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

DMK agreed to island handover, but made a show of protest: PM Modi

"Their callousness on Katchatheevu has harmed interests of our poor fishermen and fisherwomen"



NEW DELHI: Raising the issue of Katchatheevu for the second straight day, PM Modi Monday targeted DMK over revelations that the party had consented to renunciation of the island in 1974. Taking to X, Modi mentioned official documents cited by TOI to say that notwithstanding DMK's public protestations, party stalwart and then CM of Tamil Nadu M Karunanidhi had agreed to the Indira Gandhi govt's decision to hand over the island to Sri Lanka. The PM alleged that the then governing party of TN did nothing to safeguard the state's interests and stood unmasks following disclosure of what had

transpired between it and the Centre. New details emerging on Katchatheevu have unmasked DMK's double standards totally," PM posted on X, along with the TOI report. He targeted Congress for the second day running over the controversial decision. "Congress and DMK are family units. They only care that their own sons and daughters' rise. They don't care for anyone else. Their callousness on Katchatheevu has harmed interests of our poor fishermen and fisherwomen in particular," he said.

On Sunday, he had said, "Weakening India's unity, integrity and interests has been Congress' way of working for 75 years and counting." PM's remarks come in the wake of growing scrutiny of the agreement between India and Sri Lanka, signed during the tenure of Indira Gandhi govt in 1974.

The report was based on an RTI reply received by Tamil Nadu BJP president K Annamalai to his queries on the matter. Annamalai reiterated that Congress and DMK colluded to give away Katchatheevu to Sri

Lanka. "This is part two of expose of betrayal of DMK in ceding of Katchatheevu," Annamalai said at a press conference, adding, "Ex-CM Karunanidhi was consulted twice before ceding Katchatheevu to Sri Lanka and he said for obvious political reasons that he will not take an open public stand in accepting Centre's decision." He said, "But he assured the foreign secretary that he will keep the reaction low-key and not allow it to be played up. M K Stalin (Tamil Nadu CM) has to own up to this betrayal of his party and apologise unconditionally to our fishermen for putting their lives and livelihoods at risk for past 50 years." BJP is hopeful that the issue will help it in Lok Sabha polls since it involves neighbouring Sri Lanka whose treatment of its own Tamil citizens and Tamil Nadu fishermen has long been a charged political issue in the state.

Court orders judicial custody till April 15, CM Kejriwal sent to Tihar

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court on Monday sent chief minister Arvind Kejriwal to Tihar Jail till April 15 in the liquor policy case after Enforcement Directorate said he was being "non-cooperative" and should be sent to judicial custody. Producing Kejriwal after the end of his remand, ED did not seek further custody but alleged that he had tried to mislead the officials who were questioning him. The agency claimed Kejriwal had told them that co-accused Vijay Nair didn't report to him but to Atishi and Saurabh Bharadwaj, now AAP ministers. "We are asking for judicial custody, subject to the right of asking for further custody, as per SC judgment in the Senthil Balaji case," submitted additional solicitor general S V Raju, who appeared for ED. Raju also claimed that the CM had not provided passwords to his digital devices. In its application, ED said Kejriwal



was highly influential and there was every likelihood that he would influence witnesses and tamper with evidence if released. This could hamper the ongoing investigation, it said. Atishi, Bharadwaj, Gopal Rai and Kejriwal's wife, Sunita, were present in court. **ED: CM said Nair didn't report to him but to Atishi, Bharadwaj** Since the investigation of the case is stated to be pending qua role of the arrestee, for unearthing further proceeds of crime and identifying other persons who may be involved or connected with the above, the accused is remanded to

Kejriwal was asked to explain why someone who reported to other leaders of AAP would work from his camp office - which is meant for the CM's work and was not for the party - he said he was unaware of the persons who work at the camp office and "evaded" answering the question, ED claimed. The agency pointed out that Nair was not a small-time volunteer of AAP but its head of media and communications. Addressing a press conference, AAP leader Jasmine Shah said: "Nair had given this statement (that he didn't report to the CM but to Atishi and Saurabh Bharadwaj) to ED when he was arrested. Why did ED bring up this statement after a year-and-a-half? BJP has understood that putting Kejriwal in jail will not crush the party and it is preparing 2-3 more leaders (to send to jail)." In its application, ED said that Kejriwal had questioned the authenticity of the digital evidence shown to him.

Condemn illegal names given to 30 places inside AP by China, says Kiren



NEW DELHI: Union minister Kiren Rijiju on Monday night criticised China for reportedly renaming multiple locations in Arunachal Pradesh, emphasising that such actions do not alter the ground reality. Minister of Earth Sciences, Rijiju, wrote on X, previously known as Twitter, "I strongly condemn China's illegally 'standardised' geographical names given to 30 places inside Arunachal Pradesh. China has been making all baseless claims but that's not going to change the ground reality and the 'historical facts'. Arunachal Pradesh is inalienable part of India, & people of Arunachal Pradesh are supremely patriotic Indians by all standards & definitions." Rijiju's response came after Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge slammed the Centre over a media report detailing China's renaming of locations in Arunachal Pradesh and criticising Narendra Modi-led government for diverting attention from it by raising the Katchatheevu issue. The longstanding territorial and fishing rights dispute concerning Katchatheevu Island gained prominence ahead of the Lok Sabha polls in Tamil Nadu as PM Modi accused Congress of negligently ceding the island and criticised TN ruling party for failing to protect the state's interests. Kharge also denounced China's move, labeling Beijing's actions as 'ludicrous' and urging the Indian government to take a stand against the neighbour's provocations.

By changing name, you can't own our land: EAM to China on Arunachal

NEW DELHI: Following another spat with India over the status of Arunachal Pradesh, China again resorted to renaming of villages in the Indian state to back its claims of sovereignty. In Surat, foreign minister S Jaishankar responded by saying the state was, is and will always remain a part of India. "If I change the name of your house, will it become mine?"



Arunachal Pradesh who is on a two-day visit to Gujarat, said. The Chinese civil affairs ministry released a fresh list last week of "standardised geographical names" for 30 places in the state it calls Zangnan. This is the fourth time China has released a list of new names for villages in the north-eastern state. After China objected to PM Modi's visit to Arunachal earlier this year, India has repeatedly reminded China that such baseless claims won't change the reality that the state is and will always be a part of India.

I-T dept tells Supreme Court no action till Lok Sabha polls

NEW DELHI: Days after issuing notices to Congress raising demand of around Rs 3,500 crore, income tax department on Monday assured Supreme Court it would not take any coercive steps to recover the amount as it did not want to cause any problem for the party during elections. At the outset of the hearing on Congress's appeal against a Delhi high court order, solicitor general Tushar Mehta told a bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Augustine George Masih that he wanted to make a statement on behalf of I-T department. He said no further action would be



taken against the opposition party during the ongoing general elections. He said the case could be heard in the second week of June," he told the bench. The bench was hearing an appeal filed by Congress in 2018 against a 2016 judgment of Delhi HC. In the appeal, the party had moved an interim application seeking stay of the demand notices issued by I-T department in March. Initially, Mehta said notices had been issued for recovery of Rs 1,700 crore but senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi said the total amount was around Rs 3,500 crore which was accepted by the SG. Singhvi appreciated the I-T department for its gracious approach.

'Something unnatural,' Astronaut who saw a total solar eclipse from space

NEW DELHI: Former Nasa astronaut Tony Virts, who once observed a total solar eclipse from the International Space Station (ISS), is urging people to witness the upcoming celestial event. Describing the eclipse as something "that wasn't natural," Virts emphasized the unparalleled experience of witnessing a total eclipse. Mashable reported, "On a scale of one to ten, a partial eclipse is a seven," said



Virts, contrasting it with the magnificence of a total eclipse, which he rated as "a million." "If it is possible, make the effort and go see this thing," urged the former astronaut, underlining the significance of experiencing such an event. The upcoming total solar eclipse on April 8 promises not just a momentary plunge into darkness for those in the path of totality but also a rare opportunity to witness the sun's grandeur, including potential enormous explosions.

Probe agencies must have balance between search, seizure powers

NEW DELHI: Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud on Monday said, the premier investigative agencies of the country have been spread too thin and they must only focus on cases that involve national security and crimes against the nation. CJI Chandrachud, delivering the 20th DP Kohli Memorial Lecture on CBI Raising Day, highlighted the evolving crime landscape due to technology, posing complex challenges for the agency. "The CBI is being increasingly asked to delve into a diverse array of criminal cases beyond its role as anti-corruption investigative agency. This places a huge responsibility.

Tech layoffs in 2024 touch 50,000

In the first two months of 2024, the technology industry has grappled with a wave of layoffs as companies prioritize efficiency over growth in response to challenging market conditions. The job cuts, which began in 2023 with over 250,000 positions eliminated, have continued into the new year. Till March the industry saw around 50,000 roles eliminated across significant tech giants, IBM cut jobs across teams Chief Communications Officer, Jonathan Adashek, announced job cuts in the company's marketing and communications divisions during a brief seven-minute meeting. Dell laid off 6,000 employees Dell has cut jobs for the second time in two

years. In a recent filing, the company revealed that it has reduced its workforce by about 6,000 employees. The personal computer division faced sluggish demand, resulting in an 11% drop in revenue last year. Dell expects net revenue to grow, but warns of near-term challenges and rising input costs. Vodafone cuts 2,000 jobs at its Germany offices Vodafone Germany is laying off 2,000 employees in an effort to save €400m over the next two years. The new two-year plan aims to reduce costs while increasing investments in areas that can improve the customer experience. The CEO, Philippe Rogge, is also leaving the company on April 1 as part of a broader executive reshuffle within the group.

HC restraint on razing unit built to provide jobs at defunct mill



Mumbai: The Bombay high court has placed a restraint on the demolition of a recently built multi-storey structure for 10,000 spindle units at the defunct Mafatlal Mill in Byculla (Mazgaon division) next to Veer Jijamata zoo. The high court slammed a builder for putting profit over the livelihood of erstwhile mill workers and quashed as "illegal" the 2019 decision of the state to do away with a two-decade-old town planning condition. The 2004 stipulation was intended at social

re-engineering, said the high court as it required construction of the spinning unit while allowing sale of the mill land. The high court allowed a petition by Mafatlal Industries that challenged the state decision. The high court restrained the state, BMC and Glider Buildcon Realtors from razing the spindle unit building and from using any of its FSI. "This is a case of... relentless pursuit of profits by a developer; and the fates and livelihoods of the textile mill's erstwhile workmen

and their families," said the division bench of Justice Gautam Patel and Justice Kamal Khata. "Or, to badly paraphrase Lewis Carroll, the time has come to speak of many things: of mills and zoos and city plans, of workers and developer kings," said the judges in an order uploaded on Monday. Mafatlal Industries, which owned the land, had in 2020 approached the high court against the Sept 2019 letter of the state to disperse with a condition incorporated in 2004 to DCR 58.

