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India successfully conducts 1st flight test of nuclear-capable Agni-5 missile with MIRV tech

Sanjay Kumar New Delhi, March 11: In a major boost to its military might in the midst of the eastern Ladakh row, India on Monday tested Mission Divyastra - the first flight test of indigenously developed Agni-5 missile with Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology. Top government sources said the launch will ensure that a single missile can deploy multiple warheads at different locations. The project director of Agni 5 is a woman and the development that will alter India's geopolitical position has significant women's contribution. "With the test of Mission Divyastra, India has joined the select group of nations who have MIRV (multiple independently targetable rented vehicles) capability. "This system is equipped with indigenous Avionics systems and high accuracy sensor packages, which ensured that the re-entry vehicles reached the target points within the desired accuracy. The capability is an enunciator of India's growing technological prowess," government sources said. The Agni-5, with a range of 5,000 km, is developed considering the long-term security needs of the country. The missile can bring almost the entire Asia including the northernmost part of China as well as some regions in Europe under its striking range. The Agni 1 to 4 missiles have ranges from 700 km to 3,500 km and have already been deployed. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated DRDO scientists over the first flight test of Agni-5 missile.

'Designed to polarise polls, manage headlines': Congress questions CAA rules notification timing

Simmi Kaur Babbar New Delhi, March 11: The Congress on Monday alleged that the timing of notifying the rules for the Citizenship (Amendment) Act is evidently designed to polarise the coming Lok Sabha elections, especially in West Bengal and Assam. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh also alleged that the announcement is yet another attempt to "manage the headlines" after the Supreme Court's strictures on the electoral bonds issue. Ramesh said it has taken four years and three months for the Narendra Modi Government to notify the rules for the law cleared by Parliament in December 2019. "After seeking nine extensions for the notification of the rules, the timing right before the elections is evidently designed to polarise the elections, especially in West Bengal and Assam," the Congress leader said. "The prime minister claims that his government works in a business-like and time-bound manner. The time taken to notify the rules for the CAA is yet another demonstration of the prime minister's blatant lies," he said in a post on X. The rules for implementation of the contentious Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) 2019 were notified on Monday, paving the way for granting citizenship to undocumented non-Muslim migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, according to officials. With the CAA rules being issued, the Modi Government will now start granting Indian nationality to persecuted non-Muslim migrants from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan who came to India till December 31, 2014. These include Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis and Christians. The CAA was passed in December 2019 and subsequently got the President's assent but there were protests in several parts of the country against it. Over a hundred people lost their lives during the anti-CAA protests or police action. The law could not come into effect as

rules had not been notified till now. Security has been beefed up in northeast Delhi, Shaheen Bagh, Jamia and other sensitive areas across the national capital following the notification of Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 (CAA) on Monday, officials said. Police personnel and paramilitary forces have also been deployed in some parts, with flag march being conducted in parts of northeast and

southeast Delhi, they said. Delhi witnessed communal riots in 2020 over the CAA and NRC (National Register of Citizens). "Safety of every single common man of Delhi's northeast district is our responsibility," DCP northeast Joy Tirkey told. He further said that intensive patrolling and checking is being carried out by northeast district police personnel and paramilitary forces for the safety of citizens in sensitive areas. Everyone is requested to follow the safety instructions, the officer said. "We have intensified night vigil along with paramilitary forces. No one will be allowed to breach the law and order situation. We took out flag marches for the safety of every single common," the DCP said. The rules for implementation of the contentious Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 were notified on Monday, paving the way for granting of citizenship to undocumented non-Muslim migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.



Churu MP Rahul Kaswan quits BJP after ticket denied, joins Congress

Jaipur, March 11: Churu MP Rahul Kaswan on Monday resigned from the BJP and joined the Congress. He also resigned as a member of the Lok Sabha. Announcing his decision, Kaswan, who was denied a ticket by the BJP for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and party leaders for giving him the opportunity to represent Churu as the MP twice. 'Due to political reasons, at this very moment today, I am resigning from the primary membership of the Bharatiya Janata Party and from the post of Member of Parliament,' Kaswan posted on X. 'I express my gratitude to BJP national president J P Nadda, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Amit Shah, who gave me



the opportunity to serve the Churu Lok Sabha family for 10 years,' he said. The BJP has given ticket to paralympic gold medalist Devendra Jhaharia from the Churu Lok Sabha seat in Rajasthan in place of Kaswan. Former chief minister Ashok Gehlot, Congress state president Govind Singh Dotasra and other prominent leaders welcomed Kaswan's resignation from the BJP and joining the Congress. Gehlot said this would strengthen the fight for "justice". Welcoming Kaswan, Gehlot posted on X, 'India's is connecting for justice. And the goal is the protection of democracy.' He further said, 'Churu MP Rahul Kaswan, who left BJP and joined Congress with his supporters with the resolve to protect democracy, independence of institutions and strengthen India, is welcome in the Congress family. Your decision will definitely strengthen the fight for justice.' Dotasra said, "Undoubtedly, Kaswan's spirit of farmer welfare and public service will strengthen public issues and strengthen the party organization." Leader of Opposition in Rajasthan assembly Tikaram Jolly also welcomed Kaswan into the Congress fold and posted on X, 'Kaswan's spirit of farmer welfare and public service will strengthen public issues and strengthen the party organization.'

Congress leader moves Supreme Court seeking to restrain Centre from appointing new ECs

New Delhi, March 11: A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking to restrain the Centre from appointing new election commissioners as per a 2023 law, the provisions of which have been challenged in the apex court. Two vacancies of election commissioners have arisen following the resignation of Election Commissioner Arun Goel and Anup Chandra Pandey's retirement. The plea has been filed by Congress leader Jaya Thakur, who has challenged the provisions of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and terms of office) Act, 2023. In her application, Thakur informed the court that during the pendency of her plea, in which a notice was issued on January 12, "one member of Election Commission namely Arun Goel gave resignation on March 9, 2024, which has been accepted by the President". "That petitioner most respectfully submitted that in view of facts that election for Lok Sabha Election 2024 may be announced shortly, therefore appointment of member of new election commissioners is required immediately, for that this court has given clear verdict in the case of 'Anoop Baranwal Versus Union of India' (March 2, 2023 verdict) about the appointment process..." the plea said.

PM Modi inaugurates, lays foundation stones for 114 National Highway projects worth Rs 1 lakh crore

Navdeep Singh Sahni Gurugram, March 11: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday inaugurated and laid foundation stones for 114 National Highway projects across the country worth about Rs 1 lakh crore. Among key National Highway (NH) projects, Modi inaugurated the Haryana section of the landmark Dwarka Expressway. The total length of the Dwarka Expressway is 29 km, out of which 18.9 km falls in Haryana, while the remaining 10.1 km is in Delhi. The expressway will help improve traffic flow and ease congestion between Delhi and Gurugram on NH-48. The prime minister also held a roadshow here. Dwarka Expressway is India's first elevated 8-lane access control urban expressway, being constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 9,000 crore, as part of the Centre's Rs 60,000 crore highway development plan in the NCR to decongest the national capital. The Haryana section of Dwarka Expressway has been built at a cost of

around Rs 4,100 crore and includes two packages of 10.2-km Delhi-Haryana Border to Basai Rail-over-Bridge (ROB) and 8.7-

about Rs 4,600 crore in Uttar Pradesh; Anandapuram-Pendurthi-Anakapalli section of NH16 developed at a cost of Rs 2,950 crore in Andhra Pradesh; Kiratpur to Nerchowk section of NH-21 (2 packages) worth Rs 3,400 crore in Himachal Pradesh; Dobaspet-Heskote section (two packages) worth Rs 2,750 crore in Karnataka. As many as 42 other projects worth Rs 20,500 crore in different states were inaugurated across the country. The prime minister also laid the foundation stone for various NH projects across the country. These include 14 packages of Bengaluru-Kadappa-Vijayawada Expressway worth Rs 14,000 crore in Andhra Pradesh; six packages of Belgaum-Hungund-Raichur section of NH-748A worth Rs 8,000 crore in Karnataka; three packages of Shamli-Ambala Highway worth Rs 4,900 crore in Haryana; two packages of Amritsar-Bathinda corridor worth Rs 3,800 crore in Punjab; along with 39 other projects worth Rs 32,700 crore in different states.



No emperor can save his chair through intimidation: Rajinder Rana

Tejinder Kaur Babbar Shimla, March 11: No emperor can save his chair through intimidation, Himachal Pradesh Congress rebel Rajinder Rana said on Monday, a day after an Independent MLA and the father of another rebel were booked over "electoral offences" related to the recent Rajya Sabha polls. The case against Hamirpur's Independent MLA Ashish Sharma and Gagret's now-disqualified MLA Chetanya Sharma's father and others was registered based on a complaint lodged by Congress legislators Sanjay Avasthi and Bhuvneshwar Gaur. Ashish and Chetanya are among the six Congress rebels and three Independents who had voted in favour of BJP nominee Harsh Mahajan in the recently held Rajya Sabha polls. "Battles are not won by attacking from behind like cowards. Real warriors fight from the front... No 'shahenshah' can save his chair through intimidation and registra-

tion of false cases," Rana said in a Facebook post on Monday in an indirect attack on

posed. Congress legislators Sanjay Avasthi and Bhuvneshwar Gaur had filed the complaint, seeking an investigation into "electoral offences", bribery and criminal conspiracy in the whole sequence of events since the Rajya Sabha polls were held on February 27. They alleged "horse trading and misuse of money to influence the elections". The development evoked sharp reactions from the disqualified MLAs. On Sunday, Rana maintained that "with this attitude, the chief minister should be ready to face the consequences. If the chief minister thinks that he could win hearts by registering false complaints, he is mistaken and these pressure tactics will not help." Six Congress rebels - Sudhir Sharma, Ravi Thakur, Rajinder Rana, Inder Dutt Lakhanpal, Chetanya Sharma and Devinder Kumar - who cross-voted in favour of the BJP were disqualified for defying a whip to be present in the House and vote in favour of the government during the cut motion and budget.



Furnish electoral bonds' details to Election Commission by today

Naresh Malhotra New Delhi, March 11: Dismissing the State Bank of India's plea seeking time till June 30 to disclose details of Electoral Bonds, the Supreme Court on Monday ordered it to submit the details to the Election Commission by tomorrow. A five-judge Constitution Bench led by CJI DY Chandrachud gave time till the end of business hours on March 12 to the SBI to submit the details to the Election Commission. It directed the EC to put the information received from the SBI on its website by 5 pm on March 15. "Submissions of SBI in application indicates that info sought is readily available, thus the application by SBI seeking extension of time until June 30 is dismissed. SBI is directed to disclose the details by the close of business hours of March 12," it ordered. The Constitution Bench - which also included Justices Sanjay Khanna, Justice BR Gavai, Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra - had on February 15

declared unconstitutional the electoral bonds scheme - and warned the SBI of contempt of court action if it failed to comply with its directions. "Though we are not exercising the contempt jurisdiction, we place SBI on notice that this court will proceed against it for wilful disobedience of court if it does not adhere to the directions issued by the court," the CJI said. CJI Chandrachud told senior counsel Harish Salve, representing the SBI, that in its judgement the top court had simply asked the bank to do a "plain disclosure". During the hearing, the Bench asked the SBI to explain the steps taken so far to ensure disclosure of details of electoral bonds encashed by political parties. Salve said the SBI would need some more time to furnish details since they were initially told that the process was

secret before the court struck down electoral bonds scheme. "We are trying to col-

Salve, who offered to file a detailed affidavit. "There is a degree of candour expected from the SBI as to this is the work which was expected ..." said the CJI who was apparently not convinced. For every purchase of electoral bonds, there was compliance with Know Your Customer (KYC) process due to which the bank would already be in possession of the details of electoral bonds' purchasers, the Bench pointed out. In a landmark verdict, the Constitution Bench had on February 15 declared unconstitutional the electoral bonds scheme that allowed individuals and companies to make unlimited anonymous donations to political parties on the grounds that it violated Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution which guaranteed right to freedom of speech and expression and included right to information within its ambit.



Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar arrives in J-K to review Lok Sabha poll preparations

Srinagar, March 11: Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar arrived here on Monday on a three-day visit to review preparations for the upcoming Lok Sabha

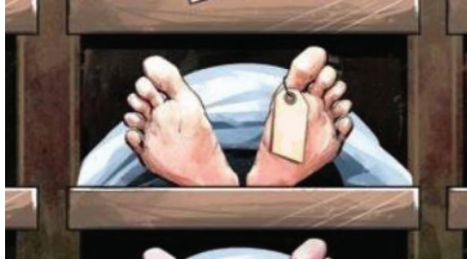
They will hold similar interactions in Jammu on Wednesday, the officials said, adding they are also likely to interact with the media there. There has been a growing demand from political quarters in Jammu and Kashmir that the Election Commission should hold Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir simultaneously with the Lok Sabha polls or immediately after the general elections. Former chief ministers Farooq Abdullah and Ghulam Nabi Azad have raised this demand in the past two weeks. Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Saturday held a meeting with the civil and police administration to sensitise them about the measures to be taken for the smooth conduct of the Lok Sabha polls in the Union Territory. The Chief Secretary asserted that the administration's objective is to ensure free and fair elections with large-scale public participation.



Tirunelveli: Murder suspect dies days after being shot by cops

TIRUNELVELI. A 23-year-old murder-case accused, who was shot in the leg by the district police on Thursday, died while undergoing treatment in Tirunelveli Medical College Hospital on Monday.

The deceased person has been identified as K Petchidurai, a resident of Thenthirupuvanam. "In an inebriated state, Petchidurai and his accomplice R Chandru hacked a road worker C Karuppasamy to death with a sickle near



Vellankuli. They also injured another worker A Venkatesh and damaged the windshield of a car and a government bus before escaping from the scene. When the police were attempting to catch them, the duo further attacked the police constable Senthil. The police shot Petchidurai in his leg and managed to arrest the duo.

6 dead, 6 injured after car collides with parked vehicle in Haryana

Rewari. Six people died and as many were injured after a parked XUV overturned, following a collision with another car, late on Sunday night in Haryana's Rewari. The accident happened near a government school in Masani village. The car was returning from Khatoo village to Delhi. Four women and two men died in the collision. The incident took place when the occupants of the XUV were changing the tyres of their vehicle near Kharkhara village. Another car coming from behind hit the people, causing the accident.

Speeding Mercedes crashes into roadside shop, kills sleeping man in Mohali

Mohali. A man in Punjab's Mohali was crushed to death when a speeding Mercedes car rammed into a shop where he was sleeping on Saturday night. At around 2 am, the white Mercedes CLA class car, which was allegedly speeding, crashed into the shop and ran over the victim identified as Prakash Kumar.

The shop and the wall of a nearby school were also destroyed in the accident. Police said that the locals initially thought it was an explosion. The driver, however, fled the scene and is still at large.

The locals confronted the police on Monday morning when they reached the spot to recover the car, demanding the arrest of the accused before towing away the vehicle. People accused the police of inaction in the case.

Mumbai Dockyard Staff Arrested For Spying, Was Honeytrapped By Pak Agent

Mumbai. A 31-year-old officer working at Mazagaon dockyard in Mumbai has been arrested on charges of espionage after the Maharashtra Anti-Terror Squad (ATS) found that he had allegedly leaked sensitive information to a Pakistan-based intelligence operative. Kalpesh Baikar, working as a structural fabricator at the dockyard, was honeytrapped and then blackmailed into disclosing sensitive information, officers have said. A Pakistani woman agent, it is learnt, befriended him on social media and they were in touch for months. Officers said Baikar also got money in exchange for the information. The ATS has said in a statement that they had received information that an Indian suspect had provided sensitive information to a Pakistan-based intelligence operative. Accused was interrogated by the Anti-Terrorism Squad. During the investigation, it was found that the suspect was introduced to a Pakistan based intelligence operative (PIO) through Facebook and WhatsApp between November 2021 and May 2023.

Kamal Nath To Leave Home Turf Chhindwara, Contest From Jabalpur? He Says...

Bhopal. Congress veteran Kamal Nath on Monday ruled out the possibility of contesting the upcoming Lok Sabha poll from Jabalpur and said he will not leave Chhindwara, his political stronghold in Madhya Pradesh. The Chhindwara Lok Sabha seat is currently represented by his son Nakul Nath. Kamal Nath has represented Chhindwara Lok Sabha constituency nine times. He is currently an MLA from Chhindwara assembly seat. Asked if he will contest the upcoming Lok Sabha election from Jabalpur, a prominent parliamentary segment in the Mahakoshal region of Madhya Pradesh, Kamal Nath

Will Try My Best To Win For 4Th Time": Trinamool MP Saugata Roy

←TMC MP Saugata Roy said, "Every election is a challenge. We have to go to the people. I have won three times from here (Dum Dum) and will try my best to win for the fourth time."

