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Kejriwal vs ED: Delhi HC To Hear Plea On Summons' Legality In April, Calls For Agency's Response

Replying to Delhi HC, ED said "we will reply and we oppose it on maintainability grounds". Court fixed the hearing for April 22,



New Delhi.The Delhi High Court on Wednesday sought Enforcement Directorate's (ED) response on plea moved by Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal challenging several summons issued to him by the agency. Replying to HC, ED said "we will reply and we oppose it on maintainability grounds". Senior Advocates Abhishek Manu Singhvi and Vikram Chaudhari appeared for Kejriwal and also objected to the ED's submissions opposing the plea on maintainability grounds. Court fixed the hearing for April 22, 2024. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has moved the Delhi High Court challenging all summons issued to him by the Enforcement Directorate in the excise policy case. According to the legal team of the Delhi Chief Minister, all nine summons issued by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) have been challenged. The plea

called these summons unconstitutional and illegal. The plea has also challenged the vires of several provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.Last week, the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate of Rouse Avenue Court granted bail to Arvind Kejriwal on two complaints filed by ED for non-compliance with summons issued by the agency. During the hearing, Kejriwal appeared physically before the court.According to the ED, the agency wants to record Kejriwal's statement in the case on issues like the formulation of policy, meetings held before it was finalized, and allegations of bribery. In its sixth charge sheet filed in the case on December 2, 2023, naming AAP leader Sanjay Singh and his aide Sarvesh Mishra, the ED claimed that the AAP used kickbacks worth Rs 45 crore generated via the policy

as part of its assembly elections campaign in Goa in 2022.The now-scraped excise policy was aimed "at revitalizing the city's flagging liquor business" and replacing a sales-volume-based regime with a licence fee for traders. Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena had ordered a probe into alleged irregularities in the policy. AAP has accused Saxena's predecessor, Anil Bajjal, of sabotaging the move with a few last-minute changes that resulted in lower-than-expected revenues.Two senior AAP leaders, Manish Sisodia and Sanjay Singh, are in judicial custody in the case. Sisodia, who was then Delhi Deputy Chief Minister, was arrested by the CBI on February 26 following several rounds of questioning. On October 5, ED arrested Sanjay Singh, who is a Rajya Sabha member.

'Don't Get Votes In PM Modi's Name...': Uddhav Slams BJP's 'Thackeray Outreach' After Cousin Raj Meets Amit Shah

New Delhi. Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray on Tuesday launched a scathing attack on the BJP. In a public address in Maharashtra's Nanded district, Uddhav accused the party of attempting to poach a member of the Thackeray family to secure electoral victories. This accusation follows a notable meeting between MNS Chief Raj Thackeray and Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Uddhav Thackeray expressed indifference to the BJP's potential courting of his distant relative, suggesting that his party and supporters were self-sufficient. He criticized the BJP for what he perceives as their efforts to usurp the Thackeray name—a name he believes carries more electoral weight in Maharashtra than that of PM Narendra Modi.

"BJP knows very well that they don't get votes in the name of PM Narendra Modi in Maharashtra. People vote here in the name of (Bal) Thackeray. This realisation prompted the BJP to try to steal leaders from outside (BJP fold)," he said.

He further lambasted the BJP, labeling their origins as "fraudulent" and accusing them of attempting to claim the legacy of Bal Thackeray for their own. "First, they stole the photo of Bal Thackeray, but it doesn't matter. Today, they are trying to steal another Thackeray...take it, I and my people are enough," he said while concluding his two-day tour of Nanded and Hingoli districts in the Marathwada region.

Uddhav Thackeray's remarks concluded his two-day visit to the Marathwada region's Nanded and Hingoli districts.

Despite being part of the opposition coalition Maha Vikas Aghadi and the INDIA bloc, Uddhav Thackeray asserted that his brand of Hindutva has not alienated Christians and Muslims. He claimed that the integrity of his party, which was once tarnished by association with the BJP, has been restored since their separation.Raj Thackeray's split from the undivided Shiv Sena in 2006 led to the formation of the MNS. Despite his reputation as an influential speaker, his party has struggled to make a significant impact. His past inflammatory remarks against north Indians have sparked widespread criticism across the political spectrum.

Varun Gandhi may fight independently if BJP denies ticket: Sources

BJP leader Varun Gandhi might contest the Lok Sabha elections as an independent candidate if the saffron party does not give him a ticket, sources said.



Lucknow. independent candidate if the saffron party does not give him a ticket for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections to fight again from the Pilibhit seat in Uttar Pradesh, sources said.In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, Varun Gandhi contested from Pilibhit The BJP is yet to hold a Central Election Commission (CEC) led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to decide a candidate for Pilibhit. For the Lok Sabha elections, the BJP has so far

fielded former BSP MP Ritesh Pandey from Ambedkar Nagar, while Hema Malini, Ravi Kishan, Ajay Mishra, Mahesh Sharma, SPS Baghel and Sakshi Maharaj are among those being repeated from their seats.Prime Minister Narendra Modi will contest from his parliamentary constituency of Varanasi, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh from Lucknow, and Union Minister

Smriti Irani from Amethi.Meanwhile, all state-level BJP leaders opposed giving a ticket to Varun Gandhi at the core committee meeting, and secured the seat for a third term.The sources told India Today TV that Varun Gandhi's representatives returned from Delhi, brought four sets of nomination papers for the Pilibhit seat in Uttar Pradesh and went back to the national capital.Last year, in an apparent dig at Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the BJP leader advised people not to "disrupt a nearby sadhu" as nobody knows "when 'maharaj ji' will become the Chief Minister".In September 2023, he derided the Uttar Pradesh BJP government over the suspension of the licence of Amethi's Sanjay Gandhi Hospital after the death of a patient.He took to social media platform X and said "resentment against a naam (name) should not spoil the kaam (work) for people".

PM Modi to visit Bhutan on March 21, hold bilateral discussions

New Delhi Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Bhutan on March 21 (Thursday) to keep up with the "tradition of regular high-level exchanges" between the two countries, the Ministry of External Affairs said."The visit is in keeping with the tradition of regular high-level exchanges between India and Bhutan and the Government's emphasis on its Neighbourhood First Policy, a statement by the ministry read.During his two-day visit, the Prime Minister will meet Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, the King of Bhutan, and former King, Jigme Singye Wangchuck. Modi will also hold discussions with Bhutan's Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay on bilateral and regional matters, the statement said."India and Bhutan share a unique and enduring partnership which is rooted in mutual trust, understanding and goodwill. Our shared spiritual heritage and warm

Tamilisai Soundararajan rejoins BJP days after quitting as Telangana Governor

Former Telangana Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan rejoins BJP Soundararajan served as Governor of Telangana before joining the BJP She may contest Lok Sabha polls



Chennai Former Telangana Governor, Tamilisai Soundararajan on Wednesday rejoined the BJP in the presence of Tamil Nadu BJP President K Annamalai. Annamalai, referring to "criticism against Tamilisai Soundararajan by Left parties and the DMK" for joining the BJP after holding the office of Governor, said persons holding exalted posts

quitting office to start working again for the public as an ordinary person is possible only in the BJP.A person belonging to a political party other than the BJP will not quit high offices. For them, being in politics is meant only to assume top positions.She

functioned very well as Governor. Quitting that position and joining politics again shows Soundararajan's love for the people. Her joining the BJP again shows her commitment to the party; her determination that her work should also contribute to strengthening the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi when he assumes office for a third time in a row.Soundararajan resigned from the BJP before assuming the office of Governor of Telangana in 2019. She was appointed Lt Governor of Puducherry in 2021. Sixty-two-year-old Tamilisai Soundararajan is a gynaecologist and she joined the BJP over two decades ago.



people-to-people ties add depth and vibrancy to our exceptional relations," it said. "The visit will provide an opportunity for both sides to exchange views on bilateral and regional matters of interest and deliberate on ways to expand and intensify our exemplary partnership for the benefit of our peoples," the statement added. Bhutan's Prime Minister, Tshering Tobgay, visited India from March 14 to 18, in his first overseas visit after assuming office in February 2024.

Revolt' in Karnataka against BJP's list of candidates for Lok Sabha polls

BJP's list of 20 candidates for Lok Sabha polls in Karnataka causing discontent KS Eshwarappa 'revolts' after son misses out on candidate list Eshwarappa to contest against Yediyurappa's son in protest of 'dynastic politics'.

member BS Yediyurappa after his son KE Kantesh could not make it to the list of candidates announced by the party's high command on March 13.The BJP leader wanted a ticket for his son from the Haveri Lok Sabha seat, but the party has fielded Bommai, the sitting MLA.Upset over the development, Eshwarappa announced that he would contest the elections from Shivamogga against Yediyurappa's elder son BY Vijayendra as a mark of protest against 'dynastic politics in Karnataka'.In an interview to the PTI news agency, Eshwarappa alleged that the BJP is in bad shape in Karnataka."People and the workers are in favour of the BJP, but the system here is bad. What is our Narendra Modi ji saying? The Congress party is in the hands of one family. Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi&e the central Congress is being controlled by one family. Same situation in Karnataka. Karnataka's BJP is in control of one family. We have to protest this," the 75-year-old leader said.He even charged that those standing in favour of Hindutva are being



sidelined, be it CT Ravi, Pratap Simha, Basanagouda Patil Yatnal or Sadananda Gowda."Under any circumstances, I will have to fight the election, which I will do," Eshwarappa said. Former Chief Minister DV Sadananda Gowda, who was initially reluctant to contest the Lok Sabha elections,

has suddenly expressed his strong desire to fight the polls.On Tuesday, he even hinted that he might consider joining Congress and make his decision public in a press conference on Wednesday.In Koppal, two-time BJP MLA Karadi Sanganna is also upset over being denied a ticket after the

party decided decided to field Dr Basavaraj Kyavator.Sanganna said he too is in touch with Congress leaders "but no decision has been taken yet"."I will not decide now. We have a meeting with our party leaders on Thursday. I will go with whatever our leaders will suggest, whether to stay in the party or join Congress," Sanganna told reporters.The BJP has fielded V Somanna from Tumakuru, which has enraged former Karnataka Minister JC Madhuswamy, who had expressed his displeasure."I am pained that he (Yediyurappa) did not stand for me and back my candidature. Now I am thinking about whether to stay in this party or not when there is no protection here. I will discuss with my workers what to do next," Madhuswamy said.He, however, noted that "Congress is not a safe zone"."When there is confusion amongst leaders in public life, only people can judge better. I will call a meeting and ask them what to do next," Madhuswamy said.He even said he had said in clear terms that he would not work for Somanna.

4 killed after consuming spurious liquor in Punjab's Sangrur

Chandigarh. At least four people have died in Punjab's Sangrur after allegedly consuming spurious liquor, police said on Wednesday. The incident happened in Gujran village, which is located under the jurisdiction of the district's Dirba police station. A probe has been launched by the police into the incident. Further details are awaited. In a similar incident, three labourers died after consuming spurious in Sangrur in April 2023. In August 2020, at least 112 people died in three districts of Punjab after consuming spurious liquor manufactured by a Ludhiana-based paint shop.

8 shops gutted after massive fire engulfs market in Maharashtra's Thane

Mumbai. At least eight shops and a godown were gutted after a massive fire engulfed a market in Maharashtra's Thane on the intervening night of Wednesday-Thursday, officials said. The fire started from a scrap godown in Valpada on Dapoda road in Bhiwandi town of Thane and also gutted down eight shops, police officials added. There were no reports of any casualties, officials said. Further details are awaited. Upon receiving an alert about the incident, at least two fire tenders were rushed to the spot that were trying to douse the flames. Cooling operations were affected due to an inadequate number of water tankers. Earlier in October 2023, a massive fire broke out at a chemical godown in Bhiwandi Rahnal village in Thane district.

Child slips off man's hand, falls to death from third floor of Raipur mall

Raipur. A child in Chhattisgarh's Raipur died after falling off the third floor of a shopping mall. The incident happened on Tuesday and was captured on a CCTV camera on the mall premises. In a video of the incident, a man could be seen carrying the child in his arms. The child slipped out of his hands as he tried to help another child step on the escalator. According to the details, the child fell from a height of approximately 40 feet, to the ground. Soon after the incident, the child was rushed to the hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Hyderabad student missing in US since 2 weeks, family gets ransom call

Hyderabad. A 25-year-old student from Hyderabad has been missing in the United States since March 7, and his family in India says they received a ransom demand.

Abdul Mohammed, who is pursuing a Master's degree in Information Technology (IT) at Cleveland University, was last seen on March 7. His father, Mohammed Saleem, reported receiving a phone call from an unknown number later that week from someone claiming to be part of a gang. The caller claimed they had kidnapped Abdul and demanded a ransom of \$1,200 for his safe return. They further threatened to sell Abdul's kidney if the ransom wasn't paid. Abdul's relatives in the United States filed a missing person report with the Cleveland Police on March 8. A lookout notice has been issued for Abdul.

The family also reached out to the Indian consulate in Chicago on March 18, seeking assistance in locating Abdul. Cleveland Police are currently investigating Abdul's disappearance. Speaking to India, Abdul's mother Abeda said she last spoke to her son on March 7, after which there had been no contact from him. She appealed to the Centre to intervene in the matter and ensure her son's safe return.

Muslims, Christians get new burial ground in Perambalur

According to sources, over 30,000 Muslims residing in Perambalur town, particularly in Vadakkumadevi and Elambalur Roads, were using a graveyard on the Perambalur-Attur Road for over 50 years.

PERAMBALUR. Collector K Karpagam recently allotted new burial grounds for Muslims and Christians at the plot beside the Hindu burial ground near Elambalur in Perambalur municipality, following persistent demands for several years. Residents of Perambalur town have lauded the "secular" move. According to sources, over 30,000 Muslims residing in Perambalur town, particularly in Vadakkumadevi and Elambalur Roads, were using a graveyard on



the Perambalur-Attur Road for over 50 years. This space was inadequate, leaving residents with no choice but to dig up old bodies once every three years in order to make space to bury the new bodies. Likewise, over 20,000 Christians living here were also struggling due to lack of space as they only had a graveyard at Attur Road and the nearby

government hospital. Several petitions have been filed with the collectorate and the chief minister's special cell for many years, demanding a new graveyard, they said. Finally, Collector K Karpagam acceded to their demand and allotted 1.20 acres of land for Muslims and 80 cents for Christians.

Abdul Farook from Vadakkumadevi Road said, "Almost two or three Muslims die here every day. It is very difficult for us to bury them in the old graveyard. Every three years we had to dig out the old bodies. Hence, we are very happy to get this new space after years of struggle. We are going to level the graveyard given to us and bury bodies hereafter." Certain sects of Christians have separate graveyards, where they will only bury those in that respective sect. But now the collector's move has ensured equality for all sects and religions. This not only makes us very happy but also enforces the belief that everyone is equal," said Rino Bastine, district secretary of Christhuva Nallenna Iyakkam. When contacted, Collector Karpagam told TNIE, "If we try to establish a new graveyard in an area, there will be opposition from the people of that area. Since there was already a space near the Hindu graveyard, we decided to utilise it for Muslims and Christians as well. It will henceforth be a graveyard for all, irrespective of religion."

4 dead, 13 injured as tourist vehicle from Tamil Nadu overturns in Kerala

4 killed as tourist vehicle fell into gorge in Kerala's idukki district

A one-year-old infant among the dead in the accident

13 others in the tourist vehicle injured and shifted to hospital

Thiruvananthapuram. At least four people, including a one-year-old infant, were killed after a tourist vehicle from Tamil Nadu overturned and fell into a gorge in Kerala's Idukki district on Tuesday, said police. 13 other tourists, present in the vehicle during the accident, were injured. The accident took place on



Tuesday evening during a family tour organised by Tirunalveli Ajanta Pressure Cooker Company for its staff and families, said police. The tourists were returning to Tamil Nadu after visiting Munnar and Anakulam when the accident occurred. People killed in the accident have been identified as 40-year-old Abhinesh Murthy, Abhinesh's one-year-old son

Thiruvananthapuram on Tuesday, officials said. The truck driver has been arrested and an FIR for rash and negligent driving was registered. Ananthu, a dental student from Makkola, was riding a scooter in the opposite direction when the rock hit him, which led him to lose control and collide with the wall of a nearby house.

Tanvik, 71-year-old Theni native Gunasekaran, PK Sethu from Erode, owner of Visakha Metal. Currently, eleven people are receiving treatment at Adimali Taluk Hospital, while two others have been shifted to Theni Medical College.

Earlier on Tuesday, a medical student, 27, died after a huge rock slipped from a lorry carrying stones for the Vizhinjam International Port and struck him in Kerala's

'Regret children's death more than son's encounter': Father of Budaun murderer

Budaun. The father and uncle of Sajid, accused of killing two children in Uttar Pradesh's Budaun on Tuesday evening, said they regret the killing of the two children more than the encounter of their own son. Both the relatives of Sajid were detained on Wednesday. During interrogations, the father of the accused said, "Whatever happened was very unfortunate."

"I do not regret the death of Sajid, as much as I regret the death of the two children," he added. Sajid's father also said his son was at home on Tuesday and stepped out post 7 pm after he received a call.

Speaking about Sajid, his uncle said he was extremely "aggressive" and did not talk much, even to his family members.

WHAT HAPPENED IN BUDAUN
A man who had recently opened a barber shop in the locality entered the house and



attacked three brothers -- aged 12, 8, and 10 years. While the brothers aged 12 and 8 died in the attack, the third one survived with injuries. As per the FIR lodged after a complaint by the children's father, Vinod Kumar, Sajid and his brother Javed reached the house at around 7 pm on Tuesday. "Sajid told my wife Sangeeta that he needed Rs

5,000 which is required for the delivery of his wife. When my wife went inside to get the money, Sajid went to the roof of the house. Moments later, Javed also reached the roof, and they called my two sons on the roof," read the FIR. The accused attacked the minors with a sharp knife. The mother of the two boys saw that the clothes of the accused were drenched with blood when they came downstairs. "When my wife came out with the money, she saw Sajid and Javed coming downstairs with a knife. Seeing my wife, they said 'I have done my work today' and tried to escape from the spot," the FIR stated. The accused also attacked the third son, who had gone upstairs to fetch water. Police were on the lookout for Javed and were ascertaining the motive behind the attack.

