

PUBLISHED FROM Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Chandigarh, Himachal and Jammu

The Sikh Times

National Daily

VISIT: www.thesikhtimes.in
Email: sikhtimesindia@gmail.com

Vol. 15 No. 303 RNI NO. DELENG/2008/25465 New Delhi, Saturday, 16 March 2024 sikhtimesindia@gmail.com 9654077232 12 pages ₹ 3

'If voted to power, INDIA bloc to be voice of farmers': Rahul Gandhi in Nashik

Rahul Gandhi and INDIA bloc members addresses 'Kisan Mahapanchayat' in Nashik
Issues about government's policies on export of tomatoes, grapes and onions raised
Congress MP promises to protect farmers' interests if elected to power

Nashik. Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, along with the NCP(SP) chief Sharad Pawar and Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut, on Thursday addressed the 'Kisan Mahapanchayat' in Maharashtra's Nashik on the sidelines of the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra. Known as the wine city of India, Nashik is a major producer of grapes, onions and tomatoes. During the mahapanchayat, several farmers shared their issues related to the Union government's policy on the export of tomatoes, grapes and onions. Speaking at the rally, farmers highlighted that when the produce of tomatoes was attracting good prices in the market, the Central government decided to import tomatoes from Nepal, which proved detrimental to prices in the wholesale market. Similarly, exports of onions were banned when they were fetching good prices in the market. Due to restrictions on onion exports, the Bangladesh government announced import duties on grapes, which affected the local farmers, farmers said. "The government should at once give us a 3-foot rope so that we can hang ourselves and finish the topic. The BJP government's policies are anti-farmer. The company formed to export onions is Gujarat-based. They want local exporters to go out of



business," said Narendra Kaswal, an onion-growing farmer, while speaking to India Today TV. Reassuring the farmers, Gandhi said, "The INDIA alliance government will be the voice of farmers and work to protect their interests. Mine and our (INDIA bloc) government's doors would always be open for farmers". The Lok Sabha member from Wayanad also reiterated the Congress' promise of a legal guarantee to minimum support price (MSP) as

per the Swaminathan committee report. At the rally, Pawar accused the central government of being apathetic to the plight of farmers and the agriculture sector.

"People of Nashik take an interest in agriculture. They give their blood and money to it. The situation of farmers is serious. During the Manmohan Singh government, I opposed the onion export ban. If farmers are getting some money due to export, it shouldn't be stopped," he said. Responding to the criticism over the ban on onion export, Union Minister Dr Bharati Pawar said, "There was an issue of a ban on onion export on farmers, but the government has been continuously helping farmers and engaging with them. Due to competition amongst traders, onion prices were increasing".

"Rahul Gandhi left Parliament saying that onions are getting expensive. How will he help them? What is he doing here? He insulted (Vinayak Damodar) Savarkar and opposed Ram Mandir. We have done good work amongst tribals and farmers under the leadership of PM Modi. People will give us another chance," she added while speaking to.

These Pakistanis': Arvind Kejriwal as refugees protest over his CAA comments

New Delhi. As Hindu and Sikh refugees staged a protest near Arvind Kejriwal's residence, demanding an apology from him over his statements against the implementation of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), the Delhi Chief Minister slammed the protesters calling them "Pakistanis" and questioned their "audacity".



"The audacity of these Pakistanis! First, they illegally infiltrated our country, breaking our laws. They should have been in jail. They have the audacity to protest in our country, causing unrest? After the implementation of CAA, Pakistanis and Bangladeshis will spread all over the country and harass people. BJP is causing trouble to the entire country for its own selfish interest of making them their vote bank," Kejriwal posted on X (formerly Twitter) on Friday. The Hindu and Sikh refugees living in Rohini, Adarsh Nagar, near Signature Bridge and Majnu ka Tilla took part in the protest. The protesters said Kejriwal should withdraw his statements against the CAA and refugees and

tender an apology. The Narendra Modi government is giving us citizenship while Kejriwal is asking who will give us jobs and houses. He does not understand our pain," Panjoram, one of the protesters, told PTI.

On Wednesday, Kejriwal alleged that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) wants to settle poor people hailing from minority communities in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Bangladesh in the country through

the CAA and create a vote bank for itself. He had also alleged that those coming from Pakistan and Bangladesh and settling here will be given jobs and houses and that, in turn, will affect the locals.

The Centre implemented the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, on Monday, paving the way for the grant of citizenship to undocumented non-Muslim migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan who came to India before December 31, 2014. Kejriwal in another post on X on Thursday said, "Today some Pakistanis demonstrated and created a ruckus in front of my house. The Delhi Police gave them full support." "They have so much audacity that having entered our country they are asking for a chief minister elected with a huge mandate of the people of Delhi to apologize, and the BJP is supporting them. The BJP for its hatred against me is standing with Pakistanis and betraying the country," Kejriwal said.

Mamata Banerjee Pushed From The Back Doctor Explains What He Really Meant

Kolkata. A day after stating that West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had a fall at her Kalighat residence "due to some push from behind" leading to injuries on forehead and nose, state-run SSKM Hospital director Manimoy Bandyopadhyay today clarified that all he meant was that the Chief Minister may have felt "a sensation of push". Mamata Banerjee, 69, suffered a serious injury on her forehead and nose during a fall inside her Kalighat residence in South Kolkata on Thursday evening. "This is a sensation of pushing from behind which led to the fall (of Ms Banerjee). Our job is to treat and we have done that. There was a misinterpretation of what I said last evening," Dr Bandyopadhyay said. The SSKM director on Thursday evening said that Banerjee had "a fall within the vicinity of her home due to some push from behind". Dr Bandyopadhyay's "push from behind" theory sparked large-scale confusion and speculations over the cause of the Trinamool Congress supremo's fall. She underwent three stitches on her



forehead and one on her nose and was discharged following necessary medical tests, including radio imaging of her brain and ECG, at the hospital. Mamata Banerjee, who has been advised bed rest, was reported to be clinically "stable" this morning as doctors said they were planning to carry out a few routine checks during the day, a senior official of the SSKM hospital said. "The CM's health condition is stable. She had a good sleep in the night as senior doctors kept a close watch on her throughout the period. There will be another assessment of her condition," the official told news agency PTI on Friday. Asked about the speculations over the chief minister's fall, a police officer told Press Trust of India, "As of now, there has been no complaint lodged in connection with her fall. We have increased the security around the CM's residence. Mamata Banerjee gets a "Z category" cover and has a special team of officers looking after her security and even at her residence.

What Nirmala Sitharaman said on top electoral bond donors, probe agency raids

New Delhi. As the electoral bonds data released by the Election Commission (EC) revealed that at least 15 out of the top 30 companies that donated to political parties faced action from probe agencies, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the narrative of a link between the raids and donations was based on "assumptions". Sitharaman also said that the previous system of donations to political parties was "completely imperfect". This was a reference to the electoral trusts scheme, which was introduced by the UPA government in 2013. "I think you've based yourself on huge assumptions, that the money was given after the Enforcement Directorate raid happened," Sitharaman said, commenting on a question about the data released.



Full coverage of Conclave 2024
"What if the companies gave the money, and after that, we still went and knocked at their doors through the Enforcement Directorate? That's an assumption that the ED went and knocked at their doors, they wanted to save themselves, and

therefore they came up with the funds," the Finance Minister said. "The second assumption in that itself is, are you sure they gave it to the BJP? They probably gave it to the regional parties," she further said.

WHAT SITHARAMAN SAID ON ELECTORAL

BONDS CASE

On Thursday, the Election Commission published data on electoral bonds on its website after receiving the information from the State Bank of India as per the directions of the Supreme Court. On Friday, the Supreme Court rapped the SBI for not disclosing the unique alphanumeric numbers of the electoral bonds received by political parties and sought the bank's response. Reacting to this, Sitharaman said, "The case is still in court, the verdict has come and the State Bank of India will submit what it has to." "Let us recall what my predecessor (former Finance Minister Arun Jaitley) said when he brought this electoral bonds scheme. He had said 'this is better than the previous systems as the money is going from accounts to party's account'," she said.

'In prison for a decade, is 85 years old': Court fast-tracks Asaram Bapu plea

Gujarat High Court decides to prioritise petition of godman Asaram Bapu
Hearing on Asaram Bapu's plea to suspend prison sentence from April 4
Court notes that Asaram Bapu is 85-years-old and has served 10 years in prison

New Delhi. The Gujarat High Court has decided to prioritise the petition of godman Asaram Bapu against his conviction in a rape case after noting that he was 85-years-old and had served 10 years in prison. The High Court will start hearing Asaram Bapu's plea to suspend his prison sentence from April 4, a report in Bar and Bench said.



"He has undergone 10 years in prison and is 85-years-old. We will hear the main appeal itself instead of his plea for suspension of sentence," a division bench of Justices AS Supehia and Vimal Vyas said. "Hearing of the main appeal or the plea to suspend sentence would need a similar amount of time. Thus, we will hear the main appeal from April 4," the court further said. Last year, Asaram Bapu was convicted by a trial court in Gujarat for raping a woman disciple on several occasions at his Surat ashram in 2013. He was also convicted by a POCSO court in Jodhpur and sentenced to life imprisonment for raping a teen girl in his ashram. He is serving a life sentence in Central Jail, Jodhpur.

CHARGES HIGHLY IMPROBABLE, SAYS

ASARAMBAPU IN PLEA
The FIR, which was lodged in Ahmedabad, mentioned that the woman disciple was allegedly confined by Asaram in his ashram and was raped repeatedly from 2001 to 2006. In his plea, Asaram Bapu said the allegation of "forceful sexual intercourse" was "highly improbable" as his age at that time was 64 years, while the victim was 21 years. "Therefore, the said version seems to be highly improbable as the victim could easily overthrow the applicant and run away to save herself," the plea said. The godman, in his petition challenging the conviction,

claimed that the entire case appeared to be "fake, fabricated, concocted" and the result of an after-thought by the prosecution. The plea also claimed that the case was a "well-

planned conspiracy" hatched by the prosecution witnesses who appear to be "dissatisfied and unhappy" with the working of his ashram.

In Kanniyakumari, PM Modi's swipe at INDIA alliance: 'BJP will shatter...'