T witnesses 10% growth in GST figures for 2023-24

Hyderabad: Telangana clocked an overall Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection growth of 10% in the 2023-24 financial year as compared to the previous financial year. Overall GST figures available for financial year 2023-24 show that GST collection was 40,650 crore, up from 37,026 crore in 2022-23. Thanks to tight checking of tax leakages and curbs on the indiscriminate release of GST claims, the state also registered a significant 19% growth in State Goods and Services Tax (SGST) figures. Of the total 40,650

crore GST collected in 2023-24, the SGST component was 20,012 crore, which represented an increase of 19% from the SGST figure of 2022-23 at 16,876 crore. Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) figure stood at 20,638 crore this year, registering a 2% growth from last fiscal's 20,150 crore. Officials said that these figures assume more significance as there was no growth in VAT, especially from petrol sales. Despite stagnant VAT figures, Telangana collected 15,415 crore in 2023-24 compared to

15,342 crore in 2022-23. Telangana also received a GST compensation settlement from the Centre on the last day of the 2023-24 financial year. "With a lot of pursuance from the state authorities, Centre released the pending amount. In all, we have received 791 crore in compensation, significantly lower than the previous year's 5,033 crore. Additionally, we trimmed the GST refund claims by 264 crore which helped us witness good growth and check the leakages in the system," said an official.



Doc suspended over unruly behaviour

Bengaluru: Following complaints of rude behaviour and use of unparliamentary language, the commissioner of health and family welfare services suspended Dr Leela Sampath, gynaecologist attached to KR Puram General Hospital, and ordered an inquiry against her. A few complaints were made against Dr Leela by students of Vydehi Institute of Medical Sciences and Research Centre, fellow doctors at KR Puram General Hospital, nursing staff and 108 ambulance service employees in February. The complainants had provided video-proof of the doctor's behaviour during duty hours on a pen drive. Dr Raveendranath Meti, district health and family welfare officer, and Dr Nadeem Ahmed, district family welfare officer, inspected the hospital on March 22. They observed Dr Leela's alleged unruly behaviour and dereliction of duty by allowing nursing staff to maintain the records of patients admitted to the labour ward.

Pre-merger turbulence forces Vistara to cancel 50 flights, may hit 60 today

NEW DELHI: Vistara's woes ahead of its merger with Air India (AI) have mounted, with "significant cancellations and delays in the past few days" forcing the Tata-owned carrier to "temporarily" truncate schedules. The airline was forced to cancel close to 50 flights on Monday. Sources said the number of cancellations could go up to 60 on Tuesday. Vistara — a full service carrier that operates over 300 domestic and international flights.

WFH fraud kingpin held in Goa

Kolkata: In a major success against the ongoing cryptocurrency Work From Home (WFH) frauds through Telegram app, the detective department has arrested a kingpin from Goa who had allegedly cheated a Kolkata resident of Rs 10 lakh. The cyber cell arrested the accused,

identified as Milind Gurudas Chari, from Dhatwara in south Goa from his residence and brought to Kolkata on transit remand after he duped a Kasba woman in the name of greater gains through time bound investments. 'Most of the Rs 9.4 lakh defrauded from the

woman reached this man's accounts," said joint CP (crime) Syed Waquar Raza. Obsessed with recovering her money, the complainant kept investing until the amount reached Rs 10 lakh. "Plenty of people have stepped into such traps and continue to do so.

Rahul Gandhi's Wayanad fight inappropriate: Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan

KOZHIKODE: Fault lines in the INDIA bloc split wide open in Kerala on Monday after CM Pinarayi Vijayan declared it was "inappropriate" of Congress to field sitting MP Rahul Gandhi in Wayanad against CPI's Annie Raja, defeating the alliance's professed aim of taking on BJP-led NDA. "Can Rahul Gandhi say he has come here to contest against NDA? He has come here to fight LDF, which is the major political power. What is the justification for contesting against LDF, which is part of the



INDIA bloc, and that too against Annie Raja, who is a nationally recognised Left leader?" Vijayan said. Accusing Rahul of "double standard", the CM questioned why the former Congress president remained silent on CAA throughout his Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra.

Vijayan, who attended a campaign rally for Annie Raja at Thiruvambady in Kozhikode, said it was also intriguing that Congress wasn't taking a stand against "central agencies hounding non-Congress opposition leaders". "Congress played a key

role in levelling corruption allegations linked to the AAP gov't's liquor licence policy in Delhi that led ED to go after Arvind Kejriwal. When deputy CM Manish Sisodia was arrested, Congress complained why Kejriwal was not being taken into custody," Vijayan said. On Rahul's statement that Congress members were crossing over to BJP after being threatened with jail, Vijayan said politicians were required to face adversities rather than succumb to them. "Instead of giving up in such situations.

3 extensions, but no response to 1,400cr sanitation tender

Mumbai: Days before the Election Commission of India's model code of conduct came into force, BMC had issued a Rs 1,400-crore tender aiming to enlist a sole agency for the comprehensive cleanliness of the city's slum areas. This money has been proposed to be spent over a period of four years. Civic officials have confirmed that no bids were received even after the initial deadline of March 7. Subsequent extensions to March



16 and 26 also failed to yield any response. After a third extension, the new deadline is in the first week of April. The substantial Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) requirement of Rs 13

crore has been cited as a deterrent for potential bidders. Additionally, a bidder who initially expressed interest has now withdrawn. Explaining the scheme, a civic official said that as a large

population of the city lives in slum pockets, it was found essential that garbage from these areas is properly collected and disposed of. "The appointed agency is expected to look into the complete cleaning of the slum and not just collecting garbage from house to house," said the official. The results of Swachh Survekshan 2023, which were announced on Jan 11, had indicated a decline in Mumbai's cleanliness.

Two arrested for chasing family's car after road rage

Bengaluru: A minor collision between a car and a scooter escalated into an ugly confrontation involving lewd gestures and a chase in Koramangala Sunday night. Saunak Ghose, a resident of Kudlu Gate, uploaded a video clip on her X account showing three youths on a scooter chasing her car for some distance from Madiwala underpass to Koramangala water tank. After seeing the video, police contacted Saunak, took a complaint from her, and nabbed two of the youngsters. The arrested are Jagannath, 26, a call centre employee, and Tejas, 23, a final-year BCom student, both residents of Seshadripuram. In her complaint to Madiwala police, Saunak stated that she, her husband Dr Subir Ghose, and their daughter were on their way to a restaura-



tant in Koramangala for dinner at the time of the incident. Subir was driving through Madiwala underpass around 9.10pm when the trio riding a scooter demanded that he stop the car. They allegedly hit the car's window, tried to open the door, and obstructed the family's way up to Koramangala water tank. Saunak alleged that the youths also threatened her. In a panic, Saunak recorded the trio on her mobile phone and simultaneously called the police helpline. Her uploaded video shows that she had the windows closed while the youths were chasing

the car, and made the 112 call and explained the incidents live. However, before police could reach the couple, the youths had stopped following them and had gone home. But cops, with the help of the scooter's registration number, detained the duo. During interrogation, the youths told police they were taking a right turn with indicator on when the person driving the car took a left turn without using indicator; the car is said to have brushed against the scooter. When they shouted at the man to drive properly, he allegedly showed them the middle finger. Annoyed by the gesture, the youths followed the car. They claimed they were initially unaware of Saunak and her daughter's presence in the car. After noticing them, they decided not to bother the family and left.

LG seeks time-bound revamp of heritage

New Delhi: Lieutenant governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Monday visited Sanjay Van and Mehrauli Archaeological Park to review the progress of the ongoing restoration and beautification work undertaken by Delhi Development Authority (DDA). Raj Niwas officials said this was the LG's seventh visit since Feb last year to the two sites. In his last visit on March 4, the LG had directed DDA to start filling Anang Tal and Lalkot Baoli Qila Rai Pithora in Sanjay Van with water and to conserve and restore Balban's Tomb, Jamali Kamali Mosque and Rajon ki Baoli in Mehrauli Archaeological Park under the supervision of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). "These monuments will be developed as new public assets for the capital and will



help Delhi emerge as a heritage city. Most of the works at both sites have been completed and are already drawing a huge footfall since Oct last year when the LG had inaugurated the renovated Mehrauli Archaeological Park," said a Raj Niwas official. The two sites were handed over to DDA by ASI, which is assisting in the protection of the monuments and their restoration. The Union culture ministry, too, had recently agreed that

DDA will -use its resources to execute the conservation works while ASI, with all its expertise, will supervise it. Spread across around 200 acres, Mehrauli Archaeological Park is known to have more than 100 historical monuments and ruins. The nearby Sanjay Van also houses several monuments, including Qila Rai Pithora, once the capital of Prithviraj Chauhan of the Tomar dynasty. At Sanjay Van, the LG visited the baolis (stepwells) and

directed the officials to ensure that the entire area must be protected and the drains and wells are restored. Spots were also identified where cultural programmes and events can be held. While appreciating the progress at Mehrauli Archaeological Park, the LG sought a time-bound plan for restoration, preservation and encroachment removal. The LG also directed the two agencies to preserve carved stones and relics that are scattered all over for a potential museum display. The LG had in Oct last year unveiled the restored Quli Khan's Tomb and Metcalfe's boathouse, a guest house, and a circular house, which is now running as a successful café alongside a rejuvenated water body.

Arvind Kejriwal's day in Tihar jail: Wake-up call at 6am

NEW DELHI: Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal last week joined the ranks of incarcerated AAP members, becoming the fourth from the party and the fifth opposition leader overall to be confined in the national capital's Tihar jail currently. If you are curious about how Kejriwal will spend his time behind bars? Here's a glimpse into his routine. **Jail No 2** Kejriwal will be situated in Tihar's jail No 2, alongside his former deputy, Manish Sisodia, who is in jail No 1. Former Health Minister Satyendar Jain occupies Jail No 7, while Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh resides in jail No 5.

How IIT Kanpur's e-Masters Degree Programme is leading the way

The global market for Wireless

Technologies is experiencing a surge and is projected to reach a staggering \$4 trillion. This growth is fueled by the relentless integration of wireless connectivity. As we embrace innovations like 5G, Edge Computing, and next-gen wireless technologies across every imaginable industry, the demand for skilled professionals in the space is skyrocketing. 5G technology has transformed the delivery of healthcare services. Through high-speed, low-latency connections, healthcare providers can remotely diagnose and treat patients, improving access to care and patient outcomes. Similarly, in manufacturing, the implementation of the Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) powered by Edge Computing enables real-time monitoring of equipment and predictive maintenance, leading to increased efficiency and cost savings.



Next-gen wireless technologies have revolutionized content delivery and immersive experiences. Virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) technologies create immersive gaming and entertainment experiences, blurring the lines between the digital and physical worlds. In this transformative era of the hyperconnected world, there's an unprecedented demand for skilled professionals adept at leveraging wireless technologies. The companies face a significant challenge in sourcing individuals with comprehensive expertise in Wireless Communication, spanning protocol design to network optimization. Respond

ing to this demand, the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IIT Kanpur) has introduced the e-Masters Degree in Next Generation Wireless Technologies. Formerly named Communication Systems, it is a highly sought-after program for individuals who wish to pursue a career in the field of Wireless Tech and Communications. IIT Kanpur's e-Masters Degree Programme in Next-Generation Wireless Technologies. It offers a comprehensive curriculum covering both theoretical and practical aspects of next-gen wireless technologies. Structured with core modules such as Wireless Communication.