NEET ban, no CAA, Chief Minister's power to appoint Governor in DMK manifesto

MK Stalin releases DMK's Lok Sabha election manifesto

Promises statehood for Puducherry and NEET ban

Also announces list of party candidates for the election

Chennai. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin on Wednesday released his party's manifesto, promising statehood for Puducherry, a ban on NEET exams, granting the chief minister the power to appoint the Governor, among others. Stalin also heaped praise on his sister, Kanimozhi, for drafting the manifesto. Additionally, the party also announced a list of candidates for the party to contest in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. Addressing the gathering after releasing the party manifesto, Chief Minister Stalin said, "It is the DMK which makes the manifesto before elections and continues to do what we say, this is what our leaders taught us. Schemes that were implemented under the Dravidian model for the betterment of Tamil Nadu will be taken across India." Also praising his

sister, Kanimozhi, MK Stalin said, "Kanimozhi has created a wonderful manifesto concentrating on schemes for each district." He also highlighted the prominent ones as - The Indian Constitution will be altered to provide federal rights to the states A Supreme Court branch in Chennai Statehood for Puducherry National Education Policy (NEP) will be



withdrawn Thirty-three per cent reservation for women will be implemented Morning meal scheme for government schools NEET will be banned Rs 1,000 for women every month across India Toll gates will be removed Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) will be removed Action will be taken to suspend

student education loans Article 361, providing power to the Governor, will be repealed Granting the chief minister the power to appoint the Governor New IIT, IIM, IISc, and IARI will be created Speaking further, Stalin said, "As Kanimozhi said, we went all over the state and listened to various people. It is not only a DMK manifesto but the people's manifesto."

"When the BJP came to power in 2014, they destroyed India. None of the election promises were fulfilled. We have formed the INDIA alliance, and we will form our government in 2024." "In our manifesto, we have announced special schemes for Tamil Nadu and schemes for every district are given in this manifesto," he added.

On Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Tamil Nadu, MK Stalin said, "I would have been happy if PM Modi had come during the time of floods in Tamil Nadu." Later, speaking to the media on the party's manifesto, DK MP Kanimozhi said, "The main focus was on what the Union Government can do, and we tried to reach all the sectors. Trying to have a good and a stable government, I think the numbers will be adequate."

Man Rapes Minor Girl, Posts Video Online In UP's Muzaffarnagar: Police

Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh. A 16-year-old girl was allegedly raped by a man who posted the video of the act online, police here said today.

Circle Officer (CO) Rajkumar Sav said the accused, Waseem, allegedly raped the 16-year-old two weeks ago in a sugarcane field and made a video of the act. According to the complaint filed by the girl's family, Waseem threatened the girl of sharing



the video on social media if she informed anyone about the incident. "The accused had forced the girl into a sugarcane field and raped her. He also threatened the girl of dire consequences and of making the video public, if she informed anyone about the incident," the police said.

"Afraid of the threats, the girl didn't complain to anyone about the incident," Mr Sav said. However, when the accused posted the video online on Tuesday, the girl's parents approached the police, he said. Police have filed an FIR under Indian Penal Code Section 376 and relevant sections of the Information Technology Act.

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NEWS BOX

Mercury to rise by 4°C in city, showers likely on weekend

Gurgaon: The city is likely to witness dry weather for the next four days. The mercury will gradually rise by four degrees Celsius in the region, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD). The minimum temperature in the city was 11.8 degrees Celsius, which was two notches below the normal, while maximum was recorded at 29.4 degrees Celsius, which was 0.8 notch below normal. The maximum and minimum temperatures are expected to settle at 32 degrees Celsius and 13 degrees Celsius for the next six days.

The city is likely to get scattered showers on Sunday because of western disturbance. "A fresh western disturbance in the western Himalayan region is likely from March 20 night. It is likely to bring in isolated or scattered rainfall and snowfall over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand between March 20 to 24. It may also bring some scattered rain, but the temperature will remain unaffected," said an IMD official.

GMDA starts work on master drain to avert flooding in Najafgarh

Gurgaon: GMDA has started construction of the master drain of Leg-2, which will help channel stormwater to Najafgarh drain. The project, which started last week, is expected to be completed by Sept 2025.

Once completed, it will help divert stormwater and prevent flooding on agricultural land along Najafgarh drain. "At a cost of Rs. 19.8 crore, the remaining 550-metre portion of the Leg-2 master drain will be completed in the first phase of construction. This is expected to avert flooding in areas located along the drain and provide much-needed relief to residents," a senior GMDA official said. There are three main channels in the city — Leg-1, Leg-2 and Leg-3 — which carry rainwater to the Najafgarh drain. Among these, Leg-2 starts from Sector 42 and stretches for 16.5km. However, it lacks proper connectivity to the Najafgarh drain and during monsoons, excess water from Leg-2 inundates adjacent areas such as Dharampur, Daulatabad, and Mohamad Heri. Even in dry weather conditions, treated sewage discharge also overflows creating problems for farm owners.

GMDA floated the tender for construction of the Leg-2 drainage system in Nov last year. Govt. approved the project earlier this month.

In addition to the construction of Leg-2, GMDA is also planning to undertake construction of the remaining portion of Leg-3. Preliminary surveys are being done for the Leg-3 drain. We also published the following articles recently: Best Leg Messengers That Will Help You Get Rid Of Leg Pain, Explore various leg massagers online for pain relief and relaxation at home. Consider different features such as massage modes, air compression, and heating options to find the best fit for your needs. Scorpion with 8 legs and eyes discovered in Thailand, Euscorpions Krachan, a new scorpion species found in Kaeng Krachan National Park, enriches biodiversity. The discovery, unveiled in ZooKeys, showcases key features like sexual dimorphism and ambush predation tactics, emphasizing the park's conservation significance. Will IPL 2024 second leg be held in the UAE? IPL second half may move to Dubai after Election Commission announcement. Media speculates venue change with teams seeking passports. BCCI announces first half schedule. IPL starts on March 22.

Man dies, two injured as car ploughs into group on eway

Noida/Ghaziabad: Around 30% of teachers tasked with evaluating UP Board exam answer sheets in Noida and Ghaziabad have been absent for the past two days. Officials said that around 1,200 teachers across both the cities have been missing from duty, triggering speculation that they might be issued notices.

The answer sheets must be evaluated by Mar 31. In Ghaziabad, data from the higher education department revealed that out of a total 894 teachers, 349 were absent on Tuesday. For Class 12, 240 out of 645 teachers were missing, and for Class 10, 109 out of 249 were absent. el answer sheets are slated for evaluation. Currently, 76,598 copies have undergone assessment. For Class 10, out of 97,503 total sheets, 28,943 have been evaluated.

With over 170,000 answer sheets pending evaluation in the district, teachers feel burdened by the task, especially with the deadline approaching.

A teacher on duty said, "The lack of teachers is creating a burden on us. Those on duty must complete evaluation by March 31. If other teachers are not coming or correcting answer sheets, the burden falls on us, those who are present." Similarly, in Gautam Budh Nagar, only 357 out of 507 assigned teachers were present. Out of 91,014 class 12 answer sheets, 20,101 have been evaluated, leaving around 70,000 to be checked.

The education department plans to issue notices to absent teachers, recognizing the importance of fulfilling their responsibilities.

3 vehicles gutted in fire at workshop, charred body found in one of them

Gurgaon: The body of a man, believed to be a homeless person, was found in a van that was among three vehicles gutted in a fire at a motor mechanic workshop in IMT Manesar on Monday night.

Manesar fire department got an alert about the blaze at the workshop in Sector 3 at 10.30pm. Here were three vehicles, a bus and two vans, engulfed in flames when fire officials reached the site. "By 12.20am, two fire tenders had doused the blaze while ensuring that it did not spread," a fire department official posted at IMT Manesar station said on Tuesday.

Later, the company staff and police found the body of an unknown person in one of the vans. "The body was charred beyond recognition. It has been sent for a postmortem examination. The incident happened in the parking area where some of the vehicles are kept. We suspect that the



victim could be a homeless person who might have slept in the van," said inspector Yogesh of IMT Manesar police station. A forensic team was called to the spot to collect samples. Preliminary investigation suggests a transformer near the vehicles may have triggered the fire. "The workshop's representative said that sparks from the transformer may have triggered the fire," said lead fireman Surender. Police said they are still investigating if there's any foul play. "There are no CCTV cameras at the site. We will analyse CCTV footage from nearby areas to establish the victim's identity and check if there was any foul play. As of now, we suspect the victim may be a homeless person who slept in the van for the night," ASI Ajit Kumar Rao said. Police have made a general diary entry (internal police record) under Section 174 of CrPC (suspicious

death). We also published the following articles recently: Delhi constable UP police exam paper leak kingpin, bussed buyers to Manesar resort, Over 1,000 aspirants taken by luxury buses to Manesar for UP constable exams. Key accused revealed exam leak details to UP Police, leading to arrests and cancellation of the exam. Massive fire engulfs several dhabas in Greater Noida, Massive fire in Bisrakh Police station dhabs, Greater Noida due to short circuit. Eight fire tenders on site. Incident at Gaur City Circle, six dhabs, two shops on fire. Chief fire officer confirms no casualties, ongoing cooling. 10844969 Man tries to douse fire, sustains injuries in LPG cylinder blast, A man injured attempting to put out a fire in a shed storing tender coconuts at Bellahalli junction, Bengaluru, due to an LPG cylinder explosion. The incident involved pushcarts, injuries, bystanders, autorickshaw, treatment, and vendors.

Two workers injured in Rewari factory blast die

GURGAON: Two workers succumbed to injuries they suffered during an explosion in the dust collector of an auto parts factory in Rewari last Wednesday. While one of the workers was undergoing treatment at Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital, another was admitted to the Rohtak medical college. Around 70 workers were on evening shift when an explosion occurred in the dust collector of Lifelong Pvt Ltd's factory in Dharuhera, Rewari, around 5.45pm, leading to a blaze. Videos circulated on social media showed people running out of the factory amid plumes of smoke. A total of 38 workers were injured. Vijay Kumar (25) of Bahraich in UP was admitted to the burn ward of Safdarjung because he had suffered more than 85% burns. His colleagues at the factory said Vijay was initially taken to the Rohtak hospital from Rewari trauma centre, but referred to Safdarjung after his condition deteriorated. Vijay succumbed to injuries around 6am on Tuesday. "His

family reached Delhi and was handed the body after an autopsy. They took it for the last rites at their hometown," said Vijender Kumar of Dharuhera police station. Ajay Chauhan (28) of



Mainpuri in UP died at Rohtak medical college around 4.30pm. He stayed at a rented accommodation in Dharuhera with other workers of the factory. Ajay is survived by his elderly parents, wife of two years and a five-month-old daughter. "He was the sole earning member in his family of five. He had a daughter just five months ago. We tried our best to save him, but couldn't. He died with 70% burns. There are many

others who have suffered more than 90% burn injuries," said Pradeep Chauhan, his cousin. There are 18 factory workers undergoing treatment at the Rohtak hospital. A factory worker who has been attending to his colleagues, alleged negligence on the part of the hospital staff. "All our workers are admitted in four wards here. There are some wards where our workers are not being looked after properly. Nurses keep raising their voice," he alleged. Ravi claimed neither their contractor nor any company representative had come to meet the injured workers in the past two days. "A contractor came on Mar 17 and distributed Rs 1,000 for each injured worker. This was for their food, fruits and juice. We were rushed here in an emergency. We don't have any money with us. We have been left to fend for ourselves," he alleged.

The company management had said earlier it would bear the treatment cost of all the injured workers and hand out compensation.

Accountant accidentally shot at by scrap dealer

Gurgaon: A 50-year-old accountant was accidentally shot at in foot by his acquaintance at a hotel in Kapriwas. The accused, a scrap godown operator, is currently absconding. The accountant, Kuldip Singh, lives in Charkhi Dabri and works at a private transportation office in Kapriwas. On Saturday night, while Kuldip was at Rao Ji Hotel for dinner, he coincidentally met his acquaintance Dharmender, whose workplace was close to the hotel. "Dharmender and I were indulged in a casual conversation when he suddenly pulled out a gun from his pocket and started cleaning it. Later, he accidentally fired a bullet that hit my left foot," Kuldip said. He was rushed to a nearby private hospital in Rewari by fellow customers, who also alerted the police. Police rushed to the spot and visited Kuldip in the hospital during the early hours of Sunday. "The duty doctor said he was out of danger but Kuldip requested us to

NAME CHANGE: I, KARTIKA MANUJA Daughter of Late RAM SINGH MANUJA residing at 362, SECOND FLOOR, CHAND NAGAR, TILAK NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110018, have changed my name from KARTIKA MANUJA to KRITIKA MANUJA for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 20/03/2024 before Executive Magistrate, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE: It is for general information that I, NANAK CHAND S/O TOOKI RAM SHARMA, R/O H.NO. A-31/19, Netaji Gali No.01, Maujpur, North East Delhi, Delhi-110053, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as NAND CHAND in my Aadhaar Card No.492475887641 and wrongly written as NANAK CHAND SHARMA in my Pan Card No. CHPHS3814M. The actual name of mine is NANAK CHAND, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE: I, hitherto known as LALATI DEVI alias CHANDRAVATI DEVI W/O CHANDRAMA MAHTO R/O A-451, Jwalapuri, Sunder Vihar, West Delhi, NCT of Delhi - 110087 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as CHANDRAVATI DEVI.

NAME CHANGE: It is for general information that I, MUKESH KUMAR S/O VIDHYA RAM, R/O H.No. B-13/308, Gali No. 13, Brijpuri, Shahdara, North East Delhi, Delhi-110094, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as MUKESH in my minor daughter's name SHIVANI aged about 17 years in her OBC Caste Certificate No.: 9050000421028, and name of my wife and my minor daughter have been wrongly written as BHAWNA KUMARI and SHVANI KUMARI respectively, in her Birth Certificate No.: 2153101/06129093. The actual name of mine, my wife and my minor daughter are MUKESH KUMAR, BHAWNA and SHIVANI respectively.

NAME CHANGE: I, NITIN MO I, NO-4097706P Rank-RFN Name- RAVINDRA SINGH S/O TOTA RAM R/O VILL-MUKT-YARPUR NADADA, PO-KANTH, DIST-MORADABAD, UTTAR PRADESH-244501 have changed my name from RAVINDRA SINGH to RAVINDERA SINGH for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 20/03/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE: Information is given to general public at large that our clients Mrs. Vinita Jain and Mrs. Riya Jain is the owner of Freehold Residential Built-up Property No.128/21/43-D/1-A Old & New No. X/3072, measuring area 100 Sq. Yds. Out of Kharsa No. 226, situated at abadi Gali No. 4, Raghubar Pura No. 2, Gandhi Nagar, in the area of Village Seelampur, Ilaqa Shahdara, Delhi-110031. By Virtue of sale deed dated 29.12.2021 as Doc No.11865, Book No.1, Vol No. 2972, Pg No. 149-160 SR IV B & Sale deed dated 29.12.2021 as Doc No.11851, Book No.1, Vol No. 2972, Pg No. 1-12 SR IV B Vivek Vihar in the chain Documents below mentioned documents is not available. I. Probate order of WILL dated 05.04.2013 now our client is declaring that that any other Person does not have any right over the said property, and Property No.128/21/43-D/1-A Old & New No. X/3072, measuring area 65 Sq. Yds. with terrace right, sold too to Mr. Amit Kumar Gupta and same has been financed by Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Ltd. Branch: Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh. If any person(s) has any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the 'right, title or interest in the Said Property then contact us within 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice and or the same to the undersigned if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained. [NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA] Advocate 1/566-A, Ground Floor, Sector-1, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201010. (Contact at 09958871432)

NAME CHANGE: It is for general information that I, SHANKAR SHARMA S/O VISHNU DEV SHARMA, R/O Plot No. 31, Pole No-K 374, Jat Vihar Extn, Gali No.-3, Najafgarh, South West Delhi-110043, declare that name of mine and my minor daughter have been wrongly written as SHANKER SHARMA and SUHANI KUMARI in my minor daughter SUHANI aged 17 years in her OBC Caste Certificate No.: 9050000218475. The actual name of mine and minor daughter are SHANKAR SHARMA and SUHANI.

NAME CHANGE: I, RAKESH KUMAR RAI S/O RAM KUMAR RAI, R/O House No. 337/2, Master Mohalla, Tughlakabad, Village Badarpur, South Delhi, Delhi-110044, have changed the name of my minor Son AASHISH aged 15 years and he shall hereafter be known as AASHISH KUMAR RAI.

NAME CHANGE: I, MANNOO CHABRA (Date of Birth-17/11/1975) wife of NO-21512-A Rank-GP CAPT Name-SANDEEP SINGH CHHABRA R/O H.NO-C-1255, RAJAJI PURAM COLONY, LUCKNOW (U.P. -226017) have changed my name from MANNOO CHABRA to MANU CHHABRA for all future purposes vide affidavit No- DL61644438759773W and dated 20/03/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE: I, Subunty S/o Bachcha Thakur R/O Flat No-003, Tower-C2, Ground Floor, Mapso Casa Bella, Sector-82, PO-Sikanderpur, Gurgaon, Haryana-122004, I Have Changed My Name To Subunty Thakur For All Purpose.

NAME CHANGE: I, hitherto known as VINOD KUMAR S/O BABU RAM SHARMA R/O B 1024, Shastri Nagar, Ashok Vihar, North West Delhi-110052, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as VINOD KUMAR SHARMA.

NAME CHANGE: It is for general information that I, NARENDRA KUMAR S/O LAKHAMI CHAND, R/O 103, E-Block, Mangol Puri, North West Delhi-110083, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as NARENDER KUMAR in my minor daughter YASHITA aged 14 years in her School Records and Birth Registration Certificate No.: MCDOLIR-0110-0064594396. The actual name of mine is NARENDRA KUMAR.

PUBLIC NOTICE: Notice is hereby given to public at large that my client Mrs. Raziya Begum W/o Late Shri Nizamuddin R/O 378/380, Street NO-2, Kushak No-2 Swaroop Nagar Delhi, Libaspur, North-West, Delhi-110042 separate and debarred her own son Mr. Sahil Sheikh and he has no claim or title to any of the properties possessed or belonging to my client, as the Said properties. Neha Khatri (advocate)

NAME CHANGE: I hitherto known as BANWARI LAL S/O SH. HARI CHAND R/O P-7/1, STAFF QTRS K V NO-3, C B NARAINA DELHI-110010 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as BANWARI LAL BALMIKI.

NAME CHANGE: I, MID MOHID KHAN S/O RUDDIN KHAN residing at C-3/167, GALI NO-3, BAPROLA, NAFAGARH, DELHI-110043 have changed my name to MUSA KHAN for all future purposes

NAME CHANGE: I, Lakshman Kumar Jha S/O Inderkant Jha, HOUSE NO-A 94, BLOCK A, PHASE 2, AMBIKA ENCLAVE, NIHAL VIHAR, NANG-NO-2, TEH-NOCHAR, DIST-HANU-MANGRHR, RAJASTHAN-335504 have changed my name from Lakshman Kumar Jha to Lakshman Jha for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE: I, Siddhant pandey S/o Shiv Narayan Pandey R/O H.No-409 block -25 , Trilok Puri, Delhi - 110091 have changed my name from Siddhant pandey to Siddhant pandey for all future purpose

PUBLIC NOTICE: I hitherto known as ABUZAFAR S/O MANSOOR ANSARI R/O H.NO-F 151/8, FIRST FLOOR, ABUL FAGH ENCLAVE-II SHAHEEN BAGH JAMIA NAGAR, OKHLA, NEAR 1 DELHI-110025 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MOHAMMAD ABUZAFAR ANSARI.