Kolkata. Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Saugata Roy expressed confidence ahead of the upcoming general elections and said that he will try his best to win for the fourth time after his candidature was announced from Dum Dum on Sunday. TMC MP Saugata Roy said, "Every election is a challenge. We have to go to the people. I have won three times from here (Dum Dum) and will try my best to win for the fourth time." Abandoning the Mallikarjun Kharge-led INDIA bloc, Trinamool Congress on Sunday announced its candidates for all 42 Lok Sabha seats in

West Bengal for the upcoming general elections. Giving a message of TMC going solo in the Lok Sabha polls, party General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee announced the list that included certain surprises from former cricketers Yusuf Pathan from Berhampore and Kirti Azad from the Bardhaman Durgapur Lok Sabha seat. Sukanta Majumdar, the President of the West Bengal BJP, raised questions about TMC's decision to field Yusuf Pathan and Kirti Azad. "Just half an hour before the TMC's list was announced, Abhishek Banerjee was making statements like BJP is anti-Bengal. Now, when the candidates are announced, it's clear that TMC is bringing people from outside. I don't know if Kirti Azad and Yusuf Pathan are Bengali, Yusuf Pathan is from Gujarat, and so is PM Modi, but for them, PM Modi is an outsider," he said. The list was announced by Abhishek Banerjee at Brigade Parade ground on Sunday. Abhishek Banerjee, the nephew of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will contest from Diamond Harbour. Mahua Moitra, who was expelled from Lok Sabha in the Winter session last



year has been given a ticket from Krishnanagar constituency.

Meanwhile, Mukut Mani Adhikari who recently quit the Bharatiya Janata Party has also been given a ticket from Ranaghat Lok Sabha seat. Shatrughan Sinha is set to again contest from Asansol, a seat he had won earlier in 2022 bypoll. TMC has fielded Jagadish C Basuniya from Cooch Behar, Prakash Chik Baraik from Alipurduar, Nirmal Ch Roy from Jalpaiguri, Gopal Lama from Darjeeling.

Krishna Kalyani has been fielded from Raiganj whereas Biplab Mitra and Prasun Banerjee will contest from Balurghat and Malda Uttar

respectively. On the announcement of the candidates, Trinamool Congress said that the ruling party in Bengal will stand with the common people as part of its commitment.

"Under the leadership of Chairperson @MamataOfficial, we're pleased to announce the names of candidates for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. We are steadfast in our commitment to stand by the common people against the deprivation of the Central Govt. When it comes to confronting the @BJP4India jomidars head-on and responding in the language they understand best, the Twin Flower is people's only choice!," TMC posted on X.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who was also sharing the stage when the list was released, asserted that her party will contest elections in multiple states in the upcoming Lok Sabha election. "TMC will contest the election against BJP, Congress, and CPM in West Bengal. TMC will fight alone here in Bengal. TMC will also fight in Assam, Uttar Pradesh. For one seat, there has been a discussion with Samajwadi leader Akhilesh Yadav.

Video of Telangana Chief Minister on stool, his Dalit deputy on floor sparks row

Hyderabad. Controversy erupted after Telangana's Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka was caught on a video sitting on the floor, while Chief Minister Revanth Reddy along with other ministers sat on a stool at an event. The video was shared by the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS Party) on X, who slammed the ruling Congress for "insulting" Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka. The incident, according to the BRS Party's tweet, happened when Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and his ministers, including his deputy, went to pray at a temple in Nalgonda district. The video shows some ministers seated on a stool in what looked like facing the deity as the priests chanted mantras on a microphone. However, Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka sat on the floor.

"Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and co brutally insulted Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, while on darshan (visit) of Yadadri temple. Revanth Reddy,



fellow ministers Komatireddy Venkat Reddy and Uttam Kumar Reddy insulted Bhatti Vikramarka by sitting above," the BRS Party tweeted.

Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka was sworn in as

Telangana's first Dalit Deputy Chief Minister in December last year after the Congress won the Assembly elections, and dethroned the BRS party led by K Chandrasekhar Rao.

Karnataka bans coloured gobi manchurian, cotton candy over health concerns

←Karnataka on Monday became the latest entry into a string of states that are cracking on cotton candies and gobi Manchurian after it announced the banning of food colouring agent in the food items over health concerns.



Bengaluru. Karnataka has become the latest state to crack down on food colouring agents in cotton candies and gobi manchurian due to health concerns. On Monday, Karnataka Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao announced the banning of the food colouring agent Rhodamine-B in cotton candy and gobi manchurian. "If anyone is found using Rhodamine-B food colouring agent, then severe action will be

taken against them under the Food Safety Act," he announced at a press briefing. He said that the quality of these food items across the southern state was poor because of the artificial colouring, which is in return, adversely affecting the health of people. Of 171 samples of gobi manchurian collected, 64 were found to be safe while as many as 106 were found to be unsafe. Meanwhile, a total of 25 cotton

candy samples were collected, of which, 10 were found to be safe and 15 unsafe.

Tartrazine, Carmoisine, Sunset Yellow and Rhodamine-1B were some of the artificial colours found to be used in the samples.

"Samples were collected from hotels, (and) roadside shops, among others. Many have turned out unsafe. Using Rhodamine as colouring agent is banned. Eateries use this (colouring agent) to make (food items) look more red," Dinesh Gundu Rao said. The state commissioner of food safety has issued an order in this regard across the state, directing the banning of any artificial colours in gobi manchurian and cotton candy.

Some of the samples of gobi manchurian were taken from 3-star hotels of Karnataka, and those also turned out to be unsafe.



Shivakumar clarified that some water was discharged from KRS dam to replenish the Shiva Balancing Reservoir at Malavalli from where it is pumped to Bengaluru

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"From where we pump water to Bengaluru, the water level there was less. Water has to be at a certain level for it to be pumped, so as to maintain that level the water was released...for Bengaluru's water, it was done," he said.

Don't physically verify dairy and HR&CE stock: TN Director General of Audit

D Jaisankar, DGA, told TNIE that physical verification of stocks is beyond the scope of audit functions.

CHENNAI. Tamil Nadu Director General of Audit (DGA), who oversees audit department in the state, has instructed auditors of the milk cooperative, HR&CE, local fund audit department and others not to conduct physical verification while assessing stocks at the end of the financial year. Instead, the audit department has been told to use stock details from the departments concerned for annual auditing. The revised methodology will come into effect from March 31 and a directive to this effect was recently issued to the respective audit directorates. D Jaisankar, DGA, told TNIE that physical verification of stocks is beyond the scope of audit functions. "The audit department also lacks the wherewithal to carry out such a huge exercise. The maintenance of stock data is a responsibility



of respective department administrations, not of auditors," he said.

Bid to help hide maladministration

He claimed the decision to eliminate physical verification of stocks aligns with practices followed by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG). He stressed that auditors should not engage in administrative roles, which would be both ineffective and pose unnecessary interference in departmental administration. "We have rectified the incorrect practice that had been

in place for years," he said. A section of activists in the dairy industry, however, have alleged that the move is an attempt to help Aavin and other departments conceal maladministration. Some auditors from the milk cooperative department too have said this decision lacks legislative backing and is aimed at preventing the mismanagement of dairy stocks, such as butter, milk powder, and ice cream, at dairy plants from becoming public knowledge. "During annual stock verification on March 31, auditors have

previously highlighted several irregularities.

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NEWS BOX

Along with Dwarka Expressway, UER-II stretch to open for traffic

NEW DELHI. The first leg of the Rs 9,000-crore Dwarka Expressway will be opened by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday afternoon, almost 18 years after the Haryana govt had conceived to build an additional link between Delhi and Gurgaon.

While three new link roads between the two cities were proposed by the erstwhile planning commission to decongest Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway and MG Road, work on the other two - Vasant Kunj to DLF-II and MG Road to Gurgaon-Faridabad Road - has not yet started.

This will be the fifth expressway to be operational in NCR in the past six years.

Since 2018, two peripheral expressways - EPE, WPE, Delhi-Meerut Expressway and Sohna-Sawai Madhopur section of Delhi-Mumbai Expressway - have been thrown open to public.

Along with the first section of Dwarka Expressway, one package of six-lane Urban Extension Road-II (UER-II) from Nangloi-Najafgarh Road to Sector 24 in Dwarka (9.6km) will also be opened for traffic on Monday.

Dwarka Expressway is part of the Centre's Rs 60,000 highway development plan in the NCR to decongest the capital. It is being built by NHA as a 'model' urban expressway with a plan to meet the requirement for 20-25 years. Laying the foundation stone for the 28.5 km expressway on March 7, 2019, then finance minister Arun Jaitley had said expressways will "boost the economy of the country as highways boosted the economy of the United States".

430 teams deployed for anaemia screening in city

Gurgaon. A total of 430 teams of health workers will conduct health screening across the city on Monday as part of the anaemia elimination week. The teams will focus on anaemia detection and early interventions to reduce the prevalence of the disease by 1% in a year.

"There are 77 supervisors who are heading the 430 teams. Apart from routine OPDs, all health facilities are conducting haemoglobin (Hb) screening and treatment of patients across all age groups. At some health facilities, microcuvette-based digital hemoglobinometers are being used for testing," said Dr Virender Yadav, CMO Gurgaon. According to doctors, children, adolescents, women of reproductive age and pregnant women are at high risk of developing Anaemia. Maternal Anaemia is associated with adverse birth outcomes such as miscarriage, stillbirth, prematurity, and low birth weight of the baby.

We also published the following articles recently

What is Aplastic anaemia? All about its symptoms, causes and treatment. Aplastic anaemia is a rare, life-threatening blood disorder caused by immune destruction of blood cells. Symptoms include fatigue, weakness, pallor, and increased susceptibility to infections. Management options include bone marrow transplant, immunomodulatory drugs, and supportive care...

How your Zodiac sign influences your health routine. Virgos, Taurans, Capricorns, Libras, Pisceans, and Scorpios have unique ways of staying healthy. They stick to routines, eat well, exercise, keep clean, stay balanced, practice self-care, express themselves creatively, help others, and take care of their mental health.

Noise barrier to model markets, what's on Noida's list this year

Noida. From underpasses to a sports complex and noise barrier, the Noida Authority has a long list of projects to be undertaken this year. Two underpasses will be built on the Noida expressway for around Rs 250 crore. While a 6.1 km long underpass will come up near Sector 135, another - 16.9 km - will be built near Sector 146. These will take the number of underpasses on the expressway to five. Three of them are already there near sectors 96, 137 and 145.

A 2km stretch of the 4.8km elevated road linking sectors 18 and 61 will get a 2.5m-high noise barrier. The road has several hospitals, schools and other institutions along it. DGM (civil) Vijay Kumar Rawal said the noise barrier would be installed following recommendations of the CRRI. Apart from these, markets managed by the Noida Authority will also see a makeover. The Godavari market in Sector 37 and two others in Sector 110 will see a revamp for Rs 7.5 crore. The decision on these markets were taken following the facilitation of the Brahmputra market in Sector 29.

The Brahmputra complex has been developed as a model market at an estimated cost of Rs 3 crore. The project involved upgrading the facade and landscape and creating a space with provisions for seating and entertainment. Other than these projects in the pipeline, a Rs 680-crore tender has been floated recently for the 5.5km Chilla elevated road, connecting Mayur Vihar in Delhi with the Noida Expressway. A total of Rs 900 crore will be spent on the project, work on which is expected to start this year. A sports complex has been planned at a cost of Rs 70 crore on 26 acres in Sector 123, where a waste-to-energy plant was proposed earlier but had to be shelved because of protests by residents. A tender will be floated soon, officials said.

While these projects will be undertaken in the near future, there are some that are either in progress or are expected to be ready this year. Among them are the Bhangel elevated road and Noida Authority's administrative building in Sector 96, both of which may be completed by December. Rawal said over 70% of the work on both these projects were over. "Monitoring of the Bhangel elevated road is being done at two levels - every two weeks by the civil wing and once a month by the Authority CEO. A private consultant regularly conducts inspections and highlights issues with the construction work. The construction of the Authority's headquarters has been satisfactory as well," the DGM added. An international golf course in Sector 151A is chasing a March 2025 deadline. So is an approach road connecting sectors 146 and 147 through a bridge on the Hindon. Officials said that about 80% of the land for the golf course was with the Authority. Farmers are being persuaded for the remaining land. The Authority is also planning to float a fresh global tender for a proposed helipad next to the golf course.

Min temp drops by 2.5°C; gusty winds, rain likely in 2 days

Gurgaon. The minimum temperature dropped by 2.5°C to 9.9°C on Sunday, while it was recorded at 12.4°C on Saturday. India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a "yellow alert" for March 13 as the region is likely to witness thunderstorms and lightning accompanied with gusty winds with speed up to 40kmph. The maximum temperature was recorded at 27.9°C against 25.2°C recorded on Saturday. The wind slowed down to 5kmph from 8kmph a day ago. "A fresh western disturbance will affect north-west India from March 12, which is likely to bring thunderstorms and gusty winds to the region," an IMD official said. On Sunday, the air quality deteriorated from 'satisfactory' to 'poor'. The city's 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) was recorded at 214, as compared to Saturday's 174. The air quality is likely to remain in the 'satisfactory' category till Thursday. Strong surface winds and showers are likely to improve the air quality over Delhi NCR further, according to a forecast by the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR). Meanwhile, the day temperature on Sunday rose to 28.4°C at Safdarjung, Delhi's base station, against 26.9°C a day earlier. The minimum temperature was 10°C, four notches below normal. The Met department said maximum and minimum temperatures may increase to 29 and 12°C,



respectively, on Monday. There is a possibility of very light rain along with gusty winds on Wednesday.

"Due to the impact of a western disturbance in Delhi-NCR, gusty winds of 25-35 kmph are likely to blow on Wednesday. A few places in the region may also see drizzle or light rain. It will lead to cloudiness, causing a further rise in the minimum temperature," said Kuldeep Srivastava, scientist and head at the

Regional Weather Forecasting Centre, India Meteorological Department.

Met officials said the maximum temperature is rising marginally as cold northwesterly winds have stopped blowing in the city. The maximum temperature may stay around 30°C on Tuesday and Wednesday. The day temperature is yet to reach 30°C this year. "Clear skies are being seen at daytime. Due to the sun, the maximum temperature is

predicted to rise marginally until Wednesday," said a Met official.

Delhi's air quality remained in the 'moderate' category on Sunday with an AQI of 182. No significant change is predicted for the next few days.

We also published the following articles recently. Delhi records minimum temperature of 10 degrees Celsius, IMD predicts partly cloudy skies today. On Sunday, Delhi experienced a minimum temperature of 10 degrees Celsius, four degrees below normal. According to IMD, Delhi will have partly cloudy skies with a possibility of light rain or drizzle on March 13. Delhi's AQI stood at 165, categorized as 'moderate' between 201 and 300. Delhi weather: At 9.5C, lowest minimum March temperature in 5 years. Delhi witnessed its lowest March minimum temperature in five years at 9.5C, four degrees below normal. The maximum temperature was 24.9C, three degrees below normal. The mercury is predicted to rise slightly in the coming days. Air quality remained moderate with an AQI of 140.

Delhi mornings still colder with 9.6 degrees Celsius minimum temperature. Delhi experienced a chilly morning with a minimum temperature of 9.6 degrees Celsius, 5 degrees below average. Humidity at 90%. IMD predicts clear sky. AQI recorded at 159, 'moderate' category.

Group protests outside cyber police station, two booked

Gurgaon. A cybercrime suspect summoned for an investigation in case staged a protest along with his supporters in front of the cyber crime police station, forcing cops to call for reinforcements on Saturday. However, protesters dispersed before additional forces arrived. Cyber East police station head constable Virendra lodged a complaint at Sushant Lok police station on Saturday, alleging that at 11.40 am, 40 to 50 people came into the police station premises and raised slogans. "When I questioned their behaviour, they started raising slogans aloud. About 15 of them held placards and banners that had insulting content directed at the police department, Cyber

East inspector and the ACP," the complainant alleged. "One of the protesters introduced himself as Himanshu Pathak, who runs a cyber security firm in Jalandhar. Pathak said that a case was registered against him at the Cyber East police station on Jan 6, 2023 under the IT Act. Pathak received a notice on March 1, 2024 from inspector Jasveer Singh under section 41A (1) of CrP to appear before the investigating officer for questioning on Saturday. Pathak claimed that the notice was issued without any investigation," the complainant said. "The protesters called us thieves and slaves of China. They obstructed me from getting out of the

station and informing senior officials about the matter," head constable Virendra said. Sushant Lok police reached the spot around 12pm. "By the time we reached all the protesters had left the place," ASI Gyanender Singh said. He added that Pathak had not appeared for questioning at the Cyber East police station on Saturday. We also published the following articles recently. Suspect in theft case jumps off police station building, gets injured. Sameer Siddiqui, a 25-year-old suspect, attempted to escape by jumping from the second floor of Kandivali police station building during questioning in a theft case. He sustained leg injuries and is hospitalized. Officer-in-

charge of Sandeshkhali police station transferred Biswajit Shanpui, the officer-in-charge of Sandeshkhali police station, has been transferred amid allegations against TMC leaders. Gopal Sarkar replaces him. Sheikh's arrest and the subsequent CID takeover have caused turmoil in the Sandeshkhali region near the Sunderbans in West Bengal. Mini-police stations, major feats: Thanks to these cops, no running from pillar to post. Sub-inspector Neelam Sangotra and her colleagues patrol GB Road and Khan Market in New Delhi, ensuring safety and security. They handle complaints, maintain law and order, raise awareness about abuse, and.