Supreme Court blames Kerala for financial trouble

NEW DELHI: Observing that Kerala's financial hardship is the creation of its own monetary mismanagement, Supreme Court Monday refused to grant interim relief to allow the state to borrow more money and referred its petition against Centre's decision to limit borrowing capacity of states to Constitution bench for adjudication. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and K V Viswanathan held that Kerala has failed to establish the three judicial prongs - proving a prima facie case, balance of convenience, and irreparable injury - and the state was not entitled to the interim



injunction on borrowing cap. "If the state has essentially created financial hardship because of its own financial mismanagement, such hardship cannot be held to be an irreparable injury that would necessitate an interim relief against the Union. There is an arguable point that if we were to issue an interim mandatory injunction in such cases, it might set a

bad precedent in law that would enable the states to flout fiscal policies and still successfully claim additional borrowings," the bench said. The apex court also noted in its order that the state had already got substantial relief as the Centre agreed to release Rs 13,608 crore after the petition was filed. SC said several questions of significant importance impacting the Federal Structure of Governance arise for consideration and it should be adjudicated by a five-judge Constitution bench and framed four questions to be decided by the larger bench.

Kolkata to Punjab: The road trip of two Air India jets

KOLKATA: Two scrapped Air India aircraft shells left Kolkata airport on tractor trailers for Punjab along Jessore Road, Belgharia Expressway and Durgapur Expressway early on Sunday. The two Airbus A319 planes are part of the



five retired passenger aircraft that were sold as

scrap by Air India recently. After one of the five retired planes was involved in a fracas during the transportation to Amritsar last month, the transport agency took the nod from PWD and then, chose smaller trailers for better navigation.

BJP MP Nishikant booked for 'fraudulently' acquiring hospital in Jharkhand

DUMKA: Outgoing BJP MP from Godda, Nishikant Dubey, who has been named by the party to contest from the same parliamentary seat for the fourth time, was booked by the Jasadhih police in Deoghar district on charges of fraudulently acquiring the Paritrans Medical College and Hospital (PMCH). Dubey responded to the FIR saying it was the 44th FIR filed at the instance of the JMM-Congress-RJD govt since 2019 over his legally acquired project (PMCH). The



recent FIR was filed on March 28 against Dubey and seven others, including his wife Anamika Gautam, police said on Sunday. One Shiv Datta Sharma of Bawanbigha locality here lodged an 11-page FIR against Dubey, accusing him and seven others of

acquiring the project in connivance with officials of a bank which conducted an auction for PMCH. The acquisition was done in December 2023 for Rs 60 crore in the name of Baba Baidyanath Medical Trust, the chairman of which is Dubey's wife.

"After the auction, the bank allotted PMCH to the Baba Baidyanath Medical Trust at Rs 60 crore not only by violating the norms but also resulting in a direct wrongful loss of Rs 2 crore to the state exchequer. I had quoted Rs 62 crore against the reserved price of Rs 60 crore," Sharma said in his FIR. Stating that it was the 44th FIR lodged against him and his family members by the state govt since 2019. Dubey wrote on X, "The complainant is a declared absconder of a CBI court."

For first time since 2018-19, adoptions cross 4000-mark

NEW DELHI: In a promising trend, adoptions have again reached pre-pandemic numbers. Govt data show that 4,009 children were adopted between April 2023 and March 2024 by families in India & abroad. The last time the number of adoptions (in-country & inter-country) crossed 4,000 was in 2018-19 when it touched 4,027. Also, in-country adoptions at 3,560 are the highest since 2015-16. In 2022-23, the total number of adoptions stood at 3,441, up from



3,405 in the previous financial year. Data collated by Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), under the ministry of women and child development, show that of the 4,009 adoptions in 2023-24, 449 were inter-country adoptions. CaptureThis

year, CARA expanded the ambit of adoption to include concept of 'foster adoption' as a category. So far, 10 children have been placed under foster adoption across the country, in keeping with the Adoption Regulations 2022. Moreover, CARA has also been focusing

on expediting cases of relatives keen on taking an orphaned child in their family or prospective parents waiting to adopt their step children.

As many as 412 children, adopted under in-country adoptions, figure in the category of 'relative & step adoption'. Break-up of data on domestic adoptions shows that relatives and step parents in India adopted 311 and 101 children, respectively. Relatives (NRI/OCI) abroad adopted 18 children.

'Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan gave false promises, cheated me'

"He alleged that though the state govt ordered a CBI probe, it did nothing to give his son's case to the central agency"



THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: T Jayaprakash - the father of J S Sidharthan who was found hanging in the washroom of the hostel on Feb 18 at KVASU's College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences at Pookode after he was assaulted by a group of students for two days after a 'public trial' - said that CM Pinarayi Vijayan had cheated him by giving

him false promises. He alleged that though the state govt ordered a CBI probe, it did nothing to give his son's case to the central agency. The delay was purposefully done to sabotage evidence in the case, he added. While pointing out the lapses made by the home department in handing over the case to CBI, Jayaprakash said the state govt order se-eking CBI pr-obe in the case was forwarded to CBI's Kochi

office instead of the Union ministry of personnel, public grievances and pensions. He alleged that the officials were not careful while handling the papers of such a sensational case. "First, police investigation did not reach anywhere. When the chief minister assured me of a CBI probe, there was a calculated attempt to delay giving the case to the agency. I do not expect justice from the state's home department," he said.

ASI Plans To Dig Deeper For More Historical Legacy At Purana Qila

New Delhi: The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has planned to further excavate the Purana Qila site near the Kunti temple which has so far revealed historical legacy over 2,500 years old. bThe last excavated remains were from the Kushan era. The excavated site has been open to visitors and is protected with a bamboo shed. The shed has been lined with tarpaulin to protect the site from rain. On Sunday, many visited the site to see the 2,500-year-old historical remains and clicked pictures. This was the special attraction of an event organised by Sabhyata Foundations. According to officials, the plan is to expand the area for excavation to expose different cultural layers and showcase these to visitors.



Experts say that there are possibilities of getting evidence of Sunga, Mauryan, and pre-Mauryan periods. The excavation is likely to start soon. **Selected artefacts** — gold foil, ivory sealing, copper coins, a tortoise amulet of the Kushan period, copper wheel, Gajalakshmi plaque of the Gupta period, ivory locket of the Sultanate period — were also displayed on the occasion to show the rich cultural

legacy of the site. The fort on Mathura Road was once the residence of the Mughal ruler Humayun. The fort is popularly known as Indraprastha or Pandavon ka Qila. The excavations that have happened under the direction of Dr Vasant Kumar Swarnkar have spanned over three seasons — 2013-2014, 2017-2018 and 2022 - 2023 — and have yielded a plethora of structures, antiquities and pottery. The struc-

tural evidence that has been found include a Mauryan period ring well which consists of 22 rings of terracotta along with two post holes, a Mauryan period industrial set-up along with debitage including slag, raw material and beads made with semi-precious stones. Sunga and Kushan period house structures with brick walls and clay floors were also found. Rajput period structures — a guard cell and a post hole — have also been found. Kushan period kilns, which were used by potters, have also been found. Apart from these structures, painted grey ware which is associated with Mahabharata sites have been found. It was used as tableware. Its colour ranges from ash grey to slate.

HC seeks details of land DDA earmarked for developing forest

New Delhi: Delhi High Court on Monday asked Delhi Development Authority (DDA) to furnish details of the land parcel the agency said it has earmarked for developing a 50-acre forest in the capital. Justice Jasmeet Singh asked DDA to file an affidavit, pointing out that such land should be "sustainable" after the agency said it had identified a 50-acre land in Madanpur Khadar of Yamuna Pushta zone. "How can it be on a riverbed? It will all wash away. You have earlier taken the stand that such land can't be used. It should be sustainable even for a once in a decade flood situation," the court said. It asked DDA to share details of the land and remarked that "it should be able to withstand the fury of the river", after lawyers Gautam Narayan and Aditya N Prasad, appearing as amici curiae to assist the court, said the land proposed for afforestation fell on the Yamuna riverbed and therefore cannot be used for this purpose.

CAPSULES

Another 120km of suburban rail mooted for circular link

Bengaluru: The Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Ltd, or K-Ride, has advocated extending Bengaluru's four planned suburban rail corridors by around 120km to integrate them with the proposed 287km circular rail network — Nidavanda, Doddaballapur, Devanahalli, Malur, Heelalige, Hejjala, Solur, and back to Nidavanda — of South Western Railway (SWR) on the city's outskirts. At present, K-Ride has a mandate for building 148km of rail corridor, and if the extension happens, it will add another 120km to the network. According to K-Ride officials, extending the railway network will benefit daily commuters from suburban areas and neighbouring districts. For instance, Corridor-3 from Whitefield could be stretched to Malur, while the same corridor could be lengthened from Kengeri to Hejjala on the western side. Corridor-2, an ongoing project between Byappanahalli and Chikkabanavara that is 20% complete, could link Nidavanda and Marikuppe. Corridor-4 from Heelalige to Rajanukunte could connect to Doddaballapur. "Bengaluru has operational rail tracks in six directions, and the suburban project will run parallel. Extending it to satellite towns will aid future commuters," said a Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project (BSRP) official. K-Ride argues the suburban rail is more cost-effective than the Namma Metro expansion proposed to nearby cities. "Last year, the railways turned down K-Ride's request for permission to conduct a feasibility study to extend BSRP to cities such as Mysuru, Tumakuru, and Chikkaballapur. Now, K-Ride has approached the railways to revisit its earlier decision and highlighted the need to link BSRP."

