, the BSE and NSE announced, "Trading members are requested to note that the exchange will conduct a special live trading session with intraday switch over from Primary Site. (PR) to Disaster Recovery Site (DR) on Saturday, March 2, in equity and equity derivatives segments."

Twelve of the thirteen major sectors advanced during the special session. Small- and mid-cap stocks outperformed the blue-chips, rising by 0.69% and 0.74% respectively. Metals stocks climbed by 1.58%, led by Tata Steel, which saw a 3.60% increase after rising by approximately 6.5% on Friday. Hero MotoCorp gained 1.57% following an 18.75% year-on-year growth in total sales in February. Tata Steel and Hero MotoCorp were the top two gain-

There's no silver bullet to leadership; live by values!

I was fortunate to have been given many opportunities by my parents and sibling to craft my own identity. Values were ingrained in me, and it was only much later in life that I realised the benefit of these values. There is no silver bullet to leadership; each one of us has to find our own path and my values have governed my path. Here they are! Focus: Life is full of complexities and challenges. My personal motto has been to relentlessly focus on ensuring the important (may not necessarily be urgent) areas and the right outcomes will follow. Empathy: It is often said that women have more empathy (and not sympathy) than men. I believe this is true and have often seen myself practise this more consciously in my interactions with team members. This is

not about sympathy; this is about recognising what my team member is going through and working jointly for solutions. Discipline: This is actually the other side of Focus. Both work hand in hand for me. Even today, after so many years of working, I ensure I make lists of what I would like to achieve every day, every week and every month! Energy: I wake up every day, raring to deliver something good for our customers, my team members, other stakeholders in my professional and personal life. When I enter a room full of energy, it is infectious and rubs off positively on me. Resilience: Developing a thick skin is par for the course. Recognising that what is happening is not about me as a person but is about circumstances is what stands

me in good stead when issues arise. Multiple examples flash through my mind when I talk about resilience and grit – the Kerala floods in August, 2018; demonetisation in November, 2016, and many more. Attitude: This is my favourite one! What I look for in people is not talent or skills; those can be developed. The right attitude is surely the only attribute that really works for me. Look for opportunities, don't wait for them to come: There are wonderful opportunities for success out there and it is for me to find them. When I left for Brunei on my first international assignment (with Standard Chartered Bank), it was an opportunity to explore a new culture and a new world. When I joined Federal Bank, it was an opportunity to do something unique.

Byju's unable to pay salaries as funds locked: Founder Raveendran

MUMBAI: Byju Raveendran, founder and CEO at troubled edtech startup Byju's hit out at a group of investors, stating that their move to disable the company from using the funds raised through the rights issue has hindered disbursement of salaries to employees. "....I regret to inform you that we will still be unable to process your salaries....Unfortunately, a select few (4 out of our 150+ investors) have stooped to a heartless level, ensuring that we are unable to utilise the funds raised to pay your hard-earned salaries," Raveendran said in a letter to employees on Saturday which was reviewed by TOI. "At their behest, the amount raised through the rights issue is currently locked in a sepa-



rate account," Raveendran said, adding that despite the successful closure of its \$200 million rights issue, the company is facing a crisis. Byju's said that it is making attempts to ensure that the salaries are paid by March 10. Four of the firm's investors—Prosus, Peak XV Partners, General Atlantic and Sofina had approached the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), seeking a stay on the rights issue, stating that there are serious allegations of siphoning off funds

by the company's promoters and the company is being investigated by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA). Although the court allowed Byju's to go ahead with the rights issue, it passed an interim order, directing the startup to keep the funds received as part of the rights issue in a separate escrow account. The court also said that the funds should not be withdrawn till the disposal of the oppression and mismanagement suit

filed by the investors against the company's management. "It is an agonizing reality that some of these investors have already reaped substantial profits – in fact, one of them has made a staggering eight times their initial investment in Byju's. And yet, their actions convey a callous disregard for our lives and livelihoods," Raveendran told employees. The cash starved company had been banking on its rights issue to raise capital and meet its current liabilities. Byju's will now have to call an EGM (extraordinary general meeting) to seek shareholder approval and increase authorised capital. "Countless hours have been spent exploring every possible avenue, engaging our legal teams.