59-year-old woman sleeping on bed burns to death in flat

Gurgaon. A 59-year-old woman sleeping on a bed burnt to death after her mentally challenged son allegedly set the mattress on fire in their flat in a Sector 43 condominium on Saturday night. The woman's husband was in Kolkata for some work when the flat went up in flames. According to police, residents of Vipul Greens saw plumes of smoke coming out of the windows and main door of flat number 401 in Block 3 and informed the guards, who called up the cops and the fire department. "We received a call around 11.20pm. Two fire tenders were rushed to Vipul Greens from the Sector 29 fire station. The flames were doused in less than an hour," said Sunil, one of

had mostly damaged the room where the woman was asleep. "By the time we reached, a team of cops and residents of the society had started fighting the blaze so that it did not spread to other flats. The woman, who had suffered severe burns, was sent to a hospital in an ambulance," he added. The son, Sunil said, told police and the fire team he had set the mattress ablaze while her mother was asleep. It was not immediately clear if the woman tried to escape from the room. The door of the room wasn't locked when the cops barged in, they said. "Curtains, mattresses and clothes in the room caught fire easily. The woman lay injured in the bed when the police team entered

fireman said. The woman, who was taken to a private hospital, succumbed to injuries on Sunday morning. "The body was sent for an autopsy. We have, meanwhile, initiated proceedings under Section 174 of the CrP. We are waiting for the autopsy report," said Arjun Dev, an inspector at Gurgaon Sadar police station. The son was in the custody of neighbours till his father arrived from Kolkata. Preliminary probe revealed that the 27-year-old man has been undergoing treatment since he was 16. Neighbours said he would become aggressive at times. The son is believed to have told some of them he had an argument with his mother on Saturday. "We will send him to the government

Man offered lift, kidnapped, extorted of 49k

Gurgaon. A 22-year-old man was arrested for allegedly kidnapping a private company employee waiting for a cab in Sector 57 and extorting Rs 49,500 from him on Tuesday. After the victim filed a complaint, police verified the UPI transfer details and arrested the accused on Wednesday night. Bhupendra alias Bhuppi works as a property dealer and is from Berka in Sohna. A police team led by crime branch inspector Sandeep Kumar arrested Bhuppi from Damdama Road in Sohna and recovered the car he used to commit the crime. His accomplice is on the run, a police officer said. According to the crime branch, the complainant was waiting for a cab near Boom Plaza in Sector 57 on Tuesday night when a car suddenly stopped near him. "Two men were sitting in the car. They offered me a lift and forced me into the car when I refused. One of them punched me and threatened to kill me. He snatched my mobile phone and transferred Rs 49,500 from my bank account to his via UPI. They then dropped me at Sector 65 and drove off," the complainant told police. During the interrogation, Bhuppi said that he went to Sector 57 in his car with an associate for some personal work.

Grid of legal notices including Name Change, Public Notice, and Change of Date of Birth. Each notice contains details of the person, their address, and the specific legal action being taken.

NEWS BOX

Real or AI? Kate Middleton's photo pulled by agencies for being 'manipulated'

World Several major news agencies have withdrawn an image distributed by Kensington Palace, featuring Kate Middleton and her children, amid claims that the photo has been manipulated. On Sunday, the palace released a photo in celebration of Mother's Day in the UK, showing the 42-year-old Princess of Wales smiling at the camera while her three children — Prince George, Princess Charlotte, and Prince Louis — stood around her. The palace stated that the photo was taken by Prince William, 41, earlier in the week at the family's residence in Windsor. However, users on social media questioned the authenticity of the image, with some suggesting that it appeared edited or generated by AI. In response to these concerns, multiple photo agencies have decided to pull the image released by Kensington Palace. The Associated Press noted upon closer inspection that "it appears that the source has manipulated the image." Similarly, AFP withdrew the photo, citing "an editorial issue," and instructed that it "may no longer be used in any manner" on online platforms. Reuters picture editors pointed out a discrepancy in the alignment of the sleeve of Kate's daughter's cardigan, indicating potential alterations to the image. This photograph marked the first officially released image of the princess since her abdominal surgery in January. Its release followed weeks of speculation and social media conspiracy theories surrounding her health and whereabouts.

Kensington Palace has yet to issue a statement on the controversy surrounding Kate Middleton's photo.

Balochistan CM announces 'general amnesty' for separatists

BALUCHISTAN. Balochistan chief minister Sarfraz Bugti urged Baloch insurgents to quit violence and join mainstream politics, adding that the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP)-led government will announce a "general amnesty" to resolve the issue through dialogue. The News International reported. The chief minister said he wanted to resolve the Balochistan insurgency through dialogue and his government was ready to hold dialogue with anyone ready for it, the report stated. "Many assassination attempts were made on my life but I have forgiven all those (elements), as there is no flame of revenge in my heart," Bugti said. "Although I am in power, it does not mean that I start settling personal scores... I did not have any personal feud with anyone," he added. "We are announcing a general amnesty and reviving a peaceful Balochistan policy under which we will try that they (insurgents) become part of mainstream politics," Bugti said. Bugti, who served as caretaker interior minister at the Centre before the February 8 elections, stressed that he has always stood by the state in its fight against separatists and has also lost his relatives, friends and colleagues in the conflict, according to The News International. "But despite this, I don't have any revenge in my heart," he added. CM Bugti also warned that if the Baloch insurgents don't become part of the mainstream and abandon violence, then he "has no other option but to establish the writ of the state". However, the Balochistan CM refused to share the details of "general amnesty," adding that he would elaborate on the policy once things were finalised. Responding to a question regarding the steps taken to ensure the recovery of missing persons, CM Bugti said the count of missing persons was "dicey", according to The News International. He added that the federal government had formed a commission on missing persons, which has resolved 80 per cent of the cases. "I am not giving any justification, as there is no justification even if a single person is missing," Bugti said. The CM also said a "serious insurgency" was going on against the state in Balochistan, with about 70,000 to 80,000 people losing their lives in terror incidents in the country.

Emergency Caribbean summit to address Haiti gang crisis

PORT-AU-PRINCE. Envoys from key nations will meet Monday in the Caribbean to address the spiraling situation in Haiti, as gang violence crippled the impoverished island nation's capital and forced foreign diplomats to flee over the weekend.

Criminal groups, which already control much of Port-au-prince as well as roads leading to the rest of the country, have unleashed havoc in recent days as they try to oust Prime Minister Ariel Henry as leader of the Western Hemisphere's poorest country.

Caricom, an alliance of Caribbean nations, has summoned envoys from the United States, France, Canada and the United Nations to a meeting in Jamaica to discuss the violence and ways to provide assistance to Haiti. On Sunday, the vice president of Guyana, Bharrat Jagdeo, said the countries would "seek to bring order and restore some faith in the people of Haiti."

"Criminals have now take over the country. There is no government, it is becoming a failed society," he added.

With dysfunction growing, bodies have been seen lying in Port-au-Prince streets and the unrest has internally displaced 362,000 Haitians, according to the International Organization for Migration.

On Sunday, the United States said it had airlifted non-essential American staff from its embassy in Port-au-Prince. The US military additionally said it had "conducted an operation to augment the security of the US Embassy at Port-au-Prince, allow our Embassy mission operations to continue, and enable non-essential personnel to depart." A State Department spokesperson said the embassy nonetheless "remains open, on limited operations" with reduced personnel. The German foreign ministry meanwhile said its ambassador joined other European Union representatives in leaving for the Dominican Republic on Sunday. "Due to the very tense security situation in Haiti, the German ambassador and the permanent representative in Port-au-Prince left for the Dominican Republic today together with representatives from the EU delegation," a ministry spokesman told AFP, adding that they would work from there "until further notice." On Saturday, dozens of residents sought safety in public buildings, with some successfully breaking into one facility, according to an AFP correspondent. And police late Friday repelled gang attacks, including on the presidential palace, and several "bandits" were killed. Lionel Lazzare of the Haitian police union said. The well-armed gangs recently have attacked critical infrastructure, including two prisons, allowing most of their 3,800 inmates to escape. Along with some ordinary Haitians, the gangs are seeking the resignation of Prime Minister Henry, who was due to leave office in February but instead agreed to a power-sharing deal with the opposition until new elections are held.

Ukraine rejects Pope's call to 'have courage' to negotiate with Russia

Kyiv,UPDATED. Ukraine on Sunday rebuffed Pope Francis's call to negotiate an end to the war with Russia, with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy saying the pontiff was engaging in "virtual mediation" and his foreign minister saying Kyiv would never capitulate. Francis said that when things were going badly for a party to a conflict one had to show the "courage of the white flag" and negotiate. Zelenskyy made no direct reference to Francis or his comments but mentioned religious figures helping inside Ukraine. "They support us with prayer, with discussion and with deeds. This is indeed what a church with the people is," Zelenskyy said in his nightly video address. "Not 2,500 km away, somewhere, virtual mediation between someone who wants to live and someone who wants to destroy you." Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, writing on the X messaging platform, said that the strong person in any dispute "stands on the side of good rather than attempting to put them on the same footing and call it 'negotiations'". Our flag

is a yellow and blue one," Kuleba wrote in English, referring to the Ukrainian national flag. "This is the flag by which we live, die, and prevail. We shall never raise any other flags." Kuleba also pointed to allegations that Pope Pius XII failed to act against the Nazis in Germany in World War Two. "I urge (the Vatican) to avoid repeating the mistakes of the past and to support Ukraine and its people in their just struggle for their lives," he wrote. That was a reference to longstanding arguments that Pius took no action despite evidence that emerged during the war of the extent of the Holocaust. A letter made public last year from the Vatican archives appeared to show that Pius was made aware of details of Nazi actions to exterminate Jews as early as 1942. Supporters of Pius say he worked behind the scenes to help Jews and did not speak out in order to prevent worsening the situation for Catholics in Nazi-occupied Europe. His detractors say he lacked the courage to



speak out on information he had despite pleas from Allied powers fighting Germany. The head of Ukraine's 5 million-strong Eastern Rite Catholic Church, Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk, also rejected the pope's comments. Ukraine is wounded, but not conquered! Ukraine is exhausted, but it stands and will stand!" the church's website quoted Shevchuk as saying in New York. "Believe me, no one has any idea of surrendering." Zelenskyy has

called for the withdrawal of all Russian troops and the restoration of Ukraine's post-Soviet borders. The Kremlin rules out engaging in talks on terms set by Kyiv. The Pope has upset Ukrainian officials several times in the war, including his call last year to Russian youth to take pride as heirs of tsars like Peter the Great, held up by President Vladimir Putin as an example to justify his actions in Ukraine. European officials supporting Ukraine in efforts to evict Russian troops denounced the pope's latest comments. "How about, for balance, encouraging Putin to have the courage to withdraw his army from Ukraine?" Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski wrote on X. Latvian President Edgars Rinkevics, also writing on X, said: "One must not capitulate in face of evil, one must fight it and defeat it, so that the evil raises the white flag and capitulates."

Netanyahu vows to begin Rafah offensive despite Biden's 'red line' warning

Frankfurt. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday that at least 13,000 "terrorists" were among Palestinians killed during Israel's war against Hamas in the Gaza Strip and vowed to press ahead with an offensive in Rafah, in the south of the enclave -- a move US President Joe Biden has described as his "red line". Nearly 31,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza during the five-month, long war that began after Hamas militants attacked Israel on October 7, 2023 killing 1,200 people and seizing 253 hostages, according to Israeli tallies. The Gaza health ministry does not break down the death toll between civilians and Hamas militants but has said that 72 per cent of those killed were women and children. Hamas dismisses Israel's toll for militants as attempts to portray "fake victories". Netanyahu told German media company Axel



Springer, which owns Politico and Germany's Bild newspaper and broadcaster Welt TV, that extending Israel's offensive into Rafah in southern Gaza was key to defeating Hamas. "We are very close to victory... Once we begin military action against the remaining terror battalions in Rafah, it is only a question of weeks" until the intensive phase of fighting is concluded, Bild newspaper quoted Netanyahu as saying. Biden and his aides have urged

Netanyahu in strong terms not to launch a major offensive in Rafah until Israel crafts a plan for mass evacuation of civilians. More than half of Gaza's 2.3 million people are sheltering in the Rafah area. Asked by MSNBC on Saturday whether an invasion of Rafah would be a red line, Biden said, "It is a red line, but I'm never going to leave Israel. The defence of Israel is still critical. So there's no red line (in which) I'm going to cut off all weapons, so they don't have the Iron Dome to protect them."

Politico quoted Netanyahu as saying on Sunday that Israeli forces would push into Rafah, adding: "You know, I have a red line. You know what the red line is, that October 7 doesn't happen again. Never happens again."

Three quarters of Hamas battalions had been destroyed and halting the offensive now would only allow them to regroup, Bild quoted Netanyahu as saying.

Navigating Israeli restrictions, many Palestinians find it hard to reach Al-Aqsa

JERUSALEM. As the sermon about the Muslim holy month of Ramadan sounded over the speakers from Al-Aqsa Mosque, 13-year-old Yousef al-Sideeq sat on a bench outside the compound's gates. "Most Fridays, they prevent me from getting in, for no reason," the young Jerusalem resident said, referring to the Israeli police. Every Friday, Yousef visits Jerusalem's Old City to pray at Al-Aqsa, the third-holiest site for Muslims and part of the compound sacred to Jewish people, who call it the Temple Mount. But since the Hamas-led Oct. 7 attacks and Israel's ensuing bombardment of the Gaza Strip, heavily armed Israeli police forces who guard many of the Old City's gates have stopped him from entering the compound, he said. He has managed to get in only twice. Muslim access to the mosque has long been a point of contention as Israel has exerted tighter control in recent years over the compound, one of many restrictions Palestinians living under decades of Israeli occupation have had to endure. As Ramadan begins, many also fear what, if any, additional constraints

Israel may impose on the religious site, which can draw 200,000 people in one day from not just Jerusalem but the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Israel as a whole. Israeli police said people were "entering after enhanced security checks that are conducted due to the current reality, alongside efforts to prevent any disturbances." But they did not answer specific questions about whether there was a policy preventing certain worshippers, especially young men, from entering the mosque Friday. They said they were "maintaining a balance between the freedom of worship and the imperative of ensuring security." Late Sunday, Palestinian and Israeli news media reported that police officers prevented many Palestinians from entering Al-Aqsa to perform prayers for the start of Ramadan. Both media cited a video that showed officers with batons chasing and beating some Palestinians. Israel has said there has been no change to the status quo, which allows only Muslims to worship at the compound. The site is revered by Jews as the location of two ancient temples, and by Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary, the compound

containing Al-Aqsa Mosque and other important Islamic prayer spaces. The compound includes the Dome of the Rock, a gold-domed prayer hall. Israel captured east Jerusalem, including the Old City and the Aqsa compound, from Jordan in 1967 and later annexed it. Much of the world considers it occupied territory and does not recognize Israeli sovereignty over east Jerusalem. Many Palestinians say their access to Al-Aqsa compound has become increasingly restricted in favor of Jews, who consider the Temple Mount the most sacred place in Judaism. Incidents at the compound have at times been the spark for broader conflicts. The second intifada, or Palestinian uprising, was set off in 2000 when Ariel Sharon, who later became Israel's prime minister, visited Al-Aqsa surrounded by hundreds of police officers. Confrontations at the compound in May 2021 contributed to the outbreak of an 11-day war between Israel and Hamas. Hamas, the Palestinian armed group that has been in control of Gaza for years, called its Oct. 7 attack on southern Israel the Al-Aqsa Flood.

US aims to be 'economic partner of choice' for Indo-Pacific: Gina Raimondo

WASHINGTON. US commerce secretary Gina Raimondo is leading a presidential trade and investment mission to the Philippines starting Monday as the United States looks to fortify economic ties across the region. Raimondo plans to tout the Philippines as a key hub for regional supply chains and investment in support of the US Indo-Pacific Strategy during the visit on Monday and Tuesday. She will then travel to Thailand for two days of meetings for a presidential export council mission.

"We want to deepen our economic engagement in the Indo-Pacific, which is dynamic - some of the fastest growing, dynamic economies of the world," Raimondo said in an interview, saying the trip aims to ramp up "our economic and commercial ties in the Indo-Pacific."

Security engagements between the Philippines and the United States have stepped up considerably under President Joe Biden and his counterpart Ferdinand Marcos Jr, with both leaders keen to counter what they see as China's aggressive actions in the South China Sea and



near Taiwan. Raimondo said she is often asked if the United States is asking countries in the Indo-Pacific to choose between China and the United States. "Absolutely not - but we want the United States to be the economic partner of choice," Raimondo said. "For that to happen, we have to show up and show up in the country with money, with collaboration and consistently show up." Raimondo made a trip in China in August where she met Chinese leaders and touted US firms' desire to do business in China. The US delegation to the Philippines includes executives from 22 companies including United Airlines, Alphabet's Google, Black & Veatch, Visa, EchoStar/DISH, United Parcel Service (UPS), Boston Consulting Group, KKR Asia Pacific, Bechtel, FedEx, Mastercard and Microsoft, the White House said. United said last week it would launch new flights from Tokyo-Narita to Cebu, Philippines starting July 31. Raimondo said she hopes there will be new US investment announcements this week in the Philippines and that talks this week will lay the groundwork for future commercial investments.

Pilot, co-pilot fall asleep for 28 minutes, plane veers off path in Indonesia

World. A plane in Indonesia strayed off its course after both pilots of the aircraft fell asleep for 28 minutes, according to a report released by the National Transportation Safety Committee (KNKT), a government agency. The Indonesia Transport Ministry will launch an investigation into the incident that took place on January 25. According to the KNKT preliminary report, both the pilot and the co-pilot of the Batik Air BTK6723 fell asleep during a flight from Kendari in Southeast Sulawesi province to Indonesian capital Jakarta. However, none of the 153 passengers and four flight attendants on board the plane were injured during the flight, and the aircraft did not suffer any damage either. Later, the flight - which lasted two hours and 35 minutes - successfully landed in Jakarta. According to the KNKT report, the aircraft was scheduled to go from Jakarta to Kendari, and then return. During the flight preparation in Jakarta on January 25, the co-pilot had notified his pilot that he had not had "proper rest". After the plane cruised at an altitude of 36,000 feet, the pilot asked the co-pilot to take rest,

and he slept for "about 30 minutes" inside the cockpit. The co-pilot (also known as the second-in-command pilot) woke up before the plane began descending to Kendari. During transit, both the pilots ate "instant noodle cups in the cockpit".