Editorial

Ukraine: Try To Gaining International Support

These foreign visits were, on one level, part of various multilateral summits, but all these visits had one key goal: gaining international support for Ukraine in its war with Russia. Whether it was the visuals coming from inside the Canadian parliament or from Zelensky's visit to Washington, each of them contained a Ukrainian appeal for aid and material support besides their call to the global community to be on the 'bright side of history'. While Ukraine's top leader was shoring support for his cause across the world, India got nothing but a volley of attacks being launched by Ukrainian leaders, including their foreign minister, Kuleba, who is in India currently for a two-day visit. While responding to India, a developing country that was buying discounted oil to meet its energy needs, Kuleba said in August 2022, "When India purchases Russian crude oil (at a discount), they have to understand that the discount has to be paid by Ukrainian blood." Then again, after the G20 summit held in New Delhi, while reacting to India's hard work in securing a declaration at the end of the summit, Ukraine responded with a cold remark, saying "it is 'nothing to be proud of'". In 2023, Ukraine crossed all limits when its presidential adviser, Mykhailo Podolyak, said India doesn't have an understanding of the modern world and is actually a country with 'weak intellectual potential'. Not just this, a senior Ukrainian lawmaker and head of the Ukrainian parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, Oleksandr Merezhko, even called for sanctions against India for buying Ukrainian oil. Fast forward to March 2024, and Ukraine has suddenly changed its tune with regards to India. The visiting foreign minister, Dmytro Kuleba, has not only praised India as a global power that rightfully deserves a seat at the United Nations Security Council but also as an important 'global voice'. What can be the reason for this sudden change of heart if not Ukraine's own self-interest? Firstly, Kuleba is visiting India with a broader goal to mend bridges, deepen bilateral ties, and also place a request for humanitarian aid, but the most important agenda item is to secure India's presence at a high-level peace conference being organised by Switzerland based on Zelensky's peace formula in the next few months. Ironically, the same Ukraine, which failed to understand India's energy security needs as a developing country in procuring discounted oil from Russia at a time of volatile energy prices, is now requesting India to use its credentials in the 'global south' to support Ukraine at the peace table in Switzerland. In Kuleba's own words, "India can play a very important role in bringing together more nations from the Global South." He feels India's presence will attract more countries to join the Ukrainian cause. However, there is a catch. First of all, India's stand on the Ukraine-Russia war has been consistent from the very beginning. India firmly believes that it is not an 'era of war' and the solution to the conflict will not come on the battlefield. New Delhi has also shown interest in mediating peace between the warring parties, with Foreign Minister S Jaishankar reiterating the same in an interview with the German economic daily Handelsblatt in February last month. However, despite its clear preference for an end to violence, India is highly unlikely to respond to any invitation, which may jeopardise India's strategic ties with Russia. Neither Russia itself is likely to join the peace conference in Switzerland, nor is Ukraine genuinely interested in Russia's presence. This is because for Ukraine, this peace conference is more like a show of strength, and this is why it wants India, a rising power with global appeal.

The West still dominates global institutions established after World War II. The Western countries are the richest, the most advanced in technology, the strongest militarily, and they control the international media. This gives them the tools to exert power over the non-Western world, intervene militarily to oust governments or even change the maps of countries, employ the tools of sanctions to coerce others to fall in line with their policies, intervene in the internal affairs of other countries on grounds of promotion of human rights, democracy and protection of minorities. The dominant Western powers have lost the capacity to introspect about the deficiencies in their own polities and societies, the glaring double standards that animate their external policies and the willingness to discard their "values based" foreign policies if they clash with their parochial national interests. Lately, of course, the challenge to the power of the West has grown. The biggest challenge has come from China, a country that Western capital built up on the assumption it could be co-opted in the West-dominated international system. China's huge store of cheap labour and its massive investment in China, trade with it and use of the country as an



export base. Its authoritarian government provided the assurance that they could do business and invest without having to worry about trade unions, rights of workers, strikes, questioning by local interests, and the like. It was a win-win formula which the Chinese now repeat on every occasion to promote cooperation with the West in the face of moves by Western governments to reduce dependence on China. China's mercantilist policies, its unfair trade practices, forced technology transfers, the systematic control over critical raw materials and technologies that China has acquired through state controlled industrial policies has created a backlash. More than that, it is China's open challenge to the dominating power of the US in the international system that has led to the West seeking to "reshore" manufacturing, pursue "de-risking strategies", questioning globalisation and imposing restrictions on

technology transfer to China, and so on. Relations between the West and Russia have collapsed over the Ukraine conflict, although it was clear for some time that treating Russia as a security threat, seeking democratisation of Russia before it could be considered a worthy partner of the West, accusing it of human rights violations, promoting colour revolutions in Russia's periphery to instigate a similar revolution in Russia, portended a breakdown of the West's ties with Moscow. Unlike in the case of China, the West, led by the US has intervened in Russia's internal affairs, promoting select opposition leaders, as in the case of Navalny, to put pressure on President Putin internally. The West's international agenda of promoting democracy, protecting minorities, highlighting human rights violations, and markets, and so on, has not been limited to what it calls "authoritari-

an" regimes. It is extended to even friendly democracies like India. Ever since Prime Minister Modi has come to power, even as the West has engaged India and built productive ties, it has not been able to shed its ingrained patronising habits of lecturing India, accusing it of violating human rights, democratic backsliding, persecution of minorities, and so on. This is largely done by the mainstream press, the think tanks and their associated journals, academics, NGOs, etc. At the official level, the US State Department in its annual report on human rights at the global level highlights violations of human rights in India. Other than this, quite often the State Department comments on sporadic incidents in India of communal tensions, rioting, and legislation seen as anti-minority such as the CAA, etc. The latest provocation comes from Germany which gratuitously commented on the arrest of Kejriwal by the ED, patronisingly asking for the standards relating to independence of judiciary and basic democratic principles to be applied to his case, and for him to get a fair and impartial trial and make use of all available legal avenues without restriction as well. This implies that all this may not be available in the normal course. This is a presumptuous statement that calls into

question India's political and legal system. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) summoned the German Deputy Chief of Mission to lodge a strong protest which was made public. The US State Department then jumped into the fray by also patronisingly "encouraging" a fair and transparent trial of Kejriwal by India. This was in response to an emailed question, which suggested that the US was keen to quickly back its ally Germany, ignoring that India had already made public its strong displeasure to Germany for interfering in our judicial process etc.

The State Department showed scant regard for India's legitimate annoyance at Germany's unwarranted interference in our internal affairs. If India had ignored the offensive remark by the US, it would have meant that we had one standard for Germany and another for the US, which is why for the same provocation a senior US diplomat was called in by the MEA for a protest. Surprisingly, the US State Department instead of backing off as Germany has done, doubled down on its earlier intrusive comment by not only calling for a fair and transparent trial of Kejriwal but also added the issue of hampering electioneering by the Congress party by the closure of its bank accounts.

Military outreach cover extended neighbourhood

S Jaishankar did not name it, but the reference was to China, which lately had been back to its old game of irritating Filipino merchant vessels in the South China Sea. China claims the whole territorial waters as its own. On this issue, many Southeast Asian nations have disputes with China. Among them, Philippines even has an international arbitration award in its favour – but to no avail. It is anybody's guess what Jaishankar meant by India's support for Philippines to protect its sovereignty, but he did discuss the expansion of political, defence and security cooperation between the two countries. He did not name China, either, in his public statements in Manila, but Beijing was quick to grasp what it meant. In

Beijing, a Chinese spokesman promptly said that 'third nations' had no role to play in the matter. In Manila, Jaishankar did not name China, but Beijing, as the guilty customer, was pricked enough to comment on his support for Philippines' sovereignty. It does not stop there. China is also short on memory, it would seem. In March 2018, just out of the blue, China issued a statement that it would defend the sovereignty of Maldives in India's immediate neighbourhood if any nation intervened with its sovereignty, etc. The reference of course was to India, though not named.

Critical chokepoint
As Navy chief, Admiral R Hari Kumar, said on the completion of the first 100 days of Operation Sankalp, meaning 'deter-

mination' against the Houthi attacks / Somali piracy, Indian mariners had carried out over 1,000 boarding on suspected vessels. These included actual rescue missions in which naval personnel, including marine commandos MARCOS, secured captured Indian and foreign vessels and also their crew from the hijackers. India also became one of the few nations to take some hijackers prisoner. As Admiral Hari Kumar pointed out, since mid-December, as part of Phase 2 of Operation Sankalp, the Indian Navy saw the deployment of over 5,000 personnel at sea, over 450 ship-days (with over 21 ships deployed), and 900 hours of flying by the maritime surveillance aircraft to address threats in the maritime domain.

Al Qaeda members under the supervision of a Taliban

The relationship (between Taliban and Al Qaeda) which was exposed after the killing of Ayman al-Zawahiri, the former leader of the Islamist terror group, housed in one of many guesthouses owned by Sirajuddin Haqqani, the acting Minister of Interior Affairs for Taliban, appears to have evolved in 2024.

The fabric of relationship: Al Zawahiri's pledge To understand the extent of the existing relationship between Al Qaeda and the Taliban, the author referred to the letter written by Ayman al-Zawahiri to Osama bin Laden then, which not only demonstrated Afghanistan's importance as a territory/topography suitable to Al Qaeda's survival but a perpetual playground, with the potential to provide seamless recruitment opportunities, then anywhere else in South Asia. In the letter, Al-Zawahiri also reiterated his position on Al Qaeda's commitment to the Taliban and strived to build greater partnership and trust. To understand Taliban's perspectives, the authors interviewed current and former members of the Taliban, who not only echoed Taliban's commitment to the group but detailed the need to preserve and support Al Qaeda. That said, the Taliban has always denied Al Qaeda's presence in Afghanistan, a statement that has echoed repeatedly since the latter's takeover of Kabul. To confirm the extent of the Taliban's



commitment to the group, the author interviewed a former provincial governor, who not only confirmed Al Qaeda's presence in the eastern, southern and southeastern provinces of Afghanistan but also detailed the privileges enjoyed by the group. He further confirmed Al Qaeda's existing safe havens in the region and provided detailed.

notes on training and recruitment activities, undertaken by Al Qaeda members under the supervision of a Taliban commander, functioning as a caretaker of this training facility. To confirm the source's information as legitimate, the author's reviewed publication released by the United Nations Security Council's Sanctions Monitoring and Oversight Team, which in its report dated January 2023, emphasised the extent of relationship between the two groups, with active handshake occurring in provinces such as Helmand, Zabul, Nangarhar, Nuristan, Badghis, loya region (Paktia & Paktika) in addition to Kunar. The report not only confirmed (what the source stated in great detail) the existence of numerous safe houses owned

by Al Qaeda in Kabul, Farah, Helmand and Herat, with a dedicated media wing operating in one of the three safe houses in Herat. To that end, the source acknowledged the presence of senior Al Qaeda members holding key responsibilities within the Taliban's Ministry of Interior (MoI), in particular the General Directorate of Intelligence (GDI), the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan's intelligence agency. He also confirmed the presence of AQ members holding political appointments (a UNSC report published in January 2023 had stated governors of Kapisa and Nuristan were high-ranking members of the AQ). He further reiterated Al Qaeda members also advise the Taliban's senior leadership within various security apparatuses. On enquiring the extent of Al Qaeda's engagement within the IEA's MoD, one former Taliban official confirmed the latter to have issued training manuals based on Al Qaeda's small arms tactics, to train its conventional forces, with most of the Al Qaeda's curriculum on small arms, large calibre weapons and management of heavy ordinance.

Centralised energy production

This is particularly important considering technological advancements that are providing new opportunities to transcend the limitations imposed by traditional models. Centralised energy production and distribution systems have remained inefficient and insufficient in ensuring access to energy for all. According to the World Energy Outlook report by the International Energy Agency, 745 million people globally still lack access to energy. As renewable technologies such as solar and wind power mature, they are paving ways for decentralised energy systems that can deliver greater accessibility, reliability, and sustainability in ener-

gy provision, particularly in underserved regions. From rooftop solar installations and community solar projects to microgrids and virtual power plants, they are empowering individuals and communities globally to actively generate and consume energy locally. This distributed energy landscape is not only democratizing clean energy access, but it is also empowering communities to take control of their energy future. Enhancing energy resilience and fostering local economic development remain additional yields. By embracing this transformative shift more openly, we stand to construct a more equitable and sustainable energy system that

serves the interests of both humanity and the planet. If 47% of the global population live below the poverty line of \$6.85 per day, and nearly half of this demographic being females, it is clear that achieving Net Zero without an inclusive clean energy transition framework is not attainable. Grassroots communities and women have an important role to play in the global clean energy transition, not only because they represent a significant proportion of the global population, but also because they possess invaluable local knowledge and perspective. s that are essential for implementing effective and sustainable clean energy solutions at

the grassroots level.