PUBLIC NOTICE: My clients LAXMAN SINGH YADAV AND HIS WIFE MADHU YADAV R/O HOUSE NO. 5A, SUDAMAPURI, MOHALI ROAD, NEAR RADHIKA SWEETS, MATHURA, U.P. and their daughters RUBY YADAV and VIHA YADAV have severed all their relations and debarred their son/brother namely VAIBHAV YADAV and his wife NAINA SHARMA and their children R/O FLAT NO. 69D, C4D BLOCK, JANAKPURI, DELHI-110058 from all his movable, immovable properties due to their misconduct/ misdeeds. My clients shall not be responsible for their any acts. GAURAV SEHGAL Advocate 264A, WESTERN WING TIS HAZARI COURT, DELHI

NAME CHANGE: I hitherto known as VEENA RANI alias VEENA CHAWLA W/O MUKESH CHAWLA, and D/O DEENA NATH GROVER, R/O Flat No. 1836, Tower 3A, Landcraft, Golf Links, NH 24, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as VEENA CHAWLA.

NAME CHANGE: I NEHA D/O MANI BHUSHAN residing at 4830 GALI NO 52.53 SEC 23 SANJAY COLONY FARIDABAD HARYANA-121005 have changed my name to NEHA KUMARI for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE: I, SURJIA RAM SAHARAN Father of JC-472179H Rank SUB Name-RAJENDRA PRASAD R/O VPO-LALANA BASS DIKHNADA, WARD NO-2, TEH-NOCHAR, DIST-HANU-MANGRHR, RAJASTHAN-335504 have changed my name from SURJA RAM SAHARAN to SURJIA RAM for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 20/03/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE: It is for general information that I, KIRAN GOPAL DHAKATE W/o SH. GOPAL DHAKATE, R/O A-59, Gali No. 4, Near Kala Pathar Mandir, Bhagwati Garden, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as KIRAN DHAKATE in my Service Record. The actual name of mine is KIRAN GOPAL DHAKATE.

PUBLIC NOTICE: My client Rani W/o late Sher Mohammad R/O L-II-1652, Gali No. 30, Najdik Kausar Masjid, Sangam Vihar, New Delhi- 110062, has disowned/debarred her son Taj Mohammed and daughter-in-law Nagina from all her movable/immovable properties/assets and severed all her relations with them due to their misbehavior/misconduct towards my client. If anybody dealing with her son and daughter-in-law in any manner will do so at his/her/their own risk and responsibility. My client shall not be responsible for any kind of acts done by her son and daughter-in-law. Mohd Tahir Qidwai Advocate Ch. No. 842-A, Lawyer's Chamber Block Saket Court Complex, New Delhi-110017.

NAME CHANGE: I, MAYA DEVI Mother of JC-472102A, Rank-SUB, Name-SANDEEP KUMAR presently residing at VILLAGE-BADHAULI, POST-BADHAULI, TEHSIL-NARAYANGARH, PS-NARAYANGARH, DISTT-AMBALA, HARYANA-134203 has changed my name from MAYA DEVI to MAYA RANI for all future purposes vide Affidavit Dated 11/03/2024 before Notary Public, U.P.

NAME CHANGE: I, NO-21512-A Rank-GP CAPT Name- SANDEEP SINGH CHHABRA (Date of Birth-07/06/1971) R/O H.NO-C-1255, RAJAJI PURAM COLONY, LUCKNOW (U.P.)-226017 have changed my name from SANDEEP SINGH CHHABRA to SANDEEP SINGH CHHABRA for all future purposes vide affidavit No- DL61645020551327W and dated 20/03/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE: I, Rajdeep Singh Sekhon S/O Harjinder Singh R/O H.No.212-B/4 Durga puri Nand nagari, Shahdara, North West Delhi -110093 have changed my name from Rajdeep Singh Sekhon to Rajdeep Singh for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE: I, Sharda Rani Lotey W/o Amrik Singh R/O Gh 5-7/1224 near St Marks school, paschim vihar, West Delhi -110087 have changed my name from Sharda Rani Lotey to Sharda Rani for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE: I, VIDHYA DEVI Mother of JC-472179H Rank SUB Name-RAJENDRA PRASAD R/O VPO-LALANA BASS DIKHNADA, WARD NO-2, TEH-NOCHAR, DIST-HANU-MANGRHR, RAJASTHAN-335504 have changed my name from SURJA RAM SAHARAN to SURJIA RAM for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 20/03/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE: It is for general information that I, DEVENDER S/O RATTAN LAL R/O D-3, S/F, Subhash Park, Uttam Nagar, West Delhi, Delhi-110059, declare that name of my minor son has been wrongly written as EKANSH SINGH aged 08 years in his School Records and Birth Registration Certificate No.: MCDOLIR-0116-006791516. The actual name of my minor son is EKANSH SINGH.

INDIAN RAILWAYS: GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (BHARAT SARKAR) MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRALAYA) (RAILWAY BOARD) No. RS(POL)/58/0501/5/2024 New Delhi, dated 19/03/2024 E-TENDER NOTICE Executive Director, Railway Stores (RS), Ministry of Railways (Railway Board), Government of India, for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender as per details given hereunder:- 1 E-Tender No. 2024 460RTRC 2 Name of Work: Gear Case Oil for application in HHP Locomotives, Servo Syn gear 460 RR of M/s IOCL or Mobil SHC 634 of M/s Exxon Mobil packed on 210/208 ltrs net in new, sound and non-returnable steel drums. 3 Approx. Quantity in KLS 270632 Litres 4 Earnest Money Rs. 20 lacs 5 Last date and time for submission of e-tender 09.04.2024 at 14.30 hrs. 6 Website for complete details of e-tendering and further corrigenda, if any in the tender http://www.ireps.gov.in 7 Allocation Head Grant 01 DIRECTOR, RAILWAY STORES (M) 3rd Floor, Room No. 363, Rail Bhawan, New Delhi. 881/2024 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NAME CHANGE: I, VIDHYA DEVI Mother of JC-472179H Rank SUB Name-RAJENDRA PRASAD R/O VPO-LALANA BASS DIKHNADA, WARD NO-2, TEH-NOCHAR, DIST-HANU-MANGRHR, RAJASTHAN-335504 have changed my name from SURJA RAM SAHARAN to SURJIA RAM for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 20/03/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE: I, Kajal Gupta D/o Rajender R/O H.No.10/26, Nehru Nagar, Delhi-110065 have changed my name to Kajal.

NAME CHANGE: I, Rajender Gupta S/o Jhanni Lal R/O H.No.10/26, Nehru Nagar, Delhi-110065 have changed my name to Rajender.

NAME CHANGE: It is for general information that I, JAWED ALAM S/O MUKHTIAR AHMED, R/O B-184, Sangam Park, Shiv Shakti Mandir Ke Pas, Rana Pratap Bagh, North Delhi, Delhi-110007, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as JAWED ALLAM in my Driving Licence No. DL0820040025162, and as JAWED ALAM in my PAN Card No. AJCPA8991M. The actual name of mine is JAWED ALAM.

NAME CHANGE: I, NO-21512-A Rank-GP CAPT Name- SANDEEP SINGH CHHABRA (Date of Birth-07/06/1971) R/O H.NO-C-1255, RAJAJI PURAM COLONY, LUCKNOW (U.P.)-226017 have changed my name from SANDEEP SINGH CHHABRA to SANDEEP SINGH CHHABRA for all future purposes vide affidavit No- DL61645020551327W and dated 20/03/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE: I, MAYA DEVI Mother of JC-472102A, Rank-SUB, Name-SANDEEP KUMAR presently residing at VILLAGE-BADHAULI, POST-BADHAULI, TEHSIL-NARAYANGARH, PS-NARAYANGARH, DISTT-AMBALA, HARYANA-134203 has changed my name from MAYA DEVI to MAYA RANI for all future purposes vide Affidavit Dated 11/03/2024 before Notary Public, U.P.

NEWS BOX

UK to introduce anti-tobacco laws to phase out smoking among young people

London. The British government will introduce a bill in parliament on Wednesday to fulfil its promise to phase out smoking among young people by banning tobacco sales for future generations. The Tobacco and Vapes Bill, if passed unamended, will be one of the world's toughest anti-tobacco laws and prevent children turning 15 this year or younger from ever being able to be legally sold tobacco. The government said smoking itself would not be criminalised. Therefore, anyone who can legally buy tobacco now will not be prevented from doing so in the future. "If we want to build a better future for our children, we need to tackle the single biggest entirely preventable cause of ill-health, disability and death: smoking," Conservative Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said in a statement. Critics say the move is "unconservative", and former prime minister Liz Truss is one of several members of the governing party to say they will vote against the legislation. Despite the opposition, the legislation is expected to pass with the opposition Labour Party suggesting it would support the measure. Last month, a similar law introduced by New Zealand banning tobacco sales to those born after January 1, 2009 was repealed by the country's new coalition government. The British government said smoking costs its National Health Service and economy an estimated 17 billion pounds (\$21.63 billion) a year.

A sharp rise in vape use by non-smokers and young people has forced the British government - a proponent of vaping as a way to reduce the harms of smoking - to consider tougher controls. Under the proposed legislation, there will also be new powers to change how vapes are displayed in shops, restrict vape flavours and packaging intentionally marketed at children to combat the rise in youth vaping.

Trump, Biden inch closer to rematch with easy wins in fresh round of primaries

Atlanta/New York Joe Biden and Donald Trump won their parties' primaries in Kansas on Tuesday, notching more delegates as they continue their march to a rematch in November's presidential election. Biden, a Democrat, and Trump, a Republican, also easily won primaries Tuesday in Ohio and Illinois. Trump also won Florida's Republican primary. There was no contest for Biden to win in Florida as Democrats there canceled their primary and opted to award all 224 of their delegates to him, a move that has precedence for an incumbent president. Trump and Biden are also expected to easily win primaries Tuesday in Arizona, banking more support after becoming their parties' presumptive nominees last week. Other races outside of the presidency could provide insight into the national political mood. In Ohio's Republican Senate primary, Trump-backed businessman Bernie Moreno defeated two challengers, Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose and Matt Dolan, whose family owns the Cleveland Guardians baseball team. Chicago voters will decide whether to assess a one-time real estate tax to pay for new homeless services. And voters in California will move toward deciding a replacement for former House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, who resigned his seat after being pushed out of Republican leadership. Trump and Biden have for weeks been focused on the general election, aiming their campaigns lately on states that could be competitive in November rather than merely those holding primaries. Trump, a Florida voter, cast his ballot at a recreation center in Palm Beach on Tuesday and told reporters, "I voted for Donald Trump."

Former Mississippi deputy sentenced to 20 years for racist assault

Jackson. A former Mississippi sheriff's deputy was sentenced Tuesday to about 20 years in prison for his part in torturing two Black men in a racist assault and for his role in a separate episode where a white man was sexually assaulted. Hunter Elward, 31, was sentenced by US District Judge Tom Lee, who handed down a 241-month sentence. Lee is also due to sentence five other former law enforcement officers who admitted to torturing Michael Corey Jenkins and Eddie Terrell Parker after a neighbour complained that the men were staying in a home with a white woman. Before sentencing, Lee called Elward's crimes "egregious and despicable," and said a "sentence at the top of the guidelines range is justified — is more than justified." He continued: "It's what the defendant deserves. It's what the community and the defendant's victims deserve." In January 2023, the group of six burst into a Rankin County home without a warrant and assaulted Jenkins and Parker with stun guns, a sex toy and other objects. Elward admitted to shoving a gun into Jenkins' mouth and firing in a "mock execution" that went awry. The terror began on Jan. 24, 2023, with a racist call for extrajudicial violence when a white person phoned Rankin County Deputy Brett McAlpin and complained that two Black men were staying with a white woman at a house in Braxton. McAlpin told Deputy Christian Dedmon, who texted a group of white deputies so willing to use excessive force they called themselves "The Goon Squad." Once inside, they handcuffed Jenkins and his friend Parker and poured milk, alcohol and chocolate syrup over their faces. They forced them to strip naked and shower together to conceal the mess. They mocked the victims with racial slurs and shocked them with stun guns. After Elward shot Jenkins in the mouth, they devised a coverup that included planting drugs and a gun. False charges stood against Jenkins and Parker for months. Jenkins suffered a lacerated tongue and broken jaw. Last March, months before federal prosecutors announced charges in August, an investigation by The Associated Press linked some of the deputies to at least four violent encounters with Black men since 2019 that left two dead and another with lasting injuries. Jenkins is a musician, and his injuries have prevented him from singing as he used to. He also said he has trouble speaking and eating. Parker said he relives the episode in his nightmares. Both men, who were sitting in the front row, called for the "stiffest of sentences."

In Gaza, starving children fill hospital wards as famine looms

Gaza. Six-year-old Fadi al-Zant is acutely malnourished, his ribs protruding under leathery skin, his eyes sunken as he lays in bed at the Kamal Adwan hospital in northern Gaza, where famine is bearing down. Fadi's spindly leg can no longer support him enough to walk.

Photographs of Fadi from before the war show a smiling, healthy-looking child, standing in blue denim next to his taller twin with his hair brushed. A short video clip shows him dancing at a wedding with a little girl. Fadi suffers from cystic fibrosis. Before the conflict, he was taking medicine that his family can no longer find and eating a carefully balanced variety of food no longer available in the Palestinian enclave, according to his mother Shimaa al-Zant.

"His condition is getting worse. He is getting weaker. He keeps losing his ability to do things," she said in a video obtained by Reuters from a freelancer. "He can no longer stand. When I help him stand up, he falls straight away."

More than five months into Israel's ground and air campaign, launched in response to Hamas' October 7 attack, there are

widespread shortages of food, medicines and clean water in Gaza, doctors and aid agencies say. The Kamal Adwan hospital, caring for Fadi, had also treated most of the 27 children the health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza says have died of malnutrition and dehydration in recent weeks. Others died in Gaza City's al-Shifa Hospital, also in the north, the ministry said, and in the southernmost city of Rafah, where the UN relief agency says over 1 million Palestinians have sought refuge from Israel's offensive. Reuters saw 10 badly malnourished children during a visit last week to the al-Awda health centre in Rafah, arranged with nursing staff who gave the news agency unimpeded access to the ward. Reuters was not able to independently verify the deaths reported by the ministry. Without urgent action, famine will hit between now and May in northern Gaza, where 300,000 people are trapped by fighting, the world's hunger watchdog, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), said in a review, on Monday. The review's most likely scenario said "extremely critical levels of

acute malnutrition and mortality" were imminent for more than two thirds of the people in the north. The IPC is made up of UN agencies and global aid groups. Israel's COGAT, the military body that handles aid transfers to Gaza, did not specifically respond to Reuters questions about the deaths of children from hunger and dehydration. It said Israel put no limits on the amount of aid that can enter. Following the IPC review, Israeli government spokesperson Eylon Levy posted on X that the number of food trucks had increased in March and that Israel was taking measures to bolster "delivery efforts" to the north. "It's a bad assessment, based on an out of date picture," he said of the review. USAID Administrator Samantha Power said in a public statement that the IPC assessment marked "a horrific milestone." She called on Israel to open more land routes and operate crossings at full capacity. In response to a question from Reuters about the IPC report, senior Hamas official Sami Abu Zuhri said Israel's Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu was "defying the world and pursuing the

killing of the Palestinian people in Gaza by bombs and starvation." US authorities did not immediately respond to a request for comment. UN aid agencies have said "overwhelming obstacles" to moving aid to the north of Gaza will only be overcome with a ceasefire and the opening of border crossings closed by Israel after October 7. In better times, Fadi's favourite food was chicken shawarma, a Levantine grill dish, his mother said, and he ate a lot of fruit and drank a lot of milk. When the war began, she said, the family fled their home in al-Nasr district of Gaza City, which suffered widespread damage from bombardment. They were displaced four times before arriving in Beit Lahia, she added. Fadi's condition began to deteriorate about two months ago and he was admitted to Kamal Adwan hospital, Zant said. Creon - the medicine that people with cystic fibrosis need to supplement pancreatic enzymes that help digest food - was not available. Sometimes, Fadi had diarrhoea 10 times in one night. Before the war, the child weighed 30kg (66 lb). Now he weighs just 12kg (26 lb), his mother said.

Russia's Putin to consider China for his first trip after re-election

Moscow. Russian President Vladimir Putin said late on Tuesday that he will consider China for his first overseas trip during his new presidential term that he secured in the weekend election. On Tuesday, Reuters exclusively reported that Putin will travel to China in May for talks with Xi Jinping, in what could be the Kremlin chief's first overseas trip of his new presidential term. Russia's TASS state news agency reported that at a meeting with parliamentary factions on Tuesday, the leader of the Communist Party, Gennady Zyuganov, asked Putin to choose Beijing for the trip. "I hope that your first visit will be to the East, and not to the West. Comrade (Chinese President) Xi Jinping is waiting for you to visit, he loves our country very much," TASS cited Zyuganov as saying. Putin promised to consider the trip.

"I will definitely - without any jokes -



take into account what you just said," Putin responded with a smile, according to TASS.

Western governments lined up on Monday to condemn Putin's landslide weekend election victory as unfair and undemocratic, but China and North Korea congratulated the veteran Russian leader on extending his rule by a further six years.

UK man first to be jailed for 'cyberflashing' under new law in England

London. England's first convicted cyberflasher was sentenced Tuesday to five-and-a-half years in prison after sending unsolicited photos of his genitals to a teenage girl and a woman. Nicholas Hawkes, 39, a convicted sex offender, was the first person in England and Wales convicted of violating the Online Safety Act, which went into effect January 31. The court was told that Hawkes borrowed his father's phone, saying he needed to call the probation office, went in another room and sent photos by WhatsApp to a woman and by iMessage to a 15-year-old girl, who began crying. Both took screenshots and reported him to the police. The cyberflashing law makes it an offence to send unsolicited sexual images by social media, dating apps or technologies such as Bluetooth or Airdrop. "Cyberflashing is a serious crime which leaves a lasting impact on victims, but all too often it can be dismissed as thoughtless 'banter' or a



harmless joke," said Hannah von Dadelzen, a deputy chief with the Crown Prosecution Service. "Just as those who commit indecent exposure in the physical world can expect to face the consequences, so too should offenders who commit their crimes online; hiding behind a screen does not

hide you from the law." Hawkes admitted at an earlier hearing that he sent a photograph or film of genitals with intent to cause alarm, distress or humiliation. Hawkes was on the sex offenders register after being convicted last year of exposure and sexual activity with a child under 16. He pleaded guilty Tuesday to breaching both a community order and terms of the suspended sentence he received for the earlier offense. Defense lawyer Barry Gilbert said Hawkes did not receive sexual gratification from his offenses, which he said arose out of the post-traumatic stress he suffered after being kidnapped, stabbed and held for ransom eight years ago. Judge Samantha Leigh rejected that argument, telling Hawkes that "you clearly are deeply disturbed and have a warped view of yourself and your sexual desires."