After the BTK6723 aircraft departed from Kendari, and reached a cruising altitude, the pilot (also known as pilot-in-command) sought permission to sleep from the co-pilot, which he was granted. A few seconds later, the pilot slept off and the co-pilot took over as the 'pilot monitoring (PM)'. The pilot, however, woke up some time later and asked if the co-pilot wanted to take some rest. Upon the co-pilot's decline, the pilot continued to sleep. Around 90 minutes into the flight, when the pilot remained asleep, and the co-pilot was acting both as 'pilot flying' and 'pilot monitoring', the co-pilot "inadvertently fell asleep", according to



the KNKT report. Around 12 minutes after the last recorded transmission from the co-pilot, the Jakarta area control center (ACC) tried to contact the BTK6723 pilots, but there was no reply from them. The Jakarta ACC also got other pilots to call the Batik Air pilots, but to no avail. Nearly 28 minutes later, the pilot woke up and was aware that the "aircraft was not in the correct flight path". At this point, he woke up the co-

pilot, and told the ACC that the flight had experienced a "radio communication problem" which had been resolved.

The flight was then safely landed in Jakarta.

The KNKT report did not reveal the names of the pilots, but identified the pilot as a 32-year-old and the co-pilot as a 28-year-old - both Indonesian males. The co-pilot had one-month-old twins and "had to wake up several times to help his wife take care of the babies", the report added. The Indonesia Transport Ministry will conduct a probe into the incident, state news agency Antara, citing the civil aviation director-general M Kristi Endah Murni, said. "We will conduct an investigation and review of the night flight operation in Indonesia regarding the Fatigue Risk Management for Batik Air and other flight operators," Murni added. She further stated that flight crews of BTK6723 have also been grounded according to the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) pending further investigation.

'Didn't see such a drought in 30-40 years': Shivakumar on Bengaluru water crisis

Bengaluru. Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said on Monday that the state has not witnessed such a severe drought in the last 30-40 years, which has resulted in



Bengaluru's ongoing water crisis. "In the last 30-40 years we have not seen such a drought; though there was drought earlier, we had never declared such a large number of taluks as drought-affected," he told reporters in Bengaluru. "Wherever Cauvery river water has to be supplied, (it) is being done, but out of 13,900 odd borewells in Bengaluru, about 6,900 borewells have become defunct," he said. Shivakumar said the Karnataka government has taken "things under its control" and arranged tankers to supply water. Due to the ongoing crisis, Bengaluru is receiving 1,450 million litres per day (mld) of water from the Cauvery river for the city's supply, as opposed to the state capital's total water requirement of 2,100 mld. Karnataka, especially Bengaluru, is facing one of the worst water crises in recent years due to poor rainfall in 2023.

Private agency to help curb cattle menace in Tambaram

Cattle seized in the Tambaram corporation limits are currently impounded in a shed in Kondamangalam panchayat near Kattankulathur.

CHENNAI. In a bid to strengthen efforts to curb the stray cattle menace, the Tambaram municipal corporation has decided to involve a private agency in the operations. This agency will have to conduct cattle raids across all five zones of the corporation.

Controlling stray cattle has been one of the major challenges plaguing local bodies at present. Cattle seized in the Tambaram corporation limits are currently impounded in a shed in Kondamangalam panchayat near Kattankulathur. The decision to engage a private agency was taken as the civic body was grappling with a lack of adequate manpower and resources. As per the agreement, the agency will arrange a vehicle fitted with additional facilities and also 10 workers, who are trained in such kinds of operations. The team will conduct cattle raids across all the five zones. They will seize stray cattle and move them to the shed in Kondamangalam. They will be paid Rs 1,500 for seizing a head of cattle. The corporation officials also hope to extend the raids to the newly added areas as they are often criticised as going soft on owners of stray cattle. "The corporation workers are



not trained and they often get injured during the seizure operations. The private agency will help ease the burden of the corporation workers," said a corporation official. Meanwhile, activists have raised certain concerns over involving a private agency in the operation. "Instead of

strengthening its force, the corporation's move to privatise the operations will only add an extra burden on the exchequer," said Ramkumar, a resident and activist. Corporation officials maintain that this move is only a stop-gap arrangement and the local body will acquire more resources in

the coming months. "This arrangement will be taken up only on a pilot basis for six months. We are planning to procure new vehicles in adherence to the latest Animal Welfare Board standards. We will train our workers in the meantime," said a senior corporation official.

Cops reunite kidnapped toddler with kin in Tirupati

According to SP Krishnakanth Patel, the incident occurred when the family of 10 members reached Tirumala around 3 pm.



TIRUPATI. Tirupati police reunited a three-year-old boy with his family three hours after he was kidnapped in Tirumala on Sunday. The child,

identified as Abhinay, and his family had come to Tirumala from their native in Telangana Gadwal to offer prayers at the Srivari temple.

According to SP Krishnakanth Patel, the incident occurred when the family of 10 members reached Tirumala around 3 pm. When the

men were busy with room registration and the women were taking rest, an unidentified woman approached the boy and lured him with a mobile phone before kidnapping him. Upon noticing the child missing, the family immediately filed a complaint with the Tirumala II-Town police station.

Responding swiftly to the situation, SP Patel formed special teams and utilised CCTV footage and social media platforms to track down the kidnapper. The child was located in a lodge in Tirupati's Peddakapu Layout. Police rescued Abhinay and handed him over to his parents. SP Patel commended the efforts of the police personnel, Blue-Colts and Rakshak staff involved in the operation. He also lauded APSRTC employee Avula Prabhakar Yadav for providing crucial information leading to the child's rescue.

Criminal case filed against top Telangana cop for destruction of intel data

Hyderabad. The Special Intelligence Branch (SIB) of the Telangana Police filed a criminal conspiracy case against Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Praneeth Rao for the alleged manipulation and destruction of intelligence data, as well as damaging official devices.

Praneeth Rao, who is believed to be close to former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao (KCR), is accused of destroying official hard disks and other records after the state assembly election results on December 4, 2023, which dethroned KCR after Congress's win. The investigation revealed that Praneeth misused his official position while serving in the SIB, regularly copying intelligence information into his personal drives and keeping it under his custody. After the election results, he allegedly turned off the cameras and destroyed old hard drives containing data gathered over decades. Police sources stated that Rao destroyed the hard drives and CCTV cameras to avoid any criminal action against him and others and to destroy the evidence. According to the FIR, Rao, while working in SIB, had two rooms exclusively for himself, unlike other teams, and operated with 17 systems issued to him. He also had an exclusive and dedicated leased line with an internet connection. Through this setup, he allegedly developed profiles of unknown persons and monitored them without authorisation. The case against the officer was registered on a complaint filed by the Additional Superintendent of Police (SIB). Rao has been charged with Criminal Breach of Trust (IPC 409), Mischief Causing Damage (IPC 427), Destroying Evidence (IPC 201), Criminal Conspiracy (IPC 120B, R), Common Intention (IPC 34), and various sections of the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act (PDPPA) and IT Act.



Drinking water supply to all problematic areas restored in Andhra Pradesh

ONGOLE. The Rural Water Supply (RWS) division of Prakasam district has successfully restored drinking water access to all 58 areas affected by water crisis in the western region through water tankers. Notably, the district authorities have decided to enhance the provision to 40 litres per capita per day (LPCD), exceeding the previous standard of 15 LPCD, in these affected areas.

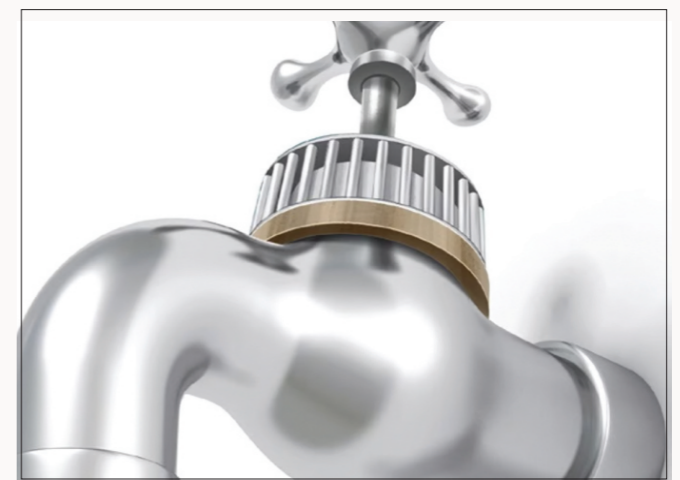
Recognising the acute water scarcity in certain habitations with no groundwater availability, the State government has granted permission to month of March 2024, sanctions the delivery of 40 LPCD, deviating from

the prior directive of 15 LPCD, as per the district authority's request. RWS superintending engineer (SE) SK Mardhan Ali mentioned, "With the State government setting the outstanding bills to tanker owners up to October 2022, we can now ensure adequate water supply for drinking and cooking purposes in identified water-scarce habitations, with an increased allocation of 40 LPCD per person."

Recent coverage by TNIE spotlighted the dire water scarcity situation in western Prakasam district, emphasising the challenges faced by residents due to the absence of groundwater resources. Consequently, the State government

has instructed RWS authorities to deliver water via tankers to these identified habitations for drinking and cooking needs at a rate of 40 LPCD. Water supply operations through tankers have commenced in Donakonda, Peddaraveedu, Pullalacheruvu, Tarlupadu, Tripurantakam, and Yerragondapalem mandal areas. State Panchayat Raj and Rural Development (PR & RD) RWS-1 principal secretary Shashi Bhushan Kumar recently issued orders authorising water provision through tankers to these identified habitations. This initiative is expected to benefit approximately 48,644 individuals,

with 428 trips allocated for 40 LPCD and 126 trips for 15 LPCD capacity tankers. During the Zilla Parishad General Body meeting, District Collector AS Dinesh Kumar informed public representatives of these developments. He announced the government has settled outstanding water transportation tanker bills amounting to Rs 41.69 crore, recorded in the Comprehensive Financial Management System (CFMS) and covering the period from January 1, 2019, to October 31, 2022. This clears the path for restoring water supplies to the aforementioned water-scarce habitations through tankers.



Go easy on students during SSLC exams, NGO tells Karnataka government

BENGALURU. With the exam season on, the Karnataka School Education Assessment Board (KSEAB) has issued guidelines instructing that the seating arrangements should be in such a way for the SSLC students that they face the wall and write the exams so that they don't get distracted. The Child Rights Trust (CRT) highlighting the above rule has written to the Minister of Primary and Literacy Education, Madhu Bangarappa stressing that this will create more fear against exams as there are already CCTV cameras and strict vigilance across centres. The NGO has issued some guidelines and asked the department to consider them during the examination process to reduce fear, anxiety and panic among students. The letter mentions that "child-friendly exam practices" should be imbibed.



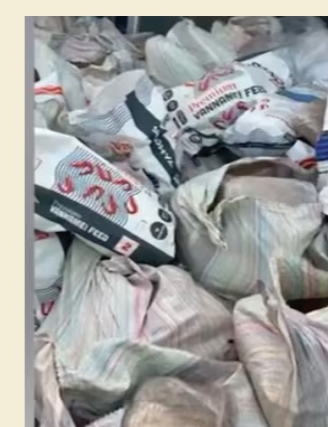
"How can one write exams facing the wall? Does the education department not have faith in our children? Or has the department come to a decision that it is not possible to prevent copying? This method increases anxiety instead of reducing it," read the letter addressed to Madhu. CRT director, Nagasimha Rao, said that the best way to inculcate good exam practices can be to include exam lessons in moral

science classes that will help students learn better. "The repercussions of cheating and copying can be highlighted in those chapters. Not all children copy... one out of ten children could do it. Is it possible to identify such children, understand their problems and mindset and offer counselling?" he wondered.

He added that children who copy are confused, and lack self-confidence, and such children need to be given psychological support. CRT suggested that counsellors be marked in exam centres and help address such matters at the same time instead of releasing names to media and creating further negative impact. Rao added that the department, before formulating these guidelines, did not consider students' viewpoints nor did they consult experts. This year's SSLC exams will begin on March 25 and end on April 6, with over 8.9 lakh students set to appear.

Drugs worth Rs 71 crore bound for Sri Lanka seized in Tamil Nadu

Chennai. Drugs worth Rs 71 crore bound for Sri Lanka were seized from a village in Tamil Nadu's Pudukkottai district. The narcotics were to be smuggled into the island nation via the Thondi sea route. The drugs were seized by a Central Intelligence Unit from Tiruchirappalli at a prawn farm in Mimisal village. Based on a tip off, the team reached the spot and seized the drugs, which included 70 kg of ganja oil and 950 kg of ganja. The team was monitoring movement of boats from Thondi, SP Pattinam, Devipattinam, Maraikayarpathinam, Vedhalai, Thangachimadam, Mandapam and Pamban to Sri



Lanka to illegally smuggle ganja, sea cucumber, turmeric and seahorses when they got the tip off. On Sunday night, the team

searched prawn farms from SP Pattinam to Ennamkottai and seized the drugs, which were then moved to the Ramanathapuram Customs office. The prawn farm reportedly belongs to one Sultan from Ramanathapuram and the team has initiated a search for the suspect. Further investigation is underway. The latest seizure came less than a week after four people were arrested for allegedly smuggling 99 kg of hashish worth Rs 108 crore to Sri Lanka from Tamil Nadu. The hashish was seized by officials from the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), Chennai, and the Indian Coast Guard.

Acknowledging help, healing touch

Sadly, police failures are trumpeted and good deeds go unheralded. It was time to set the record straight

Rudyard Kipling aptly said that people remember God and police only in distress and never before. When the distress ends, God is forgotten and the police are slighted. However, this observation is not always true. In my long police career, I have witnessed many shining instances of police personnel going out of their way to help those in distress and being gratefully acknowledged for it. My mind travels back to a case when I was posted as DIG of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) in Odisha. The department has a squad to trace missing persons. One day, an engineer from the Rourkela steel plant came to meet me. He looked extremely worried. His 12-year-old son had left the house about a week back after a tiff with his mother and the parents had failed to locate him. His wife was distraught and had stopped eating. He himself was passing through unbearable stress and strain. I told him that the usual practice was to publish a photograph of the boy in newspapers and show slides on television channels. However, it would be better and perhaps more fruitful if he and his wife could visit the probable places his truant son might have



gone to. I deputed a CID Inspector to accompany them so that police help could be sought whenever they visited other states. The father took two weeks' leave and set out with the Inspector. They visited various places in search of the missing boy. It was a challenging and exhausting endeavour, but the father was optimistic and the Inspector kept on motivating him all through. The police forces in different states rendered full assistance whenever it was sought. At long last, the patient but agonising search yielded results. With the help of Maharashtra police, the boy was traced to a place near Pune where he was working in a dhaba. After the tiff, he along with a friend had landed in Pune. Tracing the boy brought immense joy and relief to the traumatised parents. I also experienced a rare sense of peace and satisfaction. The CID Inspector felt happy and victorious. He had been a pillar of support. When the engineer, with tears in his eyes, came to thank me, I told him that I too felt suffused with joy. However, I had a request to make. I wanted him to write letters to newspapers and the electronic media highlighting the help and healing touch he received from the police. Sadly, police failures are trumpeted and good deeds go unheralded. I felt here was an opportunity to set the record straight, not for my sake, but for the entire police force. The relieved father kept his word. I also experienced a sense of fulfilment.

A Simple Majority Is Very Much In BJP's Reach. Here Are The Numbers

As the general elections approach, both the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and the Congress-led INDIA are powering through their campaigns. Reports are that election dates will be announced by mid-March. In the myriad poll reports that flood the news during election seasons in India, it's not uncommon to find parties and politicians describing seats as 'strong' or 'weak'. But how are they classified as such? Let's decode this. This 'strength scanner' this season has led the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi to launch a focused outreach in the Eastern and Southern parts of India, while the Congress has been trying to firm up alliances in Northern and Eastern regions. There are a few methods through which parties distinguish strong seats from the weak. We will follow the simplest approach here, in which the strength of a seat is ascertained by the number of times a party has won it in past elections. The last delimitation exercise was carried out in 2008, which led to the renaming of a few existing seats and change in the composition/structure of each seat. The 2009 Lok Sabha elections were fought after these changes. Hence, any seat-by-seat comparison prior to the 2009 elections is not fruitful. Let's consider the last three general elections—2009, 2014 and 2019—to classify seats into four categories, A, B, C, and D. A seat is categorised as "Relatively Strong" for a party if it has won the seat two out of three times in the last three polls

C (Difficult)
A "Difficult" seat is one that has been won only once in the last three elections
D (Weak)
A seat is "Weak" if the party has never won it

Category A: While the BJP has 95 "Strong" seats, the Congress has 17. Forty of these 95 seats for the BJP are in North India, 25 in West, and 15 each in East and South India. Of the Congress's 17, eight are in South India, five in the East and four in the North.