Embracing decentralised systems, empowering grassroots communities and women, and reimagining finance are pivotal steps towards charting a path to a more sustainable and equitable energy future for all. As the urgency of addressing climate change grows, it is increasingly apparent that we are not headed in the right direction. Despite our heightened consciousness and efforts, the stark reality is that global temperatures continue to rise. Worsening climate-related disasters and escalating greenhouse gas emissions all underscore the inadequacy of our current approaches. Rather than quick fixes.

Will China's fourth aircraft carrier challenge US naval dominance

NEW DELHI: China's ambitious naval expansion, marked by the construction of its fourth aircraft carrier, the Type 004, is poised to reshape the maritime balance of power in Asia and potentially challenge the US navy's dominance. According to Yuan, a key figure in the carrier's development, there have been no delays in its construction, with illustrations suggesting the vessel is being built at Shanghai's Jiangnan shipyard, a South China Morning Post report said. Experts like Abdul Rahman Yaacub from the Lowy Institute speculate that if powered by nuclear energy, the Type 004 could wield advanced, power-intensive weaponry and operate at sea for extended periods without the need for replenishment. This capability would enable the Chinese navy to project a more formidable presence in international waters, despite



China's limited regional military bases compared to the US's extensive network and alliances with countries such as Australia, South Korea, and Japan. The potential nuclear propulsion of the Type 004 raises its strategic profile, making it comparable to the US's Nimitz-class carriers in terms of size and capability. Malcolm Davis of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute notes that while this development recalibrates regional power dynamics, the operational focus of Chinese carriers remains primarily on supporting joint land-operations target-

AAP govt faces challenge of keeping files moving

New Delhi: With chief minister Arvind Kejriwal remanded in judicial custody for 15 days by a lower court, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) govt now faces the challenge of running routine governance in his absence. Though Kejriwal does not hold any portfolio, officials said there are certain files that are moved only through CM. While the ministers concerned have been currently holding up all such files, sources confirmed the party will now have to take a decision on how to process them further to ensure governance does not suffer. Arrested by Enforcement Directorate (ED) on March 21 in a money

laundering case linked to the now-scraped Delhi excise policy, Kejriwal was sent to judicial custody till April 15 by Rouse Avenue court on Monday. Though AAP has maintained that Kejriwal will not resign and continue to remain CM despite his incarceration, practical difficulties in running his office would remain. The order of the special judge on Monday did not mention if Kejriwal was permitted to meet his ministers, officers or staff during his judicial custody or was allowed to get official files in his cell to allow him to study and dispose of them.

As per the Govt of NCT of Delhi Act, 1991 and

Transaction of Business Rules, all files received or sent to central govt and lieutenant governor are routed through chief minister. CM heads the council of ministers and communicates to LG all decisions of the cabinet, apart from sharing information relating to the administration of the affairs of the national capital. A senior Delhi govt official said all such files that require chief minister to take a look and give his opinion had been held up by the ministers of the departments concerned since the day Kejriwal had been arrested by ED. "We are still contemplating how to go about with the governance aspect."

Lover, her husband kill man, bury body in sewage pit in central Delhi

New Delhi: A 35-year-old man was murdered and his body buried in a sewage pit in central Delhi's Anand Parbat, cops said on Monday. The deceased was identified as Madhav Singh, a labourer who worked at a factory. A missing complaint for Singh was registered at

Anand Parbat police station. Acting on the complaint, police searched his house and seized his phone. They discovered that Singh had an illicit affair with a woman named Jyoti who, they surmised, could have been involved in Singh's murder. Police then visited the

woman's house, but it was locked. However, when the cops managed to get inside, they felt that there was something wrong. Upon looking closely, police found Singh's body had been buried in a sewage pit in their house. Forensic teams examined the scene of the crime.

CAPSULES

Man facing 52 cases seeks protection; Madras HC says no

Chennai: Police protection cannot be ordered for people with criminal backgrounds, as it would affect the faith of common citizens in the existing system, Madras high court has said. "Wherever the person seeking police protection has a criminal background, and such a threat perception is as a result of their own activities, this court should be very hesitant to grant police protection," Justice N Anand Venkatesh said. The court passed the order while rejecting the application moved by K Venkatesh, OBC state secretary of Tamil Nadu BJP, seeking police protection. During the course of the hearing, it came to light that Venkatesh is facing three criminal cases in Tamil Nadu and 49 cases in Andhra Pradesh in connection with red sanders smuggling. He claimed that he and his family started receiving life threatening messages after the murder of his close relatives on August 17, 2023. Refusing to entertain the plea, the court said: "There is yet another perspective, from which, these cases can be looked into. The order passed in this writ petition at least acts as a precedent in the State of Tamil Nadu." Therefore, in the instant case, assuming that this court grants police protection to the petitioner, the order will be shown as a precedent in another case where a similar threat perception is encountered by another person with criminal background, the judge added.

D acting like persecuting agency: Kavitha's lawyer

New Delhi: Bharatiya Rashtra Samiti leader K Kavitha on Monday told a Delhi court that the Enforcement Directorate is acting like a "persecuting agency" with no fairness or impartiality. Kavitha is in judicial custody in the alleged liquor scam case. Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi was appearing for Kavitha before the court of special judge Kaveri Baweja that was hearing her bail plea in the matter. "ED is not acting as a prosecuting agency but as a persecuting



agency...There is no fairness or impartiality. The probe is totally motivated. They say either we will arrest you or if I don't arrest you, I will play the game of cat and mouse," Singhvi submitted. Referring to ED's repeated summons to Kavitha, he quipped that a summons a day keeps ED happy. Singhvi is yet to conclude his arguments in the matter, which will be heard next on April 4. Meanwhile, advocate Nitesh Rana, also appearing for Kavitha, requested the court to allow her access to home-cooked food, books, sports shoes and

prayer beads while she is in jail. The court, however, said it would consider the BRS leader's request for home-cooked food only if there was a prescription prescribing the same, as it is not allowed otherwise. The court further stated that authorities have informed it that home-cooked meals are not permitted. Singhvi submitted before the court that he was making submissions on both final as well as interim bail and that even if the interim relief is granted or denied, the final relief remains open.

Poll frenzy: From volleyball to vada, campaigns

Chennai: It's season, and candidates are immersing themselves in the festive atmosphere of the campaign trail, engaging in a variety of unconventional activities. They're spiking volleyballs, frying up vada, and doing whatever it takes to catch the public's eye.

In Dindigul, P Thilagabama of PMK, known locally for her work in healthcare, took her campaign to the streets with a vibrant roadshow. The highlight? A spontaneous stop at a tea shop where she began frying vada and paniyaram, all while championing the virtues of



PMK and its alignment with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initiatives. This campaign stunt turned heads and drew crowds. Upon spotting farmers in the field, he seized the opportunity to join them, using his own farming background to connect and discuss DMK's commitment to

resolving agricultural issues. The campaign trail heated up in Coimbatore when Ganapathy P Rajkumar of the ruling party joined a volleyball game with local youth, aiming to garner both their support and their votes. Meanwhile, some candidates across the state

resorted to making tea, preparing mutton dishes, and even borrowing a bullock cart in their quest for votes. Chennai saw a unique approach from the AIADMK. Led by former MLA P Dhansingh, the party's cadres embarked on a door-to-door mission, armed with photographs of their leader and the late chief minister J Jayalalithaa, to personally convey their welfare promises and secure commitments to vote for AIADMK. Dhansingh criticized DMK for reducing programmes initiated by AIADMK.

Require more than one reserved seat, say TN tribal voices

Election fervour may be gripping the nation, but not for the tribal communities in the state, who continue to be politically marginalised alongside under-representation in education, basic rights, infrastructure, economic development, and healthcare. Tribal welfare groups and activists came together recently to address the persistent neglect of tribal concerns in political agendas. "There are more than 30 govt-recognised tribal communities in Tamil Nadu such as Adiyam, Aranadan, Eravallan, Irular, Kadar, and Kammara while many others are fighting for scheduled tribe status. But we still don't have reservation for seats in the parliamentary general elections and have only one reserved seat in the legislative assembly election," says R Rajangam,

founder of The Empowerment Centre of Nomads and Tribes (TENT), Madurai. "This seat is often passed to the Malaiyali tribe (hill tribes) because they are generally educated and seen as more wealthy." Activists say the reason other tribes do not get the opportunity to acquire the reserved seat is because education is a distant dream for many. "In all fairness, the Malaiyali tribes are educated, and we need an educated person from our community to voice our concerns. However, our issues are never addressed because no one listens to the concerns of so many tribes," says R Maheshwari, co-founder of TENT. The constituency allocations were reduced from 3% to 2%, citing that the population of tribals in TN is decreasing. But tribal rights

activists say the population is well over 10 lakh. "A census needs to be conducted to ensure equal opportunity in the coming elections," she says. What also appears to be a matter of concern on the bureaucratic side is that though there are people from scheduled caste communities who secure the posts of IAS officers through reservation, there is no representation from tribal communities. "The govt looks at issues facing the ST community from a broader lens and tries to provide us with jobs and housing. That is never enough, as each tribal community has different needs," says Shibu T, an advocate and social activist based in Kanyakumari. "In order to present the needs of each community, there should be representation from within the communities."

Why terror groups are targeting Chinese nationals in Pakistan

NEW DELHI: In the wake of a devastating attack that claimed the lives of five Chinese engineers, concerns over security have prompted some Chinese workers to consider leaving Pakistan. This recent incident, which targeted a vehicle en route to the Dasu power project, has significantly disrupted critical hydropower projects and raised alarms among Chinese nationals working across various projects under the \$60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor initiative. Suspension of civil works and workforce layoff



In response to the tragic incident, the Power Construction Corporation of China (PCCC) has paused civil works at the Tarbela 5th Extension Hydropower Project in Swabi district, KP province, and laid off over 2,000 workers. The

suspension, aimed at reassessing security measures, underscores the growing concerns among Chinese companies operating in Pakistan. The tragic event is part of a series of targeted assaults against Chinese personnel and interests in Pakistan, heightening tensions and necessitating a robust response from both Islamabad and Beijing. A team of Chinese investigators has since joined Pakistani authorities to probe the attack further, underscoring the urgent

need for enhanced security measures to protect the thousands of Chinese workers in the country. **Why Chinese are being targeted** A statement from the ISPR has pinpointed "specific foreign entities" as the culprits behind the recent surge in terrorism. Meanwhile, the Foreign Office attributes the unrest to "adversaries of the Pakistan-China partnership." However, it's the local terror group which are attacking Chinese projects and

Lights go out every night on radial road

Chennai: For nearly three years, a stream of headlights snakes its way down the Pallavaram-Thoraipakkam Radial Road carrying tech professionals back home after a long day. But for those navigating the three-kilometre stretch between Kovilambakkam and Eechangadu, the journey takes on an unsettling edge. This section plunges into darkness after sunset, transforming the road from a bustling corridor into a potential hazard zone. Tambaram Corporation has started installing LED lights across its jurisdiction at a cost of 54 crore. Work has begun on Grand Southern Trunk road and Chromepet, said corporation commissioner R Alagumeena. More than 40,000 street lights are being replaced with LED lights to bring down the cost, she added. Five years ago Pallavaram municipality installed solar lights at a stretch (junction between Taluk office and Radial Road).