My wife's territory': Prince William at event as 'Where is Kate' frenzy continues

World. Kate Middleton, the Princess of Wales, has been dominating headlines across the world because of her absence from the spotlight since she underwent abdominal surgery in January, leading to rumours and bizarre conspiracy theories about her whereabouts. Now her husband, Prince William, has also made a subtle remark, hinting for her to return.

At a public event on Tuesday in Sheffield to promote his project to end homelessness, Prince William was to speak about child care. To this, the 41-year-old British royal replied, "We're venturing into my wife's territory... She needs to be sat here to hear this." At the event, an attendee told the Prince that he sent Kate Middleton a "get well" card, the New York Post said in a report.

In response, Prince William told the man, "You really are very kind." The latest development in the "Where is Kate?" issue comes after various British media outlets reported over the weekend that she was spotted at a farm shop in Windsor. The UK's Sun newspaper had published photos and videos of the Princess of Wales appearing to be "happy, relaxed, and healthy" next to her husband.

On Tuesday, Piers Morgan, a popular British broadcaster and royal insider, posted a photo on X, and said, "'Great to see (via @TheSun) Kate laughing and joking with William on their shopping trip. She's obviously recovering well. This should end a lot of the conspiracy theories.' However, eagle-eyed social media users flagged a number of issues with the shots of the royal couple. Some called out the graininess of the photos and video, taken by a seemingly innocuous bystander; while others alleged that the woman in the picture was not the real Kate Middleton, but a body double.

Amid Kate Middleton's prolonged absence, rumours of an affair between Prince William and Sarah Rose Hanbury, the Marchioness of Cholmondeley have also surfaced. But Rose Hanbury finally broke her silence on the alleged speculations. Rose Hanbury, a close friend of Prince William and Kate Middleton, told the Business Insider, "The rumours are completely false." In an explanation of Kate Middleton's absence from the spotlight, Kensington Palace has assured that she would return by Easter, the Business Insider said in a report. The speculation intensified earlier this month after major news outlets withdrew a photo of Kate Middleton and her children released on the occasion of Mother's Day in the UK on March 10, following claims that the image had been edited or generated by AI.

Finland remains world's happiest country for seventh straight year

Helsinki, Finland. Finland remained the world's happiest country for a seventh straight year in an annual UN-sponsored World Happiness Report published on Wednesday. And Nordic countries kept their places amongst the 10 most cheerful, with Denmark, Iceland and Sweden trailing Finland. Afghanistan, plagued by a humanitarian catastrophe since the Taliban regained control in 2020, stayed at the bottom of the 143 countries surveyed. For the first time since the report was published more than a decade ago, the United States and Germany were not among the 20 happiest nations, coming in 23rd and 24th respectively. In turn, Costa Rica and Kuwait entered the top 20 at 12 and 13. The report noted the happiest countries no longer included any of the world's largest countries. "In the top 10 countries only the Netherlands and Australia have populations over 15 million. In the whole of the top 20, only Canada and the UK have populations over 30 million." The sharpest decline in happiness since 2006-10 was noted in Afghanistan, Lebanon and Jordan, while



the Eastern European countries Serbia, Bulgaria and Latvia reported the biggest increases. The happiness ranking is based on individuals' self-assessed evaluations of life satisfaction, as well as GDP per capita, social support, healthy life expectancy, freedom, generosity and corruption. Growing inequality. Jennifer De Paola, a happiness researcher at the University of Helsinki in Finland, told

and free healthcare and education were also key. "Finnish society is permeated by a sense of trust, freedom, and high level of autonomy," De Paola said. This year's report also found that younger generations were happier than their older peers in most of the world's regions -- but not all. In North America, Australia and New Zealand, happiness among groups under 30 has dropped dramatically since 2006-10, with older generations now happier than the young. By contrast, in Central and Eastern Europe, happiness increased substantially at all ages during the same period, while in Western Europe people of all ages reported similar levels of happiness. Happiness inequality increased in every region except Europe, which authors described as a "worrying trend". The rise was especially distinct among the old and in Sub-Saharan Africa, reflecting inequalities in "income, education, health care, social acceptance, trust, and the presence of supportive social environments at the family, community and national levels," the authors said.

On Camera, Bengaluru Metro Staff Masturbates In Front Of Woman Passenger

Bengaluru. A disturbing video has emerged from Bengaluru in which a security staff employed at a metro station was seen touching his private parts and masturbating in front of passengers, particularly targeting a woman traveller. The woman, deeply distressed by the ordeal, took to social media to document her harrowing experience and demand accountability from the Bengaluru police. The incident, which unfolded on the Jalahalli Metro station platform, has sparked outrage and condemnation on social media.



"Today I had an experience where a security guard was continuously staring at me simultaneously making some gestures such as keeping hands on his private parts from the opposite side of the platform. It happened around 2:30 in noon. This happened in Jalahalli metro station," the woman wrote in her complaint. "I was so uncomfortable during the daytime itself. And I tried asking him but still he kept staring at me by making some gestures. So I started taking a video," she added.

The woman forwarded the video to the Bengaluru metro authorities, seeking strict action against the man. She later alleged that the metro authorities did not respond to her complaints. However, the Bengaluru Police, taking note of the incident, contacted the woman and initiated a probe.

Forest staff brave bullets in Kuldiha wildlife sanctuary, nab two poachers

Despite facing the gunfire, the brave forest staff managed to nab the poachers.

BHUBANESWAR/BALASORE. In a daring encounter in Balasore's Kuldiha wildlife sanctuary, two armed poachers were arrested by the forest staff after they allegedly opened fire at the anti-poaching squad leaving two of its members injured in the wee hours of Tuesday. The poachers, Guna Sing (30) of Nilagiri and Sania Sing (40) of Berhampur area, were nabbed following a confrontation during routine patrolling by forest staff in Panchalingeswar beat of Kuldiha range. Two country-made guns were also seized from their possession. PCCF (wildlife) Susanta Nanda said the injured staff, Kshitish Parida and Biranchi Jena, are receiving treatment at the SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack and their condition is now stable. Regional chief conservator of forests (RCCF) Baripada Prakash Chand Gogineni said the forest staff along with the anti-poaching squad were jointly patrolling the area on Monday night when they detected movement of the two poachers in the sanctuary at 2 am and started chasing them. While the two managed to flee taking advantage of the darkness, a forest guard and



two members of the anti-poaching squad continued the search and later found the poachers hiding at a spot near Dhansua Chaturi. When the team tried to nab the poachers, they opened fire leaving Parida and Jena injured. Despite facing the gunfire, the brave forest staff managed to nab the poachers. Reinforcement reached the spot and rushed the injured staff to FM Medical College and Hospital. They were later shifted to SCB MCH. Meanwhile, the Forest department has

mobilised the Similipal Tiger Protection Force (STPF) to intensify patrolling in Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary. "The crackdown on those possessing country-made arms and weapons unauthorisedly in the nearby villages of the sanctuary will also be intensified," PCCF (wildlife) Nanda informed. Balasore DFO Khushwant Singh said bullets were found intact in the body of the two injured anti-poaching squad members. Their health condition is being constantly monitored, he added.

Singh further informed that both the armed poachers were booked under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Meanwhile, police have been asked to initiate case against the duo under Arms Act and on charges of attempt to murder. The accused will be forwarded to court soon, he said.

"Acting on the instructions of the PCCF, the RCCF Baripada has deputed a DCF rank official to Balasore to take stock of the situation. The matter will be investigated further," the DFO informed.

'No Enmity, Then Why' UP Mother Asks Repeatedly After 2 Sons Killed

Budaun. Hours after her two sons, 6 and 11, were brutally murdered, allegedly by a man the family knew well, a mother in Uttar Pradesh's Budaun is asking one question repeatedly - Why? Sangita, the mother of Ayush and Ahaan, recounted to NDTV the events leading to the crime that has shocked the neighbourhood. The accused, Sajid, ran a barber shop near the family's two-storey house. He was later shot dead in an encounter.

Around 6 pm yesterday, Sajid shut his shop and came over. He asked for a hair clip for women. Sangita, who ran a beauty parlour, gave him one. Then he told me, 'Bhabhi, I need ? 5,000'. I called my husband and he asked me to give him the money. I gave him ? 5,000. He said he needed money because his wife is in the hospital and is due for delivery at 11 pm," she said. "He then said he is anxious and the wait seems long. I said it will pass. I gave him a cup of tea and he went upstairs with my eldest son (Ayush). There he killed my sons. My seven-year-old son ran downstairs. Even he had been attacked and his hand was bleeding. He would have been killed too, but he escaped," she said.



The family has told police that after the killings, Sajid tried to escape with his brother Javed, who was waiting outside. Local residents, however, caught him and handed him over to the police. Javed managed to escape and is on the run. Later, police said, Sajid fired at them and was shot dead in retaliatory firing.

An FIR has been registered and there is no clarity yet on the motive behind the crime. The family has denied reports that there was a dispute between the

Sajid was later shot dead in an encounter when he fired at the cops, police have said

children's father Vinod and Sajid. However, Vinod has denied any dispute. "I had no dispute with him. I was away for work when he came," he has told

Asked what could be the motive behind the crime, Sangita replied, "We have no enmity with anybody, I do not know if someone else is behind this. Javed should be questioned in front of us. He should be asked why they did this. Did someone else put them to it?"

Post a comment

Bareilly police chief Dr Rakesh Kumar Singh said they are investigating the motive behind the double murder. "Sajid was shot dead in an encounter after he opened fire at police. An Inspector has suffered injuries. We have called in the forensic team to gather evidence," he said, adding that police will also act against those who set Sajid's shop on fire after the murders.

Bengal minister's brother raided for tax evasion linked to construction firms



Kolkata The Income Tax Department on Wednesday conducted raids at the residence of Trinamool Congress leader Swarup Biswas, the brother of West Bengal Minister Aroop Biswas in connection to allegations of extortion, tax evasion and unaccounted wealth involving two construction companies. Raids are underway at five locations in Kolkata, including Swarup Biswas's residence in the city's New Alipore area and his wife Jui Biswas's office. Jui Biswas is a local

Trinamool Congress councillor and also a party spokesperson. Of the five locations being raided, three in Kolkata's Parnashree area include the office of one of the construction companies. Sources told that while probing the construction companies, Swarup Biswas's name had surfaced following which the raids were conducted today. The Biswas couple is presently being questioned and documents discovered during the raids are being examined officials of the Income Tax Department

UP Man Modifies Car Into 'Chopper', Cops Seize Vehicle For Flouting Rules

Ambedkarnagar, Uttar Pradesh. Police in Uttar Pradesh ended plans of a local in Ambedkar Nagar who had resorted to the quintessential Indian 'jugaad' to modify his car to look like a helicopter.

Enterprising creator, Ishwar Deen who invested over 2.5 lakh rupees into his labour of love was ordered to dismantle the rotor that he had welded on to the roof of an old car to make it resemble a chopper. Ishwar, a resident of Khajuri Bazar was on his way to a workshop to get the 'car chopper' painted when he was stopped by a traffic policeman and fined for his unauthorised modifications. His unique vehicle was also confiscated by police and later released on payment of the fine. Ishwar's modified version of the car also sports the tail rotor of a chopper welded to the boot of the car. He said that he made the eye-catching customisations with plans to lend it to people who wanted unique weddings as a mode of transportation

for brides and grooms and for other occasions. "I had transformed the car to use it for booking during the wedding seasons so that our family will be able to earn some extra money," Ishwar said.

"The police issued a challan of ? 2,000 and asked to remove the back portion of the car. I have invested ? 2.5 lakh in this car and worked day and night to make this," he said.

The man said that his 'rath' (chariot) was intended to be used only during the wedding season and will not ply on the roads otherwise. He also pointed out that similar vehicles were operating in other regions such as Bihar and Pratapgarh. A video of his creation now parked outside a police station in Ambedkar Nagar and uploaded on social media has attracted a lot of comments from users. The



video shows a crowd of onlookers and a few policemen standing around the vehicle.

The police cited safety concerns as the primary reason for confiscating the vehicle. The police said the car was modified without proper authorization under the Motor Vehicles Act. "Yesterday, a modified car was seized. Due to the enforcement of the the Model code of Conduct, police have been conducting vehicle checks and this modified car was intercepted by traffic police during one such inspection. Modifications require permission from the RTO department, and the vehicle was seized under Section 207 of the Motor Vehicles Act. We are investigating further," said Assistant Superintendent of Police Vishal Pandey.

"If You Commit Crime...": Mother Of Man Who Killed 2 Brothers In UP

Budaun (UP). The mother of Sajid, accused of killing two boys in Uttar Pradesh's Budaun, has said she feels for the victims' family and that her son got what he deserved. Sajid, police have said, was shot dead in an encounter after he fired at cops during an escape attempt. His brother Javed, a co-accused, is on the run.

His mother Najin said she has no clue on what could have led her sons to commit the brutal crime. "I don't know what was going on in their heads. They had their breakfast and left home around 7 am. I don't know what happened. There was no tension at home," she said. She said the brothers had been running their barber shop in the victims' neighbourhood for a long time now. "They had no enmity with anyone. If we bought anything from the locality, they would deliver it to our home," she said. Ms Najin said she feels for



the victims' family and that her son Sajid had suffered the consequences of his actions. "If they did not do this, they would not face this. What happened to him is only fair. If you commit a crime, you will suffer," she said. The elderly woman also revealed that Sajid's wife is not pregnant. "They had two children, but they died," Najin said she did not know where Javed

was. Sangita, the mother of the victims, Ayush and Ahaan, has said Sajid had said his wife was due for delivery and asked for a loan of ? 5,000. Sangita has said she gave him the money and then made tea for him. Sajid, she has said, took her sons to the terrace and slit their throats. The boys' brother, Piyush, was also attacked, but managed to escape in time.

The family has told police that after the killings, Sajid tried to escape with his brother Javed, who was waiting outside.

Local residents, however, caught him and handed him over to the police. Javed managed to escape and is on the run. Later, police said, Sajid fired at them and was shot dead in retaliatory firing. Local residents later burnt down his shop.

The boys' father Vinod has denied reports that there was a dispute between him and Sajid.

Armed miscreants open fire during Congress meeting in Manipur's Ukhrul

Imphal. A group of armed miscreants opened fire during a public meeting of the Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) on Tuesday in Ukhrul district. Addressing the press at the Congress Bhawan, MPCC president K Meghachandra said that Congress intending candidate from Ukhrul district (Outer Manipur constituency), Alfred Kanngam Arthur, was attacked by armed miscreants during a meeting held at Teinem village in Chingai Assembly Constituency on Tuesday. Alfred, who is a former MLA, was attacked by armed miscreants on Monday as well at TK Woodland resort in Paorei Shirui village in Ukhrul. The MPCC urged the chief electoral officer of Manipur and the state government to initiate security protection measures for the candidate for the outer constituency of Ukhrul district, following the attacks. Meghachandra said that, as an intending candidate, Alfred Kanngam Arthur has been meeting people as part of his election campaign for the past three days.

In this situation, he was attacked by armed miscreants at around 2 pm on March 18 while

taking part in a public meeting at TK Woodland Resort, following which the meeting was dismissed. Alfred was attacked again at around 11 am on Tuesday at Teinem village by armed miscreants, the MPCC president said. He said that due to these incidents, Alfred should be



provided security cover by the law enforcing agencies as soon as possible, "so as to save the democracy, otherwise the right of a citizen, particularly our intending candidate, would be violated". Moreover, there will be no free and fair election in the state of Manipur if such a situation continues, K Meghachandra said.

Searching for sanity in the age of hyper-consumerism

A disturbing question confronts me: Is it possible to retain our sanity in the age of techno-capitalism and hyper-consumerism? The new form of insanity that manifests itself in the spectacular demonstration of power, money and glamour does not repel us anymore; instead, it appears to be gorgeous, glamorous and even desirable. Our role models, it seems, are those billionaires and millionaires whose fairy tales/success stories we seek to emulate, or self-help books love to valorise. Hence, I am not very sure whether, as ordinary and unknown people, we were really annoyed or disturbed when we saw video clips of the pre-wedding ceremony of Anant Ambani, son of Asia's richest man Mukesh Ambani. Possibly, with awe and wonder, we allowed ourselves to be hypnotised by the famous guests invited for the function — from Bill Gates to Ivanka Trump, and from Amitabh Bachchan to Sachin Tendulkar. And, of course, money, we felt once again, could do wonders. The three Khans — Aamir, Salman and Shah Rukh — danced together to bless Anant and his fiancée Radhika Merchant in typical Bollywood style. Rihanna — the international 'brand' that the culture industry sells — flew to Jamnagar, otherwise a small town in Gujarat, and charmed the galaxy of celebrity guests through her heavily priced musical bonanza. Indeed, money unites — global capitalism merges with 'Hindu culture'; cricket and Bollywood stars strengthen their bond with the techno-corporate elite; and the Indian state showed extraordinary efficiency in transforming a small defence airport in Jamnagar into an international one for 10 days.

Why do I call it insane? There are three reasons. First, a culture of this kind promotes what I would regard as vulgar consumerism — and that too in a country that has not yet succeeded in overcoming the pain of poverty, hunger, malnutrition and homelessness. Don't forget that India's rank on the Global Hunger Index 2023 is 111th out of 125 countries. Yet, the Ambanis saw nothing wrong or unethical in spending, as reports say, over Rs 1,250 crore on their son's pre-wedding ceremony. In a way, it speaks of the utter insensitivity on the part of the economic elite, and the political class that watches it in silence. Second, it is insane because it promotes egotistic pride, or the assertion of the narcissistic self. And third, it erodes the spirit of democratic/humanistic striving for an inclusive/non-hierarchical society as it further sanctifies the huge wall of separation between the rich and the poor. However, the tragedy is that many of us do not see it as insane. Possibly, we envy these 'successful' people — the brigade of billionaires and millionaires, and their close allies: the corporate elites, Bollywood stars, cricketers and media tycoons. Or, we seek to become like them. In our own ways, we imitate their exhibitionism and flaunt whatever we have — our new cars, gadgets, diamond rings, travel destinations, apartments in gated communities, academic or other achievements, or even the fancy restaurants we have visited recently to celebrate our special days — through the constant circulation of Facebook/Instagram posts. In other words, we, too, are becoming neurotically restless in order to demonstrate and exhibit our 'worth'. Yes, we are becoming increasingly inauthentic through the carefully curated social media-induced identities.

Possibly, there is no way we can regain our sanity unless we realise the intensity of hollowness implicit in a mode of living that techno-capitalism, its market fundamentalism and its culture industry sanctify — the neurotic urge to find one's essence or worth in the ever-changing material/symbolic products one is perpetually seduced to buy, consume and show off. If the latest iPhone becomes a matter of life and death for a teenager, or if a young girl loses confidence if she does not have the 'perfect' body the beauty industry glamorises, we can realise that there is something terribly wrong with this culture. Possibly, the road to our collective sanity lies in a new mode of living that activates simplicity.