Category B: The BJP has 167 "Relatively Strong" seats, and the Congress 34. The parties have won these seats twice in the last three elections. Category C: There are 82 "Difficult" seats for the BJP, and 183 for the Congress. These are seats that the parties have won just once in the last three Lok Sabha elections. Category D: While the BJP has 199 "Weak" seats (those that have never been won in the last three elections), the Congress has 309. These also include seats the parties they have left for their allies. The BJP didn't field candidates for 107 seats in 2019, while the Congress did so for 121 seats. These were seats that their allies contested (largely classified under C & D categories). As can be seen from the table, the BJP, in comparison to the Congress, has a higher number of strong and relatively strong seats and much fewer



difficult or weak seats. This gives it the strength and confidence to win a hat trick in 2024. Categories A and B alone could fetch the BJP 262 seats—just 10 short of a majority. This is of course if it manages to hold on to these seats. The Congress, meanwhile, can fetch just 51 seats, which is just three short of 54, the number required to be the official Leader of the Opposition.

Congress In A Tight Spot
That the Congress faces more than 300 seats which have never been won shows that it is nearly impossible for the party to win a simple majority of its own. Even hardcore supporters today feel that 100-150 is a good bet for the party. On the other hand, of the 199 seats that the BJP has never won, 61 are in East India, 98 in South, 17 in North and 23 in West. This highlights how the party has literally 'maxed out' in the North and Western parts of India. What this signifies is that the BJP needs to focus on the East and South for additional gains. The Prime Minister, cognisant of this fact, has already visited Tamil Nadu, Odisha and West Bengal four times in 2024.

BJP's Focus Is On East And South
Of the 309 seats the Congress has never won, 108 are in East India, 55 in South, 99 in North and 47 in West. This highlights how the Congress has been wiped out in the Eastern and Northern parts of India. It has stitched up alliances with the Samajwadi Party in Uttar Pradesh, the Rashtriya Janata Dal in Bihar, the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha in Jharkhand and the Aam Aadmi Party in Delhi and Haryana to shore up its prospects. Such liaisoning hasn't worked out with the Trinamool Congress in West Bengal. The BJP is focussing on the C and D categories to improve its tally in Eastern and Southern India. There is already buzz about a possible alliance with Naveen Patnaik's Biju Janata Dal (BJD) in Odisha and Chandrababu Naidu's Telugu Desam Party (TDP) in Andhra Pradesh. Whether the BJP will retain power depends on its ability to win a majority of its strong and relatively strong seats in 2024. And, the Congress-led INDIA bloc's success in halting the BJP's march hinges on its ability to restrain the party in these very seats.

Boosting India-US ties

Strategic move to counter Chinese challenge

IN his State of the Union address on Thursday, US President Joe Biden underscored the significance of strengthening ties with key allies like India amid the Chinese challenge. His commitment to confronting China's unfair economic practices and ensuring a level playing field in global trade highlights the strategic importance of the India-US relations. Their deepening ties in a wide range of sectors are opening myriad avenues for growth and development in both countries. Biden has clarified that the US wants competition with China, not conflict, while exuding confidence that America is firmly placed to win the 21st-century race against the Dragon. India is a vital player in the US scheme of things. Enhanced defence cooperation between the two countries, including joint military exercises and technology transfers, serves as a deterrent against aggression and helps promote stability in the Indo-Pacific



region. This region is witnessing geopolitical tensions, particularly in Taiwan. By reinforcing their shared values of democracy, Washington and New Delhi can collaborate

to address these conflicts and ensure a rules-based order. The US efforts to bolster multilateral cooperation are bearing fruit, going by the growing clout of the Quad alliance in the face of China's expansionist moves. The grouping has emerged as a crucial platform leveraging the collective strengths of the member-countries — the US, India, Australia and Japan. It aims to promote a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region, where nations can thrive without fear of coercion or intimidation. The alliance also provides a framework for addressing other pressing global challenges, ranging from maritime threats to cybersecurity. It is obvious that the US is determined to keep China on tenterhooks and will try to make the most of its allies' prowess to achieve its objective.

What's in a name? A lot, actually

An elite club decided to name the basement as 'The Torture Chamber' to attract younger members. There was a flurry of agitation when extensive restoration led to bones being found. What was the truth?

Place a person or an object out of context and it could lead to an issue, even a crisis of both identity and identification. Where did I meet him or her? Not being able to remember the name can be taken as a measure of snobbery, or hopefully, just be passed off as plain forgetfulness. Something like that can happen with objects if they are out of place — or if they become 'something that was put somewhere safe, and now cannot be found'. In the same vein, worse, if something, someone or somewhere is wrongly or inappropriately labelled. I was in a grand government house where some artefacts and utensils had been pulled out of an old storeroom or pantry for display. There were spoons and ladles, knives and forks that one would be hard-pressed to know the use of. One large container stood out. This was labelled as a 'coffee maker'. Going by its size, there must have been a regiment of coffee drinkers to make use of this substantial metal barrel. I tried looking closer to see where the beans or power went, and could find none. Nor could one locate the place from where the beverage poured out. Then, as happens, one was told to move along. But that 'coffee maker' parked itself in an unresolved corner of my brain. Back I went. Some more digging and this wondrous contraption revealed itself as an old-fashioned butter-churn.



Now repurposed, the same venerable building has a ballroom — which on the first visit was explained as the place where 'ballroom performances' took place. There are alcoves where the spectators could sit and cheer the 'performers' along. On the second visit, the sprung floor, which gave a level of elasticity to the floorboards, was interpreted as being thus as it helped in 'jumping'. The mental picture that immediately, and appropriately, sprang to mind was a delight to behold — scores of high colonial officials jumping and leapfrogging while outside the gates, away from the skipping and cavorting, India spun its way to

freedom and slipped out of grasp. Another once grand and now repurposed palace had the storm-water drain marked as an escape route for British viceroys on the run. The wine cellar, with its iron-bar door, was explained away as the prison where freedom fighters frittered away their fighting hours, and the meat hooks in the kitchen were where others of their ilk were supposedly hung till all traces of sedition vanished. In the same vein, the honorary secretary of an elite club decided to name the basement as 'The Torture Chamber'. The ostensible purpose of this 'cool name', chosen by a middle-aged gentleman, was to attract the club's younger members for parties and other events. Soon after, the building

underwent an extensive restoration and all its innards were pulled out. In the process, in some pipes, bones were found and this led to a flurry of agitation. Rumours flew thick and fast — that how under a stage's floorboards, people were tortured while actors acted and singers sang just a few feet above. Expectedly, someone stepped forth to claim that he had seen prisoners being taken to be tortured from the police room close by. Not to be outdone, another reported how his father had heard screams emanating from the building. An explanation, that the building housed a theatre and that some plays do have a fair amount of screaming and wailing, was put aside for the moment. The police were called in. The bones were sent for

forensic examination. The result came back after a few days. These were chicken and meat bones that had got stuck in the pipes that led from the kitchen. As education spread in Himachal and as the number of primary schools increased substantially, there was a greater demand for teachers. Many came from the districts of Hamirpur and Kangra, and found postings in far-flung and remote areas. Kibber in Spiti was celebrating its status as the world's highest village to be connected by a motorable road when one had a glass of very welcome chai in the home of a couple who had been posted there. The pupils were few, and while life may have been hard, this couple was very happy teaching and living there. With the additional allowances they received for this posting and minimal overheads, they expected to save enough for their evening years. There was another interesting aspect of this movement of teachers to the Trans-Himalayas and primarily Buddhist areas. Coming from low-lying districts, these educators were not familiar with the Buddhist names that their pupils had — like Gompel, Topdan, Dorje or Dolma. They circumvented what were tongue-twisters to them, by giving their pupils names that they were familiar with — Ram or Sita, Arjun or Rita. The result was that every child had two names — the 'home name' and the 'school name'. While it may have made things easier at roll call, there was trouble ahead when it came to school-leaving certificates — what name would go there? Would it match with the name entered at the time of admission? This led to affidavits, visits to red-taped offices and delayed admissions. Subsequently, many of these youngsters from Lahaul, Spiti and Kinnaur found employment in various services. The long-term upshot of this is that now, they have a 'home name' and an 'office name'.

How to get that Perfect Smile

A smile can really change your face value in an instant and that is the reason why when you change your smile, your entire personality undergoes a tremendous overhaul. Cosmetic dentist Dr Rajesh Shetty says, "As far as the smile goes, even a small change can make a favourable impact. The way you look can be altered by making subtle to drastic changes just to your teeth."

Smile improvement procedures

Out of the variety of procedures available today, there are different treatment options that can treat discolouration, chipped teeth,

misshapen or even missing teeth, such as bleaching, reshaping, contouring, bonding, crowns and veneers.

Contouring for tooth makeover

Sometimes small defects on your tooth can be prominent when you smile and attract unwanted attention. This is where cosmetic contouring comes in. Contouring is one of the instant cosmetic dental treatments that is about re-shaping and styling a tooth.

Cosmetic dentist Dr Sagar Shah says, "Cosmetic contouring is a technique that



removes small amounts of tooth enamel in order to change the shape, length or surface of one or more teeth. A few millimetres of reduction in the right places can really improve the appearance of teeth. The process is often combined with bonding, a cosmetic dentistry treatment that uses tooth-coloured composite material to sculpt and shape the teeth and dental whitening."

Who can get this done

When your tooth has a tiny chip, if your canine is too pointy or when your tooth sizes do not match — these are the problems that can be addressed with the help of this minimally invasive procedure. Dr Shetty says, "In order to evaluate if cosmetic contouring is ideal for the person, we conduct X-rays. This helps evaluate the size of the tooth

and location of the nerve present. Sufficient amount of enamel, which is the outer layer of the tooth should be present, so that the tooth does not become weak after the procedure, thereby providing a long-term solution for the client.

In order to get the best out of all this, it is advisable to combine some procedures like teeth whitening along with contouring to get a younger looking smile.



Rainbow eyelashes are the latest beauty trend

With the popularity of the rainbow hairstyle that caught on in a big way last year, it has now extended to other areas as well. The latest offshoot of this trend is the eyelash make-up trend. The trend went viral after a neon-eyelash look, created by make-up artist Karin Westerlund for model Ginta Lapina, was shared on social media. You can use coloured mascara, eyelash extensions or even create your own using coloured eyeshadow pigment and clear mascara.



How to have a detox bath

While most of us can't go through week-long detox rituals, it's quite possible to have a quick relaxing detox bath at the end of a tiring day. Here's how you can rejuvenate your body and your mind by taking a simple but healthy bath.

Ginger bath

Sprinkle some fresh ginger shavings in your bath water. Ginger tends to make the body sweat more, thereby helping it release toxins.

Baking soda bath

Baking soda has the property of neutralizing chlorine in tap water, which aids the body in the detoxing process.

Apple cider vinegar bath

Not only will water mixed with apple cider vinegar help you sweat out toxins, it also helps with any inflammation of the skin. essential oil bath There are a number of great essential oils out there like lavender, peppermint and sandalwood, which are great for a detox bath. For best results, you can first add baking soda to your bath and then a few drops of an essential oil to get the full effects of the latter.



A lot depends on the kind of make-up that you purchase. Before you begin to shop, make sure you follow these rules...

Consider your skin type and complexion: When you go out shopping for a particular product, always remember to buy according to your skin type and tone. Otherwise, you may end up with skin rashes and allergies. You can try out the product at the back of your palm to see if it blends well with your skin.

Stick to one particular brand: Often, a brand which you have been using for a period of time will suit you more than the ones that you haven't tried out before. This is because your skin is already accustomed to that brand and the ingredients that have been used.

Mineral make-up for warmer times: During the hotter months, it is best recommended to use mineral make-up. This doesn't clog your pores like some of the liquid varieties.

Invest in a compact: While you would like to be a few shades lighter, make sure not to use foundations that clog your pores. Beautician Nidhi Mirchandani says, "Some foundations are heavy on your skin and can make your face age much faster. So, consider using a compact powder instead of a foundation to make your face look youthful and blemish-free."

Toner is a must: Applying toner before putting on make-up will make your face look brighter. This can help prevent allergies as well. Buy water-based toners that contain ingredients like aloe vera or cucumber. You can also spritz the toner after taking off the make-up.

Check for expiry date: Make-up professional Nanda Ghai says,



Choose the right make-up to avoid skin

Allergies

"Every product comes with an expiry date. Check them before buying. As a rule, don't use products that are more than six months old. For example, compact powder and foundation should be changed every three months to avoid skin damages. If you have been applying a product for over a year, chances of developing acne or rashes are high."

Do a patch test before application: Always run a trial test before you start using a product. It is always best to check for any kind of rashes by first applying the product to the crook of your elbow.

Holidaying abroad? Here's destination nail art to soak in the spirit?

When in Rome, do as the Romans do may be a popular idiom, but Bengalureans are taking it literally. Fashionistas in the city are opting for destination nail art, keeping in sync with their vacation destinations. "I've been getting many requests for destination-themed nail art since April, the start of summer vacations. So we have done London-, Maldives and Paris-themed art. This trend is good for people who are bold and love to experiment. They t like it because it takes their i fashion statement to the i next level and shows off their love for travel," says nail art

expert Shikha Sridhar. Makeup artist Manjusha Bajaj thought it would be i cool to sport nail art that I matched her travel plans to the UK. "I was going to London for a makeup course, and got London icons i done on my nails. It was quirky and fun, and got a lot of attention there. This particular form of nail art has a novelty factor, because it is not something you can do regularly," she says.



While many opt for flags and monuments of the countries they are visiting, others settle for generic landscapes like a tropical sunrise, palm trees, oceans and starfish nail art, among others.

"Nails should signify personal style and life events. These days, folks going on summer vacations are getting colours and nail art to depict their travel destination and complete their holiday look. Holiday nail art is best achieved with gel polish, as the colour and designs remain through the holiday period and long after, giving your hands a dressed-up look, and making holiday memories last longer. Girls who are unable to travel this summer are also getting landscape nail art done to join in on the fun," says nail expert Neela Bopaiah.

GET YOUR OWN DESTINATION NAILART

As this kind of art is complicated, you may want to visit a nail studio. But if

you are a staunch believer in DIY, Neela shares a simple technique to get a palm tree on your nails.

Give your hands and nails a basic scrub File your nails Apply two coats of your favourite nail colour on all fingers and a contrasting colour on the ring finger.

Once the polish is dry, create curved lines for the trunk of the palm tree using a nail art brush and a dark polish.

Broaden the bottom of the trunk. Once done, draw a few curved lines on the top part of the trunk for the branches and leaves.

Define the leaves. After the art is completely dry, apply a top coat to seal the design.

Petition In Supreme Court To Restrain Centre From Appointing Poll Officers

A Congress leader from Madhya Pradesh has filed a petition citing a 2023 order to restrain the government from appointing the Election Commissioners.

New Delhi. The appointment of two Election Commissioners, expected later this week, faces a new challenge in the Supreme Court. A Congress leader from Madhya Pradesh has filed a petition citing a 2023 order to restrain the government from appointing the Election Commissioners. The two posts

of Election Commissioners fell vacant after the latest resignation of Arun Goel and the retirement of Anup Chandra Pandey last month. The three-member Election Commission of India is now left only with Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar as the national elections are likely to be announced later this week. Election Commissioners in India are appointed by the President on the recommendation of a three-member panel chaired by the Prime Minister. It also comprises a Union Minister and Congress MP Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury.

The high-powered committee is expected to finalize the appointments by March 15. In her petition, Congress leader Jaya Thakur cited the 2023 order of the Constitution Bench that ruled that election commissioners must be appointed on the advice of a panel comprising the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, and the Chief Justice of India. Terming the new law unconstitutional, Ms Thakur sought a direction from the Supreme Court for the

appointment of the Election Commissioners in line with its 2023 decision. She said the inclusion of the Chief Justice in the appointments panel will ensure transparency in the process. In its 2023 order, the court had said the judgment would hold good "until a law is made by parliament".

The government brought a new law in December to establish a new mechanism to appoint the Chief Election Commissioner and the two Election Commissioners. The new law replaced the Chief Justice of India with a Union Minister in the panel that finalizes the appointments. Opposition parties had opposed the law, alleging it gives the government greater powers on the appointment of top poll officers and compromises the autonomy of the poll body. The Supreme Court had earlier refused to pause the law while hearing a previous petition by Ms Thakur. Several pending cases on this subject are set to be heard in April, likely around when the country goes to polls.



4 Nepali men stuck in Russia war appeal to India for rescue

New Delhi. Four Nepali men have appealed to the Indian government to rescue them from Russia, saying they were fraudulently sent to the country to work as helpers in the army, but were instead forced to fight in the ongoing war against Ukraine.

In a video sent to India Today, the men can be seen huddled in a hut in the bitter cold, while one of them is pleading to the Indian government to rescue them. "We have been deployed in the Russian Army, and we have come from Nepal. The agent sent us here (Russia) by lying to us, and now we are facing a lot of difficulties. We were told that we have to work as helpers in the Russian Army, but now we have to fight in the war," one of the men can be heard as saying in the video. He also claimed that there were many Indian nationals with them earlier but were evacuated by the New Delhi government. "But we are not being heard by the Embassy of Nepal (in Moscow). Nepal is not helping us. We want to seek help from our neighbouring country, India." "We have great hope that India will help us and will not let us down. Nepal and India have a very strong relationship.



Nothing is happening from our side, but your country and your embassy are very powerful. All of us want to go back because we have been cheated here. "There were 30 of us, but now only five are left. Some people have been sent to different places while some people have suffered serious injuries. Help us to get out of here," the man said. The latest development came amid reports of Indian men being sent to Russia with the promise of a job in the country but were instead being forced to fight in the war. Last week, a video surfaced on social media showing seven Indian men, who said they were forced to fight against Ukraine after being arrested by the Russian Army. In the video, one of the men claims that they were also forced to sign an agreement and offered to work as cook and drivers. He appealed to the government to rescue them. Meanwhile, a 30-year-old man from Telangana, identified as Mohammed Asfan, was killed in the war in Russia after he also fell prey to a job fraud. Asfan's family sought help from AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi in bringing him back from Russia. But then party officials contacted the Indian Embassy in Moscow, the authorities confirmed that Asfan had died.