New Delhi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday took a dig at the DMK and the opposition-led INDIA alliance while addressing a gathering in Kanniyakumari. He said that the BJP's performance in the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections would break the "arrogance" of the DMK-Congress's INDIA alliance. "BJP's performance in Tamil Nadu this time will shatter the arrogance of the DMK-Congress INDIA alliance," PM Modi said. PM Modi is in Tamil Nadu to hold road shows, address BJP rallies and public meetings. He would also visit Kerala and Telangana today in an effort to build a strong base in the southern

states ahead of the highly-anticipated Lok Sabha elections. In Kerala, the Prime Minister will arrive in the southern town of Pathanamthitta and address a public meeting, expected to be attended by some 1 lakh people. During the meeting, he will campaign for candidates of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance -- V Muraliedharan, Anil K Antony, Sobha Surendran, and Baiju Kalasala. Meanwhile, daughter of Congress veteran and former Kerala Chief Minister K Karunakaran Padmaja Venugopal, who joined the BJP earlier this month, will also be present at the meeting.

N Biren Singh demands release of 3 members of Manipur armed outfit

Imphal. Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh has called upon the authorities concerned to release three members of the United National Liberation Front (UNLF) unless they are found guilty of any wrongdoing. Notably, three members of the Pambei-led United National Liberation Front (UNLF) were arrested in a joint investigation led by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) from Imphal West district in Manipur on Wednesday, March 13. Addressing the media on the sidelines of a government event in Imphal East's Nongmaiching, Singh said that the arrest of the three self-styled leaders of the UNLF (P) was made without the state government's knowledge. The Chief Minister added that he has requested the Union government for the early release of the arrested UNLF-P leaders if they are not guilty of any wrongdoing.

Singh further added that he had urged the central leaders to inform the state government whenever there is any possibility of arrests of such leaders in the future.

The chief minister added that he was informed by the sources that the arrests were made in connection with a case related to West Bengal. However, the exact reason behind the arrest is yet to be known.

Notably, the UNLF-Pambei group, the oldest armed group in Manipur, signed a peace agreement in New Delhi on November 29, 2023, after significant efforts by the central and state governments respectively.

Meanwhile, 12 civil society organisations have called for a general strike from Thursday midnight until Saturday midnight as a mark of protest against the arrest of the three Pambei-led UNLF cadres, including the organisation's chief.

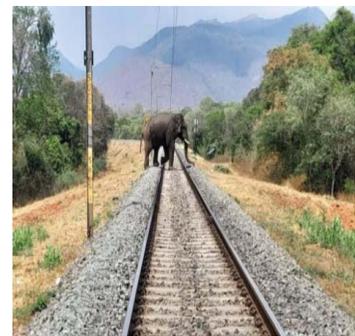
BRS Leader K Kavitha's House Raided Over Delhi Liquor Policy Case

Hyderabad. The Enforcement Directorate has raided the house of BRS Leader K Kavitha in Hyderabad in connection with the Delhi liquor policy case. The action comes after the leader skipped several summons issued by the agency. Ms Kavitha is a Member of the Legislative Council (MLC) in Telangana and is the daughter of Bharat Rashtra Samithi Chief and former chief minister K Chandrashekar Rao. While she has been questioned in the case earlier, she has skipped at least two summons this year.

Amit Arora, one of the accused in the money laundering case linked to the scrapped Delhi liquor policy, had taken Ms Kavitha's name during questioning. The agency has alleged that there was a liquor lobby called the 'South Group', which paid ₹ 100 crore in kickbacks to AAP leaders through another accused, Vijay Nair. The mastermind of the South Group, it is alleged, is a business associate of Ms Kavitha. The BRS leader is also said to be part of the group.

Narrow escape for 70-year-old woman after tusker flings her outside Kovai home

COIMBATORE. A 70-year-old woman had a lucky escape after a wild male elephant tossed her aside outside her home near Karadimadai locality in Madhampatti in Coimbatore district. The animal also attacked two others including a 14-year-old girl. The elderly woman, who has been



identified as Nagammal, has severe injuries on her head and back.

How NaMo app is helping BJP fine-tune its election strategy

Lucknow. With the high-stakes Lok Sabha elections right around the corner, the BJP is not only campaigning on the ground, but also aggressively leveraging technology and social media to reach out to voters and receive valuable feedback.

On December 19, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'Jan Man Survey' on the NaMo app with several questions on the performance of his government and local representatives. More than 2 crore active users have joined so far and have contributed feedback on several schemes and their representatives. Similar surveys were conducted for the Lok Sabha elections and for the assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal. PM Modi connects with people through this app, which currently has more than 2 crore users. The main reason behind this app's connect campaign is to engage new voters, educate them about the schemes of the Modi government, and gather feedback. Through this, not only is the work of obtaining feedback and publicity being done, but it is also directly adding new voters to the party. The questions in the survey conducted on this app range from general to specific. In

fact, based on these surveys and other feedback on the NaMo app, the BJP changed 35% of its MPs for the first time in 2019. It then fielded new candidates on 173 seats out of 268 Lok Sabha MPs. Now, in view of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, PM Modi is once again deploying this special weapon of technology for another potential landslide victory. The party is also awarding the best ambassadors on a weekly basis, recently topped by UP Deputy Chief Minister Brijesh Pathak for connecting the maximum number of users through the NaMo app.

Earlier, PM Modi had urged citizens to accept the challenge of 100 days to do effective work in the Bharat Ambassador module developed on the NaMo App. He had said that becoming the ambassador of Developed India is an ideal way to combine forces, spread the development agenda, and harness our energies to fulfill our mission of Developed India. The app has also garnered mass participation, with every user connecting hundreds of new active users.

On the other hand, in the selection of election candidates, the party decided the names based on internal surveys and feedback received from the public, in which the NaMo



app also played a significant role. The BJP top leadership is paying full attention to the feedback received from the public on the NaMo app. Party sources say that the response received on the NaMo app can also play a significant role in the ticket allotment of MPs. The BJP had sought feedback from the public about its MPs through the NaMo app. Apart from this, at least three leaders in every Lok Sabha constituency were also given the responsibility of collecting feedback. Speaking to India Today, Lucknow coordinator of the NaMo app, Anurag Srivastava, said that through this app, an exercise has been done to connect people with schemes and at the same time gather

feedback about their views on implementation and their representatives.

He said mass participation has been witnessed and it is expected to exceed 3 crore by the elections. He has connected with more than 80,000 people and secured the top position in the recent ranking of the NaMo brand ambassadors. Regarding its relevance, BJP spokesperson Rakesh Tripathi said that transparency, communication, interaction, and coordination are the key elements of the party's ideology, which are very much in practice through the NaMo app, where voters can give their feedback, which is also taken seriously by the top leadership. He added that BJP is a progressive party, and using technology for good governance is our priority. Prime Minister Modi's popularity is gaining momentum every day, where the NaMo app has played a vital role in connecting with millions of people, he said. Senior journalist and political analyst Sunita Eron said that the BJP has excelled in utilizing technology and social media since 2014, along with tightening its grip on the ground. She said that although feedback is a part of the NaMo campaign.

Telangana Police to deploy trained eagles to counter drone threats

➔ **Taking a cue from European nations such as the Netherlands and France, where eagles have been trained to intercept enemy drones, the Telangana Police have spent the past three years preparing three eagles for this purpose.**

Hyderabad. Telangana Police is set to make history by deploying trained eagles to address the escalating threat of drones during VVIP visits and public gatherings.

Taking a cue from European nations such as the Netherlands and France, where eagles have been trained to intercept enemy drones, Telangana Police has spent the past three years preparing three eagles for this purpose. In a recent demonstration witnessed by Director General of Police Ravi Gupta and senior IPS officers at the Integrated Intelligence Training Academy (IITA) in Moinsabad on the outskirts of Hyderabad, trained eagles effectively brought down drones.



This signifies the first instance of any police force in the country utilising eagles for such operations. There have been reports of the Indian Army employing trained kites to target enemy drones. The Border Security

Force (BSF) has reportedly indicated that incidents involving unmanned aerial vehicles smuggling arms, ammunition, and drugs across the India-Pakistan border have more than doubled since 2021.

India's First Underwater Metro Service Opens For Public In Kolkata

Kolkata. The newly-inaugurated India's first underwater metro line began public operations in West Bengal's capital Kolkata today with commuters seen queuing up for the first ride on the country's first-ever train ride under water. People were seen clapping and raising 'Vande Bharat' and 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' slogans as they travelled in the country's first underwater metro train, an engineering marvel. A train began its journey from the Howrah Maidan station on the East-West metro corridor of Kolkata at 7 am today. Simultaneously another train started from Esplanade station at the same time.

The Howrah Maidan-Esplanade section of the Kolkata's metropolitan transportation network is situated beneath the Hooghly River. The under-river section of the tunnel is 520 metres long. Metro Railway Kolkata posted on social media platform X, "First

commercial #Metro service entering newly inaugurated #Majerhat station of #PurpleLine this morning.. A placard held by one commuter said, "Thank you very much Modi ji for making India proud." Another passenger said, "I am so excited to travel in India's first underwater metro train. It hardly took 10 minutes to get the tickets." The tunnel of the underwater metro is decorated with blue LED lights to mark the lower part of Hooghly River. The Kolkata underwater metro is scheduled to run on weekdays every 12 to 15 minutes in this section. The last metro of the day is available at 9.45 pm in both directions. PM Narendra Modi had inaugurated metro operations in Kolkata on March 6. After the inauguration, he also took a metro ride with school students. During the journey, he engaged in conversations with them and the metro staff. In addition to the underwater metro, the Prime Minister also

inaugurated the Kavi Subhash - Hemanta Mukhopadhyay Metro section and the Taratala - Majerhat Metro section, which is part of the Joka-Esplanade line.

The latter features the Majerhat Metro Station, an architectural marvel being an elevated station spanning railway lines, platforms, and a canal, further showcasing the innovative approach towards improving urban mobility. The Prime Minister had also inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for multiple connectivity projects worth ₹ 15,400 crore. PM Modi also flagged off several other important projects across the country. These include the Pune Metro's stretch from Ruby Hall Clinic to Ramwadi, the Kochi Metro Rail Phase I Extension from SN Junction Metro station to Tripunithura Metro station, the Agra Metro's stretch from Taj East Gate to Mankameshwar, Pune Metro and Esplanade Metro-Kolkata.