CAA may dent India's image as a secular polity in the long run

An inclusive citizenship policy remains the best way to protect social cohesion & uphold national unity.

WITH the notification of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019, another round of a polarising debate has begun. The CAA seeks to provide Indian citizenship to Hindus, Jains, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Parsis who entered India on or before December 31, 2014, from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan. The period of residence in India to qualify for citizenship has been reduced from 11 years to five. Many democracies routinely make exceptions for fast-tracking the immigration or citizenship process for some groups by striking a balance between upholding the constitutional values of a country and the precise demands of the day. What makes the CAA different? First, the executive's decision apparently violates the foundational tenets of the Constitution. The fact that the government came with detailed rules on the CAA weeks before the elections indicates that the ruling party wants to capitalise on the law electorally in eastern India, especially West Bengal and Assam. Second, the CAA model, with a narrow focus on a few religious communities, makes the approach akin to that of countries whose national identities revolve around religion, such as Israel, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Iran. Third, by openly adopting an exclusionary approach, the executive could potentially create problems in future. This becomes a minefield for current as well as future governments at international fora, where India has consistently advocated for an inclusive approach in terms of addressing humanitarian needs of communities in distress. Fourth, an inclusive citizenship remains the best way to protect social cohesion and uphold national unity. Apart from the disconnect between the CAA and the core values of the Constitution rooted in secularism, it is stoking fears among minorities as they see it as part of the exercise of the National Register of Citizens.

The focus on some communities has made the goals and objectives of the CAA devoid of a humanitarian impulse because of discriminatory clauses and evidence in the neighbouring countries, such as Pakistan and Myanmar. A BBC report dated May 8, 2019, citing data given by Pakistan's National Commission for Justice and Peace, shows that 776 Muslims, 505 Ahmadiyyas, 229 Christians and 30 Hindus were accused under various clauses of the blasphemy law from 1987 to 2018. Herald, a Pakistani magazine, reported that in 2017, the count of extrajudicial killings of members of various religious groups for alleged blasphemy was: Muslims 39, Christians 23, and Ahmadiyyas nine. A serving Governor of Pakistani Punjab, Salman Taseer, was assassinated by his bodyguard, Mumtaz Qadri, at an Islamabad café in 2011 after he had appealed for the pardon of a Christian woman, Asia Bibi, who had been sentenced to death for blasphemy (but was acquitted later). If the CAA legislation had been inclusive in its scope, it should have included communities like the



Ahmadiyyas. This would have been in line with the foundational principles of our Constitution, which debars any kind of discrimination on account of one's faith. The trajectory of the Ahmadiyyas' persecution in Pakistan is noteworthy as it brings out the long-term perils of a nation's narrow vision and policy-making. British historian Ian Talbot in his seminal book, Pakistan: A Modern History, says that "there is strong evidence that Punjab's Chief Minister Mian Mumtaz Daultana (1951-53) viewed the anti-Ahmadiyya movement as a useful distraction from the deteriorating economic situation". His tenure was marked by large-scale violence in 1953 and street protests, which became unruly but were finally quelled by the army. There were also demands that the Ahmadiyyas, who apparently had a higher literacy rate than other sections of the population, should not occupy high government posts. The first foreign minister of Pakistan, Zafarullah Khan, had to resign as he was an Ahmadiyya. Both blasphemy laws and the laws governing the Ahmadiyya community were passed during the tumultuous period of the country's political history between 1971 and 1990. The period was marked by the majoritarian populist politics of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who gave a new Constitution to the country in 1973. In 1974, Parliament made amendments to Articles 106 and 260 of the Constitution and declared the Ahmadiyyas non-Muslims. The military dictatorship of Gen Zia-ul-Haq furthered this process as his rule coincided with the rise of extremist groups in the backdrop of the US-sponsored Afghan jihad, in which Pakistan was a key ally.

Myanmar is another neighbouring country where the exclusionary citizenship approach towards Rohingyas

created mass hysteria. The 2016 and 2017 military violence in Rakhine that led to the mass expulsion of the Rohingyas to Bangladesh was a direct consequence of this process. The seeds of the exclusionary citizenship project in Myanmar were sown by Gen Ne Win, a military dictator who ruled the country from 1962 to 1981. His administration identified 135 national races in Myanmar, excluding the Rohingyas. Building on that, his successor, President San Yu, passed a citizenship law in 1982. The authorities in Myanmar argued that the Rohingyas were not a distinct ethnic group and that they were 'Bengalis'. Numerous historical claims and counter-claims over the presence of the Rohingyas in Rakhine, also known as Arakan before 1824, were made. Till 2010, the Rohingyas even participated in national elections, though they had been declared non-citizens in 1982. It was only in 2015 that the authorities took away their voter cards. This was concomitant with communal clashes, forced ghettoisation, germination of violent extremism within sections of persecuted communities and a disproportionate response of the military. As a consequence of various cycles of violence, just over half a million Rohingyas are now left in Rakhine. The number of those living abroad, particularly in Bangladesh, as a stateless population, is more than two million. Myanmar is facing a trial at the International Court of Justice for alleged genocide, apart from being the subject of several human rights reports at the United Nations. The long-term impact of the CAA can lead to undesired outcomes, including violence, which may not be obvious at this stage, as we have seen in the neighbourhood, apart from denting India's image as a secular polity.

Putin's re-election

The world should not let Ukraine war drag on

HAVING secured his fifth term with a landslide victory in the Russian elections, President Vladimir Putin has tightened his grip on power amid allegations of a rigged poll. Emboldened by the overwhelming mandate, Putin has warned the US-led NATO against the deployment of troops in Ukraine, saying that such a move would be one step shy of 'a full-scale World War III'. The West might have dismissed the elections as a sham, but the inescapable fact is that the US and its allies would have to deal with Putin for at least six more years. The 71-year-old has already ruled Russia as President or PM for the past two-and-a-half decades.

Most of Putin's domestic critics are either in jail or in exile, even as his staunchest political enemy, Alexei Navalny, died in an Arctic Circle prison last month. Navalny's widow Yulia



Navalnaya has dubbed the President a killer and a gangster, but he remains stubbornly unfazed. His growing

intransigence bodes ill not only for eastern Europe but also for the world at large. It's obvious that the Ukraine war cannot be brought to an end anytime soon unless Putin is persuaded to do a climbdown. Also, the West needs to see the error of its ways.

Countries on good terms with Russia, such as India and China, have a greater role to play in de-escalating hostilities. According to a recent CNN report, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and some other leaders helped prevent a potential nuclear attack by Putin on Ukraine in 2022. Last week, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar admitted that India was involved in efforts to reduce tensions in the Russia-Ukraine war zone. New Delhi, which enjoys a strong relationship with both Washington and Moscow, is well placed to help in finding a peaceful solution.

Relentless power play in Kathmandu

Prime Minister Prachanda has managed to stay at the helm in one coalition govt after another

NEPAL now has its third government in barely 15 months. Interestingly, all three have been headed by Pushpa Kamal Dahal alias Prachanda, whose Maoist Centre, with 30 seats, finished third in the House of Representatives following the general election in November 2022. The Nepali Congress, with 88 seats in the 275-member House, and the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) or CPN-UML, with 78 seats, were the top two parties, but the fractured verdict allowed Prachanda to take pole position. The first but short-lived alliance was between the CPN-UML and the Maoists; after providing Prachanda a perch for the prime ministership, it dissolved within a month as he switched over to the Nepali Congress. The present alliance, which again brings Prachanda and the CPN-UML together, includes two other Left-leaning parties — the Samajbadi (Socialists) led by Upendra Yadav and a party of former CPN-UML members under ex-PM Madhav Kumar Nepal.

It may intrigue some that the alliance includes the Rashtriya Swatantra Party (RSP, 21 seats), which projects itself as a platform to espouse the aspirations of the young people and finds favour with the West. This party had earlier been part of the first Maoist-CPN-UML alliance. Its leader, Rabi Lamichhane, who was earlier a US national, is one of the four Deputy Prime Ministers in the present coalition. The Nepali economy took a serious hit during the Covid-19 pandemic, but unlike other countries, it is showing little signs of bouncing back. This is leading to despondency among the people, with some even thinking that the monarchy was better, given that the political class has not delivered. Some weeks ago, Kathmandu witnessed

a pro-monarchy demonstration. Prachanda has accused the Nepali Congress of intransigence over the economic issues and justified his shift on that ground. Of course, it was, perhaps, too much for him to have Nepali Congress leader Sher Bahadur Deuba, who has been PM five times, constantly hovering around as the PM-in-waiting.

India has traditionally found dealing with the Nepali Congress easier. The Maoist-Nepali Congress alliance provided a certain comfort shored up by the Nepali Congress leadership's inclination towards reinstating Nepal as a Hindu state. The 2015 Constitution had proclaimed Nepal as a secular country. It bears noting that CPN-UML leader KP Sharma Oli has, in the past, also not been averse to a Hindu state and a 'cultural' monarchy in Nepal. The consecration of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya was received with enthusiasm in Nepal and would raise the pitch for a Hindu state.

Prachanda, too, appeared to be playing a positive role and donned the Nepali formal national dress, Daura Suruwal, identified with the Hindu monarchy, after eschewing it for years. However, Prachanda's upbringing has been leftist and anti-monarchy, and it is possible that he now espied an opportunity to push back and bow to the identity politics of Nepal, which is basically about differentiating itself from India. He termed the Nepali Congress "a reactionary force" when he parted ways with it.

References to the role of the South (code name for India) and North (China) are common in



explanations of politics in Nepal. Over the past two decades or so, though, the role of the West (the US, EU, etc.), coupled with their NGO associates and the Church, cannot be wished away. It has its own dynamics that include the ideas of human rights and secularism. For some, the inclusion of the RSP in a Left alliance would look like a North-West entente in Nepal. To many observers, the latest alignment appears to be setting the stage for the next general election in Nepal. But it is three years from now, and one wonders whether Oli will display the patience needed. In 2020, he was unwilling to cede prime ministership to Prachanda despite a power-sharing arrangement. For Prachanda, having already lost

much of his sway with the public, joining hands with his old communist comrades may be the only way forward. Though vote transfer from CPN-UML supporters to the Maoists is not easy, transfer from the Nepali Congress to the Maoists is far tougher. The new alignment provides the Chinese with a reason to gloat. Their role in bringing it about is evident, even though there is an internal Nepali political dimension too. In any case, in Nepal's politics, bragging rights are transitory, with rent-seeking remaining the dominant trait.

India is by far Nepal's largest trade and economic partner and a gateway to economic buoyancy in the country. It is also the only meaningful pathway for Nepal to harness benefits from its growing hydel power production.

Recent years have seen a boost to connectivity with the construction of integrated check-posts, development of railway connectivity, power transmission lines and the go-ahead to UPI transactions. Indeed, many of these projects, including a pipeline to deliver oil to Nepal and the construction of the 900-MW Arun III project, started when Oli was Prime Minister in 2018-19. In Nepal, where playing the India card sways popular sentiment, the economy matters critically, and an unhealthy economic state cannot bode well for any incumbent Prime Minister. A continued push for improving the ease of doing business would serve the interests of both India and Nepal.



This summer, personalise your
Workout
 to get in **Shape**



these mistakes:

Drinking coffee before exercising
 Caffeine acts as a diuretic to your body, causing severe dehydration. So, when you consume it before a workout, your body loses fluids. The best way to stay hydrated is to drink water, especially in summer. This will keep you body cool.

Stepping out late for your workout
 If you're a late riser, you may tend to put your exercise routine for later in the morning. But this isn't a great idea, as during summers, the temperatures go up much earlier in the day. The heat can put your body at risk. Sleep early

Mumbai's temperatures are soaring high and soon you'll be seeing people trying to beat the heat with shorts, halters, summer dresses and crop tops!
 But before you do the same, you need to tone your arms, thighs, waist and shoulders, to flaunt your flirty summer wardrobe. Here are some season-specific exercises to incorporate in your fitness routine...

For shapely thighs, hips and butt
Squats: Three sets of 10 to 15 reps Stand with your feet hip-width apart. Lower yourself gently, like you are going to sit on a chair. Keep your toes behind your knees and push your weight on your heels. Straighten your legs to raise yourself back up. Keep your abs in and don't lean too far forward as you lower yourself. For extra toning, hold medium weights in your hands as you squat.

For toned arms
Bicep curls: Three sets of seven to 12 reps Stand straight with medium weights in each hand at arm's length. Keep your elbows close to your torso and rotate the palms until they are facing forward. Now, keeping the upper arms stationary, exhale and curl the weights while contracting your biceps. Do not use momentum to throw the weights up, and do not let them drop quickly on the way down.

For flat abs
Bicycling on the floor: Lie flat on your back on a yoga mat with your legs bent and feet flat on the mat. Bend your elbows, flare them out to your sides and place your fingers just behind your ears. Contract your abs, move the legs in a pedalling motion, touching the left elbow to the right knee. Focus on keeping the abs contracted during the entire exercise. Do not pull the head toward your legs with your hands, as it will strain your neck.

Common workout mistakes you are making
 You may chart out a great exercise routine for yourself, but it won't be any good if you make



at night and do your exercises as early in the morning, even on weekends. If early in the day is not possible, work out late in the evening when it is cooler.

Not wearing spandex
 Most people prefer wearing loose clothes while gymming. But these can cause chaffing, especially when you sweat. Go for options that aren't too tight or too loose. You can wear spandex beneath a loose T-shirt to prevent this.

Skipping a meal post exercising
 Starving yourself after exercising won't make you lose any more weight. You need to refuel your body within 30 minutes after your gym session. So, apart from hydrating yourself, you can snack on a small meal, like a hard-boiled egg, a carrot or a shake.

Pool aquacises for fitness and fun

Low-impact and easy on the muscles, these workouts and games provide little risk of injury.
 Mumbai has been sweltering alright! At 36.9 degrees Celsius, we had the hottest day recently, and it's going to get worse. While we don't advocate wasting water in a rain dance, how about getting into a pool to cool down? If all you did was swim so far, take a deep breath and jump in! Here are other ways to enjoy yourself...

players form two teams. The catcher has to yell "Marco" and the rest yell "Polo" as they swim around in a bid to avoid him.

Go on a Treasure Hunt
 Make a list of 'treasures' that are to be found in the pool such as coins, rings and other small, but sinkable items. Let two teams read the list and try and find these. Coins are the hardest to find so the game is bound to provide hours of fun.



Water Relay
 Keep two buckets at either end of the pool and divide players into two teams, each having a mini surfboard and small mug tied to the board. Each player must fill the mug with water, get on to the board and swim across the pool to dump the water into the bucket on the other side. He or she must then hand the mug to a team mate, to take over. First to fill the bucket is the winner.

Marco Polo
 Enjoy playing tag on land? Now, try it in the water with Marco Polo. In it,

Not only is this a calorie buster, but also needs controlled movements that helps tone your legs.
 Aqua Noodle Water exercises are a huge draw as water provides 14 per cent more resistance than air, which means muscles get more toned in water. And there is almost zero impact on the bones, joints and muscles. Forget fancy machines and try the plastic noodle, which helps you stay afloat while balancing.
 From a simple push and pull movement to squats and twists, there's a lot you can do with this.

Hydrotherapy, is a part of alternative medicine, which involves the use of water for pain relief and treatment. The term encompasses a broad range of approaches and therapeutic methods that take advantage of the physical properties of water, such as temperature and pressure, for therapeutic purposes, to stimulate blood circulation and treat the symptoms of certain diseases. Bath temperatures typically ranged from 92°F to 97°F, so as not to cause injury to the patients.
 Water therapy may be restricted to use in Physiotherapy, and as a cleansing agent.



However, it is also used as a medium for delivery of heat and cold to the body, which has long been the basis for its application. Hydrotherapy involves a range of methods and techniques.
 Various therapies used in the present-day hydrotherapy employ water jets, underwater massage and mineral baths. Hydrotherapy which involves submerging all or part of the body in water.
 The Hydro Machine has pre installed Jets. These Jets shoots water on the body in periodicals (specified time periods). The water affects precisely on the chakras of the body. Eventually cleansing and opening the desired chakras.
 The Health and Healing Benefits of Hydro Therapy is it reduces muscle tension and pain rehabilitates injured muscles, boosts immune system, encourage detoxification and relives stress.

Hydrotherapy
 an alternative form of medicine



In addition to the Hydrotherapy, Sea Salts are also used. Sea salts and Epsom salts, or magnesium sulfate, both commonly used in the beauty industry, contain minerals that can help to enhance the skin. The magnesium in Epsom salts can reduce inflammation, while sulfates flush

out toxins. These salts helps in exfoliation, invigorates and cleanses and regenerates the skin.
 Hence, it is usually recommended to have a Hydrotherapy along with the Bath Salts for the numerous benefits it does on the overall body.

"Can't Keep Filing Chargesheets To Keep People In Jail", Top Court Observes

The court made this observation while hearing a bail plea filed by an accused linked to an illegal mining case from Jharkhand.

New Delhi. The Supreme Court has questioned the Enforcement Directorate over filing of supplementary charge sheets to deny default bail for an accused, and to keep such persons in jail for an indefinite period. A bench of Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Dipankar Datta told the central agency this practice - of effectively keeping accused in jail without a trial - troubled the top court.

"The whole object of default bail is that you do not arrest (an accused) till the investigation is complete. You cannot (arrest an accused and) say the trial will not commence till investigation is not complete. You cannot keep filing supplementary charge sheets and then the person is in jail without a trial,"

Justice Khanna told Additional Solicitor-General SV Raju, who was appearing for the ED. "In this case, the person is behind bars for 18 months. This is bothering us. In some case we will take it up and we are putting you to notice in that. Trial has to be begun when you arrest an accused," the court said Wednesday.

Under current laws an arrested individual is eligible for default bail if the authorities are unable to complete the investigation, or file a final charge sheet, within timelines set by the CrPC, or Code of Criminal Procedure. This time period is either 60 or 90 days, depending on case circumstances.

The court made a similar observation in April last year; a bench of Justice Krishna Murari and Justice CT Ravikumar said, "Without completing investigation, a charge sheet cannot be filed by an investigating agency only to deprive an arrested accused of his right to default bail..." "The top court's crucial observation could go on to impact several high-profile figures, including opposition political leaders who have been arrested by the probe agency and remain in jail, facing multiple charges and charge sheets without either proceeding to a trial. The court made

this observation while hearing a bail plea filed by an accused linked to an illegal mining case from Jharkhand. The accused - Prem Prakash - is an alleged aide of former Chief Minister Hemant Soren, who was arrested by the ED last month on money-laundering charges. Mr Prakash was denied bail by the Jharkhand High Court in January last year. He had then moved the Supreme Court, which noted he had spent 18 months in jail and called it a "clear case of bail". To this Mr Raju raised concerns of evidence or witness tampering if the accused were released, but the court was not convinced. "You come to us if he (Mr Prakash) does any of that..." Justice Khanna told the probe agency's lawyer, adding, "...but 18 months behind bars?" The Supreme Court noted that right to bail due to prolonged jail, under Section 45 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, or PMLA, could be granted if there is prima facie belief the accused did not commit the offence, and that he is not likely to transgress any laws while out on bail. This, the court held, flowed from Article 21 of the



Constitution, which talks about right to personal liberty. The court referred to the incarceration of senior AAP leader and former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, who was arrested by the ED in the liquor policy case in February 2023.