Caught on CCTV: 2 dead as speeding car tosses them into air in Uttar Pradesh

New Delhi. Two people died and one was battling for his life after a speeding car rammed them while they were walking on the roadside in Uttar Pradesh's Gorakhpur, police said. In the CCTV footage, three people, identified as Moeen, Akil Ahmed and Tahir, are seen walking on the side of a deserted road in the dead of the night.

Suddenly, a speeding car is seen coming and ramming them, before speeding away. The impact was so strong that the victims were tossed in the air for a while and fell on the road. While Moeen and Akil Ahmed died, Tahir's condition was critical, police said.



Police official Jitendra Kumar Singh said a case has been registered under sections 124, 125, 279, 304, 337 and 338 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

He also said the car make and its driver have not been identified yet and an investigation into the matter was on.

JNU students' body election on March 22 after 4 years

New Delhi. The Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU) elections are slated to be held on March 22, ahead of the upcoming Lok Sabha polls. The last JNUSU elections took place more than four years ago in September 2019. In its announcement regarding the schedule for the 2023-24 polls, the JNUSU Election Committee said key electoral events will begin on Monday with the publication and correction of the tentative voters' list. On Thursday, the committee will issue the nomination forms for interested candidates. Counting of votes will take place on March 24, following which the results will be declared later that day. The panel has stressed that any corrections to the voters' list will have to be made well in advance before the filing of nominations.

Meanwhile, the Election Committee has unveiled plans to hold other events, including a presidential debate designed to facilitate open discourse amongst candidates. Besides, a series of General Body Meetings (GBMs) will also take place, providing a platform for dialogue and deliberation on topical issues. The committee's chairman, Shailendra Kumar underscored the importance of these events, stating that they not only facilitate interaction between candidates and voters but also ensure transparency and integrity in the electoral process. He urged students to participate actively in all these events and play a crucial role in shaping the future leadership of the institution. Kumar also said that a detailed schedule for the GBMs will only be released after the final list of contesting candidates is confirmed.

Congress Moves Delhi High Court In Tax Penalty Case

New Delhi. The Congress on Monday moved the Delhi High Court challenging the dismissal of its plea by the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) against the imposition of penalties for discrepancies in certain tax returns.

The matter was mentioned by senior advocate Vivek Tankha before a bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela.

Mr Tankha said it was an urgent matter as the accounts of the political party have been frozen.

n agreed to list the case for hearing during the day if the petition is in order. Last week, the ITAT had dismissed the Congress' appeal against the imposition of penalties for discrepancies in tax returns for previous years. The party has earlier said the I-T tribunal order freezing its funds was "an attack on democracy" as it had come ahead of the Lok Sabha polls.

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According to sources, the tribunal had dismissed the Congress' appeal against the imposition of penalties amounting to ₹ 210 crore by the Income Tax department.

UPSC Success Story: From Auto-Rickshaw To IAS, The Inspiring Journey Of Ansar Shaikh, UPSC Topper At 21!

New Delhi. Achieving success in the UPSC, which is widely regarded as India's most challenging examination, is a formidable task that requires unwavering dedication, immense sacrifice, relentless hard work, and steadfast consistency. This journey becomes even more arduous for individuals who lack access to the necessary study materials and resources due to financial constraints.

Yet, amidst these challenges, there exist stories of triumph against all odds. One such inspiring tale is that of IAS Ansar Shaikh, whose journey exemplifies resilience and determination. Born into humble beginnings in the Maharashtra district of Maharashtra, Shaikh's father earned a living as an autorickshaw driver, while his mother toiled in the fields. With financial struggles



looming large, his family prioritized earning over education, compelling his brother to forgo schooling to support the household. Despite the odds stacked against him, Shaikh displayed academic brilliance from a young age. Driven by a desire to alter his family's fortunes, he harbored a steadfast ambition of becoming an IAS officer. Following his graduation, he embarked on his UPSC journey with

unwavering resolve, dedicating an astounding 12 hours each day to his preparations.

Enduring numerous hurdles along the way, Shaikh persevered, undeterred by the challenges that beset him. Finally, his persistence bore fruit when he clinched the UPSC examination with an impressive All India Rank (AIR) of 361, achieving the remarkable feat of becoming the youngest IAS officer at the age of 21 in 2016. Shaikh's life saga serves as a poignant reminder of the power of hard work and resilience. It stands as a beacon of hope and inspiration for countless UPSC aspirants who may find themselves grappling with self-doubt or adversity. His journey underscores the timeless adage that perseverance in the face of adversity ultimately paves the path to success, serving as a testament to the indomitable human spirit.

Well-Reasoned": Top Court Declines Stay Ex-Professor Saibaba's Release

Last week, Nagpur bench of Bombay High Court found no evidence to link the professor, or the others, to any terrorist act, and also cast doubts over "seizures" the state police claimed to have made.



New Delhi. The Supreme Court on Monday refused to stay the "hard-earned" acquittal of ex-Delhi University professor GN Saibaba and five others, all of whom had been accused of Maoist links and charged under stringent anti-terror law UAPA. The court also rejected an oral request by the Maharashtra government for an early listing of its plea against the verdict of the Bombay High Court's Nagpur bench. "There cannot be urgency in order of reversal of

conviction. Had it been the other way around, we would have considered," a bench of Justice BR Gavai and Justice Sandeep Mehta said, adding also that prima facie they found the Nagpur bench's judgement to be "very well-reasoned". The Supreme Court further pointed out that all six had been acquitted twice - by two different benches. In 2022 the High Court had ruled that valid sanction had not been obtained to prosecute Prof Saibaba under anti-terror law UAPA. And last week the Nagpur bench found no evidence to link the professor, or the others, to any terrorist act, and also cast doubts over "seizures" claimed by the state police. "Prosecution has failed to

prove, beyond reasonable doubt, the case against the accused persons," a division bench of Justices Vinay Joshi and Valmiki SA Menezes had said last week. The court, further, held as "null and void" the sanction procured by the prosecution to charge the accused under UAPA, or the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, and said, "Prosecution has failed to establish legal seizure or incriminating material against the accused." Referring to these, the Supreme Court set aside Prof Saibaba's sentence; this comes nearly 10 years after he was arrested and lodged in Nagpur Central Jail in 2014.

Justice Mehta called the professor's acquittal "hard-earned". The professor had been convicted of alleged Maoist links, and indulging in activities amounting to waging war against the country, by a sessions court in Gadchiroli district. Speaking after his release, he said he wanted to be reinstated and compensated for lost years of service; he had been fired Delhi's Ram Lal Anand College in 2021. "I am still not able to register that I am free.

Chocolates, watches: Items to get cheaper after India-European bloc trade deal

New Delhi Domestic customers will get access to high-quality Swiss products such as watches, chocolates, biscuits, and clocks at lower prices as India will phase out customs duties under its trade pact with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) bloc on these goods over a period of time. India and the four-European nation bloc EFTA signed a trade and economic partnership agreement (TEPA) on Sunday to boost trade and investments between the two regions. It will take up to a year to implement the agreement due to an elaborate ratification process of these pacts in different countries.

"We are giving duty concessions on Swiss watches and chocolates," an official said. Some famous Swiss watch brands are Rolex, Omega, and Cartier. Nestle, which is a Swiss brand, is a major player in the Indian FMCG industry and manufactures chocolates in India. It is the third-largest listed entity in the Indian FMCG segment.

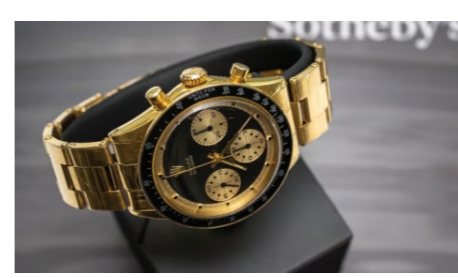
According to an analysis of the TEPA documents by economic think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), India has allowed tariff concession to several products imported from

Switzerland under the agreement.

"India will soon have access to high-quality Swiss products at lower prices because it has decided to remove tariffs on many Swiss goods over seven to ten years," GTRI Founder Ajay Srivastava said. The GTRI said that after the implementation of the agreement, tariffs or duties would become zero for Swiss goods like coal except steam and coking coal, most medicines, and dyes.

"Tariff to be reduced to zero in 5 years are cod liver oil, fish body oil; and duties over which India would eliminate customs duties in 7 years are Tuna, Trout, salmon, Olive oil, Cocoa bean, powder, malt products, corn flakes, instant tea, roasted chicory, most machinery, bicycle parts, clock, watches," the GTRI analysis said.

It added that items such as smartphones, Olives, Avocado, Apricot, Coffee, capsules, mate, Hop cones, Caramel, Chocolate, products, Medical equipment (most) would see duty elimination in ten years. "Tariff reductions are there on sugar - 50 per cent in 10 years; and on cut and polished diamonds - reduction to 2.5 per cent (50 per cent duty in 5 years)," the



analysis said. For wines, it said duty concessions are similar to those given to Australia, with no concessions for wines costing less than \$5. "Wines priced between \$5 and less than \$15 will see a duty reduction from 150 per cent to 100 per cent in the first year, then decreasing gradually to 50 per cent over 10 years," Srivastava said. For wines costing \$15 or more, he said, the initial duty cut is from 150 per cent to 75 per cent, eventually reducing to 25 per cent after 10 years.

India-EFTA two-way trade was \$18.65 billion in 2022-23 as compared to \$27.23 billion in 2021-22.

Switzerland is the largest trading partner of India followed by Norway. The bilateral

trade between India and Switzerland stood at \$17.14 billion (\$1.34 billion exports and \$15.79 billion imports) in the last fiscal. In 2022-23, India's trade deficit with Switzerland was \$14.45 billion. India's main imports from Switzerland include gold (\$12.6 billion), machinery (\$409 million), pharmaceuticals (\$309 million), cooking and steam coal (\$380 million), optical instruments and orthopaedic appliances (\$296 million), watches (\$211.4 million), soybean oil (\$202 million), and chocolates (\$7 million). Major exports from India include chemicals, gems and jewellery, shops and boats, machinery, certain types of textiles and apparel. Switzerland is the largest source of gold imports for India, with about 41 per cent share during April-October this fiscal, followed by the UAE (about 13 per cent) and South Africa (about 10 per cent). The precious metal accounts for over 5 per cent of the country's total imports. Switzerland has some of the major pharma firms in the world including Novartis and Roche. Both firms have a presence in India.

Get rid of whiteheads to prevent Acne

Whiteheads are caused due to build-up of oil, serum and dead skin that plugs up your pores. They clog your skin's pores and result in pimples.



A repeated occurrence of whiteheads can cause a serious problem of acne. But the good news is that whiteheads can be treated effectively at home. With a little effort and a regular skincare routine, you can keep whiteheads at bay. Follow these steps to get flawless skin:

Wash your face regularly. It makes skin oil-free, which would otherwise result in whiteheads. For best results, use a non-oily face wash and not the one that has glycerine as one of its contents.

Make sure that your hair is washed. Often greasy hair contributes to more oil on the surface of your skin. Dandruff is also one of the major causes of whiteheads and acne. Use an anti-dandruff shampoo once a week to keep your scalp clean.

Avoid oily makeup and lotions as they clog the pores the most. They make matters worse and lead to breakouts. Before buying a cosmetic, check out its oil content. Clean your face with a cleanser every day before going to bed.

Dab on a little tea tree oil before going to bed. Tea tree oil prevents whiteheads, blackheads and acne. This oil, surprisingly, does not clog pores. It also prevents breakouts. Scrub your face once a week. Because using a face wash alone won't be enough. To get rid of the sebum that accumulates in pores, gently scrub your face and wash it off with cold water.

Here's how to protect your skin this Summer

Summer is a time to wear all those dresses, shorts and skirts that you had put away during winter. The sun is out and is shining bright, inviting you to soak it up over Sunday brunches and early evening walks. But the increased exposure to sun brings with it skin problems. Here's how to keep your skin healthy and radiant during this season...



Exfoliate: You may think that exfoliating your skin is something that is done only during winter, but it is equally important in summer. Your body sheds skin cells regardless of the weather, so it is vital to scrub them off to avoid making your skin look dull and dry.

Hydrate: Moisturize, even if you have oily skin. As the temperature rises, swap your heavy body lotions for lighter ones. You could also use gels and purees as they absorb better into your skin.

Sunscreen: This is perhaps the most important tool to help fight sun issues during summer. Pick a sunscreen that is SPF 50 and above to protect yourself against the harmful effects of the sun.

De-tan: Even with sunscreen, your skin is likely to get tanned. But don't fret. If you are the type that doesn't fancy a tan, then just mix gram flour with yogurt and a few drops of lemon, and use this as a facemask to get rid of an uneven tan.

Water: Increase your water intake at this time of the year as you tend to get dehydrated quicker during summer. If it is not given enough water, your body tends to sap moisture from your hair and skin, leaving both dry and listless. So, drink up.

Toner: Use a toner to keep your pores closed and your skin cool. If you don't want to use chemicals, you could opt for rose water instead. Rose water's natural cooling properties make it ideal to soothe irritated and over-exposed skin.

Go bananas for Beauty!



- The fruit contains generous amounts of vitamin C and B6, which ensure that your skin remains supple and elastic. Apart from that, bananas also have antioxidants that protect your skin from premature ageing.

- The water content present in bananas keeps your skin well hydrated so that it doesn't get flaky and dry. It works as a great moisturiser as well. This is because it comprises vitamin A, which helps your skin recover the moisture it has lost.

- One of the best ways to moisturise your skin is to use a mashed banana and liberally rub it all over your face and

neck. After leaving the pulp on your face for about half an hour, wash it off.

- You also treat pigmented skin with bananas. Simply add a tablespoon of honey to banana pulp and apply it on your skin.

- Have to go to an important function and don't have time to visit the parlour? Simply take a banana and add yogurt, honey and almonds to it. Make a paste and apply it all over your face. Not only will this moisturise your face but also remove excess oil and add a glow to your skin.

- For those who want to get rid of marks and scars left on the skin due to acne and pimples, bananas are a helpful aid. The vitamin C they contain lightens blemishes caused by skin aggravation.

- Bananas also work as great exfoliators. Simply mix jaggery and mashed bananas together and use the paste as a scrub on your face and neck.

- Is the skin on your hands and heels dry, flaky or cracked? Let a banana come to your rescue. Simply mix mashed banana with some rose water and apply on the affected areas.

While it is known that this humble fruit may have a host of health benefits, bananas also offer several beauty benefits. Available throughout the year, bananas are a powerhouse of nutrients and are great for your skin and hair as well. Here are some benefits...

Of course wallet is a must-carry in your handbag, but apart from the regular stuff, one must have a mini summer kit in their handbag this summer. Check if you have these following things in your handbag before you step out in this scorching heat.

Summer kit for your Handbag



Small umbrella
Try to carry a mini-umbrella in your kit. This will help you to protect your skin from sun tan and dehydration.

Compact
One cannot maintain the freshness of

the face all day this summer. But, a compact will help to an extent. Compact powder not only removes excess oil on your face, but also hydrates the skin and makes you look clean and fresh.

Wet wipes

If you feel tired or look a bit dull, just wipe your face with wet wipes and refresh yourself.

Hairpins and hair bands

In this hot sun, leaving the hair loose is not a comfortable option. Even if you do so, you may need a hairpin or a hair band to tie it up some time during your travel. So, always put a few hair pins and hair bands in your bags for an instant hair-do. Also, hair tends to be frizzy this season, so hairstyles do not hold for long and hence you will definitely need these.

Sanitizer

It is better to be safe and avoid picking up infections. So, pin up a small sanitizer in your handbag and clean your hands as often as you need to.

Water bottle

Always carry a small water bottle in your bag. You will not know when you may need one during the day. Since parched throat might cause dehydration, this is a must-carry.

Deo

Summer means frequent sweating and deos are a must-carry to keep you fresh. Sweat also can make you stink and staying odourfree is important. Always carry a fragrant deo to smell good this summer.

Small towel

Keep a small towel in your handbag. You may wash your face and hands quite often at your work place this season, and having a small towel could come in handy in drying yourself.

Sunglasses

Don't forget to take your sunglasses. They might be worn as a style statement during other seasons, but during summer, they help you escape the heat. Also choose glasses, preferably wraparound ones, that offer complete UV protection.

Stole

Just keep a stole, preferably made of cotton, in your handbag as this might help you cover your head when you have to walk in the sun. It also helps to protect your hair.

Safe ways to colour your hair during Pregnancy

Don't stop yourself from colouring your hair during pregnancy. Here's what to keep in mind.



Pregnancy makes a woman glow with health and beauty and it shouldn't stop her from enhancing her hair with additional colour. Most bleaches and hair dyes contain harmful chemicals, which when absorbed through the scalp, can enter the bloodstream. So the general tendency is to take a break from hair colour when you are expecting if you want to play it completely safe. Since you are going through crazy hormonal changes, your mane also gets affected and may not take to hair colour. However, don't stop yourself from a colour job or from dyeing your roots. Covering greys is a must, whether you are pregnant or not, and infusing colour will give a fresh change to your usual look.