Tackling waste in coastal wards a major challenge for Thiruvananthapuram corporation

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. Tackling waste in the coastal wards under the corporation area continues to remain a challenge for the city corporation. Even months after launching the Malinya Muktham Nava Keralam campaign and deploying Haritha Karma Sena for door-to-door waste collection, waste management continues to be a reeling issue in the densely populated coastal wards.

Lack of waste management infrastructure, hesitancy in paying waste handling fee and non-cooperation from the residents are some of the major issues prevailing in the 14 coastal wards coming under the Thiruvananthapuram corporation's jurisdiction. Poonthura, Vizhinjam health circles are the worst affected. The civic body has achieved around 90% waste collection coverage after the launch of the Malinya Muktham Nava Keralam campaign.

It is learnt that a large majority of the families are unable to adopt source-level waste management facilities, including kitchen bins and biogas plants, owing to space constraints. The monthly user-fee charged by the civic body for waste management is unaffordable for many families. Poonthura ward councillor Mary Jipsy said that the fee for food waste collection has been hiked and now each household has to pay ₹ 300 for handling biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste. "Haritha Karma Sena members are also struggling as timely payment of user fee is not happening; ₹ 300 is a huge sum for many families.



Thumburmuzhy aerobins are ineffective as the quantity of food waste is more. At present, the food waste is being carted away to pig farms by private service providers," she said. The wards coming under the Poonthura health circle comprising wards including Bheemappally East, Bheemappally, Puthenthoppu, Poonthura are the worst affected by the waste crisis. "People are not ready to avail of the services of Haritha Karma Sena. Its not affordable to them and the corporation council should take a call on

this and give waiver for such families from coastal wards," said a health official of Poonthura health circle.

The official said that the families are dumping or throwing waste into the sea. The health authorities have mooted the setting up of a biogas plant at Muttathara on the premises of sewage treatment plant (STP). "Lack of waste infrastructure is a major issue and the setting up of a biogas plant would help resolve the crisis. To begin with we have mooted a biogas plant that can treat 500 kg

waste and later we can scale up the capacity," said the official. A senior official of the health wing under the city corporation said that the civic body has deployed Haritha Karma Sena in all 14 coastal wards.

"The government has given waiver for disabled and elderly. The fisherman community doesn't come under this category and we have decided to give 50% discount in the user fee. A campaign is going on to educate the population in coastal wards," said the official.

Edited, Printed, Published
Owned by Simmi Babbar N - 31, Dr.
Mukherjee Nagar
Delhi-110009
Printed at Quami Patrika Printing Press, A-4/A-144, Tronica City (Loni), Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh)
Corporate Office:
5, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,
Press Area, ITO, New Delhi
Editor-in-Chief
Gurcharan Singh Babbar
Mob : 9654077232, 9971359517
Website : www.thesikhimes.in Email :
sikhimesindia@gmail.com

RNI No. DELENG/2008/25465

Legal Advisors:

Advocate Mohd. Sajid
Advocate Dr. A.P.Singh
Advocate Manish Sharma
Advocate Pooja Bhaskar Sharma

NAME CHANGE
I, Army No. 14844572Y, Rank - NK Name - Sajith S, Parmanent Residing at Sajith Bhavanam, Cherusserybhagam, Chavara, Kollam, Kerala Pin-691583 Presently Posted at 690 TPO (TKPTPR) PI C/o 56 APT, Secunderabad, Telangana Pin-500011 have changed my father's name from Sathyapalan to M Sathyapalan & DOB from 01/07/1958 to 04/06/1957. Vide Affidavit Dated 15th March 2024 before the Notary Public at Delhi in presence of Advocate Kanta Rana.

NAME CHANGE
I, Shayna w/o Ilyas mohd R/o house no 28 gali no 1, block d sangam vihar delhi-110062 have changed my name to Shayana Begam for All future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, SAMIM BEGUM Mother of JC-473108N, Rank-NB/SUB Name: ABDUL SALAM KHAN R/O H NO-615, 1ST FLOOR, BLOCK-H, JAITPUR EXTN PART-2, BADARPUR, JAITPUR, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110044, have changed my name from SAMIM BEGUM to SAMIUN BEGUM for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 15/03/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, HARENDRA SINGH S/O PAN SINGH Residing S-2 BUILDING NO BB-3 BLOCK-B VISHWAKARMA COLONY PAHLAD PUR DELHI-110044 have changed my name to HARENDER SINGH RAWAT for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE
I RANBIR SINGH S/O PURAN SINGH residing KH NO-14/9 GROUND FLOOR GALI NO-9 G-BLOCK SWAROOP NAGAR LIBASPUR DELHI-110042 have changed my name to RANVIR SINGH for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE
I, BABY GIRI Wife of No-6944679X Rank-NK Name-SATISH KUMAR R/O VILL-SHIRAMPUR, PO-BIHITA, TEH-DANAPUR, DIST-PATNA, BIHAR-801103, have changed my name from BABY GIRI to BABY DEVI for all future purposes and in my husband's service records my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/01/1986 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/01/1982 vide affidavit dated 15/03/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, PARVEEN KHAN Wife of TA-42527W Rank-LT COL Name: MOHD FAROOQ KHAN R/O 87-88, RAGHUNATHPUR, KALWAR ROAD, INFRONT OF SHAFI MANGEST SINGH PETROL PUMP JAIPUR, JHOTWARA, RAJASTHAN-302012, in my husband's service records my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 06/12/1980 instead of my correct date of birth as 15/05/1980 vide affidavit dated 15/03/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, BIR SINGH S/O BALLU RAM R/O PANCHOLA MOHALA JAUNAPUR, MAHROLI SOUTH DELHI DELHI-110047 have changed my name to BEER SINGH for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE
I NISHANT S/O JAIDEV, Residing VPO: Simli (71), Rottak - 124021 have changed my name from NISHANT to NISHANT TANWAR for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, No. 6499934W Rank NK/ASH Name AMIT KUMAR S/O JAGDISH PRASAD presently residing VILL-UTARI KOYRI TOLA HILSA, PO-HILSA, TEH-HILSA, DIST-NALANDA (BIHAR)-801302, have changed my minor son name from ARNAV RAJ to YUVRAJ SINGH for all future purpose. Vide affidavit dated 11.03.2023 public notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, No. 6499934W Rank NK/ASH Name AMIT KUMAR S/O JAGDISH PRASAD presently residing VILL-UTARI KOYRI TOLA HILSA, PO-HILSA, TEH-HILSA, DIST-NALANDA (BIHAR)-801302, have changed my minor son (ARNAV RAJ) date of birth from 05/08/2019 to 05/08/2017 that my son correct date of birth is 05/08/2017 (Fifth August Two Thousand Seventeen). Vide affidavit dated 11.03.2023 public notary Delhi

NAME CHANGE
I, REENA SINGH Wife of No-14671530M Rank-NK Name-AKHAND PRATAP SINGH R/O H NO-6, NEW RAJEEV NAGAR, NEAR REEMA SCHOOL, SEMRA KALAN, BHOPAL, MADHYA PRADESH-462010, have changed my name from REENA SINGH to REENA YADAV for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 15/03/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, SONU daughter of MANOJ SINGH S/O SH. DESHRAJ SINGH R/O VILL-ANAND KHAR, PO-BIRLA NAGAR, DIST-GWALIOR, M.P.-474004 have changed my name from SONU to ADITI for all future purposes vide Affidavit Dated 15/03/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, Sandeep S/O Jiya Lal R/o House No-198, Near Ravi Das Choupal, Village-Surjakhera, Shekhar(40), Jind, Haryana-126116, Have Changed My Name To Sandeep Saroha For All Purpose.

NAME CHANGE
I, Manohar Lal Chawla S/o- Wazir Chand Chawla R/O H no-9142, Gali no-3, Multani Dhandra, Pahar Ganj, Central Delhi -110055 have changed my name from Manohar Lal Chawla to Manohar Chawla for all future.

NAME CHANGE
I, Poonam Abrol W/o Sanjeeb Kumar R/O JG-11, 2nd floor Khirki Extension, Malviya Nagar Delhi -110017 have changed my name from Poonam Abrol to Pooja Abrol for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE
I BANWARI LAL alias BANWARI LAL BALMIKI s/o HARI CHAND r/o P-7/1, STAFF QTRS, K.V. NO. 3, C.B. NARAINA, DELHI CANTT, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110010 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as BANWARI LAL BALMIKI.

NAME CHANGE
I, NIRMALA VERMA W/O RAJESH KUMAR VERMA residing at C-2/164, YAMUNA VIHAR, DELHI-110053 have changed my name to NIRMALA VERMA for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE
I, BABY GIRI Wife of No-6944679X Rank-NK Name-SATISH KUMAR R/O VILL-SHIRAMPUR, PO-BIHITA, TEH-DANAPUR, DIST-PATNA, BIHAR-801103, have changed my name from BABY GIRI to BABY DEVI for all future purposes and in my husband's service records my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/01/1986 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/01/1982 vide affidavit dated 15/03/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, Archana W/o Rajesh R/O Wz-1151, Third floor, Backside, Nangal raya Delhi -110046 have changed my name from Archana to Archana shresth for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE
I, Sandeep S/O Jiya Lal R/o House No-198, Near Ravi Das Choupal, Village-Surjakhera, Shekhar(40), Jind, Haryana-126116, Have Changed My Name To Sandeep Saroha For All Purpose.

NAME CHANGE
I, Manohar Lal Chawla S/o- Wazir Chand Chawla R/O H no-9142, Gali no-3, Multani Dhandra, Pahar Ganj, Central Delhi -110055 have changed my name from Manohar Lal Chawla to Manohar Chawla for all future.

NAME CHANGE
I, Poonam Abrol W/o Sanjeeb Kumar R/O JG-11, 2nd floor Khirki Extension, Malviya Nagar Delhi -110017 have changed my name from Poonam Abrol to Pooja Abrol for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE
I BANWARI LAL alias BANWARI LAL BALMIKI s/o HARI CHAND r/o P-7/1, STAFF QTRS, K.V. NO. 3, C.B. NARAINA, DELHI CANTT, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110010 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as BANWARI LAL BALMIKI.