Last week the court - a bench led by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and including Justice Khanna - dismissed a curative petition filed by Mr Sisodia after his bail plea was rejected in October. The court held the allegations - of "windfall gains" of ₹ 338

crore was "tentatively supported" by evidence. Noting the accused in this case had spent 18 months in jail, the court said "constitutional right (under Article 21) is not taken away by Section 45 (of PMLA)... this is very clear". "Even in the case of Manish Sisodia, I said default bail is something separate. If there is delay in trial, power of court to grant bail is not taken away," Justice Khanna said. The top court's observations on default bail and supplementary charge sheets come amid allegations by the opposition that central agencies like the ED and the Central Bureau of

Investigation target rivals of the ruling BJP, particularly before elections, to force them to cross-over to the party.

The BJP has trashed such allegations, insisting the CBI and ED are independent and are working towards the government's resolve of rooting out all corruption. Eventually, though, Prem Prakash was denied interim bail today, with the court accepting a request to hold proceedings for a month to ascertain progress of the trial, which will now be held daily.

Medanta chairman's 'deepfake' video on weight loss drug is viral, case filed

New Delhi. The Gurugram Police has registered a case after a "deepfake" video featuring Medanta chairperson and managing director Dr Naresh Trehan endorsing a weight-loss drug was circulated on social media.

According to the Cyber Crime unit of the police, the FIR was registered under multiple sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) against "unknown persons" in connection with the case. The fabricated video shows a doctor participating in a TV show and recommending anti-obesity medicine. After the video went viral, a case was lodged by the hospital's assistant vice president (AVP) for marketing, Harish



Aswani, saying that a fabricated video had surfaced on social media that contained misleading information about medical treatment.

"The deepfake video features our CMD (chairperson and managing director) Dr Naresh Trehan, who can be seen endorsing this particular medication. Dr Naresh Trehan is one of the most trusted clinicians in the country and this video damages the reputation of Dr Trehan and Medanta Hospitals," news agency PTI quoted Aswani as saying in the case. Furthermore, it may lead to unwarranted scepticism and apprehension among patients who rely on accurate and reliable information for their medical needs," it added. Notably, deepfake is a technology that uses AI to doctor pictures or videos in such a manner that the person can impersonate anyone and say something or do activities that never actually occurred.

Following the complaint, a First Information Report (FIR) was registered at a local police station in Gurugram under Indian Penal Code sections 419 (cheating by impersonation) and 420 (cheating).

21-50 age limit for IVF: Centre flags Sidhu Moose Wala's mother's case to Punjab

New Delhi. The Union Health Ministry has flagged the case of late Punjabi singer Sidhu Moose Wala's parents welcoming a baby via In-Vitro Fertilization (IVF), saying that a woman only between 21 to 50 years can give birth to a child with the help of technique. The late singer's mother Charan Kaur is 58-years-old.

The couple sought IVF to conceive their second baby nearly two years after they lost their only son, who was murdered on May 29, 2022, in Punjab's Mansa district. He was 28. It sent a letter to the Punjab government dated March 14 and sought a report regarding Charan Kaur's IVF treatment. The Ministry said that it came across a newspaper article on February 27 saying that Charan Kaur sought IVF treatment to conceive a child. Confirming the development, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)-led government in Punjab tweeted on Wednesday that "Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann always respects the sentiments & dignity of Punjabis, it's the Central Govt that has asked for the documents". It urged people to "have a look at the facts and not to believe in any rumours". On Tuesday, Sidhu Moose Wala's father Balkaur Singh accused the Bhagwant Mann-led Punjab government of harassment after their second son was born on March 17, saying that it was asking him "to furnish documents of the baby". "They are questioning me to prove that this child is legal," he said in a video on Instagram.

He, however, did not mention that the couple conceived their second child using IVF treatment. Balkaur Singh said he would produce all documents as he followed all the legal procedures.

BJP, Trinamool supporters clash in Bengal's Cooch Behar, many injured

New Delhi. Several people, including some police personnel, were injured in clashes between supporters of the BJP and the ruling Trinamool Congress in West Bengal's Cooch Behar district on Tuesday evening. The police personnel were injured when they intervened to stop the two sides. According to news agency PTI, the clashes broke out moments after a public meeting addressed by Union Minister of State (MoS) for Home Nisith Pramanik got over, and a rally led by state minister Udayan Guha was about to begin nearby. Videos of the incident were widely shared on social media and showed chaos on the streets in Cooch Behar. At nearly 8.30 pm, Pramanik was on his way after attending the meeting. He later alleged stones were thrown from the venue of the Trinamool's rally when his convoy was leaving the area. The Trinamool was also scheduled to hold a meeting a few meters away from the spot. "I was

leaving the area after the programme was over, and all of a sudden TMC supporters started hurling stones at us. So I had to get down to protest against



this undemocratic and violent behaviour of the TMC workers," he told a Bengali news channel. Pramanik alleged that Guha, the North Bengal Development Minister, took the lead in beating up BJP activists and instructing the police to arrest them. Sharing a video of the incident on X, BJP leader Amit Malviya said, "TMC goons attack Union Minister and BJP's Coochbehar candidate Nishith

Pramanik." "The cars in his convoy were vandalised. Udayan Guha, minister in Mamata Banerjee's cabinet, lead the gang of armed criminals. This kind of state sponsored crime signals complete breakdown of L&O. (sic)" he added. Meanwhile, Guha rejected the allegations as "baseless" and claimed that BJP supporters threw stones at the TMC's rally venue.

"People from Nisith Pramanik's convoy hurled stones at us and were also shooting arrows targeting us. Some of our workers were injured. The Union minister himself was provoking his supporters to attack us," Guha said.

He also alleged that the BJP was trying to stop the TMC from campaigning in the area. Later, the Raj Bhavan issued a statement over the incident, and said Governor CV Ananda Bose has sought a report from the state police chief on the "veracity of the report" on the "altercation and confrontation"

Elvish Yadav Case: YouTuber's Friend Who Created Snake Venom Drug In His Banquet Hall Arrested

New Delhi. Noida Police on Wednesday arrested two more accused named Ishwar and Vinay in connection in connection with a probe into the suspected use of snake venom as a recreational drug at a party here four months ago, officials said. Seven accused including YouTuber and Bigg Boss OTT 2 winner Elvish Yadav have been arrested so far in connection with the case. Noida Additional DCP Shakti Mohan Awasthi says, "In the same case in which Elvish Yadav was arrested a few days ago, two other people have been arrested this morning. Their names are Ishwar and Vinay. Ishwar used to constantly talk to the snake charmer Rahul and had his own banquet hall where he used to bring snakes and prepare snake poison. Vinay is a special friend of Ishwar Yadav. They are being sent to judicial custody..." "Elvish on Sunday was sent to judicial custody for 14 days in

connection with a case under the Wild Life Protection Act 1972. The YouTuber was arrested and presented in the District and Sessions Court Surajpur, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh earlier in the day. This comes after Elvish was named in the FIR filed in



the case along with five others. Five of those alleged accused have since been arrested by the Police. The case pertains to the police raids at a Noida party in November 2023 during which

police found snake venom used for intoxication by the guests. An FIR was registered against six people including Elvish Yadav in Noida Sector 49 police station for allegedly supplying snake venom at a rave party in Noida. The case was transferred from Noida's

Sector 49 police station to Sector 20 police station on the orders of Gautam Buddha Nagar Police Commissioner Lakshmi Singh. Speaking on the matter, Uttar Pradesh Environment Minister Arun Saxena said, "Law will take its course and no celebrity is bigger than the law." Meanwhile, the YouTuber has denied his involvement in the supply of snake venom at the rave party. Elvish, in a personalized YouTube video on November 4, denied charges against himself, saying that he is ready to surrender if found to be involved in the matter.

Over 250 central security personnel to be deployed at Parliament after breach

New Delhi. More than 250 Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel will be deployed at the Parliament House complex as an "essential security upgrade" following the major security breach in Parliament on December 13, 2023, when two men jumped into the Lok Sabha chamber while the Winter Session was underway, and released yellow gas from canisters while also shouting slogans. The new security set-up approved by CISF Director General Nina Singh, will see more than 230 personnel dedicated to the security division, with the remainder allocated to the Force's Fire Department. The upgrade is to bolster the existing CISF security wing at Parliament. Meanwhile, the enhanced staff will also comprise 12 inspectors, 45 sub-inspectors, 30 assistant sub-inspectors, 35 head constables, and 85 constables. The CISF was initially introduced in Parliament in January with 140 personnel stationed at specific entry points. Since then, the Force has been charged with regular visitor frisking and baggage screening at designated entrance gates. The December 2023



Parliament breach triggered chaos and raised queries on security measures at the premises. The intruders, who jumped into the chambers of Lok Sabha from the visitor's gallery on the day when the nation remembered the December 13, 2001 terrorist attack in Parliament, were issued authorisation passes by Pratap Simha, a BJP MP from Karnataka's Mysore seat.

The party, however, dropped Simha from contesting the upcoming Lok Sabha elections and has fielded Mysuru royal seon Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja in his place. Six people have been arrested in the case so far, including the two intruders, Sagar Sharma and Manoranjan D.

Chirag Paswan Challenges Uncle Pashupati Paras In "Father's Karambhoomi"

"It is certain that I will be the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) candidate, the NDA candidate, from Hajipur - which was the 'karambhoomi' of my father. He (Pashupati Kumar Paras) is welcome (to contest from there). I have bravely faced all challenges.

New Delhi. Lok Janshakti Party leader Chirag Paswan today asserted that he will be contesting from Hajipur, against his Uncle Pashupati Kumar Paras, in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. "It is certain that I will be the Lok Janshakti

Party (Ram Vilas) candidate, the NDA candidate, from Hajipur - which was the 'karambhoomi' of my father. He (Pashupati Kumar Paras) is welcome (to contest from there). I have bravely faced all challenges. I have never been scared of any challenges. I accept this challenge too," Mr Paswan said while speaking to media on Wednesday.

On competing against his own uncle from the Hajipur constituency, Mr Paswan remarked, "This isn't merely a political choice for me; it also holds implications for my family. Such decisions should not only be made by political parties but should also consider the sentiments of all family members. Previously, the decision to separate from the family was his (Pashupati Paras) alone, and it continues to be his decision."

In preparations ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, Lok Janshakti party held a parliamentary meeting under the leadership of LJP Chief Chirag Paswan. "After the meeting of central Parliamentary



Board (of the party), we will leave for Bihar. Several proposals need to be essentially passed, and several important decisions have to be made," Mr Paswan said while speaking to the media earlier today. When asked about the list of candidates of his party for the Lok Sabha election, Mr Paswan said that it will be released soon. "Nominations are being filed for the first phase of elections, the list of LJP candidates will be out very soon," he said. On Tuesday, Rashtriya Lok Janshakti Party (RLJP) President

Pashupati Kumar Paras resigned as Union Minister, a day after his party was denied any seats in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections in Bihar.

Speaking to ANI, the RLJP President said, "Yesterday, the NDA alliance announced the list of 40 candidates for Bihar Lok Sabha... Our party had five MPs & I worked with utmost sincerity... Injustice has been done with us & our party. Therefore, I resign from the post of Union Minister." "I will contest (Lok Sabha election) from Hajipur. All of our sitting MPs will contest from their respective constituencies. This is our party's decision," said Mr Paras.

On Monday, the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) announced seat-sharing in Bihar for the Lok Sabha polls with the BJP set to contest 17 seats and JD-(U) 16. Jitan Ram Manjhi-led Hindustani Aawam Morcha (HAM) and Rashtriya Lok Samta Party (RLSP) will contest one seat each. Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) will contest five seats.

Cool de-stress mantras for city moms this Exam season

The board exam season is on. While the spirit to excel in this competitive world is keeping students awake throughout the night, their stressed parents are also having sleepless nights. What is interesting to note here is, that there are some moms and dads who are coping with stress rather smartly. We spoke with few city moms of board examinees to know their mantra of coping up with the stressful period.

Increased workout
Exercising could be a great panacea for all worries. Realising this, homemaker Viji Murali whose daughter Ishita is appearing for her tenth board CBSE has increased her workout regime more than usual to keep all the stress at bay. "I've started sweating out in the gym even more now. Earlier, I would work out just once a day, but as the board examination approached, I'd begun to hit the gym twice a day. Also, I watch movies which alter my mood and divert my mind for a few hours."

Kicking off the stress

A lecturer at LAD College, Charuta Gajbhiye, kicks off her stress, literally. She plays football with her son in the evening. She elaborates, "My de-stress mantra is simple, what makes my son happy, de-stresses me too. So, I have developed an interest in sports as my son is an ardent sports lover. We play football every day. He and I indulge in this recreational



together for 15-20 minutes, in the evening before he sits for his revision."

Musical solace

What better way to bust the stress than indulging in the activity you are passionate about. A classical singer Sharmistha Jha whose son Rajshekhhar is appearing for his 12 boards, endorses this fact and adds, "I begin my day with riyaz of Rabindra Sangeet early morning, which is nothing less than a meditation for me. It keeps me calm and positive throughout the day. Also, whenever I feel restless, I head towards my kitchen and cook something special; mostly what my son wants to eat. My mind is completely free of all the worries. In a nutshell I find solace in music and cooking these days."

Fitness facts that you know all wrong

Many fitness tips can acquire the form of believable myths. In this extract from her new book, a popular city-based trainer digs for the truth. In the world of fitness, there are plenty of myths and half truths. Some myths are just harmless half-truths, but others can actually be harmful. They can cause frustration in working out, and sometimes even lead to injury. There's a lot of fitness information out there - some reliable, some not.

The important thing is to ask questions. If you don't understand something, ask a qualified fitness professional for advice. One reason myths get started is that we all react to exercise a little differently. So what's true for one person may not be true for another. That's why you have to find your own things that are true for you. But there are still some fitness myths that just need busting.

MYTH YOU ONLY NEED TO EXERCISE IF YOU HAVE WEIGHT TO LOSE

FACT: Ever heard the term skinny fat? According to researchers at Mayo Clinic, US, over half of so called normal weight adults fall into this category. It has been defined as having more than 30 per cent body fat for women or 20 per cent for men. Too much body fat puts you at the same disease risk as an obese person - you're just more likely to suffer from undetected diabetes.



MYTH SIZE ZERO

FACT: Size zero is a dress measurement, not your figure. And this so-called size zero can be attained if you stop eating and exercise to within an inch of your life. Size zero means you are bordering on anorexia, and that is neither healthy nor beautiful.

MYTH LIFTING HEAVY WEIGHTS BULKS YOU UP

FACT: Weight training actually helps women slim down instead of bulk up, since women have much lower testosterone than men. In a study at Central Michigan University, US, researchers had women train one arm doing a just a few reps of a heavy weight and the other doing more reps with a lighter weight (both lifting an equivalent number of pounds).

Surprise: The heavy lifters got stronger, but gained no more size than the arm lifting the lower weights. Ladies, weight training is very good for you. It will lead to increased metabolism and strength, lower risk of osteoporosis, and a smaller waistline!

MYTH AB EXERCISES WILL GIVE YOU A FLAT STOMACH

FACT: The only way to get a flat stomach is to strip away the fat around the midsection. This is accomplished by doing cardio aerobic exercise to burn calorie, weight training to increase metabolism and following a proper diet. Abdominal exercises will help to build muscle in your midsection, but you will never see the muscle definition unless the fat in this area is stripped away.

MYTH NO PAIN, NO GAIN

FACT: Exercise should not be painful. At the height of your workout, you should be sweating and breathing hard. It's important to distinguish between muscle fatigue - what people at my gym call "the burn" - and muscle pain, which is sharp and uncomfortable when you move. Pain is your body's way of telling you that you're doing something wrong. Listen to your body. If it's painful, stop.

Has China decoded Zika virus?



China has claimed that its scientists have successfully decoded the gene sequence of imported Zika virus. As per the Chinese health ministry website, scientists have successfully decoded genes that make up for the Zika virus.

In unearthing the gene code of the virus that currently hovers as a big threat over the Rio games as well as the rest of the world, scientists have used the genome from the first imported case of Zika in the country. Reportedly, China had confirmed its first imported Zika case around ninth of February this year when a Chinese national had returned after

visiting South America. China has reported ten cases of Zika so far.

If the Chinese scientists are to be believed, the Zika gene decoding might prove as a milestone in the war against the virus.

Several cases of Microcephaly and Guillain Barre syndrome have been reported around the world and there are many studies that have hinted at the correlation between the two and Zika virus.

The decoding will further help scientists develop vaccination, bacteria and other measures helpful in eradicating Zika.

3 exercises to fix Back pain

A recent study has concluded that the best way to treat back pain is by regularly exercising. Stretching, muscle exercises and stamina training are far more successful at tackling lower-back pain than other treatments, the research says. Those who performed a range of exercises had a 35 per cent reduced risk of lower back complaints over a year's time. These exercises had benefits that stayed longer. Besides, making lifestyle changes like sitting in the correct posture, bending correctly and avoiding lifting heavy items or rather, lifting them appropriately further reduced the risk. These three exercises will help you further:

Decompression breathing

- Keep your heels slightly apart and your toes

touching. - Unlock knees, shift weight onto your heels, and gently pull them toward each other.

- Stand tall, reach your arms overhead, and press your fingertips together.

- While inhaling, lift the ribcage away from the hips. On exhale, tighten the core to support your spine.

Modified founder

- Stick out your hips, inhale and reach your arms out in front of your heart.

- Keeping your hips back, press your fingertips together.

- Slowly, lift your arms and keep the core pulled in and



maintain a neutral spine. Hold for 15 to 20 seconds.

Woodpecker

Named after the bird's movement, this not only strengthens your back but also your butt muscles.

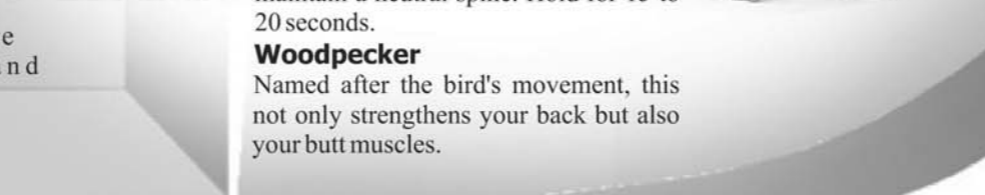
- From a lunge position, press your front heel and stand tall.

- Lift the back heel up off the ground and reach the arms out in front of your heart.