Airia Mall Gurgaon to host Baisakhi Da Mela 3.0, a Celebration of Punjab's Culture and Cuisine



Gurgaon: Airia Mall is preparing to host the vibrant essence of Punjab as the much-anticipated third edition of Baisakhi Da Mela approaches. Scheduled from April 1st to 14th, between 4 PM to 9 PM, this year's Mela promises to surpass previous grandeur.

Over the past two years, Baisakhi Da Mela has enthralled audiences with its homage to Punjab's rich heritage. Once again, Airia Mall will be metamorphosed into a cultural epicentre, offering attendees to immerse themselves in timeless regional traditions at

the Mela with activities like Gullak painting, Bioscope attractions, and Pottery making. Furthermore, the Mela guarantees a tantalizing array of Punjabi delicacies from the prestigious North Indian cuisine brand Pind Balluchi, ensuring attendees are treated to a delightful culinary experience.

Over the weekends, Friday to Sunday, the festivities continue with thrilling competitions that highlight the remarkable skills and enthusiasm of participants.

Whether it's the competitive edge of the Lassi Tu Fassi contest,

the infectious energy of the Bhangra Freeze Game, or the exhilarating race to determine the Fastest Turban Munda, these competitions add an extra layer of excitement to the event, fostering camaraderie and friendly competition among attendees. Moreover, the Mela will offer engaging entertainment options, including Bhangra Workshops/Performances and Live Singing sessions for guests.

Don't let this chance slip to enjoy the magic of Baisakhi Da Mela 3.0. It's open to everyone with free admission.

Pop, Trap and Hip-Hop! Ferozi Feelings by Talwar is the complete package that your playlist is waiting for!

Hisar: 30th March 2024: Get ready to groove to the beats of Gaurav Talwar, the enigmatic 25-year-old Rapper/Singer/Producer from Ferozi City, as he releases his latest trailblazing album "Ferozi Feelings". Renowned for his versatility and artistic prowess, the album includes three distinct tracks - "Fan," "In My Head," and "Notorious Girl", each offering a unique auditory experience. The album is a soul-stirring fusion of beats, melodies, and emotions that define the essence of modern-day storytelling. The album 'Ferozi Feelings' is a ticket to a world of passion, nostalgia, and unfiltered emotions, all wrapped up in Talwar's signature style. From the infectious beats of "Fan", where Talwar invites listeners on a nostalgic journey inspired by 80s pop, celebrating the timeless allure of a glamorous figure. Meanwhile, "In My



Head", takes you through the artist's introspective journey, exploring his unwavering thoughts about a special someone. Lastly Talwar throws caution to the wind with "Notorious Girl", a rebellious anthem that paints a vivid picture of a woman unapologetically herself, defying societal norms with every step. It's bold, it's brash, and it's utterly brilliant. Speaking about his album, Talwar shared, "Ferozi Feelings is a culmination of love, longing, experience and musical exploration. Each track is a piece of my soul, reflecting differ-

ent facets of life and love. I thoroughly enjoyed blending different genres of music into one EP. I am excited to share this journey with the listeners and hope they resonate with me and my emotions I have experienced while making each track of the EP." Infusing emotions into every note,

Talwar's has the exceptional ability to effortlessly freestyle and create fully structured songs. His willingness to experiment across various musical genres distinguishes him as a rising star in the industry.

CAPSULES

Fire in Sec V

Kolkata: A fire reportedly broke out in a lift service room on the 11th floor of Globysyn Crystals building at Sector V, next to a BPO, between 4.30 am and 5am on Monday. No casualty was reported. Three fire tenders rushed to the spot. The building houses several private offices. The employees of an office were working on a night shift when the incident happened. They were evacuated from the building.

Minor fire in Vande Bharat train coach

JABALPUR: A minor fire was reported from a coach of Vande Bharat train at Narsinghpur railway station on Sunday morning. The train, travelling to Rani Kamalapati railway station from Rewa, reached Belkheda near Narsinghpur railway station when smoke came out of some overhead equipment due to some technical snag, triggering chaos among passengers; though it was a minor technical issue. "There was some minor technical issue in the overhead equipment which was rectified then and there and the train moved ahead", central public relations officer, WCR, Harshit Shrivastav told.

Hawala help for fake call centres

Kolkata: For the third time in a row this year, cops have found fake call centres routing their profits, by duping victims settled abroad, through initial bitcoins and then the hawala route through Dubai and Delhi. Cops have now decided to write to the IT department and other agencies for a solution to try and cut off this illegal financial network.

Trader, employee held for planting illegal guns in rival's offices

Mumbai: A Mira Road trader and his employee have been arrested for allegedly planting illegal country-made revolvers and live cartridges in the offices of two of his rivals.

The trader told the police that he had suffered business losses due to his rivals and wanted to teach them a lesson. The matter came to light following a tip-off received by the police of an employee of Alam Steel and Furniture in Mira Road possessing a revolver.

On March 30, when the cops visited the office, they found both the



trader Firoz Chowdhary (39) and his employee Shakir Chowdhary (38) in possession of a country-made pistol and live cartridges. On questioning, Firoz, a resident of Bhayander (E) revealed having procured six country-made pistols and live cartridges from one of his former employees, who stays in

Utan, Bhayander (W). Firoz confessed to having purchased the weapons to plant it in the offices of three of his rivals. Last week, Firoz had managed to plant two pistols and 43 live cartridges in the office cupboard of one of his rival traders. The two partners of the rival showroom were unaware about the

revolvers that were planted in a cupboard outside their office that was rented to a snack vendor. The pistols and cartridges were recovered by the cops from the spot. Firoz was also in the process of planting a revolver inside the office of the rival partners, the police said. Shakir, who was given the task of planting a pistol and cartridges in the office of another rival, had delayed the job. He got arrested and revealed his plans. Firoz revealed that two revolvers and 12 live bullets were put in a gunny bag.

All voters should vote in the interest of the country while maintaining mutual brotherhood: Ramchandra

Kaithal: Former director of HAFED and famous social worker Ramchandra Jadaula, while expressing his reaction regarding the Lok Sabha elections to be held in Haryana on May 25, said that voting is the right of every voter and the most important thing in the country. In the formation of a bigger Parliament, every voter must use his vote in the Lok Sabha elections in the interest of the society and the country. He said that it is an important responsibility of all of us to conduct peaceful and fair elections while maintaining



mutual brotherhood, and it is our duty to maintain it. While talking in a special meeting at his establishment in New Anaj Mandi Dhand, Ramchandra Jadaula said that people of every caste, religion and creed live in our society, but no can-

didate should ask for votes in the name of caste or religion. So that mutual brotherhood of the society remains intact. Along with this, fully cooperate with every police and administration related officer and if any irregularity is noticed anywhere then immediately inform it to the Election Commission or District Election Administrative Officers. He said that every candidate should contest elections in a fair manner by adopting honesty. Every citizen should cooperate with the Election Commission and

District Administration to conduct peaceful and fair elections. Social worker Ramchandra Jadaula demanded from the government that comprehensive arrangements should be made to ensure that the power supply at the polling booths is not disrupted on the election day, so that there is no disruption of any kind in the voting. Along with this, special attention should also be given to toilets and cleanliness including drinking water at the booths, so that voters do not face any kind of problem.

South will help reach PM Narendra Modi target of 370, says Nitin Gadkari

NAGPUR: Avowing abiding confidence in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's goal of 370 seats, BJP leader Nitin Gadkari says the additional seats to its current strength of 288 will come from gains in southern India in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. In a wide ranging interview with PTI at his residence in Nagpur, Gadkari said there is "no doubt" in his mind that the BJP-led NDA alliance will cross 400 seats and that Modi will take over as prime minister for a third term because of the solid work done by the government in the last 10 years. He dismissed allegations that the Modi government is "weaponising" central probe agencies such as the Enforcement Directorate and CBI to weaken the opposition, saying BJP's rivals



should make efforts to overcome adversity by winning the confidence of the people. "Is it our responsibility to make the opposition weak or strong? When we had just two MPs and were weak, we never got any package out of sympathy," Gadkari, who is seeking a third Lok Sabha

term from Nagpur, said. Gadkari launched his campaign with a massive road show on Saturday through Nagpur, his motorcade crawling through a sea of supporters who withstood 40 degrees Celsius temperature to welcome the local hero.

Bhojpuri actors shine outside Bihar in Lok Sabha polls, but none from state

PATNA: Bhojpuri stars are making it big in national politics but they seem conspicuous by their absence in the electoral battle in Bihar, the very springhead of the language spoken in places as far-off as Mauritius, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago. Manoj Tiwari, who hails from the state's Atarwalia village in Kaimur district, has made Delhi his political "karma bhoomi" while in Uttar Pradesh, Ravi Kishan and Dinesh Lal Yadav 'Nirahua' are seeking re-election from seats close to their native places. In the run-up to Lok Sabha polls, there was a lot of buzz around Pawan Singh, a native of Ara, entering the fray. He got a ticket, but, surprisingly, from West Bengal, and withdrew from the contest following a controversy. Speculations are rife that internet sensation Neha Singh Rathore would get a Congress ticket ever since she attended a number of party events, including Rahul Gandhi's 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra'. "Several Bhojpuri superstars are in the fray for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, but none has been fielded from Bihar, the epi-



center of the regional film industry, or neighbouring Jharkhand", said Gunjan Kumar, the lone popular Bhojpuri/Magahi singer who has thrown his hat in the ring from Bihar. Kumar is contesting as an independent candidate from Nawada Lok Sabha constituency. Polling will take place in Nawada on April 19. Speaking to PTI, Kumar said he approached all major political parties to make him a candidate from his hometown, Nawada. But, none agreed, forcing him to contest as an Independent. "It appears that now political parties are taking no interest in fielding Bhojpuri singers/actors from Bihar itself in the LS polls", said the singer.

However, in the assembly, Bhojpuri singer Vinay Bihari is a BJP MLA from the Lauriya assembly seat in West Champaran. Kumar said, "If I remember correctly, Shatrughan Sinha, popularly known as Bihari Babu, was the last actor who contested LS polls from Patna Sahib constituency and won two times. After that, he was denied a ticket in 2019. But now he is seeking re-election from Asansol (West Bengal) Lok Sabha seat". Echoing a similar view, three-term BJP MLA from Lauriya assembly seat, Vinay Bihari, told PTI, "It is true that major political parties have become a little bit apprehensive about giving Lok Sabha tickets.