Singer Anupam Roy is an alum of Texins

Instruments India campus. Naman Bafna, analog design lead at TI India, says music has always been his passion, and at TI, he found a way to connect over it with his colleagues. "Our jamming sessions are woven with laughter, collaboration, and shared passion, and this has given many the confidence to start their own YouTube channels and also perform both on and off campus on various occasions." The Music Room in Texins is a treasure trove of instruments catering to every musical whim – from the serene melodies of classical Hindustani and Carnatic to the energetic beats of fusion, jazz, pop, rock, and even progressive rock. There are drum kits, electric and bass guitars, amplifiers, pianos, tablas, flutes, violins – the list goes on. Arindam Chatterjee, HR leader at TI India, says the space pulsates with creativity and camaraderie.

CAPSULES

UPI payments dip in February from January

MUMBAI: UPI transactions declined marginally in Feb 2024, both in volume and value, due to the fewer number of days in the month. Data released by NPCI showed that UPI transactions during the month of Feb stood at 1,210 crore for a total value of Rs 18.3 lakh crore. Transactions in Jan were at 1,220 crore, while the total value stood at Rs 18.4 lakh crore.

Aircraft fuel sales back to pre-Covid level in February

NEW DELHI: Jet fuel sales scaled pre-pandemic levels in Feb as visa-free entry allowed by several countries allured more and more Indians to foreign shores, creating additional demand from international flights on top of burgeoning domestic air travel. But diesel demand, a key indicator of economic activities, continued in the slow lane, while petrol consumption posted healthy growth on back of people's continued preference for personal vehicles. Preliminary data of state-run fuel retailers on Friday showed jet fuel sales rising marginally above Feb 2020 level, when the world had started shutting down to stop the spread of Covid. Compared to last Feb, sales were higher by 7%, while 55% increase over the same month of 2022 underpinned the turnaround in demand. On a monthly basis, sales were up 3.5%. Jet fuel sales have been struggling to recover since March 2020 when the lockdown reduced overall fuel consumption by more than half, largely due to reduced international flights. Petrol consumption was the first to recover in late 2021 as people preferred personal vehicles for commuting.

Kochi city joins WHO's global network of age-friendly cities



KOCHI: In a first in Kerala, Kochi city has been declared as a member of the global network of 'age-friendly cities' by the World Health Organization (WHO). Such cities share and promote the values and principles of WHO's age-friendly approach and are committed to create age-friendly environments. However, organisations working with senior citizen groups are unimpressed and said the city lacks basic age-friendly amenities. "Kochi is the first city in South Asia to get age-friendly city status.

This is a recognition for the efforts made by the corporation to provide the necessary infrastructure for the senior citizens and to create a favourable environment for mental and physical health of senior citizens in the city," said mayor M Anilkumar. The announcement was made on Thursday at the WHO headquarters in Geneva. "We have implemented projects such as making public places and buildings age-friendly, providing health services to the elderly, providing advanced technology

training to senior citizens in collaboration with colleges, special taxi service for senior citizens, and Pakalveedu projects", said Anilkumar. Eyeing on the age-friendly status, the corporation had implemented various programmes based on the recommendations of the WHO in collaboration with Magics, a voluntary organization, and Indian Medical Association (IMA) during the past three years. Corporation claims that various projects are being implemented to benefit an average

BJP eyes options in Badaun against SP veteran Shivpal

LUCKNOW: Who would be up against SP heavyweight and party chief Akhilesh Yadav's uncle Shivpal Singh Yadav in Badaun in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections? The question has started doing the rounds amid broad indications that the BJP may deny the ticket to sitting party MP and daughter of former SP leader Swami Prasad Maurya, Sanghmitra Maurya, this time. Highly placed sources in the BJP said that Union minister and sitting Rajya Sabha MP BL Verma and the party's Braj region president Durvijay Singh Shakyas are emerging as the top contenders for the ticket from the constituency which has a sizable presence of the OBC, essentially Kushwahas, Shakyas, Lodhs and Yadavs. Sixty-two years old Verma is often considered a 'close aide' of former CM Kalyan Singh. Currently, Union MoS for cooperative and north-east development Verma has also been the party's state vice-president. He was nominated to the Rajya Sabha in 2020 and a year later, in July 2021, was inducted in the Modi cabinet. Verma's tenure in RS is till November 2026. Shakyas, too, wields considerable influence within the organisational command given his closeness to the RSS. He started his political career



while working with the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad. He later became the Braj region general secretary and vice-president. The saffron brass is also considering the name of SP MLA from Bisauli in Badaun, Ashutosh Maurya, who voted from the BJP candidates in the recently conducted Rajya Sabha poll. Maurya, a three-term MLA from the district, happens to be a Dalit. In 2019 Lok Sabha elections, Sanghmitra was the foremost choice of the BJP against SP's Dharmendra Yadav, who has been representing the seat since 2004. The move paid off as Sanghmitra defeated Dharmendra by a margin of over 18,000 votes. Sources said that Sanghmitra