- Drive your butt as far back as you can, without moving your knee, until you feel a stretch in your hamstrings.

- Tighten your core, maintain a neutral spine and slowly reach the arms overhead.

- Hold for 20 to 30 seconds, before repeating on the other side.



Markets Rebound In Early Trade On Rally In Global Equities, Foreign Fund Inflows

Mumbai. Benchmark equity indices rebounded in early trade on Wednesday after a sharp decline in the previous trade amid a rally in global markets and fresh foreign fund inflows. The 30-share BSE Sensex rebounded 237.36 points to 72,249.41 in early trade. The NSE Nifty climbed 74.25 points to 21,891.70. From the Sensex basket, Maruti, Power Grid, Nestle, IndusInd Bank, Tata Consultancy Services, and Wipro were the major gainers.

JSW Steel, Tata Steel, Hindustan Unilever, and Tata Motors were among the laggards. In Asian markets, Seoul, Shanghai, and Hong Kong were trading in positive territory. Wall Street ended with gains on Tuesday. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 1,421.48 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data. (Also Read: Rupee Edges Up 1 Paisa To 83.02 Against US Dollar In Early Trade)

Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said in his pre-opening market comment that this Wednesday morning brings optimism with positive catalysts such as FIIs buying activity and favourable Wall Street performance. Global oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.17 per cent to USD 87.23 a barrel. "Fed's rate decision, more importantly, the Fed commentary tonight, will decide the trend in the mother markets US," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services. (Also Read: TCS Shares Tank Over 3% After Tata Sons Divests 0.65% Stake) The 30-share BSE benchmark tanked 736.37 points or 1.01 per cent to settle at 72,012.05 on Tuesday. The NSE Nifty slumped 238.25 points or 1.08 per cent to finish at 21,817.45.

NPS New Log-In Rule: 2FA Coming Into Effect From April 1 -- Here's What New It Brings

New Delhi. To fortify the security of the National Pension System (NPS), the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has rolled out a new directive. Effective April 1, 2024, accessing the NPS Central Record-keeping Agency (CRA) system will necessitate a two-factor authentication, integrating Aadhaar-based verification with the existing password-based login method. The PFRDA's recent circular mandates Government Nodal Offices to adapt to this upgraded security protocol. Previously, these offices could access the CRA system using a simple password. (Also Read: SBI's Processing Fee-Free Personal Loan Scheme Ending Soon; Details Here)

However, starting April 1, 2024, Aadhaar-based authentication will be compulsory, ensuring a two-factor authentication process. (Also Read: Customer Orders Nothing Phone (2a) Priced Rs 20,000, Receives Device Worth Rs 45,000; Read More Details Here) How New System Functions?

Under the enhanced security arrangement, users will still utilize their current User ID and Password for logging into the CRA system. However, in addition to these credentials, an Aadhaar-based authentication step will be incorporated. This additional layer of security aims to curtail unauthorized access and safeguard NPS transactions. Key Features Of Enhanced System And What New It Will Bring?

Reduces Risk Of Unauthorized Entry
The introduction of two-factor authentication significantly reduces the risk of unauthorized entry into the CRA system, ensuring that only verified users can gain access.

Extra Layer Of Protection
By implementing this additional security measure, the PFRDA underscores its commitment to safeguarding the interests of NPS subscribers and stakeholders.

In The Spotlight: Will roll back 'Pure Veg Mode' in case of negative social repercussions, says Zomato CEO

NEW DELHI. After facing a backlash online from a section of people over the launch of the "Pure Veg Mode" service, Zomato CEO Deepinder Goyal on Tuesday said the food delivery platform will "roll it back in a heartbeat" in case there is a negative social repercussions. In a long late night post on X, Goyal also sought to allay concerns that Zomato's regular fleet may be barred by some societies and RWAs.

"There's an opinion that some societies and RWAs will now not let our regular fleet in. We will stay alert for any such cases and work with these RWAs to not let this happen." "We understand our social responsibility due to this change, and we will not back down from solving it when the need arises," he said.

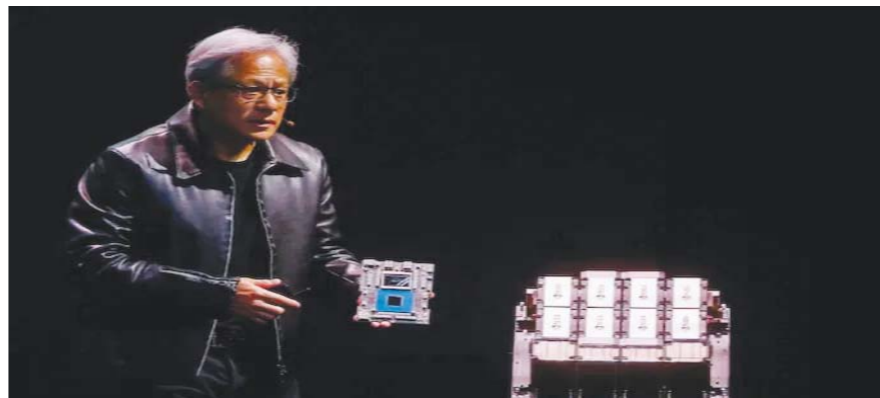
"Please note that this Pure Veg Mode, or the Pure Veg Fleet doesn't serve or alienate any religious, or political preference," he clarified. Goyal elaborated upon the reason behind introduction of the company's "Pure Veg Mode" service. "But why did we need to separate the fleets? Because despite everyone's best efforts, sometimes the food spills into the delivery boxes. In those cases, the smell of the previous order travels to the next order, and may lead to the next order smelling of the previous order. For this reason, we had to separate the fleet for veg orders," the Zomato CEO said. He emphasised that the new service strictly serves a dietary preference irrespective of a person's religion or caste and delivery partners' participation in the new fleet will not be decided on their dietary preferences. "I would like to repeat that this feature strictly serves a dietary preference. And I know there are a lot of customers who would never order food from a restaurant which serves meat, irrespective of their religion/caste," Goyal said. He concluded the post by promising that Zomato will roll back the Pure Veg Mode service in the event of significant negative social repercussions. "And I promise, that if we see any significant negative social repercussions of this change, we will roll it back in a heartbeat," Goyal said. The Zomato co-founder announced the launch of a "Pure Veg Mode" service on Tuesday to cater to customers who have a pure vegetarian dietary preference. Goyal cited feedback from vegetarian customers as the reason behind the launch and said that the online food delivery platform is also introducing a "Pure Veg Fleet" in India for customers who follow a 100 per cent vegetarian diet.

Open for business, spread the word': Nvidia CEO on India's AI plan

Nvidia's CEO interested in India's AI super-computing plan

India aims to enhance AI capabilities with 10,000 GPUs

CEO Huang sees India as one of the largest AI markets



NEW DELHI. Nvidia's CEO, Jensen Huang, showed keen interest in joining India's ambitious plan to enhance its AI super-computing infrastructure. India is looking to bolster its artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities to support startups, academic institutions, researchers, and the wider industry in the country. Huang stated that he is more than ready to contribute his

thoughts and Nvidia's technology, especially GPUs (Graphics Processing Units), essential for AI development, as India seeks to expand its AI capabilities while speaking to Moneycontrol in an interview. India's AI mission is set to increase its supercomputing power, incorporating over 10,000 GPUs. This boost is expected to lay the groundwork for a robust AI ecosystem. Nvidia, known for its cutting-edge processors, is looking to be

a part of this initiative. Huang mentioned his company's interest in providing AI GPUs and stated, "I am open for business." At the forefront of Nvidia's offerings is their latest processor design, Blackwell, known for its exceptional speed in processing AI models. The new processor design was showcased at the GTC conference in San Jose, California. Nvidia's advancements have not only propelled its technology forward but have

also dramatically increased its market valuation. Recently, Nvidia became the first chipmaker to surpass a \$2 trillion market capitalisation, ranking just behind giants Microsoft and Apple. Nvidia's chips are crucial in the era of AI, as powers applications such as OpenAI's ChatGPT and Microsoft Corp.'s GitHub Copilot. These tools, and others like them, rely on Nvidia's technology for training large language models. The global AI market is on an upward trajectory, expected to grow from \$168.5 billion in 2022 to over \$2 trillion by 2032. This rapid growth phase has been likened to a "gold rush" by analysts, with companies rushing to secure the necessary technology to stay ahead in the AI race. India, with its vast data and talent pool, is poised to become a major player in the global AI market. Huang's meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in September outlined this potential. During their discussion, Huang pledged to give priority to Indian data centre operators' orders. "You have the data, you have the talent. This is going to be one of the largest AI markets in the world," said Huang.

Eicher Motors shares jump 5% after UBS upgrade. Details here

New Delhi Shares of Eicher Motors, the manufacturer of Royal Enfield motorcycles and other commercial vehicles, jumped 5 per cent in early trade on Wednesday. The jump in its share price came after brokerage firm UBS upgraded the stock to 'buy' from its earlier 'neutral' rating. At around 11.00 am, shares of Eicher Motors were trading 5.04 per cent higher at Rs 3,905.50 apiece on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). It is worth noting that Eicher Motors shares have gained over 5 per cent in the past five trading sessions, over 14 per cent in six months and 32 per cent in a year. UBS upgrades Eicher Motors UBS also revised its price target for Eicher Motors to Rs 5,000 from Rs 4,300, indicating a potential upside of 34 per cent from Tuesday's closing levels.



Furthermore, Eicher Motors was included in UBS' "APAC Key Call" list. The upgrade by UBS stemmed from its assessment of Eicher Motors' risk-reward ratio as "compelling," particularly noting that Royal Enfield remains insulated from electrification risks. UBS anticipates growth for Royal Enfield with the launch of its upcoming

450 cc platform to address competition and growth concerns.

According to UBS, Royal Enfield is poised to achieve a domestic volume growth at a Compounded Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 10 per cent between financial years 2024 to 2026, outpacing the industry growth projected between 6 per cent to 7 per cent. UBS forecasts Eicher Motors' Earnings Before Interest, Tax, Depreciation and Amortisation (EBITDA) to grow at an 18 per cent CAGR. The brokerage's optimistic outlook for Eicher Motors is also supported by strong domestic demand and favourable conditions for exports.

Pakistan and IMF reach preliminary deal to release \$1.1 billion from bailout fund, IMF says

Under the deal, Pakistan will receive the final tranche from the bailout that was approved by the IMF in July to save the nation from defaulting on its debt repayments.

Aurangzeb and the IMF's mission chief to Pakistan, Nathan Porter, led their teams during the talks, which began on Thursday last week. Pakistan signed the



ISLAMABAD. Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund reached a preliminary agreement for the release of \$1.1 billion from a \$3 billion bailout following dayslong talks in Islamabad, the IMF said Wednesday. Under the deal, Pakistan will receive the final tranche from the bailout that was approved by the IMF in July to save the nation from defaulting on its debt repayments. An IMF statement said it "has reached a staff-level agreement with the Pakistani authorities" and noted that approval by the IMF's executive board "is considered a formality." The announcement came after talks between the IMF and the new government of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif concluded in Islamabad. Pakistan's Finance Minister Muhammad

latest short-term agreement last year to overcome one of the worst economic crises in its history that had raised fears the South Asian Islamic nation could default on the payment of foreign debts. The \$3 billion bailout was signed by Sharif, who replaced former Premier Imran Khan after a no-confidence vote in parliament. Sharif was again elected the country's premier this month following Feb. 8 parliamentary elections. The latest development came weeks after Khan wrote a letter to the IMF urging it to link any talks with Islamabad to an audit of the recent

elections, which his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party says were rigged. Authorities have dismissed the charge as baseless. Pakistani authorities have criticized Khan for writing the letter, saying it was a bid to harm the country's already ailing economy. Pakistan narrowly averted a default on foreign payments last summer. In its statement on Wednesday, the IMF said "Pakistan's economic and financial position has improved" in recent months. However, it noted the "growth is expected to be modest this year and inflation remains well above target, and ongoing policy and reform efforts are required to address Pakistan's deep-seated economic vulnerabilities amidst the ongoing challenges posed by elevated external and domestic financing needs and an unsettled external environment." The IMF said Sharif's government is committed to continue the policy efforts that started under the current bailout "to entrench economic and financial stability for the remainder of this year." It said Pakistani authorities are determined to take steps to further improve the country's economy by broadening the tax base, and through the timely implementation of power and gas tariff adjustments.

Rupee Edges Up 1 Paisa To 83.02 Against US Dollar In Early Trade

Mumbai. The rupee edged up 1 paisa to 83.02 against the US dollar on Wednesday ahead of the announcement of the key US Fed policy decision later in the day. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened higher at 83.00 against the previous close of 83.03 in line with firm domestic stock markets. The rupee traded at 83.02, up 1 paisa, in early morning deals. The local unit fell 13 paise to settle below the 83 level for the first time in the past month due to a spike in crude oil prices and foreign fund outflows. The rupee has declined in the past seven straight sessions against the US dollar. (Also Read: SBI's Processing Fee-Free Personal Loan Scheme Ending Soon; Details Here) The US dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.40 per cent higher at



103.85. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, were trading at a multi-month high of USD 87.24 per barrel. On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex benchmark rose 236.33 points to 72,248.38. The broader Nifty gained 67.60 points to 21,885.05. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net buyers in the capital markets on Tuesday as they bought shares worth Rs 1,421.48 crore, according to exchange data. (Also Read: Sensex, Nifty Tank In Early Trade Amid Weak Asian Markets, Foreign Fund Outflows) Analysts said that the policy review by the Fed to be announced later in the day will be crucial. The tone of the Fed's statements will likely impact the dollar's trajectory.

Unveiling India's income inequality: 'Top 1 percent income share higher than US, South Africa and Brazil'

NEW DELHI. India's top 1 per cent income and wealth shares (22.6% and 40.1%) are at their highest historical levels in 2022-23 and the country's top 1 per cent income share is among the very highest in the world, higher than even South Africa, Brazil and US, according to World Inequality Database by the World Inequality Lab.

Between 2014-15 and 2022-23, the rise of top-end inequality in India has been particularly pronounced in terms of wealth concentration and by 2022-23 the income and wealth share are at their highest historical levels, the report said.

The authors of the report, Income and Wealth, Inequality in India, 1922-2023: The Rise of The Billionaire Raj, are Nitin Kumar Bharti, New York University, Abu Dhabi, Lucas Chancel, Sciences Po, Harvard Kennedy School, Thomas Piketty, EHESS, Paris School of Economics, and Anmol Somanchi, Paris School of Economics. "After briefly rising during the 1950s, top 1% shares consistently fell over the next two decades and reached 6.1% by 1982. This was likely the consequence of the broadly socialist policy agenda pursued by the Indian government till the 1980s. This included nationalization of various important sectors (rail, air, banking, oil), strong



regulation of markets, and high tax progressivity – top marginal tax rates were as high as 97.5% in 1973. This policy mix is likely to have reduced rent seeking-behaviour at the top of the distribution." Since the early-1980s, when the Indian government began initiating a broad range of economic reforms leading up to the liberalization in 1991, the decline in top 1% shares halted. From the early-1990s onward, top 1% shares have consistently increased over the next 30 years to reach an all-time high of 22.6% in 2022, the report said. In the wake of the liberalization reforms of 1991, top 10% shares started

galloping and have reached astonishingly high levels by 2022, closing in on 60%. In other words, in the 4 decades between 1982 and 2022, the top 10% national income share has almost doubled.

There are likely numerous factors related to India's growth and development process that are keeping bottom 50% and middle 40% shares depressed. The lack of quality broad-based education, focused on the masses and not just the elites, is likely to be an important one. "When we zoom-in within the top 1%, we see largely similar trends for the top 0.1%, top 0.01% and top 0.001% What is interesting are the

magnitudes. For instance, in 2022, just the top 0.1% earned nearly 10% of the national income. The corresponding figures were 4.3% and 2.1% for the top 0.01% and top 0.001% respectively." "What explains the sharp rise in top 1% income shares starting the early 1990s? The public and private sector wage growth could have played a part till the late 1990s. There are good reasons to believe capital incomes likely play a role in the subsequent years. First, the capital share in the registered manufacturing sector has dramatically increased since the early 1990s. Second, concentration of national wealth has also considerably grown during the last 3 decades. Third, the net wealth of the richest Indians (USD MER billionaires) as a share of India's national income started booming since the early 2000s. "Economic inequality markedly increased during the 1990s in several forms – strong divergence across states, rising urban-rural inequality, and growing disparities within urban areas. Banerjee and Piketty (2005) were the first to mobilize annual tax tables provided by the income tax authorities in combination with national accounts to shed light on the dynamics of top incomes over the long run (1922-2000), the study revealed.

NEWS BOX

'He stopped me and...': Ravindra Jadeja recalls iconic CSK moment with MS Dhoni

NEW DELHI. Star India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja fondly recalled the moment when Chennai Super Kings (CSK) captain MS Dhoni embraced and lifted him after his stellar performance guided CSK to their record fifth title by defeating the Gujarat Titans in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2023 final. In the crucial 15th and final over of the match, CSK found themselves in a precarious situation, requiring 10 runs off the last two balls. It was then that the seasoned Jadeja turned the tide in his team's favor, smashing medium-pacer Mohit Sharma for a six and a four.

Also See: How to watch IPL 2024 live in USACSK shared a video on their social media platform, showcasing Jadeja holding a portrait of Dhoni lifting him on the memorable night of the IPL 2023 final. "The moment from The Man himself,"



wrote CSK on X. "...he (Dhoni) just stopped me and he lifted me. Yes, obviously this is one of my all-time favourite memories. I will never forget this hug from Thala. This will remain inside my heart forever. Love you, Thala. Cheers," Jadeja said in the video. Defending champions CSK will face Royal Challengers Bangalore in the IPL 2024 opener on Friday at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai. MS Dhoni (c), Moeen Ali, Deepak Chahar, Tushar Deshpande, Shivam Dube, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Rajvardhan Hangargekar, Ravindra Jadeja, Ajay Mandal, Mukesh Choudhary, Ajinkya Rahane, Shaik Rasheed, Mitchell Santner, Simarjeet Singh, Nishant Sindhu, Prashant Solanki, Maheesh Theekshana, Rachin Ravindra, Shardul Thakur, Daryl Mitchell, Sameer Rizvi, Mustafizur Rahman, Avaneesh Rao Aravely.