Woman captures terrifying encounter with 3 men tailgating in Bengaluru



BENGALURU: The Bengaluru police arrested two bikers for harassing a woman in her car on the Madiwala-Koramangala road in Bengaluru, officials said on Monday. The third suspect, Kannan is currently on the run. The victim bravely recounted her alarming encounter to the authorities during a phone call. She shared crucial details, including a video of the incident and the culprits' vehicle number, aiding in their capture. The distressing video now widely circulated captures the victim's desperate plea for help as she reports the location of the encounter to the police. The authorities acted swiftly to address the situation.

Man Dies After 3 Hosps Deny Entry

New Delhi: Almost a fortnight ago, Sapna Sharma of Kashipur in Uttarakhand came to the capital hoping that her husband, Punit Sharma, who was diagnosed with cancer of the tongue with metastasis, would receive treatment that would save his life. On Saturday, 46-year-old Punit died, allegedly after nine hours of desperately trying to get treatment at three govt hospitals.

Punit, who is survived by his four children and wife, ran a small agriculture shop in Uttarakhand. Sapna said, "We are not from an affluent family, so we couldn't even think of taking my husband to a private hospital. We gathered our savings and came to Delhi hoping for proper treatment at a govt hospital." Punit was admitted to the Delhi State Cancer Institute (DSCI) Hospital on March 16. Sapna stayed at a private lodge near the hospital. On March 28, the hospital referred the patient to AIIMS and



At Safdarjung, Sapna was asked for a referral, which she did not have. She requested the hospital to provide a bed and ventilator support to her husband

GB Pant Hospital because "intensive care is not available at DSCI". On March 29, the family took Punit to AIIMS at around 8pm. "The doctors did not see my husband even once and we were told that AIIMS did not have a bed and ventilator for the patient and so couldn't admit him," alleged Sapna. "The doctors asked me to take my husband to Safdarjung, where they said he could get a bed."

At Safdarjung, Sapna was asked for a referral, which she did not have. She requested the hospital to provide a bed and ventilator support to her husband, but claimed they were denied this. "I had to quickly knock on the doors of GB Pant Hospital, but no help was provided to my husband there too," the 34-year-old woman said. Tired and lost, the family called the police control room around 12.30am for help to get Punit admitted. "Despite the PCR intervention, GB Pant refused to admit my husband claiming not to have ventilators and beds," said Sapna. "For around seven hours, I was made to go from one department to another at the hospital."

Delhi DOE publishes 2024-25 school calendar

Delhi: All government and government-aided schools in Delhi have received the 2024-25 school calendar from the Directorate of School Education, Government of Delhi. The next semester starts April 1, 2025. On February 1, the Delhi school annual calendar 2024-25 was created after discussing admissions. The Delhi school annual calendar was created on February 1 by all deputy directors of education and the MCD. All school heads were told to finish the 220 working days before announcing holidays and academic sessions. After the March 21 lot draw, the select-



ed children and waiting list will be announced on March 23. DoE will begin Nursery, KG, and Class 1 admissions the same day. If space remains, waiting list children will be admitted from April 2 to 6. Application forms for grades 10-12 will be available on April 18 and due by April 29. Admit cards will be distributed on May 6, and the CAT will be held on May 9 from 10 am to 12

pm. The Common Admission Test results will be announced on May 14, and HoS must submit files to DDE (District) for approval and ID generation by May 21. The Delhi school vacations calendar for 2024 is as follows: summer vacation from May 11 to June 30, autumn break from October 9 to 11, and winter vacation from January 1 to 15, 2025

BJP: System to register property docs 'big scam'

New Delhi: Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor on Monday alleged that National Generic Document Registration System introduced by Delhi govt to streamline the system of registering property documents was turning into a "big scam".

Kapoor alleged that with the implementation of NGDRS, govt allowed people to book a slot at the sub-registrar office for registration of sale deeds, wills and 25 other such documents. "Now, one can book a slot for the registry of documents online. Since there are a limited

number of slots, the waiting list has gone up to 1-2 months at some sub-registrar offices," Kapoor explained. "Misusing the system, some people book slots for registration of will. In case somebody has to urgently register a sale deed, the slot is sold for thousands of rupees."

CAPSULES

Sunita Kejriwal: Country will give reply to 'dictatorship'

New Delhi: After chief minister Arvind Kejriwal was remanded to 15-day judicial custody by a special Rouse Avenue court, his wife, Sunita, questioned the logic of the ruling. Talking to reporters outside the courtroom, Sunita said, "If the investigation was over, why has he (Arvind Kejriwal) been sent to jail? The people of the country will give answer to this dictatorship." She added: "He was questioned for 11 days and the court did not say he was an accused." While walking out of the courtroom, Kejriwal said: "Whatever the PM is doing is not good for the country." Addressing a press conference later, AAP leader Jasmine Shah alleged that Enforcement Directorate had adopted a two-pronged strategy — keep Kejriwal away from campaigning in elections and topple AAP govt by poaching its MLAs.

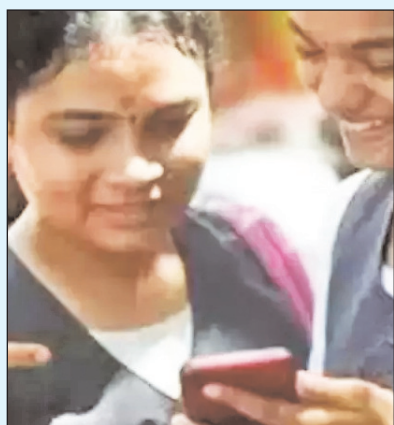
Shah claimed that ED did not give any statement on what evidence or leads it got from questioning Kejriwal.

"They (ED) questioned him for 11 days and still did not find any evidence against him. They could have released him now. But their aim was never to question him, their main objective was to put Arvind Kejriwal behind bars," Shah alleged. The AAP leader said ED and BJP had been conspiring against Kejriwal to stop him from campaigning so that AAP didn't perform well in the election.

Center Sanctions Rs. 127 Crore To Establish Twelve Technical Institutes Throughout

Delhi: The Ministry of Minority Affairs declared that by providing Rs. 127.23 crore for the establishment of 12 institutes around the state of Karnataka, it has made a major advancement in the state's educational infrastructure. According to the ministry, 4200 students—3150 of whom are members of minority populations—will have access to educational facilities as a result of the action, which is in line with the Prime Minister's "Viksit Bharat-Samridh Bharat" goal.

These facilities have been approved for the State of Karnataka as a means of advancing education and guaranteeing an atmosphere that supports students' overall



intellectual stimulation. The ministry further stated that the educational infrastructure has been accepted as community assets as a transitional measure to promote NEP (New Education Policy) 2020 and contribute to national development.

NMC caps medical college undergrad seats starting 2024-25

Delhi: From 2024-25, medical institutes can have up to 150 undergraduate seats if they follow the state's 100 MBBS seats per 10 lakh population ratio. In its new "Guidelines for Under Graduate Courses under Establishment of New Medical Institutions, Starting of New Medical Courses, Increase of Seats for Existing Courses and Assessment and Rating Regulations, 2023," the National Medical Commission (NMC) said colleges seeking more seats cannot exceed 150 MBBS students from 2024-25.

HC seeks details of land DDA earmarked for developing forest

New Delhi: Delhi High Court on Monday asked Delhi Development Authority (DDA) to furnish details of the land parcel the agency said it has earmarked for developing a 50-acre forest in the capital. Justice Jasmeet Singh asked DDA to file an affidavit, pointing out that such land should be "sustainable" after the agency said it had identified a 50-acre land in Madanpur Khadar of Yamuna Pushta zone. "How can it be on a riverbed? It will all



wash away. You have earlier taken the stand that such land can't be used. It should be sustainable even for a once in a decade flood situation," the court said. It asked DDA to share details of the land and remarked that "it

should be able to withstand the fury of the river", after lawyers Gautam Narayan and Aditya N Prasad, appearing as amici curiae to assist the court, said the land proposed for afforestation fell on the Yamuna riverbed and therefore cannot

be used for this purpose.

They maintained that accountability must be fixed on the authority for admittedly felling trees without permission and those concerned should not go "scot free". The court was dealing with contempt proceedings against DDA over cutting down of several trees in the Southern Ridge without due permission for constructing an approach road near South Asian University in Maidan Garhi.

IPU in Delhi is going to introduce a number of academic initiatives

"Plans to provide courses in BA Mass Media, BSc Environmental Science, BSc Packaging Technology, and MSc Food Technology, and MSc Food Technology were revealed by Vice Chancellor Prof. Mahesh Verma"



is expected to start. The forthcoming entrance examinations are slated to take place from April 27 to May 12; results are anticipated on May 25. Notably, as is customary each year, these tests will still be administered offline utilizing "OMR" sheets. IPU administrators entrance exams for almost 100 academic programs, from PhD to graduation.

For the sake of the students, the institution wants to simplify the counseling procedure.

In order to allow students to pursue dual degrees, IPU is working

toward establishing B.Ed courses in addition to four-year BA, B.Sc., and B.Com programs. This idea still has to be presented for approval from the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE). Plans to provide courses in BA Mass Media, BSc Environmental Science, BSc Packaging Technology, and MSc Food Technology were revealed by Vice Chancellor Prof. Mahesh Verma. Exam centers will be set up outside of Delhi, in states or towns with larger application levels, to better serve students' needs.

ED: Not giving CM any infra for passing orders

New Delhi: Delhi High Court on Monday asked Enforcement Directorate (ED) to apprise the trial court about the agency's stand on the matter of chief minister Arvind Kejriwal issuing orders on governance from custody. "Tell us, is he passing orders in custody?" a bench of acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Manmeet P S Arora asked the counsel appearing for ED while hearing a PIL that sought directions to prevent Kejriwal from issuing orders in his capacity as CM while in custody, contending it was against the legal framework. In response, the counsel said that the agency is examining the issue raised in the petition and was not providing any infrastructure to

CM to enable him to pass orders. "We are not providing him any stationery. The petitioner's apprehension or understanding is that ED has provided apparatus and infrastructure to CM, but this is not the case. We have not provided anything to him. We have done some investigation," the counsel informed the court. He added that in case the "process has been misused by way of 'mulakat', it will have to be looked into". He also conceded that it is "not disputed that an order has been passed by him in custody". The court then directed ED to place its status report before the concerned special judge dealing with the excise policy-linked money laundering case in which CM was

arrested. The court added that the judge may pass an order, if required, even as it clarified it has not commented on the locus standi of the petitioner or on merits of the allegations. "This court directs respondent no. 2 (ED) to bring its contents/note to the notice of the said judge who is directed to pass an order in accordance with law, if required," the bench said. The PIL was strongly opposed by senior advocate Rahul Mehra, who questioned the locus of the petitioner to be involved in the matter. Mehra said ED was capable enough to deal with the matter and pointed out that it was the third such petition filed before HC. "What is the basis of this apprehension?"