NAME CHANGE
I, NIRMALA VERMA W/O RAJESH KUMAR VERMA residing at C-2/164, YAMUNA VIHAR, DELHI-110053 have changed my name to NIRMALA VERMA for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE
I, REENA SINGH Wife of No-14671530M Rank-NK Name-AKHAND PRATAP SINGH R/O H NO-6, NEW RAJEEV NAGAR, NEAR REEMA SCHOOL, SEMRA KALAN, BHOPAL, MADHYA PRADESH-462010, have changed my name from REENA SINGH to REENA YADAV for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 15/03/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

UP Police paper leak: Pic leads STF to resort where 1k students were taken

Jurgaon. Away from the din of the city, a resort in Manesar has come under the scanner of STF sleuths probing the UP Police constable paper leak last month. Located 2.5km off NH-8 and 30km from the city, it was at Nature Valley that around 1,000 aspirants ferried from different parts of UP and Haryana were handed question papers a few days before the police test on Feb 17 and 18. A photo taken by an aspirant and circulated on social media led cops to the resort. Nature Valley is the second resort in south Haryana to be linked to probes in connection with paper leaks in the past two months. In Jan, hundreds of students who were to appear for a foreign medical graduate exam had gathered at a resort in Nuh's Tauru to collect leaked question papers. Among those arrested in connection with the UP Police paper leak, three were from Haryana — Mahendra Sharma from Jind, Monu Sharma of Jhajjar and Vikram Dahiyra from Sonipat. Vikram Pahal, a Delhi

Police constable, is believed to have orchestrated the leak. Mahendra (26) has told police he was taken to the Manesar facility by Vikram Pahal, who is from the same village in Jind as him. "Some 400 students were at the resort already 3-4 days before the exam was scheduled. Another 600 were ferried in 12 buses a little later," a police source quoted Mahendra as saying. Police sources said the aspirants were made to sit in a lawn of Nature Valley and handed out the question papers. They were also given answer keys and asked to memorise them. "Some of the aspirants clicked a few pictures and recorded videos on their phones. One of these photos helped police trace the resort," the source said. Brajesh Singh, SP of the STF's Meerut unit, said a team of cops would visit the Manesar resort soon. "This is required for the investigation. We need to scan CCTV footage and collect as much evidence as possible. The help of local police will be taken if needed.

Legal action might be initiated against the owner and staff of the resort," he added. TOI reached out to Ashish Thakur, the general manager of the resort, but he denied any knowledge about the paper leak or the gathering of students. He also claimed to have left the resort now. A couple of months ago, a resort in Tauru came under the scanner of a police team that had gone to quell a clash among students. The cops later came to know that the youths had been asked to gather at the resort by the owner of a coaching centre who had promised to hand them question papers for a foreign medical test. Police said they were trying to find a link between the two cases. But police sources said such facilities were preferred by gangs because they were away from the cities and were less likely to come under the police's radar. Availability of space for hundreds of guests is another reason why these resorts on the outskirts are preferred, they added.

BOMBAY MERCANTILE CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD. (SCHEDULED BANK)



Delhi Branch
36, NETAJI SUBHASH MARG, DARYA GANJ, NEW DELHI-110002 PH:23273786, 23266869, 47199100, FAX: 2325979

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE

The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Bombay Mercantile Co-operative Bank Ltd., Under Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 respect of immovable properties which will be sold by public auction on "AS IS WHERE IS AND WHAT IS" basis invites sealed Bids/Tenders from interested parties for purchasing the following secured assets under provisions of Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and rules made there under.

DETAILS OF PROPERTIES

Sr. No	Name of the Borrower	Secured Debt to be recovered	Description of the property	Area	Reserve Price
1.	Mr. Ashfaq Khan S/o Mr. Sharif Khan	Rs.23,78,893/- As on 30.11.2021	Property on First Floor consisting of Two Room, one Kitchen, One Toilet Bathroom, One Balcony built up on part of the property No.87, Vikram Enclave, Village Pasonda, Dist.-Ghaziabad (UP)	65 Sq. Yds.	Rs.14,00,400/-
2.	Mr. Tahir Hussain S/o Mr. Ramzani	Rs.21,81,684/- As on 30.11.2021	Property on Second Floor consisting of Two Room, one Kitchen, One Toilet Bathroom, One Balcony built up on part of the property No.87, Vikram Enclave, Village Pasonda, Dist.-Ghaziabad (UP)	65 Sq. Yds.	Rs.14,00,000/-
3.	Mr. Mohd. Ibrar S/o Mr. Mohd. Mukhtyar	Rs.18,65,239/- As on 30.11.2021	Property on Ground Floor consisting of Two Room, one Kitchen, One Toilet Bathroom, One Balcony built up on part of the property No.87, Vikram Enclave, Village Pasonda, Dist.-Ghaziabad (UP)	65 Sq. Yds.	Rs.14,00,000/-
4.	Mr. Amit Kumar Bhatt S/o Mr. Vinod Kumar Bhatt	Rs.16,41,149/- As on 23.06.2021	Property Flat No. B.S-1, Plot No. S-21, Lower ground floor, LIG, without roof right, measuring 375 Sq.ft. Consists of 1 Bedroom, 1 Drawing cum dining room, 1 Kitchen and 1 Toilet/bathroom situated in the residential colony, Shalimar Garden Ext. -1, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad-U.P.	375 Sq. fit	Rs.11,00,000/-
5.	Ms. Ayesha Parveen	Rs. 13,42,948/- as on 31.05.2021	Flat No. 303, 3 rd floor without roof right, measuring 50Sq. Yrds, consisting Two Bed Room & Let Bath out of Khasra No. 634, Village Haldoni, Tehsil Dadri, District Gautambudh Nagar, U. P. 201306	50 Sq. Yds.	Rs. 11,00,000/-
6.	M/s B.B. N Trading Co.	Rs. 25,60,045.86 as on 30.04.2023	Property built - upto ceiling level, with common entrance, common passage and common stairs from stilt floor onwards, consisting of two rooms set, on First Floor built on portion of property bearing No.662/3-B measuring area of plot 45.14 sq. Mtr. (54 Sq. Yds.) having its plinth covered area 45.14 sq. Mtr. Out of khasra No. 467/4/3 situated in the Abadi of Pandit Park, Patparganj Road in the area of Village Ghondli, Illaqa Shahdara, Delhi 110 051	45.14 Sq. Mtr.(54 Sq. Yds.)	Rs. 22,00,000/-

- The sealed Bids/ Tenders shall be accepted with EARNEST MONEY 10% of Reserve Price with application each proposed property by way of Demand Draft / Payorder in favour of the Authorised Officer, Bombay Mercantile Cooperative Bank Ltd., payable at Delhi. The bids/ tenders without Earnest Money shall not be entertained.
- The inspection of the property/plot will be made available on 22.03.2024 from 11. a.m. to 4.00 p.m.
- The submission of Bids/Tenders/Offer shall be received by Authorized Officer/Branch Manager in a sealed envelope/cover alongwith Demand Draft/Payorder for the Earnest Money favouring "Authorised Officer, Bombay Mercantile Cooperative Bank Ltd." Payable at Delhi on or before 29.03.2024 at the bank premises at 36, Netaji Subhash Marg, Daryaganj, New Delhi.
- The Tenders received from bidders will be opened at 11.00 a.m. on 30.03.2024 at the bank premises 36, Netaji Subhash Marg, Daryaganj, New Delhi 110 002. Thereafter an auction shall be held and Bidders shall be allowed to inspect their offer.
- The bidders shall have to bear Stamp Duty, Transfer Charges, Electricity dues, Water dues, Cess, Society dues, all other Government dues and taxes if any & all other incidental cost, charges including all taxes and rates and outgoings relating to the property.
- The successful bidders shall be required to pay immediately an amount equal to 25% of the bid amount (including Earnest Money Deposit already paid) of the Secured Assets in respect of immovable property he has submitted in his bid. The balance amount shall be deposited within 15 days from the date of letter of acceptance of the tender. On default in the payment of such deposit the previous deposit would stand forfeited and Authorised Officer may put up again the Secured Assets for sale/resale at his discretion.
- The Authorised Officer is not bound to accept the highest offer or any or all offer and reserve the right to accept or reject any or all the tender's without assigning any reason whatsoever thereof or postpone the date & Time of opening the tenders of sale confirmation. In case all the tenders are rejected, Authorised Officer can negotiate with any of the tenderers or other parties for sale of the secured assets in private treaty.
- The interested parties may contact for further details to the undersigned or Branch Manager at Bombay Mercantile Cooperative Bank Ltd., 36, Netaji Subhash Marg, Daryaganj, New Delhi 110 002 Telephone No. 011- 23259794 and 23242439

Date: 15.03.2024

(Sultan Farid)
AUTHORISED OFFICER

NAME CHANGE
I BANWARI LAL alias BANWARI LAL BALMIKI s/o HARI CHAND r/o P-7/1, STAFF QTRS, K.V. NO. 3, C.B. NARAINA, DELHI CANTT, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110010 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as BANWARI LAL BALMIKI.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender for the under noted work:

1	Name of Work with its location	Renovation of existing building of switching post over Delhi Division.
2	Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 1,01,48,755.73/-
3	Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 2,00,800/-
4	E-Tender Bid Online Submission Period	27.03.2024 (00.00 Hrs.) to 10.04.2024 (15.00 Hrs.)
5	E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time	10.04.2024 (15.00 hrs.)
6	Fund Allocation	20364203
7	Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