Keep these tips in mind:

- Pick ammonia-free hair colour. If you are colouring at home, buy hair colour that doesn't contain any ammonia. For salon-based colouring, ask your stylist to do the same. It might not give you the intense colour that others would, but it's safe.

- Go ombre instead of global colouring. The ombre (or dip-dye) technique refers to colouring only the hair tip so the product doesn't touch your scalp.

- Dilute the colour to make it more tolerable to your scalp. Effective and non-toxic options to dilute the hair dye are water or almond, sunflower or jojoba oil.

- Always do a patch test before colouring.
- If you feel an irritation, develop a rash or get nauseous from the fumes, wash off the dye immediately.

Gold, silver price : Precious metals witness dip on MCX

NEW DELHI. For the second day in a row, both gold and silver prices recorded a dip on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) on Monday, March 11, 2024.

Gold futures, maturing on April 5, 2024, stood at Rs 66,015 per 10 grams on the MCX, after recording a marginal dip of Rs 8 or 0.01 per cent. The previous close was recorded at Rs 66,023. Meanwhile, silver futures, maturing on May 3, 2024, witnessed a dip of Rs 77 or 0.10 per cent and were retailing at Rs 74,185 per kg on the MCX against the previous close of Rs 74,262. The gold and silver prices in India depend on several factors, including the value of the rupee against the dollar. Global demand also plays a key role in determining the trends observed in the rate of precious metals.

GOLD, SILVER RATES IN INTERNATIONAL MARKET

Gold prices took a breather from a record-breaking rally on Monday, which was fuelled by a cooling U.S. labor market and remarks from the Federal Reserve, as traders awaited an inflation report for fresh clues on the timing of rate cuts, news agency Reuters reported. According to the latest metal report, spot gold stood at \$2,178.44 per ounce. US gold futures were flat at \$2,158.30.

Sensex, Nifty begin week with slight dip; HDFC Bank shares down

NEW DELHI. Benchmark stock market indices opened Monday's trading session seeing a slight dip, influenced by a decline in HDFC Bank and Tata group stocks.

The NSE Nifty50 experienced a dip of 0.17 per cent, settling at 22,456.30 points, while the S&P BSE Sensex witnessed a decline of 0.22 per cent, reaching 73,959.08 points. Small-cap stocks, which tend to have a more domestic focus, faced a greater setback, losing 0.6 per cent and performing below the benchmarks. On the other hand, mid-cap stocks saw a slight rise of 0.2 per cent. IIFL Finance, aiming to raise funds on March 13 to reinforce its capital following the recent scrutiny by the Reserve Bank of India on offering gold loans, encountered a loss of 4.2 per cent, emerging as the top small-cap loser.

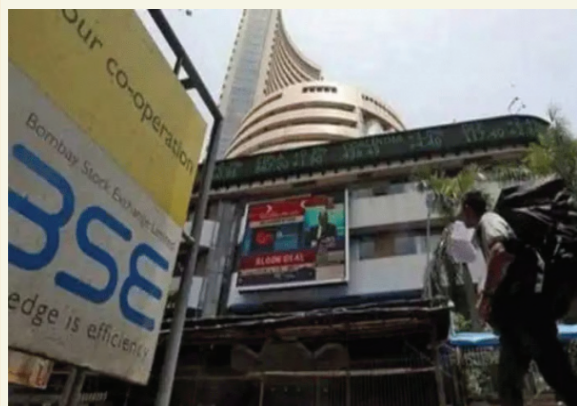
Last week, small- and mid-cap stocks trailed behind the benchmarks due to concerns regarding excessive fund inflows and stretched valuations. Despite these worries, they continued to attract significant investments from domestic mutual fund investors, with overall inflows reaching a 23-month high in February, as per data disclosed on Friday. HDFC Bank experienced a 1 per cent decline and emerged as the top loser on the Nifty, consequently dragging down the private bank index by 0.5 per cent. Citi downgraded the stock to "outperform" from "buy" and reduced the target price, citing challenges related to deposit growth and net interest margin recovery. Meanwhile, Tata group stocks such as Tata Consumer, Tata Steel, and Tata Motors recorded losses ranging between 0.9 per cent and 3 per cent.

After A Record-breaking Rally, Markets Trade Lower On Weak Global Trends

After a record-breaking rally, the 30-share BSE Sensex went lower by 204.64 points to 73,914.75 due to profit taking. The Nifty slipped 49.15 points to 22,444.40.

Mumbai. Equity benchmark indices declined in early trade on Monday after rallying in the past two straight sessions amid weak trends from the US markets and selling in banking stocks. After a record-breaking rally, the 30-share BSE Sensex went lower by 204.64 points to 73,914.75 due to profit taking. The Nifty slipped 49.15 points to 22,444.40. Among the Sensex firms, Tata Steel, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Tech Mahindra, HDFC Bank, Infosys, and Tata Motors were the major laggards. Bajaj Finserv, UltraTech Cement, ITC, and Bajaj Finance were among the gainers.

In Asian markets, Seoul and Tokyo were quoting lower, while Hong Kong and Shanghai traded in the green



territory. The US markets ended in the negative territory on Friday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.68 per cent to USD 81.52 a barrel.

The stock markets were closed on Friday for Mahashivratri. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 7,304.11 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data. "The dominant trend in the market in the near-term is likely to be the underperformance of the broader market, particularly the small-cap space." Since restraint imposed by some mutual funds by stopping lump sum investment into their small-cap schemes has failed to stem the flow of funds into the over valued small-cap segment, SEBI has stepped in with regulatory action asking the mutual funds to do stress tests in their mid and small-cap schemes. "Since the market is scaling new highs consistently, the undertone of the market remains bullish and, therefore, investors should remain invested. Large caps are likely to witness buying on dips while the broader market will face headwinds," V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said. On Thursday, the 30-share BSE Sensex advanced 33.40 points or 0.05 per cent to settle at a new peak of 74,119.39, while the broader Nifty rose by 19.50 points or 0.09 per cent to close at a record 22,493.55.

HyFun Foods to invest Rs 850 crore for three potato processing plants in Gujarat

NEW DELHI. HyFun Foods, which manufactures frozen potato products, on Wednesday said it will invest around Rs 850 crore to set up three plants in Gujarat to expand its business and achieve the targeted Rs 5,000 crore annual revenue by 2028. The company will also invest another Rs 150 crore to establish a water treatment plant in Gujarat. HyFun Foods has five potato processing plants in Mehsana district of Gujarat with an annual capacity of 2.5 lakh tonne. It sells more than 20 ready-to-cook frozen snacks such as french fries, potato patties (tikki), burger patties and nuggets to HoReCa (hotel, restaurants and canteens) segment, Quick Service Restaurants (QSR) and also in retail markets. It supplies to Burger King and KFC. "We are setting up three new plants in Mehsana for potato flakes, french fries and potato speciality products," HyFun Foods MD and CEO Hareh Karamchandani said. He said the



construction of potato flakes plant has started and will be operational this year while the other two will come up by 2025-end. Asked about investments on these three new plants, Karamchandani said it

would be around Rs 850 crore. That apart, he said the company plans to set up a water treatment plant, to treat waste water from its factories, with an investment of Rs 150 crore. The investments of Rs 1,000 crore

will be funded through internal accruals and bank loans. Asked about turnover, Karamchandani said it would be around Rs 1,300 crore this fiscal as against Rs 1,000 crore in the previous year. In volume also, it expects to achieve 30-35 per cent growth. Out of the company's current turnover, export markets contributes 70%. "We are targeting a revenue of Rs 2,000 crore in the next fiscal and Rs 5,000 crore by 2028," he said, adding that exports and domestic revenue would become equal by then. Karamchandani said the company is also expanding presence in retail, both physical and online. Its products are available in stores of Reliance Fresh. He said the company is also looking to expand portfolio of frozen food items beyond potatoes. It might go for third party manufacturing to introduce such products. HyFun Foods buys potatoes from Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

Adani Group to invest Rs 60,000 crore into airport business over 10 years



New Delhi The Adani Group revealed its plans to invest Rs 60,000 crore over the next 10 years to expand its airport business. This financial injection aims to increase the revenue potential of the seven airports under its operation. A major portion of this sum, approximately half, will be used to enhance terminal and runway capacities within the span of five years. The remainder will be utilised into the development of airport infrastructure within the cities they serve, a process

expected to unfold over a decade. The Rs 60,000 crore earmarked for this expansion does not include the Rs 18,000 crore previously allocated for the Phase-I development of the Navi Mumbai airport. Scheduled to commence operations by March 2025, the Navi Mumbai airport holds promise as an addition to the Adani Group's portfolio. Addressing the investment, Arun Bansal, Chief Executive Officer of Adani Airports Holdings (AAHL), highlighted the group's commitment to

The Rs 60,000 crore investment will be used to increase the revenue potential of the seven airports under its operation.

funding this initiative through internal accruals. "It is a huge amount, but Adani Enterprises Ltd (AEL) will support it through internal accruals. We are a startup operating under AEL, so AEL will fund it for us," Bansal said during a press briefing after Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the new terminal at the Lucknow airport. The Adani Group currently manages six airports across India, including Lucknow, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Guwahati, Thiruvananthapuram, and Mangalore. With the recent acquisition of Mumbai and the forthcoming Navi Mumbai Airport from the GVK Group in 2021, the group's airport portfolio has expanded to eight. Looking ahead, Bansal envisions a capacity to cater to 250 to 300 million passengers by 2040. The announcement comes in the wake of Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurating the new terminal at Lucknow airport.

Krystal Integrated Services Limited IPO: All you need to know

NEW DELHI. Krystal Integrated Services Limited, specialising in facilities management services, is set to launch its initial public offering (IPO) on Thursday, March 14, 2024. The company aims to raise funds through a mix of fresh issue and an offer for sale of shares. Potential investors interested in participating in Krystal Integrated Services IPO can subscribe to the public issue until March 18, 2024. The allotment is expected to be finalised by March 19, 2024. The company anticipates listing its shares on both the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and the National Stock Exchange (NSE) by March 21, 2024. Krystal Integrated Services IPO is valued at Rs 300.13 crore. This comprises a fresh issue of 24 lakh shares, amounting to Rs 175.00 crore, and an offer for sale of 18 lakh shares, totalling Rs 125.13 crore. The IPO price band is set between Rs 680 to Rs 715 per share, with a minimum lot size of 20 shares.

Retail investors are required to invest a minimum of Rs 14,300. For non-institutional



investors (NII), the minimum lot size investment is 14 lots (280 shares), amounting to Rs 200,200, and for qualified institutional buyers (QIB), it is 70 lots (1,400 shares), totalling Rs 1,001,000. Inga Ventures Pvt Ltd is leading the book-building process for the Krystal Integrated Services IPO, with Link Intime India Private Ltd acting as the registrar. The proceeds from the IPO will be utilised for various purposes, including repayment of borrowings, funding working capital requirements, investment in new machinery, and general corporate purposes.

Propelled by fall in US peers, India's 10-year bond yield hits 9-month low

New Delhi Indian government bond yields moved closer to the key bottom on Monday, with the benchmark bond yield skirting around 7 per cent, levels last seen nine months ago, as U.S. yields extended their recent decline, with bets of a rate cut in June by the Federal Reserve.

The benchmark 10-year yield was at 7.0093 per cent as of 10:00 a.m. IST, following its previous close at 7.0312 per cent. Earlier in the day, the benchmark yield hit 7.0071 per cent, the lowest level since June 14, 2023.

"The tide has completely turned in favour of bulls and with the 10-year U.S. yield threatening to break 4 per cent, instead of 4.20 per cent, there are strong purchases, with attempts to break the 7 per cent handle for the Indian 10-year bond," a trader with a primary dealership said. U.S. bond yields fell

further, with the 10-year yield declining to its lowest level in five weeks on Friday, after data showed employers added more jobs than anticipated in



February, though the unemployment rate moved higher. Non-farm payrolls increased by 275,000 jobs last month, above economists' expectations of 200,000 jobs gains. The unemployment rate rose to 3.9 per cent in February after holding at 3.7% for three straight

months. The data comes after Fed Chair Jerome Powell said the U.S. central bank still expects to reduce rates later this year, strengthening bets that rate easing in the world's largest economy will start before the end of the first half of 2024. The odds for a rate cut in June now stand at around 75 per cent, according to the CME FedWatch tool. Meanwhile, traders will also remain focused on inflation as India and the U.S. are due to announce February consumer price inflation data on Tuesday.

Inflation for the United States becomes more crucial as it will set the tone for the Fed's March meeting and could further firm up expectations on rate cut timings.

India's retail inflation is forecast to have edged down to a four-month low of 5.02 per cent in February, according to a Reuters poll.

CBDT alerts assesseees of FY24 tax mismatches via email, SMS

The department is undertaking an e-campaign that aims to inform such persons/entities of "significant financial transactions", through email (marked as Advance Tax e-Campaign-Significant Transactions for AY 2024-25) and SMS.

New Delhi To flag the mismatches in payment of taxes in financial year 2023-24 (assessment year 2024-25) and the financial transactions made by persons or entities, the Income Tax Department has started sending emails and messages through SMSs to assesseees. The tax department on Sunday urged assesseees, who have not paid taxes commensurate with financial transactions, to compute their advance tax liability correctly and deposit the due advance tax on or before March 15. The department is



undertaking an e-campaign that aims to inform such persons/entities of "significant financial transactions", through email (marked as Advance Tax e-Campaign-Significant Transactions for AY 2024-25) and SMS.

"The Income Tax Department has received certain information on specific financial transactions undertaken by persons/entities during Financial Year 2023-24. On the basis of analysis of the

taxes paid so far during the current financial year, the Department has identified such persons/entities where payment of taxes for FY 2023-24 (AY 2024-25) is not commensurate with the financial transactions made by the persons/entities concerned, during the said period," a statement issued by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), Ministry of Finance said.

The Income Tax Department said it receives

information of specified financial transactions of taxpayers from various sources. "To increase transparency and to promote voluntary tax compliance, this information is reflected in the Annual Information Statement (AIS) module and is available to the persons/entities for viewing. The value of 'Significant Transactions' in the AIS has been used for carrying out this analysis," it said.

This is another initiative of the department towards easing compliance for taxpayers and reinforcing its commitment towards enhancing taxpayer services, it added. To view the details of significant transactions, the persons/entities can log in to their e-filing account and go to the compliance portal. On this portal, the e-campaign tab can be accessed to view significant transactions. Persons/entities, who are not registered on the e-filing website, have to first register themselves on the e-filing website. Before this, on March 4, the Income Tax Department had flagged mismatch between tax paid and "high value" financial transactions for financial year 2020-21 (AY 2021-22) and asked assesseees to file updated tax returns by March 31.

NEWS BOX

WPL 2024: Suryakumar pours his heart out for 'star' Richa after heroic effort

New Delhi. India men's star batter Suryakumar Yadav lauded Richa Ghosh for her valiant efforts after Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) lost to Delhi Capitals (DC) in a thrilling encounter on Sunday in the Women's Premier League (WPL) 2024.

WPL 2024, DC vs RCB highlights

On March 10 at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi, Richa scored 51 runs off 29 balls with 4 fours and 3 sixes, but she could not take RCB past the finishing line. After 40 overs of jaw-dropping action, the Challengers lost to the Capitals by 1 run. Consoling the 20-year-old Richa for batting with her might, Suryakumar took to his Instagram story and wrote, "You are a star".

Richa Ghosh plays a blinder in Delhi Chasing 182, RCB needed 17 runs to win off the last over. Richa smashed Jess Jonassen



for a colossal six over the bowler's end to keep her team in the game. But then, Jonassen came back with a dot ball and a run out of Disha Kasat. With 10 runs needed off 10 balls, Richa tapped one on the leg side and ran a double. Thereafter, the youngster deposited Jonassen for the second six off the over and brought down the target to 2 off 1 ball. However, Jonassen, who is known for bowling at the death, hurled one right at the blockhole. Richa did well to dig the ball out to backward point and went for a single. But a strong throw from Shafali Verma caught her short of the crease. Richa was heartbroken as Jonassen and Jemimah Rodrigues consoled her while she sat on the pitch in sheer disbelief. Shreyanka Patil, who was there with Richa in the middle, was also in tears.

The Challengers are placed third in the table, but UP Warriorz are breathing down their neck as far as qualifying for the playoffs are concerned.

NZ vs AUS: Carey heroics give Australia series win after Sears burst in 2nd Test

New Delhi. Alex Carey played a stupendous knock under pressure as Australia beat New Zealand by 3 wickets in the 2nd Test at the Hagley Oval in Christchurch. The southpaw was unlucky to miss out on his hundred, but he scored 98 runs off 123 balls with 15 fours, helping the visitors past the finishing line in a closely-fought contest. Carey made sure that Australia chased down a tricky target of 279 and claimed the 2-match series against the Black Caps 2-0. Ben Sears bowled his heart out and finished with figures of 17-2-90-4 in the second innings, but his efforts could not pay dividends.

Carey, Cummins cool under pressure

At Stumps on Day 3, the match could have gone either way as Australia needed 202 runs to win while the Kiwis needed to take 6 wickets. Mitchell Marsh and Alex Carey



were the overnight batters and had a challenging task ahead of them. Head departed early on Day 4 as Tim Southee accounted for his wicket. With Australia struggling at 80 for 5, Marsh and Carey put their heads down and steadied the ship. The duo stitched together a partnership of 140 runs for the sixth wicket and took their team closer to victory. However, the hosts had a force in Sears, who was not willing to throw in the towel by any stretch of the imagination. He trapped Marsh in front, after which he ripped through Mitchell Starc to find himself on a hat-trick. Marsh scored 80 runs off 102 balls with 10 fours and a six before getting out. After he departed, it was Carey who took the responsibility for guiding Australia under pressure. The left-handed batter also got a handy partner in skipper Pat Cummins, who also showed a great amount of grit and resilience. Cummins also stayed not out on 32 runs off 44 balls with 4 fours in an unbeaten partnership of 61 with Carey.