has not been finding much favour from BJP regional brass after Swami Prasad unfurled the banner of revolt against BJP and defected to SP camp in the run-up to 2022 assembly elections. Though Maurya lost the assembly elections from Fazilnagar seat in Kushinagar, Akhilesh propped him as party national general secretary and MLC. The move, however, boomeranged as Maurya courted controversies by making provocative statements against Sanatan Dharma and Ram temple, in what potentially hurt the Hindu religious sentiments. His statements not only drew sharp riposte from the saffron dispensation but also put the SP brass in a discomfiture. Sources said that BJP has been

Rat-hole miner Hassan declines another house offered in Delhi's Dilshad Garden

NEW DELHI: Rat-hole miner Wakeel Hassan, who had lost his house in a demolition drive, has declined another offer of a house in Dilshad Garden here by the authorities. "On Friday night, four government officers, including an SDM, came and offered me a house in Dilshad Garden but I refused to accept it as they wanted me to shift on a temporary basis," Hassan said. "It was also not in writing. That house belongs to an NGO," he said. After the demolition, DDA officials proposed Hassan to relocate to an EWS (economically weaker sections) flat in Narela, which is far from Khajoori Khas in northeast Delhi. Hassan rejected the offer, stating that it was "far and unsafe." On being asked why he declined the second offer, considering that Dilshad Garden is closer to Khajoori Khas compared to the distant Narela, Hassan said that the cost of his demolished house was more than Rs 1 crore and if the government wants to compensate, then the cost of the house should be matched.

Promotion of UTS app at 10 WR stations, redesigned QR code with user-friendly feature

MUMBAI: The Western Railway Mumbai Central division on Saturday introduced 'Utsav' campaign to promote the UTS app -- which is used to purchase unreserved tickets online. This novel initiative has been launched across 10 stations of WR and will run from March 2 to 7, a senior official said. The stations include Churchgate, Dadar, Andheri, Malad, Kandivali, Borivali, Bhayander, Vasai Road,



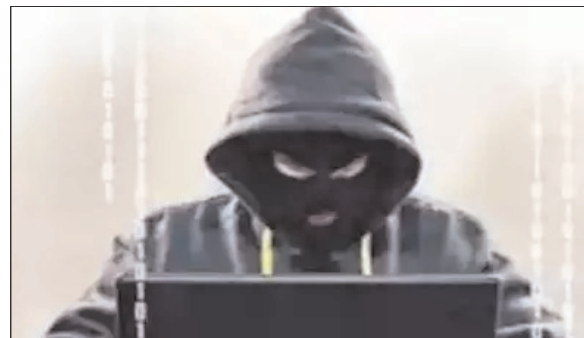
Nalasopara and Virar. "UTSAV is an acronym for Unreserved Ticketing System App Vapra (Marathi) and

Unreserved Ticketing System App Vapra (Gujarati) which signifies a revolutionary approach to railway

ticketing," said WR chief spokesperson Sumit Thakur. As part of the initiative, a redesigned and user-friendly QR code has been introduced, incorporating the UTS App logo and station names for easy readability on smartphones, reflecting advanced technology in the railway system. The newly launched QR code enhances ticketing efficiency with a sleek, user-friendly design. n, he said.

Got a mail from 'Sir'? Beware, say cops

KOLKATA: Beware the next time you receive a message asking you for help online from your beloved teacher from a contact number that you don't even know. Also, stay safe from random WhatsApp or Telegram messages from unverified numbers where your gym instructor or "coaching sir" might be asking for monetary favour. Phishing cases are on rise since puja with multiple employees, especially in IT and banking sectors, receiving phishing links in their WhatsApp from



people in their contact list asking them to buy gift coupons. The latest victims are a female student and an oil firm executive, who lost Rs 30,000 while buying three gift vouchers on request from their "beloved teachers". In both

cases, the SMS and WhatsApp messages were camouflaged to be sent by their teachers with whom they are "still in touch, but mostly online and over phone". Interestingly, in both occasions, the WhatsApp message carried a photograph

of the teacher to pass off the instructions as genuine. "An officer of a state-owned oil company fell prey to cyber fraud while encashing gift vouchers on Thursday afternoon, hours after a college student was duped in a similar manner. After being asked to buy three gift vouchers of Rs 10,000 each and forwarding it to his ex-teacher, he realized he had been cheated. The official filed an e-mail complaint with Kolkata Police's cyber PS on Thursday. On the