E-TENDER No.: 15A-TRD-NDLS-2023-24 Date: 14.03.2024 832/2024
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NOTICE
Public at large is hereby informed that my client M/s Technicians Softech Pvt. Ltd. is the owner of Space No. EF-02-A, 11th floor, super area measuring 770 sq. ft., in the multi storied IT Complex "WELLDONE TECH PARK", built on Plot of Land measuring 5.03 Acres, Situated at Village - Tikri, Sector-48, Tehsil Badshapur, Distt Gurugram, (Haryana) vide Sale Deed dated 20/10/2023 executed by M/s Charu Swaroop Saxena D/o late Sh. Krishna Swaroop Saxena in favour of M/s Technicians Softech Pvt. Ltd., in respect of the said property, Document No. 10128, in Book No. I, Volume No. 596/932, pages-11-15, registered on 20/10/2023. (SRO-Badshapur) and Supplementary Deed dated 19.02.2024 executed by M/s Charu Swaroop Saxena D/o late Sh. Krishna Swaroop Saxena in favour of M/s Technicians Softech Pvt. Ltd. in respect of the said property, Document No. 17128, in Book No. I, Initially, Thereafter M/s Trehan Promoters and Builders Pvt. Ltd. acting through its attorney M/s Welldone Technology Parks Development Pvt. Ltd. sold the said property to Sh. Krishna Swaroop Saxena vide Conveyance Deed dated 27/05/2011, who and his wife Smt. Pratima Chaturvedi expired leaving behind adopted daughter M/s. Charu Swaroop Saxena. Later Suit for Declaration/Decree, was passed in the Court of Anil Kumar, Civil Judge (Junior Division)/UID No. 0524 vide CIS No. CS/1426/2019, Date of Decision 27/09/2022 vide title as Charu Swaroop as Plaintiff Vs General Public as Defendant in respect of the said property and Finally Sale Deed dated 20.10.2023 and Supplementary Deed dated 19.02.2024 executed in favour of my above stated clients who intends to mortgage the said immovable property for their bonafide requirements to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited. Whosoever is having any objection to the said mortgage or anyone has claim or right or interest in the said property shall contact the undersigned with the objection within 07 days failing which it shall be presumed that there stands no objections or claims to this property.
NEW DELHI
DATE: 15/03/2024
PRAGYABHUSHAN ADVOCATE
Enrl. No. D/721/02
9968006418
Office: L-27, G.F.Kailash Colony, New Delhi-48

MORE HOLI FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2024
It is notified for the information of passengers that Railways have decided to run following additional Holi Special Trains as per details given below :-

09003/09004 Mumbai Central-Delhi Sarai Rohilla- Mumbai Central Super-Fast Holi Special Train					
Train No. 09003	STATIONS				Train No. 09004
ARR. DEP.					ARR. DEP.
- 16:00	Mumbai Central				15:25 -
14:25 -	Delhi Sarai Rohilla				- 17:25
Date of run :- 09003 Ex. Mumbai Central on 22.03.2024 & 29.03.2024 and 09004 Ex. Delhi Sarai Rohilla on 23.03.2024 & 30.03.2024. Accommodation : 1st AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General. Stoppages : Borivali, Surat, Vadodra, Ahmedabad, Abu Road, Marwar Jn., Ajmer, Phulera, Ringas, Rewari, Gurgaon & Delhi Cantt Stations.					
04731/04732 Sri Ganganagar - Agra Cantt - Sri Ganganagar Holi Special Train					
Train No. 04731	STATIONS				Train No. 04732
ARR. DEP.					ARR. DEP.
- 14:30	Sri Ganganagar				00:50 -
04:50 -	Agra Cantt.				- 07:05
Date of run :- 04731 Ex. Sri Ganganagar on 20.03.2024 & 27.03.2024 and 04732 Ex. Agra Cantt. on 21.03.2024 & 28.03.2024. Accommodation : 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC Economy, Sleeper & General. Stoppages : Abohar, Malout, Giddarbaha, Bathinda, Sirsa, Mandi Adampur, Hisar, Hansi, Bhiwani, Charkhi Dadri, Rewari, Alwar & Mathura Jn. Stations.					
09603/09604 Udaipur City - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra - Udaipur City Holi Special Train					
Train No. 09603	STATIONS				Train No. 09604
ARR. DEP.					ARR. DEP.
- 23:00	Udaipur City				15:10 -
03:20 -	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra				- 10:50
Date of run :- 09603 Ex. Udaipur City on 19.03.2024 & 26.03.2024 and 09604 Ex. Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra on 21.03.2024 & 28.03.2024. Accommodation : 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC Economy, Sleeper & General. Stoppages : Rana Pratap Nagar, Mavli Jn., Chanderniya, Bhiwara, Bijnainagar, Nasirabad, Ajmer, Kishangarh, Jaipur Jn., Dausa, Bandikui, Alwar, Riwar, Charkhi Dadri, Bhiwani, Hansi, Hisar, Ludhiana Jn., Jalandhar Cantt & Jammu Tawi Stations.					
01083/01084 Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus - Gorakhpur Jn. - Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus Holi Special Train					
Train No. 01083	STATIONS				Train No. 01084
ARR. DEP.					ARR. DEP.
- 22:35	Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus				00:40 -
04:20	Lucknow				19:45 19:55
09:30 -	Gorakhpur Jn.				- 15:30
Date of run :- 01083 Ex. Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus on 22.03.2024 and 01084 Ex. Gorakhpur Jn. on 23.03.2024. Accommodation : 3 Tier AC & Sleeper. Stoppages : Dadar, Thane, Kalyan, Igatpuri, Nashik Road, Bhusaval Jn., Khandwa, Itarsi, Bhopal Jn., Bina, Virangana Lakshmbai Jhansi, Orai, Kanpur Central, Gonda & Basti Stations.					
01083/01084 Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus - Gorakhpur Jn. - Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus Holi Special Train					
Train No. 01083	STATIONS				Train No. 01084
ARR. DEP.					ARR. DEP.
- 22:35	Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus				00:40 -
04:20	Lucknow				19:45 19:55
09:30 -	Gorakhpur Jn.				- 15:30
Date of run :- 01083 Ex. Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus on 22.03.2024 and 01084 Ex. Gorakhpur Jn. on 23.03.2024. Accommodation : 3 Tier AC & Sleeper. Stoppages : Dadar, Thane, Kalyan, Igatpuri, Nashik Road, Bhusaval Jn., Khandwa, Itarsi, Bhopal Jn., Bina, Virangana Lakshmbai Jhansi, Orai, Kanpur Central, Gonda & Basti Stations.					

For detailed information, please call RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit enquiry website: www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

854/24
RailMadad Helpline No. 139
Visit RailMadad website: www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in
Download RailMadad app.

Please join us on Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav
NORTHERN RAILWAY
Always at your service
Visit us at: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

Serving Customers with a Smile

NEWS BOX

3 charges quashed against Donald Trump in Georgia election interference case

London. A plane carrying British Defense Secretary Grant Shapps had its satellite signal jammed as it flew near Russian territory, the government said on Thursday. The government said the Royal Air Force jet carrying Shapps, officials and journalists "temporarily experienced GPS jamming when they flew close to Kaliningrad" on a flight from Poland to the UK. The Times of London, whose reporter was onboard, said that for about 30 minutes, mobile phones couldn't connect to the internet and the aircraft was forced to use alternative methods to determine its location. Shapps visited Poland on Wednesday to see UK troops participating in a large Nato exercise, Steadfast Defender.

Kaliningrad is a Russian enclave bordered by Poland and Lithuania, home to the Russian Navy's Baltic Fleet. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's spokesman, Dave Pares, said "the jamming didn't threaten the safety of the aircraft at any point". He said it was not unusual for aircraft to experience electronic jamming near Kaliningrad. Western officials say Russia has significant electronic warfare capabilities based in Kaliningrad. Since Moscow's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Russia has engaged in GPS jamming in areas from Finland to the Black Sea.

Israeli strikes kill 29 Gazans waiting for aid, say Palestinian officials

Cairo. At least 29 Palestinians were killed while awaiting aid in two separate Israeli attacks in the Gaza Strip on Thursday, Gaza's health ministry said. In the first incident, Palestinian health officials in the Hamas-ruled strip said eight people were killed in an airstrike on an aid distribution centre in Al-Nuseirat camp in the central Gaza Strip. Later, at least 21 people were killed and more than 150 wounded by Israeli gunfire at a crowd awaiting aid trucks at a northern Gaza roundabout, Gaza's health ministry said.

In a statement, Israel's military denied attacking aid centres, describing the reports as "false."

"As the IDF (Israel Defense Forces) assesses the incident with the thoroughness that it deserves, we urge the media to do the same and only rely on credible information," the statement said.

The Gaza conflict has displaced most of the enclave's 2.3 million population. Chaotic scenes and deadly incidents have taken place during aid distributions as desperately hungry people scrambled for food.

On February 29, Palestinian health authorities said Israeli forces shot dead more than 100 Palestinians as they waited for an aid delivery near Gaza City. Israel blamed the deaths on crowds that surrounded aid trucks, saying victims had been trampled or run over.

In Deir Al-Balah, also in central Gaza, an Israeli missile hit a house on Thursday, killing nine people, Palestinian medics said. Residents said Israeli aerial and ground bombardments persisted overnight across the enclave, including in Rafah in the south, where over a million displaced people are sheltering. The war was triggered by a Hamas-led attack on southern Israeli towns on October 7 that left 1,200 people killed and 253 taken hostage, according to Israeli tallies. Since then, Israel's air, sea and ground assault on Gaza has killed more than 31,000 people and wounded over 71,500, according to Gaza health authorities. Efforts to reach a ceasefire between Israel and the Islamist militant Hamas have so far failed. While Israel said it sought a deal that would secure the release of hostages in Gaza in exchange for the release of Palestinians held by Israel, Hamas insists an agreement should end the war.

Father of Michigan school shooter convicted of manslaughter

A jury in the US state of Michigan on Thursday convicted the father of a teenager who fatally shot four classmates at a high school near Detroit of manslaughter after prosecutors argued he bore responsibility because he and his wife gave their son a gun and ignored warning signs of violence. James Crumbley, 47, was found guilty in his trial, carried out a month after his wife, Jennifer Crumbley, was found guilty on manslaughter charges stemming from the shooting. James Crumbley faced four counts of involuntary manslaughter, one for each of the victims at Oxford High School in the 2021 shootings. Jurors began deliberating on Wednesday.

Both James and Jennifer Crumbley will be sentenced on April 9. Manslaughter carries a penalty of up to 15 years in prison. The couple's son, Ethan, was 15 at the time of the shooting at Oxford High School involving a semi-automatic handgun. He pleaded guilty in 2022 to four counts of first-degree murder and other charges and was sentenced to life in prison without parole in December. The US, a country with persistent gun violence, has experienced a series of school shootings over the years, often carried out by current or former students. The Crumbleys were the first parents to be charged with manslaughter in a child's school shooting.