New Zealand were all over Australia when Sears was breathing fire, but Carey and Cummins did not let them dominate for long.

Richa, Shreyanka in tears after RCB's agonising loss to DC in WPL 2024

Richa Ghosh and Shreyanka Patil broke down in tears after RCB lost to DC

Jemimah Rodrigues and Alice Capsey were seen consoling them

RCB are placed 3rd in the points table in WPL 2024

New Delhi Emotions got the better of Shreyanka Patil and Richa Ghosh after Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) lost to the Delhi Capitals (DC) by 1 run in Match No.17 of the Women's Premier League (WPL) 2024 on Sunday, March 10 at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi.

With 2 runs needed off the last ball, Jess Jonassen bowled one outside the off-stump, after which Richa carved the ball to backward point to run for a sharp single. However, Shafali Verma speared in an



accurate throw at the bowler's end and Jess Jonassen took the balls off the non-striker's end. Richa was well short of her crease as RCB somehow crumbled at the

finishing hurdle. The youngster scored 51 runs off 29 balls with 4 fours and 3 sixes, but her efforts went in vain. After RCB lost, Richa and Shreyanka were in tears as they

sat on the ground in sheer disbelief. Jemimah Rodrigues and Jonassen consoled Richa while Alice Capsey went up to Shreyanka. Smriti Mandhana, the RCB skipper, looked dejected in the dugout as well. Chasing 182, RCB finished at 180 for 7 in 20 overs. Shreyanka had a memorable time after she finished with figures of 4-0-26-4, but the end wasn't quite pleasant for her. A tough loss to take.

After the match, Mandhana lauded Richa and Shreyanka for trying their hearts out under pressure, although she admitted that the toss was a tough pill to swallow.

"A tough loss to take. The way we were batting, the way Richa was going, it was a brilliant innings. Shreyanka's last over was brilliant as well. It was amazing to watch," Mandhana said. "The way Richa batted, held her nerve, the game could have gone anywhere off the last ball," she added.

Placed third in the table with 6 points and a net run rate of 0.027, RCB are in a precarious position as far as qualifying for the playoffs are concerned.

WPL 2024: RCB yet not out of playoffs race after losing to DC. Here's how

RCB are still in race for a berth in the playoffs

RCB lost to DC by 1 run on Sunday, March 10

RCB are fighting with UP Warriorz for a berth in the playoffs

New Delhi. Delhi Capitals (DC) and Mumbai Indians (MI) have already secured their berth in the Women's Premier League (WPL) 2024 playoffs. For them, it's now about who finishes on top of the table and qualify for the final. However, one playoff spot is still up for grabs and 2 teams - Royal



Challengers Bangalore (RCB) and UP Warriorz (UPW) - are vying for it. Both RCB and the Warriorz have 6 points to their name from 7 matches. However, it's Smriti Mandhana's Challengers, who are placed in third on the basis of the superior net run rate of +0.027. The Warriorz, on the other hand, have a net run rate of -0.365. The scenario

became complicated after RCB lost to the Capitals by 1 run on Sunday, March 10 at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi. A win alone in their next match would not assure a playoff berth to RCB and the Warriorz. RCB have a tough task in hand as they will lock horns with the Mumbai Indians (MI) in their last and final league game on March 12. It's pertinent to note that RCB have lost all 3 of their matches against MI in WPL history since the inaugural edition last year. The Warriorz, on the other hand, will be up against Gujarat Giants (GT), who will be playing for pride after getting knocked out of the competition. Hence, it can be said that the odds are heavily stacked against RCB at the business end of the tournament.

Liverpool were robbed of a penalty: Jurgen Klopp after 1-1 draw vs Man City

New Delhi. While Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp gushed about Sunday's breathless 1-1 Premier League draw with Manchester City, calling it the best his squad has ever played against the reigning champions, he was adamant his team were robbed of a penalty. Alexis Mac Allister fired home a second-half penalty as Liverpool claimed a point against City at Anfield that left Arsenal top of the table in the tight title race. Liverpool are second on goal difference, while City are third with a point separating the top three teams. But just before the final whistle Liverpool were screaming for a penalty to no avail when Jeremy Doku challenged Mac Allister in the box, with his boot catching the Argentine in the chest. "Hits him on the chest," Klopp told reporters. "Does he touch the ball before? Yes. Does that make any difference, on any position on the pitch, if your leg is that high? You can kick the ball before, and after that the foot is here (Klopp points to his chest) and you go off." The officials disagreed and the VAR did not send the referee to have a second look after checking the decision.

No idea Alex Carey was on 98 not out: Cummins after hitting winning runs vs NZ

Australia defeat New Zealand in the 2nd Test match

Australia clinch series 2-0 with Christchurch win

Alex Carey was stranded at 98* vs NZ in the 2nd Test

New Delhi. Australia's Alex Carey was stranded at 98* as the team clinched a gritty win in their second Test match vs New Zealand on Monday, 11 March. Australia captain Pat Cummins hit the winning runs against the hosts to seal the series 2-0.

Alex Carey was awarded the player of the match for his stellar lower middle-order show, where he rescued Australia from a top-order collapse and stayed till the end to win the second Test match. The regret, however, must have been that Carey was not able to hit his first Test century since December 2022. Needing 2 runs to win, Australia captain Pat Cummins hit a



boundary against Ben Sears to help Australia win by 3 wickets. Asked after the match about Carey not getting his century, Cummins said that he did not know that the batter was batting at 98 not out. "Pretty tense, everyone was nervous the last couple of hours. Amazing win. (On winning runs) Anyway possible to win, I had no idea he (Carey) was on 98," Cummins said in the post-match presentation.

Players Stepped Up: Cummins

The game turned out to be a low-scoring thriller as both teams saw batting collapses. Cummins spoke about the importance of taking lead in the first innings and lauded his

players for standing up when it mattered. "The toss helped, it was funny how quickly the match moved on Day 1. First innings leads are always key for this reason. We've been on the other side of Tests plenty of time, I just told the boys to keep the scoreboard moving, stay busy and put the pressure on the opposition," Cummins said. "We've got an experienced side, the story of this series has been guys standing up in crunch moments. Love playing Test matches, best format of cricket and it pays off on days like this," concluded the Australia captain. It was another rearguard action from Cummins as well, who now has a fourth innings average of 33.57. Cummins remained unbeaten at 32 off 44 runs and saw through the innings. It was an incredible win for Australia, especially due to the fact that the team had lost 5 wickets for just 80 runs while chasing a target of 279 runs. Mitchell Marsh and Alex Carey combined first to put together a partnership of 140 runs and then Cummins and Carey combined to put together an unbeaten partnership of 61 off 64 balls.

MLS: Lionel Messi's absence hurts Inter Miami, lose home game to CF Montreal

New Delhi. Matias Coccoro scored his first career MLS goal on a 75th-minute header and visiting CF Montreal took advantage of Lionel Messi's injury absence in a 3-2 victory over Inter Miami CF on Sunday afternoon. Fernando Alvarez added a goal early and Sunusi Ibrahim added one late for Montreal (2-0-1, 7 points), which won its second on the road this season while handing Miami (2-1-1, 7 points) its first defeat in any 2024 competition. Former Inter Miami striker Josef Martinez set up Ibrahim's late tally, which eventually proved the matchwinner for the visitors after four of the game's five goals came in the last 20 minutes plus stoppage time. Leonardo Campana and Jordi Alba each scored their first goals of the season for Miami, which also began the game with Messi's former FC Barcelona teammates Luis Suarez and Sergio Busquets on the bench.

Lionel Messi's Injury

Messi had been listed as questionable with a shin injury picked up in Thursday night's 2-2 draw at Nashville SC in Leg 1 of their round-of-16 series in the CONCACAF Champions League. Manager Tata Martino likely limited Suarez and Busquets' minutes on Sunday with next Wednesday's second leg of that series in mind. Making his third MLS appearance after his off-season transfer from CA Huracan in Argentina, Coccoro missed two excellent chances before halftime.

Bumrah, Shami will trouble Australia: Paine raises concerns with batting unit

NZ vs AUS: Australia clinched a narrow victory over New Zealand in the 2nd Test match of the series. Despite a top-order failure, a strong middle-order action helped the side clinch a nervy 3-wicket win. The performance has prompted Tim Paine to criticise the team.

New Delhi. Australia clinched a narrow victory against New Zealand in the second Test match at Christchurch. A tremendous rearguard action from Mitchell Marsh, Alex

Carey and Pat Cummins helped Australia track down a total of 279 runs, despite being 80/5 at one point in time. Former Australia captain Tim Paine is not happy with the team's performance despite a 2-0 series sweep against New Zealand. Paine criticised the top order batters and said that they had been constantly failing since the West Indies Test series. In a scathing criticism, Paine said that this team would not be able to win against England and would not be able to compete vs India later in 2024 when the Rohit Sharma side visits the Australian shore. "I'm disappointed. We're a better team than them (New Zealand) and it was the same against the West Indies, there seems to be a bit of a pattern. Not scoring enough runs - you can't always believe what they're telling you but the leadership and coaching and captain



and selectors say, 'we have no concerns with our batters'. Well, I do now," Paine said on SEN Tassie Breakfast. Paine said that the Australians were concerned about the top order of Steve Smith, Usman Khawaja and Marnus Labuschagne, who have not been able to stitch a good run of form. "There are more questions coming out of the last three or four Tests than answers, and we

need to find some answers pretty quickly," Paine said on the show. Paine launched his attack on the Pat Cummins side and said that this team would not be able to face the Indian fast bowling which will include the likes of Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami.

"We might not beat New Zealand, we've lost a Test to West Indies, we wouldn't beat England if they were playing well with a full-strength side - India are certainly going to trouble us with Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja, so there are some concerns," Paine further added. Australia have climbed up to the second spot in the World Test Championship table and are only behind India at the moment. Australia have 8 wins, 3 losses and 1 draw from 12 matches.



Divya Dutta

'had a strong crush' on Farhan Akhtar, refused to play his sister in Bhaag Milkha Bhaag: 'Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra told me...'



It's been 30 years since Divya Dutta made her on-screen debut and since then, not a single year has passed by without one of her films hitting the screens in any of the languages. A recipient of the National Film Award for Best Supporting Actress and four Filmfare Awards, Dutta has acted in Hindi, Punjabi, Malayalam and English-language films. However, she recently recalled her initial days in the industry and emphasised that she had to struggle hard to make her presence known in the realm. "When I started making my path, things were very different. Now that OTT has arrived, that path must be accessible to all. But OTT was well before my time. So I had to fight for it a lot. For this, you needn't be just the heroine or the hero's love interest," she said during a chat with The Lallantop.

"I was tagged as an unconventional heroine when I did Bhaag Milkha Bhaag. There, I wasn't romancing the hero, but it was an adorable role. I was initially hesitant to do the movie because I had a strong crush on Farhan Akhtar. When director Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra narrated the role to me, I said, 'no, I won't play Farhan's sister'. He reminded me that I am an actor," she said, blushing, adding that she's now blushing thinking how stupid of her to have said that to the director. "I further asked Mehra, 'how could I play his sister if I don't feel that emotion towards him?' But he said firmly that if someone was doing the role, it would be me. He had such faith in me. He always gave me something new to me. I am thankful to him," she added.

A biographical sports drama based on the life of Indian athlete and Olympian Milkha Singh, Bhaag Milkha Bhaag became a huge success and bagged two trophies at the National Film Awards of 2014. Dutta was last seen in Umesh Shukla's comedy film Aankh Micholi, which also starred Paresh Rawal, Abhimanyu Dassani, Mrunal Thakur and Sharman Joshi.

Tiger Shroff Pranks Akshay Kumar In Swimming Race, Says 'Hisab Barabar Bade'



Akshay Kumar and Tiger Shroff are going to share the screen in the action thriller film *Bade Miyan Chote Miyan*. The film is all set to release on Eid this year. Well, the lead actors are currently promoting the film on all platforms. Recently, Tiger took to his Instagram handle and shared a video in which he is seen pranking Akshay Kumar in a swimming race. In the video, we can see Tiger asks Akshay Kumar for a race. Akshay agrees. Both Akshay and Tiger then go on to jump into the pool together, although Tiger doesn't jump and runs his way around the pool. He then jumps at the very end of the other side, before Akshay reaches there. Akshay is confused to see him win and says, 'Ek aur, ek aur (one more time).' The video caption reads, "Hisab barabar bade."

Tiger and Akshay recently visited Lucknow to promote the film. As part of the promotions, they performed stunts for the audience. Tiger Shroff also showered Akshay Kumar with praise and said, "I think it is a matter of great pride because I remember Tom Cruise doing these amazing stunts in *Mission Impossible* and we have our own Indian Tom Cruise here who has done these kinds of stunts years back." The makers recently released the teaser of the film. The teaser of *Bade Miyan Chote Miyan* began with a glimpse of a terrorist attack on India's military personnel. It then showed Akshay Kumar and Tiger Shroff in their soldier avatar as they fought terrorism and sent out a stern warning saying, "Bachke rehna, Hindustan hai hum" (Beware, we are India). It also featured a glimpse of Prithviraj Sukumaran. He was seen sporting long hair in his black leather outfit and face covered with a mask.

Helmed by the celebrated director Ali Abbas Zafar and backed by Pooja Entertainment and AAZ Films, the film promises to be the biggest blockbuster of 2024. *Bade Miyan Chote Miyan* will be released in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada languages. The film is set to be released in theatres this year on Eid.

Sai Pallavi Dances To Kangana Ranaut's London Thumakda As She Wraps 'Ek Din' Shoot In Japan



Sai Pallavi will soon be seen sharing screen space with Aamir Khan's son Junaid Khan for an upcoming entertainer 'Ek Din'. The makers recently wrapped the film's shoot. Earlier today, a video of the actress went viral dancing to film's wrap party in Japan. Sai Pallavi lit up the dance floor grooving to the beats of Kangana Ranaut's hit song from Queen 'London Thumakda'. Her film's team also danced with her. Time and again, Pallavi has proved her dance skills, both on-screen and off-screen. While she never underwent any formal training, she has always been passionate about dancing and also shared that her mother was her guru.

Sai Pallavi in fact, made her first TV appearance in the 2008 on the dance reality show *Ungali Yaar Adutha Prabhu Deva*, and also took part in *Dhee Ultimate Dance Show (D4)* in 2009. Coming back to *Ek Din*, the film marks Sai Pallavi's debut in Bollywood, and Junaid Khan's big film debut. Set predominantly in Japan, the film's shooting had begun on December 1.

Meanwhile, on the professional front, apart from *Ek Din*, Sai Pallavi is currently busy filming two movies simultaneously — Rajkumar Periyasamy's Tamil film tentatively titled *SK 21*, where she stars alongside Sivakarthikeyan. The film is being produced by Kamal Haasan, R Mahendran, and Vivek Krishnani, under the banners of Raaj Kamal Films International, and Sony Pictures Films India. *SK 21* is reportedly set to release this year. In Chandoo Mondetti's Telugu movie *Thandel*, she will share the screen with Naga Chaitanya. In addition, reports suggest, Sai Pallavi is set to play the role of Sita in Nitesh Tiwari's *Ramayana*, starring Ranbir Kapoor, and Yash. Reports further state that the shooting for the film is set to commence from March, this year.

Yami Gautam

dismisses 'fake filmy awards' as Oscars concludes, applauds Cillian Murphy's Best Actor win

Heartwarming speeches to some outlandish moments, this year's Oscar ceremony wasn't any different from a typical award show. Amidst the Oscar buzz, Bollywood actor Yami Gautam called award ceremonies 'fake', while also praising Irish actor Cillian Murphy for his resilience as he clinched his first Oscar for his lead role in Christopher Nolan's *Oppenheimer*. Cillian also became the first Irish-born actor to win a Best Actor Oscar. In a post on X, Yami expressed her skepticism towards what she referred to as 'fake filmy awards' but she also expressed her excitement on Cillian's win. She wrote, "Having no belief in any of the current fake 'filmy' awards, since the last few years, I stopped attending them but today I am feeling really happy for an extraordinary actor who stands for patience, resilience & so many more emotions." Continuing her praise for Cillian, the actor wrote, "Watching him being honoured on the biggest global platform tells us that in the end it's your TALENT that stands the tallest above anything. Congratulations #CillianMurphy! #Oscar2024."

Cillian Murphy's overdue Oscar win marks a significant milestone in his illustrious career. The actor has delivered several iconic performances in films such as *Dunkirk*, *Disco Pigs*, *The Wind that Shakes the Barley*, and the acclaimed series *Peaky Blinders*. His collaboration with Christopher Nolan spans several projects, including *Batman Begins*, *The Dark Knight*, *The Dark Knight Rises*, and *Inception*. *Oppenheimer* garnered widespread acclaim at the Oscars 2024, securing victories in seven categories, including Best Supporting Actor, Best Director and Best Film.

Coming back to Yami Gautam, the actor is currently basking in the success of her film *Article 370*. According to Sacnilk, the movie has grossed Rs 65.7 crore in India within just 17 days of its release. The film is co-produced by Yami's husband and filmmaker Aditya Dhar, who is known for directing *Uri: The Surgical Strike*.