PAT increased by 9.5% for Q3, to INR 45.7 Cr

Ambala / Karnal: EaseMyTrip.com, a leading online travel platform in India, continues its strong financial performance, reporting INR 1,607.9 million in revenue for Q3FY24, marking an 18.1% year-on-year increase. EBITDA reached INR 653.7 million, up by 10.9% year-on-year, with a Profit

After Tax of INR 456.6 million, reflecting a 9.5% year-on-year growth. Gross Booking Revenue (GBR) for Q3FY24 stands at 20,260.7 million. Following a successful quarter, EaseMyTrip acquired a stake of approximately 13% in ECO Hotels and Resorts, diversifying its portfolio beyond online travel services. This move aligns with the company's commitment towards organic and in-organic growth and sustainability by promoting environmentally friendly practices within the travel and hospitality sector. Highlighting financial performance, for 9MFY24, the Revenue from Operations was INR 4,265.3, growth of 28.4% Y-o-Y. The EBITDA stood at INR 1,705.2 million, a 17.9% of Y-o-Y growth and the reported Profit after Tax of INR 1,188.6 million, growth of 15.3% Y-

o-Y. This strong performance underscores EaseMyTrip's continued momentum and further strengthens its position as one of the few profitable new-age tech companies in the industry. Additionally, the company recorded a GBR of INR 64,226.0 million in 9MFY24, further strengthening its market position. The total number of air bookings (net of cancellations) in Q3FY24 reached 22.6 Lacs. Similarly, hotel night bookings and the other bookings were 91,915 and 2.7 Lacs, respectively. For 9MFY24, air ticket sales (net of cancellations) were 83.7 Lacs. Furthermore, there were 3.8 Lacs hotel night bookings and 7.7 Lacs in the other bookings. Following the triumph, EaseMyTrip was recognized as the Online Travel Marketplace of the Year (B2C) by Travel World Awards.

NSE registered investor base crosses 9 crore unique investors

AMBALA: The unique registered investors on the National Stock Exchange of India crossed 9 crore (90 million) on February 29th, 2024. The total number of client codes registered with the Exchange stands at 16.9 crores (169 million) (Includes all client registrations done till date; clients can register with more than one trading member). Unique investor registrations at NSE have seen an accelerating trend over the last few years. While the increase from 6 to 7 crore (60 to 70 million) unique investors took about nine months, the next crore (10 million) investors came in eight months, and the jump from 8 to 9 crores (80 to 90 million) took only five months. During this period, daily new unique registrations



have averaged between nearly 47,000 in October 2023 to 78,000 in January this year. The investor base has seen more than 3x jump in the last five years, facilitated by rapid growth in digitization, rising investor awareness, financial inclusion, and strong market performance. From the beginning of FY24 up to February 29th, 2024, the Nifty 50 returned ~27%, while Nifty 500 delivered 38% return over the same period. Annualised return over

the last five-year period ending February 2024 stood at 15.3% and 17.5% for Nifty 50 and Nifty 500 respectively. Of the new investors that have entered the market since October 2023, nearly 42% hailed from North India, followed by West India (28%), South India (17%) and East India (13%). Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra contributed the largest number of new investors during this period, together

accounting for more than a quarter of all new additions. Currently, the highest number of unique registered investors are from Maharashtra with 1.6 crore (16 million) investors, followed by Uttar Pradesh with 97 lakh (9.7 million) investors and Gujarat with 81 lakh (8.1 million). This increase in new investors has come across states, with all but 33 pin codes having at least one individual directly investing in the market.

Store cashier flees with Rs 1 crore, held while trying to escape to Gujarat

NEW DELHI: A cashier sent police on a wild goose chase after stealing Rs 1 crore from a clothing store in South Extension 1 where he worked. Rishabh Kumar Sharma (26), his wife and two others were finally arrested on Thursday. After raiding five-six places unsuccessfully, police first traced Sharma (26) and his wife in Uttarakhand's Dehradun, but they had left the place by the time the cops reached there. Then Sharma made a call to a friend from his wife's mobile phone, which led to his arrest at Nizamuddin Railway Station while they were trying to flee to Gujarat. His wife, uncle and a friend were also arrested. The owner of the store had filed a complaint alleging that one of his employees who had been working as a cashier for the past seven-eight months had fled with Rs 1 crore on Feb 27.