"This is a very egregious and rare, rare set of facts," Oakland County, Michigan, prosecutor Karen McDonald told the jury during closing arguments on Wednesday. McDonald said James Crumbley repeatedly ignored warning signs that his son was deeply disturbed, did not get him the help he needed, and did not do enough to safely store the firearm in the family home. "He did nothing over and over and over again," McDonald said.

McDonald also presented the jury with texts that Ethan Crumbley had sent to a friend and journal entries he had written in the months leading up to the shooting, in which he talked about wanting medical attention and hearing voices, but he was worried his parent would be "pissed". On one occasion, according to a text message to a friend, McDonald said that Ethan had asked James Crumbley to take him to the doctor, but his dad "gave me some pills and told me to suck it up."

Defence attorney Mariell Lehman argued that James Crumbley could not have possibly foreseen that his son would carry out a mass shooting. "James had no idea that his son was having a hard time," Lehman told jurors during her closing argument, saying no evidence had been presented that James knew the contents of his son's text messages or journal. Gun safety experts have said they hope the Crumbley trials serve as a wake-up call for parents to better secure weapons in their homes.

About 75 per cent of school shooters obtained the guns used in attacks from their own homes, according to government research.

French Parliament votes to 'limit excesses' of low-cost fast fashion

Paris. The French Parliament on Thursday backed a series of measures making low-cost fast fashion, especially from Chinese mass producers, less attractive to buyers. The vote makes France the first country in the world "legislating to limit the excesses of ultra-fast fashion", said Christophe Bechu, minister for ecological transition. Key measures include a ban on advertising for the cheapest textiles, and an environmental charge slapped on low-cost items. The French clothes market has been flooded with cheap imported clothes, while several homegrown brands have declared bankruptcy. But the main arguments put forward by Horizons -- the party allied to President Emmanuel Macron submitting the draft law -- were environmental.

"Textile is the most polluting industry," said Horizons deputy Anne-Cecile Violland, saying the sector accounted for 10 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions and was a major polluter of water. She singled out Chinese company Shein and its "7,200 new clothing items per day" as a prime example of intensive fashion production.



France will apply criteria such as volumes of clothes produced and turnover speed of new collections in determining what constitutes fast fashion, according to the law. Once the law comes into force -- which still requires a vote in the Senate --

precise criteria will be published in a decree. Fast fashion producers will be forced to inform consumers about the environmental impact of their output. A surcharge linked to fast fashion's ecological footprint of five euros (USD

5.45) per item is planned from next year, rising to 10 euros by 2030. The charge cannot, however, exceed 50 percent of an item's price tag. Violland said the proceeds from the charge would be used to subsidise producers of sustainable clothes, allowing them to compete more easily. A measure to limit advertising for fast fashion was also approved, although conservative lawmaker Antoine Vermorel-Marques remarked that "a ban on advertising for textiles, especially fashion, spells the end of fashion". An initiative brought by left-wing and Green party deputies to include minimum penalties for producers breaking the rules as well as import quotas and stricter workplace criteria in the industry into the new law was struck down. High-end fashion is a cornerstone of the French economy thanks to leading global luxury brands like Louis Vuitton, Chanel, Hermes, Dior and Cartier. But the French lower-end fashion segment has lost ground to European rivals Zara, H&M and, more recently, to Chinese behemoths Shein and Temu.

Europe must be ready for war if it wants peace: France's Macron

Paris. French President Emmanuel Macron called President Vladimir Putin's Russia an adversary that would not stop in Ukraine if it defeated Kyiv's troops in the two-year-old conflict, urging Europeans to not be "weak" and to get ready to respond.

Macron caused controversy last month after he said he could not rule out the deployment of ground troops in Ukraine in the future, with many leaders distancing themselves from that, while others, especially in Eastern Europe, expressed support.

"If Russia wins this war, Europe's credibility will be reduced to zero," Macron said in a television interview mostly directed at a domestic audience, after French opposition leaders criticised his comments as bellicose. Macron said he "deeply" disagrees with the opposition leaders. "Today, deciding to abstain or vote against support to Ukraine, it's not choosing peace, it's choosing defeat. It's different," he said. Macron's main opposition party, the far-right of Marine Le Pen, abstained in parliament on a vote earlier this week about a security pact France signed with Ukraine, while the hard-left



France Unbowed party voted against it. "If war spread in Europe, Russia would be to blame," Macron added. "But if we decided to be weak; if we decided today that we would not respond, it would be choosing defeat already. And I don't want that." He said it was important for Europe not to draw red lines, which would signal weakness to the Kremlin and encourage it to push on with its invasion of Ukraine. He refused to give details on what a deployment to Ukraine might look like.

"I don't want to do so. I want Russia to stop this war and retreat from its positions and allow peace," he said. "I'm not going to give visibility to someone who is not giving me any. This is a question for President Putin."

"I have reasons not to be precise," he said. Macron said France would never initiate an offensive against Russia, and that Paris was not at war with Moscow, despite the fact that Russia had launched aggressive attacks against French interests in and outside France. "The Kremlin regime is an adversary," he said, declining to call Russia an enemy. He also said Putin making threats about nuclear strikes was "not appropriate". Macron said Ukraine was in a "difficult" situation on the ground and that stronger support from allies was necessary. "Peace does not mean the capitulation of Ukraine," he said. "Wanting peace does not mean defeat. Wanting peace does not mean dropping Ukraine," he said. He also said he hoped that the time would come one day to negotiate peace with a Russian president "whoever it might be", for the first time envisaging the possibility of Putin no longer being in charge in Russia. Macron also said he had not cancelled a planned visit to Ukraine for security reasons. "That's what Russia said. You shouldn't believe them," he said.

Judge rejects bid by Donald Trump to dismiss classified documents case

World. A federal judge on Thursday rejected a bid by Donald Trump to throw out his classified documents criminal case, and appeared skeptical during hours of arguments of a separate effort to scuttle the prosecution ahead of trial. US District Judge Aileen Cannon issued a two-page order saying that though the Trump team had raised "various arguments warranting serious consideration," a dismissal of charges was not merited. The case involves boxes of records, some highly classified, that Trump took to his Mar-a-Lago estate when he left the White House. Cannon, who was appointed to the bench by the former president, had made clear during more than three-and-a-half hours of arguments that she was reluctant to dismiss one of the four criminal cases against the 2024 presumptive Republican presidential

nominee. She said at one point that a dismissal of the indictment would be "difficult to see" and that it would be "quite an extraordinary" step to strike down an Espionage Act statute that underpins the bulk of the felony counts against Trump but that his lawyers contend is unconstitutional. The ruling from Cannon is a modest win for special counsel Jack Smith's team, which in addition to the classified documents case, is pursuing a separate prosecution of Trump on charges that he plotted to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election. But it left unanswered questions over when the case might proceed to trial and only covered one of the two motions argued in court on Thursday. A separate motion about whether Trump was permitted under the Presidential Records Act to retain

the documents after he left the White House remains pending, but the judge also seemed disinclined to throw out the case on those grounds. "It's difficult to see how this gets you to the dismissal of an indictment," she told a Trump lawyer. Trump attended Thursday's arguments, listening intently with his hands sometimes clasped in front of him on the defense table as his attorneys pressed Cannon to throw out the case. The hearing was the second this month in the case in Florida, which has unfolded slowly in the courts since prosecutors first brought charges last June. Cannon heard arguments on March 1 on when to schedule a new trial date -- it was initially set for May 20 -- but has yet to announce one and gave no indication on Thursday of when she might do so. Prosecutors have pressed.

'Concerned' US 'closely monitoring' CAA implementation in India

World. In a statement released on Thursday, the United States expressed its concerns regarding the notification of the Citizenship Amendment Act in India and stated that it is closely monitoring the implementation of the contentious law.

"We are concerned about the notification of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act on March 11," said State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller during his daily briefing with reporters. "We are closely monitoring how this act will be implemented. Respect for religious freedom and equal treatment under the law for all communities are fundamental democratic principles," Miller added. The Biden administration's statement came against the backdrop of Hindu American groups welcoming the rollout of CAA.

The Centre implemented the Citizenship Amendment Act on Monday, March 11, paving the way for the grant of citizenship to



undocumented non-Muslim migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan who arrived in India before December 31, 2014.

Amid protests by opposition parties, the government issued a press statement stating that Indian Muslims need not worry as the CAA will not affect their citizenship status and assured that it has no bearing on the community, which enjoys equal rights as their Hindu counterparts.

The BJP-led central government has consistently maintained that the CAA is primarily aimed at granting citizenship and reassured that no citizen of the country will lose their citizenship as a result of this legislation. Pakistan also voiced its objection to the enactment of CAA, calling the law "discriminatory in nature" and claiming that it differentiated between people based on their faith. Pakistan's Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said, "Evidently, the legislation and relevant rules are discriminatory in nature as they differentiate amongst people on the basis of their faith." "These regulations and laws are premised on a false assumption that minorities are being persecuted in Muslim countries of the region and the facade of India being a safe haven for minorities," she alleged.

Mohammad Mustafa, Palestinian President's longtime adviser, appointed PM

Palestinian. President Mahmoud Abbas has appointed his longtime economic adviser to be the next prime minister in the face of US pressure to reform the Palestinian Authority as part of Washington's postwar vision for Gaza. Mohammad Mustafa, a US-educated economist and a political independent, will head a technocratic government in the Israeli-occupied West Bank that could potentially administer Gaza ahead of eventual statehood. But those plans face major obstacles, including strong opposition from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and the Israel-Hamas war that is still grinding on with no end in sight. It's unclear whether the appointment of a new Cabinet led by a close Abbas ally would be sufficient to meet US demands for reform, as the 88-year-old president would remain in overall control. "The change that the United States of America and the countries of the region want is not necessarily the change that the Palestinian citizen wants," said Hani al-Masri, a Palestinian political analyst.