Real Madrid's Thibaut Courtois suffers new injury, hopes of dream return ends

New Delhi In a significant setback for Real Madrid, their first-choice goalkeeper, Thibaut Courtois, has suffered a meniscus tear in his right knee, an injury confirmed by the club following an MRI scan conducted on Tuesday. This development comes after Courtois had been on the path to recovery from a previous ACL tear in his left knee that he sustained last August, sidelining him for several months. The 31-year-old Belgian international's latest injury occurred during a training session on Tuesday, dashing hopes of his imminent return to the squad. Real



Madrid had been eagerly anticipating Courtois's comeback, especially with critical fixtures on the horizon, including a Champions League quarter-final clash against Manchester City scheduled for early April. Real Madrid's statement detailed the extent of Courtois's injury, revealing that he has been diagnosed with a ruptured internal meniscus in his right knee. This news is a considerable blow to the team's aspirations, as they will now have to navigate through crucial stages of the season without one of their star performers. Manager Carlo Ancelotti had previously expressed optimism about reintegrating Courtois and Brazilian defender Eder Militao, who also suffered an ACL injury last August, back into the team lineup. Ancelotti's plan involved having both players participate in two friendly matches against Real Madrid's youth team during the international break, aiming for their return to first-team action for the season's concluding phase. They (Courtois and Militao) have started to work with the group, completing normal training sessions," Ancelotti told a press conference on Friday. "I think they will be able to make it (to the first leg against City). In fact, the idea is that they will be available on March 31st, for the LaLiga match against Athletic Bilbao, but we won't risk anything, that's more than clear." However, Courtois's unexpected injury has forced a revision of these plans, leaving Real Madrid to contend with the absence of their key goalkeeper as they face pivotal matches in both domestic and European competitions.

Why RCB doesn't have home advantage at Chinnaswamy Stadium

New Delhi. On any given day during the summer, the energy levels at M Chinnaswamy Stadium can act as a catalyst for Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB). Speaking strictly of atmosphere, the franchise can stand on an equal footing with Chennai Super Kings and Mumbai Indians. Despite the trophy-less years, it still enjoys a fanatical following with the decibel levels at the stadium on match days capable of intimidating noise. Perhaps as intimidating as Chepauk when it clears its throats as MS Dhoni takes guard or Wankhede when Rohit Sharma tees off.

But the Chinnaswamy stadium is nowhere close to being an intimidating venue for the opposition from a cricketing perspective. Thanks to the venue's history of offering flat decks to go with short boundaries on all sides, it is a stadium where opposition teams take the field fully aware that they have an even chance. As RCB head into the 17th season of the Indian Premier League, their win percentage at Chinnaswamy Stadium reads 46.51. To put it in perspective, Chennai has a win percentage of 70.96 at Chepauk, Mumbai 62.33 at Wankhede, Sunrisers Hyderabad 62% at Uppal and

Kolkata Knight Riders 57.31 at Eden Gardens. To put it simply, in the most competitive T20 tournament in the world, where home advantage makes a big difference, the Chinnaswamy stadium remains slippery ground for RCB. Since the start of the 2011 season, only twice have they lost just one game at the home venue (2011 & 2013). They have lost four home games three times – in 2012, 2016 and 2023. And in the 2017 season when they finished at the bottom of the table, they went through the season without a home win. Unlike Chepauk, where Dhoni will use spinners to strangle oppositions and Wankhede where Mumbai will use pacers who extract bounce to good effect, RCB captains have not really had any such luxuries. With 65m-long square boundaries in a format where horizontal bat shots are most common, anything that is pitched remotely in the short-pitched zone tends to disappear into the top tier of the stadium. And with the straight boundaries being only 70m, good length and full deliveries have often found their destination on the roof. With such short boundaries, even quality bowlers have struggled at the



venue. Yuzvendra Chahal, one of the most big-hearted leg-spinners who is brave enough to operate on a line outside off-stump, picked up 51 wickets for RCB at Chinnaswamy. That the next best in franchise history is Vinay Kumar's 26 tells a story of the daunting task of bowling at the venue. It is the reason that every season, RCB's home games have become a shoot-out between two batting units.

No lost cause

It's a venue where even a total of 200 is not safe. In 2018, after RCB piled on 205/8 and reduced CSK to 74/4 by the 9th over, a famous derby win was on cards. But coming in at No 6, Dhoni scored an unbeaten 70 off 34 deliveries to pull off a

stunning win. And a year earlier, Mumbai who were 7/4 and later 33/5 in a chase of 142, ended on the winning side with Kieron Pollard scoring 70 at No 6. No other venue offers opposition teams that are down and out to make a comeback with the bat like Chinnaswamy does.

That RCB have often banked on flat decks and often taken the field with a bowling unit that seldom compliments the conditions has not helped their cause. On such venues, having bowlers with an X-factor could be a game-changer of sorts, especially since the margin of error is too small at the venue. A mystery spinner or an out-and-out pacer, who can clock 150 kmph, may be capable of making a difference. But barring Mitchell Starc, RCB have seldom had such bowlers in their ranks. This season, they have looked to address the issue at the auction table, bringing in Lockie Ferguson and Alzarri Joseph, two pacers who are quicker through the air and can push batsmen onto the backfoot. But whether they are capable of finding the control that is needed to succeed at the venue remains the question for RCB.

IPL 2024 price tag won't affect Starc, Cummins even 1 percent: Glenn McGrath

New Delhi. Glenn McGrath feels that the hefty price tags paid by Kolkata Knight Riders and Sunrisers Hyderabad will not affect Mitchell Starc and Pat Cummins respectively and backed both men to perform well in the IPL 2024 season.

KKR and SRH splashed 24.75 and 20.5 crore respectively to acquire Starc and Cummins, making them the top two in terms of being the most costliest in the history of the auction. Speaking at the MRF pace foundation, McGrath said that both men are very experienced and know the game well and expects them to perform to their standards. "The money that they have received is incredible. But they are both very experienced players and know the game well. They are going to go out and play well as they have done in the past. I don't think it (price tag) will impact them even one percent," added McGrath.



Starc will be looking forward to IPL return: McGrath

McGrath went on to speak about Starc and felt that if he is able to move the ball around well, then he would be as good as any pacer in the league. "For Starc, he chose not to come to the IPL due to personal reasons. But he comes back and gets a record price. He is looking forward to it. On his day, if he is moving the ball around, he will be as good as

any other fast bowler," said McGrath. Starc himself admitted that he is ready for the new challenge as he makes his return to the IPL after more than 8 years. "It's been 8 years, I think. Back to KKR where I was supposed to be in 2018. So I'll be back there for the chance to pull on the gold and purple. I guess my memories are a few and far between of back in 2014 and 2015 with RCB but yeah, really excited to get stuck in. Obviously, a new group of players. A bunch of guys I certainly haven't met or been able to work with before." "A couple of guys that I've, international guys that I've played against and come across. Yeah, it's gonna be exciting. It's definitely a new challenge. But yeah, it'll be exciting. It's always a bit of a circus when it is the best T20 league in the world. So, yeah I look forward to it," said Starc.

IPL 2024: Pandey hits Russell for huge six, KKR all-rounder 'does not like this'

New Delhi. Andre Russell had a cheeky response in store after Manish Pandey hit him for a massive six in a practice match for the Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) that took place on Sunday, March 17. KKR posted a video where Pandey deposited Russell over the long-on boundary. The batter cleared his left leg and found the middle of the bat as the ball sailed over the ropes. Russell had an excellent outing in the warm-up match after he scored 35 runs off 14 balls. Pandey, who made a return to the KKR franchise, raced his way to scoring 51 off 24.

Apart from Pandey, Phil Salt and Nitish Rana also hit half-centuries. Salt, who had replaced Jason Roy, smashed 78 runs off 41 balls to show his class with the bat in hand. Andre Russell's key role for the Knights as far as Russell is concerned, he has been a crucial member of the Knight Riders setup since he first joined them back in 2014. Having also won the award for the Most Valuable Player (MVP) 2 times, the West Indies all-rounder has shown his value time and again. Russell is also third in the list of most runs scored by a KKR batter after Gautam Gambhir and Robin Uthappa. In 111 matches, he has scored 2269 runs at an average of 29.46 and a strike-rate of 175.07 with 11 half-centuries to his name.

PSL hero Imad Wasim hints at retirement U-turn: Available if my country needs me

New Delhi. Islamabad United's hero in the Pakistan Super League 2024 final, Imad Wasim, has hinted at making a return to the Pakistan senior team after having retired from international cricket.

Imad, who announced his retirement in November last year, has been considered as a wildcard addition for Pakistan's upcoming T20 World Cup squad. Speaking after the PSL final triumph, as quoted by ICC, Imad said that he would be available for the team if Pakistan needs him. He revealed that the current T20I skipper, Shaheen Shah Afridi, had reached out to him after he had announced his retirement and told the pacer they would chat after the PSL. "I made a name for myself while playing for Pakistan and if my country needs me, I will be available. If not, I have no issues with that," Imad said. "Shaheen called me after I retired but I told him that we will talk after PSL."

Hopefully he will come back: Shadab on Imad return. Imad's Islamabad United skipper, Shadab Khan, revealed that he didn't want the all-rounder to leave the national team and claimed he had called him after his retirement.

Miami Open: Simona Halep loses on return, Sumit Nagal crashes out in Qualifiers

- Simona Halep lost in straight sets to Paula Badosa
- Halep will next face Aryna Sabalenka in the 2nd round
- Sumit Nagal failed to qualify for the main draw

New Delhi Former World No.1 Simona Halep did not make a delightful return to the court after she crashed out of the Miami Open 2024. On Tuesday, March 19, Halep lost 6-1, 4-6, 3-6 to Spain's Paula Badosa in the opening round of the women's singles.

Halep was stupendous in the first set where she put her Spanish opponent under immense pressure. But Badosa was equal to the task as she made an incredible comeback. Halep converted 80 percent of her break point chances (4 out of 5). However, 10 double faults led to her



downfall. Badosa has a tough task in hand as she will next be up against 2-time Grand Slam champion Aryna Sabalenka in the second round. As far as Halep is concerned, she returned to playing the game after her 4-year doping ban was recently reduced to nine months. Although she lost to Badosa, Halep was elated on getting to play her favourite game again.

Taking to Instagram, she wrote, "Today will always feel like a victory."

Sumit Nagal goes down fighting

India's Sumit Nagal also failed to go through to the main draw after losing to Hong Kong's Chak Lam Coleman Wong in the second and final round of the qualifying stage. After dominating in the opening set, Nagal, who broke into the top 100 earlier, couldn't hold on to his momentum. He lost the match 6-3, 1-6, 5-7. He broke his opponent's serve 1 time, while Wong managed 3 breaks of serve. The 26-year-old Nagal was also undone by the 16 aces that Wong produced. The Indian, on the other hand, produced only 1 of them. Wong was tentative with his second serves as he won 38 percent of points from them and made 5 double faults. But he outplayed his opponent in every other aspect.

Wanindu Hasaranga's Test ban explained: Smart call to exploit loophole

New Delhi. When it was announced on Monday, March 18, that Wanindu Hasaranga had performed a U-turn and was picked for the Sri Lanka squad for the Test series against Bangladesh. However, some of the fans, especially the ones of Sunrisers Hyderabad and Sri Lanka cricket, would have a sly smile on their faces as Hasaranga seems to have exploited a loophole in the ICC rules to make himself available for the IPL and the T20 World Cup. Still a bit confused? Well, let's try to decode the ban at first.

What was the punishment for Hasaranga's latest ban?
So, Hasaranga received a 50 per cent fine and accumulated three demerit points for his offence. This brought his total demerit points to eight in 24 months. Hasaranga was already on 5 demerit points after getting three during the series against Afghanistan, where he had some strong words for the umpires. He was subsequently banned for two T20Is as well. The latest collection of



three more demerit points, which, pursuant to article 7.6 of the Code, has been converted into four suspension points. This means that Hasaranga would either miss 2 Tests or 4 ODIs or 4 T20Is, whatever comes first. Had the all-rounder not come out of Test retirement, it would have led to him missing the first 4 matches of Sri Lanka's T20I World Cup campaign and that would have been a

big blow for the side. So this is the first major win for Hasaranga. But wait, there's more. Had the ban not been there, Hasaranga wouldn't have played the first few games for his new IPL franchise, SRH. So now, with the ban in place, it means that all-rounder will be available for the entire IPL 2024 campaign.

As Tabraiz Shamsi would point out in his tweet soon after the ban, it was certainly a game that was executed to perfection by everyone involved. Sri Lanka really didn't need Hasaranga for the matches against Bangladesh, but the T20 World Cup was where they really needed the all-rounder. Hasaranga would have also wanted to be there in the IPL 2024 right from the beginning as he would want to be ready for the ICC event in the USA and the Caribbean. So, the loophole was perfectly exploited and it does make ICC look a bit foolish in the end. While this small game from Hasaranga was great, hopefully this doesn't set a precedent for a new trend amongst the players.

Kareena Kapoor

Rated Abhishek Bachchan Higher Than Big B As An Actor: 'A Thousandfold Better..'



One of Bollywood's most sought-after actors now, Kareena Kapoor made her debut in the film industry alongside Abhishek Bachchan in JP Dutta's *Refugee* in 2000. The film not only received critical acclaim but also earned her a Filmfare Award For Best Female Debut. In an interview with Rediff in May 2000, just before her acting debut, Kareena talked about her relationship with Abhishek and shared her thoughts on his father, megastar Amitabh Bachchan. On being asked how she would 'rate Abhishek Bachchan in their film (*Refugee*)', Kareena had said, "As an actor, he is better, at least I find him a thousandfold better... His father (Amitabh Bachchan) was the best, but he is going to be better than the best. I am sure about it. As a person, he is wonderful, he is one of my closest friends." Kareena also remembered her first scene in *Refugee* – a romantic scene between Abhishek and her. She said, "We were very comfortable from day one because he is part of my family and a close friend of mine. The chemistry was there right from the word go."

In the early 2000s, there were rumours that Abhishek Bachchan and Karisma Kapoor, Kareena's elder sister, were about to marry. Karisma was often seen with the Bachchan family at events. However, Karisma and Abhishek eventually went their separate ways. Abhishek married Aishwarya Rai in 2007, while Karisma wed Delhi-based businessman Sunjay Kapur in 2003. They have a daughter, Samaira (born in 2005), and a son, Kiaan (born in 2010). Karisma and Sunjay divorced in 2016. Meanwhile, Kareena, during an interview with Rajeev Masand in 2009, said that despite things going south between her sister Karisma and Abhishek, she will have a special place for Abhishek. She said, "I have always maintained that Abhishek is the first actor with whom I gave my first shot. To me, he holds a very special place in my heart that no actor and no person can ever take. When I look at him, I look at him with pride, joy and with happiness. It's sad things went sour."



Shama Sikander

Raises The Temperature In A White Cut-Out Dress, Hot Photo Goes Viral

Shama Sikander never fails to impress all with her hot looks. Each time the actress drops photos or videos of herself on social media, she leaves everyone gasping for breath. Recently, Shama took to her Instagram handle and shared a glimpse of her recent photoshoot, which is now setting fire to the internet. In this latest photoshoot, Shama Sikander can be seen posing in a white cut-out dress as she looks into the camera. In the caption of her post, Shama wrote, "A tapestry of dreams, in her eyes, galaxies gleam. With each step, a symphony flows, graceful as the river that forever grows." Her latest hot photo has left her fans gasping for breath. Check out the actress' Instagram post here: Shama Sikander is a popular television actress who has worked in several shows including *Baal Veer*, *Ye Meri Life Hai* and *Maaya: Slave of Her Desires* among others. She maintains an active social media presence and often stuns fans with her impeccable fashion sense. Earlier last year, in an interview with News18 Showsha, Shama shared that she wants to work in web series and films only now and does not want to return to television. She revealed that she has not watched TV shows for over six years now and added, "I'm looking at only web series and feature films. I believe in doing different kinds of cinema, stories that matter. I want to do characters on screen that can add to people's lives. I feel that content can be used for great purpose for the well-being of everyone in all its art and glory. So I want to do meaty roles, and powerful performances as I am a performer and I deserve the best," she told us.



Madhuri Dixit's Casting Confirmed In Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3 Anees Bazmee Says 'Whatever Is Going To Happen...'



Kartik Aaryan, Triptii Dimri and Vidya Balan's *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3* went on floors earlier this month. While Vidya and Kartik surprised everyone earlier by revealing that they are teaming up for *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3*, new reports then claimed that Madhuri will also be seen in the film, making her debut in the *Bhool Bhulaiyaa* universe. Now, Anees Bazmee has reacted to this claim. The *Hindustan Times* quoted Anees as saying, "Whatever is going to happen, we will announce. Triptii and Vidya were announced, there are many more left. Some are being signed, with some talks are still on. We will announce it soon." Earlier, not only was Madhuri's casting revealed, but the report also claimed that Madhuri is playing the role of a ghost in the film. A source told *Mid-Day*, "The team felt another spirit would add to the narrative. So, it will be Rooh Baba versus the two ghosts played by Madhuri and Vidya. By bringing the two leading ladies together for the first time on screen, the makers have played a trump card." However, an official confirmation is awaited.

Meanwhile, director Anees Bazmee had earlier confirmed Akshay Kumar will not be a part of the film. Speaking with *Zoom*, the filmmaker said, "No, Akshay is not a part of *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3*. I am dying to work with him, but unfortunately, I have not been able to script a film where we could work together. In future, certainly yes." Kartik also announced on his Instagram earlier that Triptii Dimri will be joining the film's cast. Kartik Aaryan shared a puzzle piece photo, hinting at an actress who is all set to join the cast and asked fans to guess. Fans quickly guessed it was Triptii Dimri, who gained popularity, especially after starring alongside Ranbir Kapoor in *Sandeep Reddy Vanga's Animal*.

Kriti Kharbanda Cooks 'Halwa' In Pehli Rasoi After Wedding With Pulkit Samrat



Pulkit Samrat and Kriti Kharbanda got married on March 15 in Manesar, Haryana. The couple got married in the presence of family and close friends. On March 16, they returned to Mumbai and a grand welcome was organised. Well, today the actress shared a glimpse of her *pehle rasoi*. She cooked halwa and looks like everyone is impressed with her skills. Taking to her Instagram stories, Kriti shared photos in which we can see the actress wearing maroon colour ethnic wear. She looks very beautiful with subtle makeup and left her hair open. She is seen wearing mangalsutra and sindoor. In one of the photos, she is also seen posing with Pulkit's grandmother.

Pulkit and Kriti shared a bunch of pictures from the dreamy festivities. In the pictures, Kriti opted for beautiful in a pink lehenga, while Pulkit donned a mint green sherwani and turban adorned with intricate designs. Both were looking very beautiful. "From the deep blue sky, To the morning dew. Through the low and the high, It's only you. From the start to the end, In every now and every then, When my heart beats different, It's got to be you. Constantly, Consistently, Continually, You!" the caption read.

On March 16 evening, the newlyweds returned to Mumbai and received a grand welcome. In the video, the two are seen arriving at their house and Pulkit opened the door of the car for his lady love. In another, the two along with their families grooved on dhol beats outside the house. Kriti looked gorgeous in a red floral saree while flaunting her 'chooda' and 'sindoor'. Pulkit, on the other hand, wore an off-white kurta and dhoti. Meanwhile, Kriti and Pulkit's love story blossomed on the sets of '*Pagalpanti*', and their bond has only grown stronger since. Their on-screen collaborations include '*Veerey Ki Wedding*' and '*Taish*'.