The petitioner must show some material to invoke the court's writ jurisdiction. This will open a Pandora's box. ED is well-equipped, it does not need anyone's assistance. In this. How is this third party coming in and interfering?" Mehra argued. The petitioner, Surjit Singh Yadav, argued that such orders being issued by Kejriwal in the capacity as chief minister were against the legal framework as well as the principle of fair and proper investigation. The plea also sought a direction to ED not to provide a typist, computer and printer to Kejriwal. Earlier, Yadav had filed a separate PIL seeking Kejriwal's removal from chief minister's post following his arrest.

No change in JEE (Main), NEET-UG, CUET-UG dates

Delhi: JEE (Main), the engineering entrance test for centrally funded colleges and eligibility test for IIT entrance (JEE-Advanced), is scheduled between April 4 and 15, outside of the election date schedule. NEET-UG is on May 5 and CUET-UG is on May 15-31, as announced. NTA director general Subodh Kumar Singh said NEET-UG, the admission test for medical, dental, and allied health courses, will be held as scheduled since there is no voting on May 5 or the day before or after. About CUET-UG, which is being registered online, NTA is not modifying the exam window but will decide on the dates later. We kept May 15-31 for CUET-UG. Singh said a final call will be made following registration.

Clinical Rajasthan Royals hand Mumbai Indians third loss in a row, win by 6 wickets



NEW DELHI: Rajasthan Royals secured their third consecutive victory in the Indian Premier League by comfortably defeating the Mumbai Indians with a six-wicket margin. The Mumbai Indians, led by Hardik Pandya, faced the ire of fans yet again on Monday.

the Rajasthan Royals to the top of the IPL points table.

The 22-year-old Parag continued his remarkable form this season, displaying maturity and aggression in equal measure. His innings was characterized by spectacular shots, as he remained steadfast in his determination to see his team through to victory. Parag's brilliant knock, featuring five fours and three sixes, propelled the Royals to 127/4 in just 15.3 overs, sealing the win with 27 balls to spare.

Meanwhile, there was no letup for Pandya

who was booed on several occasions in Mumbai Indians' first home game. It started with Pandya being booed when he took field for warm-up drills and the fans hit the player hard again when he came out for the toss. Even though commentator and former India and Mumbai player Sanjay Manjrekar appealed to the crowd to "behave", the boos continued until Pandya hit a few fours to bring smile back on Mumbai fans after their side was left reeling at 20/4 inside the powerplay.

Will it be happy homecoming for Mumbai Indians and Hardik Pandya?

MUMBAI: Almost 22 years ago, a chilling act shocked the sporting world. When Luis Figo showed up in bitter rivals Real Madrid jersey to take a corner kick in an El Clasico clash at Barcelona's famed Camp Nou, a butchered head of a pig was hurled at him.

The severed skull laid near Figo's feet demonstrated the extreme hatred that Catalan team's fans had developed for the former Portuguese captain, who had, two years back, chosen to be a 'Galactico' at a handsome paycheck of 44 million pounds.

While things are unlikely to go that level at the Wankhede here on Monday night, there could be resentment in the hearts of passionate Mumbai Indians fans when Hardik Pandya having replaced Rohit Sharma leads them out against Rajasthan Royals in one of most highly-anticipated IPL matches. Having been booed and heckled in the ground and trolled on social media ever since he replaced Rohit, who



led MI to a record five titles, Pandya is set to play the toughest match of his career. And what makes it worse for the India allrounder is the fact that despite Pandya taking over, Mumbai Indians have made their trademark slow start, losing both their away games so far, by six runs to the Gujarat Titans, followed by a 32-run loss to Sunrisers Hyderabad in Hyderabad. A few of Pandya's decisions, like opening the bowling himself and holding back Jasprit Bumrah in Powerplay, coming to bat as late as No 7 when the chase was getting tighter against GT, giving an

IPL debut to South Africa's 17-old left-arm pacer Kwena Maphaka, who went for 0-66 in four overs as SRH's marauding batsmen tore into him, have come under fire. Despite the barrage of negativity around him for the last month or so, Pandya, as Steve Smith recommended to him has "shut out external noise" and is unflustered.

"What's appearing on social media doesn't bother him since he has avoided it completely of late. He wants his team too to be focused on cricket, rather than worry about him being booed in stadiums," a source told.

A match-winning performance with either bat or ball, or both, will help Pandya win back the love of his fans.

It remains to be seen if MI persist with Maphaka or English left-arm pacer Luke Wood comes back in. Will they hand an IPL debut to Sri Lankan import Nuwan Thushara? Additionally, will Mumbai left arm spinner Shams Mulani, finally getting match-time for Mumbai Indians, come to the party at his home ground?

For MI to get back to winning ways, it's vital that Rohit and Ishan Kishan find their mojo again. Like he has done in the last few IPL seasons, Rohit, who scored a 29-ball 43 vs GT and 12-ball 26 vs SRH, is showing a tendency to lose his wicket after an initial burst.

For someone who can be susceptible to left-arm pace early on,

Rohit needs to be guarded while playing RR's left-arm speed merchants Trent Boult and new recruit Nandre Burger, who has been impressive.

Ruturaj Gaikwad eases into role of MS Dhoni's successor

VISAKHAPATNAM:

Though these are early days, Ruturaj Gaikwad seems to be settling in nicely as the new CSK captain. In the presence of MS Dhoni and Ravindra Jadeja, the youngster has been impressive. Gaikwad has also taken some inspiring decisions on the field which have worked, like sending debutant Sameer Rizvi ahead of Jadeja in the 19th over against the Titans.

Importantly, Dhoni seems to have immense faith in his capabilities. In an event with the official



broadcaster, Rachin Ravindra was asked if he looked at Dhoni after dropping a catch. Even before Ravindra could respond, Dhoni intervened to say, "CSK have a new cap-

tain now." Stephen Coaching Fleming lauded the new captain, saying, "Transition into the job of captaincy is not easy. But Ruturaj has done it seamlessly. MS

by his side along with Jadeja in the ranks means Ruturaj is doing well. His demeanour off the field is excellent. We are really positive about his captaincy." CSK's bowling consultant Eric Simons gave an insight into Ruturaj's captaincy. "Ruturaj is very calm and he is a great student of the game. Ever since he joined us, he kept asking questions. As a captain, you need to understand the game. You need to know when to make changes and why you make those changes."

Royal Challengers Bengaluru pacers need to shape up against Lucknow Super

BENGALURU: As RCB's hapless bowlers struggled against KKR's fury last week, their home-grown medium pacer Vyshak Vijaykumar stood up to the onslaught with a disciplined performance. It almost felt like the 27-year-old, who returned 1/23 in four overs, was bowling on a different pitch.

On Tuesday, when RCB host a resurgent Lucknow Super Giants, they will need their wayward bowling lineup to take a cue from Vyshak, who came up with variations, mixing



yorkers with hardlength deliveries and bouncers. Going by RCB's bowling effort against KKR, they have a lot of work to do. Given their limited

spin options, Faf du Plessis and Co. have gone pace heavy but that isn't working. One of the biggest liabilities has been West Indies pacer Alzarri Joseph,

who could make way for left-arm pacer Reece Topley. Lead pacer Siraj has two wickets in three outings and that hardly inspires confidence.

Lucknow have their own share of woes. They are sweating over the fitness of regular captain KL Rahul. Rahul, who suffered a quadriceps injury after the first Test against England earlier this year, is being eased back into the game. On Monday, he was seen going through a fitness test.

Rohit tries to calm Wankhede crowd, urges them to stop booing

NEW DELHI: The crowd's hostility towards Hardik Pandya refuses to die down with fans booing the Mumbai Indians skipper without any respite. But Rohit Sharma displayed his empathy by pacifying the Wankhede crowd during MI's match

against Rajasthan Royals on Monday. While fielding on the boundary line, Rohit was seen gesturing towards the crowd to stop booing Hardik. Earlier in the day, former India player Sanjay Manjrekar has also come out in support of Hardik and asked the Wankhede crowd to behave and for a big round of applause for MI skipper came for the toss. Pandya was badly booed by the crowd in MI's first two matches played at Ahmedabad and Hyderabad in the IPL 2024 but his homecoming did not bring any change of fortune.

The 29-year-old Pandya, who replaced Rohit as the captain of the Mumbai Indians in the lead-up

to the tournament, has already been subjected to crowd's anger over the franchise's decision regarding leadership during the team's previous two away games at Ahmedabad and Hyderabad. Talking about the match, five-time champions MI suffered their third defeat of the season as Rajasthan Royals romped home for a third win on the trot. After Yuzvendra Chahal (3/11) and Trent Boult (3/22) combined to suffocate Mumbai Indians with the bat, restricting them to 125/9, Riyan Parag (54 not out) churned out yet another top-drawer knock to take Rajasthan Royals to the first spot in the IPL points table.

We need to be a bit more disciplined and show...': Mumbai Indians skipper

"I wanted to counter, we were in a decent position to get us around 150-160, but my wicket allowed them to get back more into the game"

NEW DELHI: Rajasthan Royals defeated Mumbai Indians by six wickets to register their third successive win in IPL 2024 in Mumbai on Monday. With the win, Royals moved to the top of the standings. This defeat marked Mumbai Indians' third consec-



utive loss in the tournament, posing a challenging start to their campaign. Opting to bowl first, Rajasthan Royals restricted Mumbai Indians to a total of 125 for nine, and then comfortably chased down the target with 27 balls to spare. Mumbai Indians skipper Hardik Pandya accepted the fact that it was a tough night for them and not an

ideal start for the team in such a big tournament. "Yes, a tough night, we didn't start the way we wanted to start. I wanted to counter, we were in a decent position to get us around 150-160, but my wicket allowed them to get back more into the game, I needed to do a lot more. It's okay, we didn't expect such a surface, but you can't always have it as

a batter, it's nice at times for the bowlers to have a say," Hardik said at the post-match presentation. "It's all about doing the right things, (correct) results happen at times, at some other times it doesn't. As a group, we believe we can do a lot better, but we need to be a bit more disciplined and show a lot more courage," Hardik added.

Fan invades field, scares Rohit Sharma

NEW DELHI: In a shocking incident during the Mumbai Indians-Rajasthan Royals IPL match, a passionate fan breached security and invaded the field in an attempt to meet his idol, Rohit Sharma. However, the unexpected appearance of the fan startled Rohit, causing a momentary alarm during the match. The incident unfolded while Mumbai were fielding, defending a total of 125 against Rajasthan at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai. Regrettably, this is not an isolated occurrence; similar incidents have occurred in the past involving players like Rohit and Virat Kohli.

The fan managed to approach Rohit, who was standing at slip, and proceeded to hug and shake hands with him, as well as extending the same gesture to wicketkeeper-batsman Ishan Kishan, who was standing alongside the Indian skipper. Prompt action was taken by security personnel, who swiftly escorted the fan out.