"People want a real change in politics, not a change in names... They want elections." He said Mustafa is "a respected and educated man" but will struggle to meet public demands to improve conditions in the occupied West Bank, where Israeli restrictions imposed since the start of the war have caused an economic crisis. In a statement announcing the appointment, Abbas asked Mustafa to put together plans to re-unify administration in the West Bank and Gaza, lead reforms in the government, security services and economy and fight corruption. Mustafa was born in the West Bank town of Tulkarem in 1954 and earned a doctorate in business administration and economics from George Washington University. He has held senior positions at the World Bank and previously served as deputy prime minister and economy minister. He is currently the chairman of the Palestine Investment Fund. The previous prime minister, Mohammad Shtayyeh, resigned along with his government last month, saying different arrangements were



needed because of the "new reality in the Gaza Strip." The Palestinian Authority was established in the 1990s through interim peace agreements and was envisioned as a stepping-stone to eventual statehood. But the peace talks repeatedly collapsed, most recently with Netanyahu's return to power in 2009. Hamas seized power in Gaza from forces loyal to Abbas in 2007, confining his limited authority to major population centers that account for around 40% of the Israeli-occupied West Bank. Abbas is deeply unpopular among Palestinians, many of whom view the PA as little more than a subcontractor of the occupation because it cooperates with Israel on

security matters. His mandate ended in 2009, but he has refused to hold elections, blaming Israeli restrictions. Hamas won a landslide victory in the last parliamentary elections, in 2006. Although it is considered a terrorist group by Israel and Western countries, Hamas would likely perform well in any free and fair vote. Abbas, unlike his Hamas rivals, recognises Israel, has renounced armed struggle and is committed to a negotiated solution that would create an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel. That goal is shared by the international community. Israel has long criticized the PA over payments it makes to the families of Palestinians who have been killed or imprisoned by Israel, including top militants who killed Israelis. The PA defends such payments as a form of social welfare for families harmed by the decades-old conflict. The dispute has led Israel to suspend some of the taxes and customs duties it collects on behalf of the PA, contributing to years of budget shortfalls. The PA pays the salaries of tens of thousands of teachers.

10-year-old boy sexually assaulted and murdered by minor in Tamil Nadu

Dharmapuri. A 10-year-old boy was allegedly sexually assaulted and murdered by a 17-year-old boy studying in 12th standard in Tamil Nadu's Dharmapuri district. The boy studying in the 5th standard from the district went missing on Wednesday afternoon. Worried over their son's disappearance, the parents began to search and learned, with the help of villagers, that the boy had gone along with a 17-year-old. The parents then filed a missing person report with the police. From the CCTV footage acquired, the police could conclude that the victim along with the 17-year-old boy went into the field, but the latter returned alone. Based on the evidence, the police detained the suspect in the murder of the 10-year-old. Upon questioning, he said



that he pushed the child into a well. A fire and rescue team reached the spot and after searching for the whole night, the child's body was recovered. The body was then sent to a government hospital for autopsy. The accused had also allegedly confessed to having sexually assaulted the boy and fearing that he might tell others had pushed him into the well and killed him. Stating that the accused had taken the child promising him to give him mangoes, the victim's uncle said, "We are extremely depressed. He was a 10-year-old innocent child. I request the Chief Minister to give maximum punishment to make sure no one else do such mistakes.

Amid Water Crisis, Bengaluru Residents Switch To WFH, Use Toilets In Malls

← Bengaluru water shortage: People across various neighbourhoods have been forced to order food from restaurants and take bath on alternate days due to the water scarcity.

Bengaluru. Work from home to using toilets in malls, residents of India's 'Silicon Valley' Bengaluru are exploring all options to combat the unprecedented water crisis. People across various neighbourhoods have been forced to order food from restaurants and take bath on alternate days due to the water scarcity.

Even those in high-rise apartments equipped with water harvesting systems now find themselves reliant on water tankers for basic needs, leading to stringent usage restrictions. Eateries are mulling over use of disposable cups, glasses and plates to avoid excess use of water.

Latest and Breaking News on NDTV



Educational institutions are also feeling the pinch. Recently, a coaching centre in the city asked its students to attend classes online due to an 'emergency' for a week. Similarly, a school on Bannerghatta Road was also closed, asking students to attend classes online just like they did during the Covid pandemic. Residents have come with new methods to try and conserve water. With temperature rising, it is difficult to avoid a daily shower but they are left with no option but to take bath on alternative days, said

Sujatha, a resident of KR Puram.

"What to do? Clean vessels, cook food, wash clothes...so, we have started using paper plates, that way we have cut down on our water usage. And we order food twice a week. We are using the washing machine only once in a week now," she said.

Some others have resorted to visiting a mall to take a shower or use the toilet facilities.

Latest and Breaking News on

Lakshmi V, an IT professional living in

Singasandra, has been requesting her firm to allow WFH option so that she and her family can temporarily shift to her native place in Tiruchirappalli in Tamil Nadu until the situation becomes better.

"If the situation persists, we are thinking of seeking a work from home option. We are planning to move to our native place in Tamil Nadu temporarily till rain arrives here," she said. Bengaluru primarily gets its water supply from two sources - Cauvery river and groundwater. For most non-drinking uses, recycled water processed by sewage treatment plants is used. With no rain for a while now, the primary sources have been stretched to their limits. Bengaluru needs 2,600-2,800 million litres of water daily, and the current supply is half of what's required. The result is a daily struggle for the city's residents.

Latest and Breaking News on NDTV

The brunt is also being borne by people living in the outskirts of Bengaluru, especially in 110 villages that were merged with the city in 2007. The crisis has also turned into a political battle between the state's ruling Congress government and the opposition BJP with Lok Sabha just weeks away. While the BJP has held several protests blaming the government, the Congress has accused the BJP-ruled federal government of not providing financial assistance to drought-hit Karnataka.

Pawan Kalyan justifies 'sacrifice' in seat-sharing formula with TDP, BJP

← Jana Sena chief and actor Pawan Kalyan, speaking exclusively to India Today, said his party made sacrifices for the greater good of Andhra Pradesh while achieving the seat-sharing formula with the TDP and the BJP.



Mangalagiri. Jana Sena Party (JSP) chief and actor Pawan Kalyan, in an exclusive interview with India Today TV, said that the alliance between the JSP, TDP and BJP is for the "greater good" and he had to "sacrifice" seats for it. The seat-sharing among the Telugu Desam Party, the BJP and the Jana Sena is final. While the TDP will contest on 17 of the 25 Lok Sabha seats in Andhra Pradesh, the BJP will contest on six seats and the Jana Sena on two seats. This means Jana Sena's original figure of three has been reduced by one. Likewise, in the assembly elections, in order to accommodate the BJP's wish to contest in 10 constituencies, Jana Sena's original number of 24 has been reduced to 21. The Telugu Desam will contest 144 of the 175 seats. In his interview, Kalyan said that he knows what it means

to lose seats being a "middleman". "I was able to give few candidates seats, and in this alliance (TDP-JSP-BJP), in the talks, we had to sacrifice a few seats. In that, it was our candidates, we lost/had to sacrifice. I very well understand what it means to lose being the middleman [sic]," he said. "When we go with a big heart, we so happen to become the ones who have to make cuts. But it is good because I went with good intentions and was able to make cuts, for the five crore people, sacrificing five or ten of our people was good, I feel," Kalyan added. The actor-politician also used a saying from the ancient Indian text Vidura Neeti to explain his party's "sacrifice" in forging the alliance in Andhra Pradesh. Speaking to India Today TV, Kalyan highlighted that he was "forced to even sacrifice" the Lok Sabha seat of his brother Naga Babu. In 2019, he contested from Narasapuram seat but lost to YSRCP's candidate. "In Vidura Neeti, there is a saying which goes like this: 'for a family, a man, for a village a family and for a kingdom (rajyam) a village sacrifice' in a similar manner, for the people of Andhra Pradesh, for the welfare of the state, we had to make a few sacrifices. We were forced to even sacrifice the parliament seat of my own brother, Naga Babu. [sic]," Kalyan said.

"He (Naga Babu) is someone who taught me history lessons, who plays a huge role in my life, and still despite giving him my word on a ticket, in this alliance, the only solution for me was to sacrifice it," he added. Kalyan further said that even after losing the Lok Sabha seat, his brother vowed to work for the party and stands by him. "In all that, today my brother sent me a letter saying, he'll stand by us no matter what and help in whichever way possible to help ensure we win across the 21 seats. And help win in all places wherever our alliance partners stand. I want to wholeheartedly thank my brother for his statement and belief," he said.

SARPA brings down snakebite fatalities in Kerala

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. As summer peaks, the state is facing an increased threat of snakebites. Experts advise caution as snakes turn more aggressive during summer which is their mating season. During 2018-19, a record number of 123 snakebite deaths had happened in the state followed by 71 deaths in 2019-20. Thanks to SARPA (Snake Awareness, Rescue and Protection app) mobile application launched by the state forest department in 2020, the number of casualties due to snakebites has come down.

Annually, 12,000-15,000 calls are received by a trained group of 700 active volunteers from across the state which advises on giving immediate first-aid to the victim and also guides them to the nearest hospital where antivenoms are available. It has been found that the villain behind the maximum snakebite deaths reported from the state is Cobra. During 2020-21 the casualties had come down to a further 52. Statistics reveal that an average of 1,250 calls are received by SARPA volunteers every month. During the 2023-24 fiscal,

34 deaths have been reported due to snakebites so far. The SARPA's 2,400 certified volunteers which include 700 active volunteers get the maximum calls from Palakkad, Thrissur, Kannur and Ernakulam districts. Y Mohammed Anwar, assistant conservator of forests and state nodal officer for snake rescue who also heads the Special Investigation Team in Kollam told TNIE, "Palakkad experiences humid conditions more compared to other districts which triggers the snakes to come out of their pits. Krait is a typical nocturnal snake which has been widely found in Palakkad. Deaths due to Krait bites have also been reported. But the maximum deaths due to snakebites is caused by Cobra," said Mohammed Anwar. Herpetologist Sandeep Das who is also one of the adepts of the popular FB group told TNIE, "Currently, we are undertaking a scientific study to evaluate the reasons behind the number of snakebite deaths coming down. I feel that there are multiple reasons for it. Apart from the SARPA app, medical facilities have been improved in hospitals.

RSS Changes Content, Curriculum And Format Of Training. Details Here

← Mr Vaidya said that youth in large numbers are attending the Sangh training programmes. Every year, 15,000 to 17,000 young individuals participate in the 'Pratham Shiksha Varg' (Pratham Varsh class) and about 1 lakh in the 'Prathamik Shiksha Varg', he said.

Nagpur: The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh has brought about changes in the content and nomenclature of its yearly training programmes and the revisions will be implemented from this year itself, RSS joint general secretary Manmohan Vaidya said today. He was addressing a press conference during the Sangh's annual 'Akhil Bharatiya Pratidinhi Sabha' conclave, starting in Nagpur today. Mr Vaidya said slight changes have been introduced in their 7-day 'Prathamik Shiksha Varg', 20-day 'Sangh Shiksha Varg-Pratham Varsh', 20-day 'Sangh Shiksha Varg-Dvitya Varsh' and 25-day 'Sangh Shiksha Varg-Tritiya Varsh' training programmes. According to Mr Vaidya, they now have a 3-day 'Prarambhik Varg' programme for new Sangh workers.

The new recruits will then take part in the 'Prathamik Shiksha Varg' followed by a 15-day 'Sangh Shiksha Varg', which was earlier called 'Sangh Shiksha Varg-Pratham Varsh' and had a duration of 20 days. Mr Vaidya said that



youth in large numbers are attending the Sangh training programmes. Every year, 15,000 to 17,000 young individuals participate in the 'Pratham Shiksha Varg'

(Pratham Varsh class) and about 1 lakh in the 'Prathamik Shiksha Varg', he said.

"Henceforth, the 'Sangh Shiksha Varg' (Pratham Varsh) will be for 15 days," Mr Vaidya said. The earlier training classes of 'Dvitya Varsha' and 'Tritiya Varsh' will now be called 'Karyakarta Vikas Varg-1' and 'Karyakarta Vikas Varg-2', respectively, said the RSS leader. Mr Vaidya said that the content of 'Tritiya Varsh' class has been tweaked a bit to provide behavioural training to the trainees by taking them to the field for 5 days. "This new syllabus and nomenclature will be implemented from this year," he said.

Asked if there will be discussions on the upcoming Lok Sabha elections during the RSS conclave, Mr Vaidya said Sangh always pitches for maximum voting, and RSS workers also create awareness among citizens about exercising their voting rights.

Why Voting Was Held In Kerala For Russian Presidential Elections

Thiruvananthapuram. Russian citizens residing in Kerala cast their votes for the Russian presidential elections at the booth specifically arranged at the Honorary Consulate of the Russian Federation, Russian House, in Thiruvananthapuram. Raathesh Nair, Honorary Consul of Russia and Director of the Russian House in Thiruvananthapuram, said, that they arranged polling for the Russian presidential elections for the third time. He expressed gratitude to Russian citizens in Kerala for their cooperation in the polling process. In an interview with ANI, Raathesh Nair said, "This is the third time the Consulate of Russian Federation is hosting polling for the Russian presidential elections. This is actually for Russian nationalists staying here and also for the tourists. We are happy to associate with the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation. I am very grateful

to the Russian citizens in Kerala for their cooperation and enthusiasm to cast votes in the process of electing their new president." Sergey Azurov, Senior Consul General in Chennai, said, "We are organizing preliminary voting in the framework of presidential elections. We are here to provide an opportunity for the citizens of Russian federations living in India." Ulia, a Russian citizen, said fellow natives in Kerala are thankful to the Russian house and consulate general in India for providing them the opportunity to cast votes in the Presidential polls.

Speaking to ANI, Ulia said, "Everyone who came today is Russian citizens either residing permanently in India or are visiting tourists. Everybody is thankful and happy to come here and participate in the election, which is very important for every citizen. This is our responsibility. So, we are thankful to the Russian house

and the consulate general in India from Chennai for providing this chance."

Russia is all set to hold presidential elections from March 15-17. Russian citizens will vote from Friday until Sunday across the 11 time zones of the country. Russia's Central Election Commission (CEC) approved only three candidates to oppose Russian President Vladimir Putin, CNN reported. The three candidates standing against Putin are Leonid Slutsky of the Liberal Democratic Party, Vladislav Davankov of the New People Party and Nikolay Kharitonov of the Communist Party. All three men are thought to be satisfactorily pro-Kremlin and none is against Russia's military action against Ukraine. As the majority of opposition candidates are either dead, jailed, exiled, barred from running or simply token figures, a victory for Putin is all but guaranteed, according to a CNN report.

University seeks students' voter ID, drops move after flak

CHENNAI. The Tamil Nadu Teachers' Education University (TNTEU) on Thursday courted controversy by issuing a circular, asking principals of its affiliated colleges to collect details of voter ID numbers of their students. However, the circular was swiftly withdrawn. The circular issued by the registrar (in-charge) said that "oral instructions have been received from the office of the honourable governor, Raj Bhavan, to collect details of voter ID numbers of the students" admitted in the colleges of education affiliated to the university.

It asked all the principals of its affiliated colleges to treat the matter as "most urgent" and asked them to submit the details in a spreadsheet on or before March 19 "for onward transmission to the governor's secretariat". The proforma included the name of the college, the name of the student, their registration number, the programme to which the student is admitted and his/her voter ID. It may be recalled that Governor RN Ravi had a meeting with vice-chancellors

and administrators of all state universities on March 11, and discussed with them about ensuring cent per cent voting of first time voters.



He had directed the V-Cs to sensitise first time voters. To encourage the V-Cs, the governor had said in the meeting that colleges and university departments with 100% voting and universities that record highest percentage of voting will be felicitated.

India needs more pacts to boost exports

INDIA'S share of global trade is currently only about two per cent in contrast to 14 per cent for our northern neighbour, China. The country has so far not been able to become a major trading nation in the merchandise segment, though services exports in contrast are growing at a swift pace. The situation is not helped by the fact that we are not part of any major regional trade grouping. The decision to stay away from the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership stemmed from a fear of being overrun by imports from China. But it has not been possible to make up this lacuna by merging into any of the overarching larger groups like the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

It is in this backdrop that one must view the drive to tie up more regional and bilateral trade pacts. After concluding major agreements with leading trade partners like the UAE, Australia and Mauritius, a deal has now been struck with the four-member European Free Trade Association (EFTA). Others are being negotiated, including one with the country's biggest trade partner, the European Union (EU), the UK and Oman. There are also reports of discussions with the Gulf Cooperation Council comprising seven countries in the region. The fact that such talks are now proceeding apace indicates the country's increasing clout on the world stage as its concerns over protecting domestic interests are being given more thoughtful consideration by trading partners. The previous intractable approach in negotiations taken by the country's trade diplomats also seems to have been replaced by an appreciation of the larger picture. The fact is that allowing foreign business to have easier access to the domestic market will similarly ensure deeper access for Indian agriculture and industry to the lucrative developed economy markets. It has also been accepted that issues like sustainability, which were earlier dismissed as non-trade barriers, should be brought on board.

It is clearly the difference in approach on both sides that is leading to a much quicker conclusion of such pacts. In the case of the India-EFTA agreement, talks had originally been launched as far back as 2008, but they were called off in 2013. It took another decade for them to resume in 2023. The pact has now become a reality within a year. Similarly, negotiations with the country's largest trading partner, the EU, began in 2007 but were suspended in 2013. These were revived in 2022. With elections round the corner, it looks as if agreements with both the EU and the UK will have to await the formation of a new government. The tie-up with the EFTA, however, has been made in time to ensure that the benefits are available by next year. This particular one did not initially attract much attention, given the few countries in the grouping. This is unlike the one with the EU, which has been under much greater scrutiny. The EFTA, on the other hand, comprises only Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and the tiny principality of Liechtenstein, with two-way trade estimated at \$18 billion. The biggest trade partner of India in the group is Switzerland and the bulk of transactions with it comprise gold imports.

Yet, it must not be forgotten that this relatively small country is a major global financial and business hub. Apart from its legendary banking system, it is known for its pharmaceuticals and dairy production. It is also, in a sense, a window to Europe. Thus, the opening up of as many as 120 out of the 156 services in the pact will give a boost to Indian professionals in the IT and financial sectors. Significantly, services exports to EFTA countries are about \$5 billion annually, as compared to \$2 billion of merchandise exports. In contrast, India is not likely to benefit much from the pact in terms of tariffs as Switzerland has just announced the abolition of import duties on industrial goods from all over the world. Effectively, this means that India will have no advantage over other countries in terms of tariffs on its exports. Even so, the trade pact has become path-breaking for including investment commitments. EFTA members have pledged to provide \$100 billion of investment over the next 15 years to India.

A strategic handshake with Dragon would be in mutual interest

To pay back China in the same coin and create a pressure point for hard bargaining, India needs to play up the Taiwan issue, creating ambiguity about its status.

THE stated government policy regarding the bilateral engagement with China is predicated on restoring peace and tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control (LAC); this includes de-escalation and disengagement in east Ladakh. Overemphasis on this aspect can well be interpreted as a strident stance reflective of a strong political will, but not pragmatism. China is not only our biggest neighbour but also a major international power with whom it would be prudent to remain engaged on a variety of issues of mutual interest and at various forums.

Despite the tensions on the borders, India and China continue to be important members of international groupings like the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and BRICS. In fact, the latter is expanding in a big way, with several nations around the globe seeking its membership. India and China have been on the same page at various fora, like the IMF and the WTO, and have expressed their solidarity against the position adopted by developed countries. Both nations also share a long history of cooperation and coordination on environmental issues at global platforms. Despite China's deep concerns about the Quad grouping, it would understand that India is strategically autonomous. The economic engagement in terms of India-China trade ties has been on the rise and it has been one of our largest sources of imports for the past 15 years despite efforts to reduce this dependency through import substitution and free trade agreements with ASEAN countries. This has resulted in an increasing trade deficit, skewed in favour of China. However, despite these commonalities, the tense and inimical situation on the LAC is likely to continue, with the possibility of unpleasant face-offs between the Indian Army and the PLA. The military commander-level talks in east Ladakh have meandered on and become an exercise in filibustering by the Chinese. The Indian Army has responded strongly and built up its capabilities with enhanced deployment of troops and equipment. In short, for us, it's a policy of containment on the northern borders and calibrated engagement on other issues. In this kind of setting, India has to keep its leverages well-honed. Surprisingly, we have not optimised these aspects in the past and followed a path of appeasement against a wily and shrewd adversary like China.

First and foremost is the Tibet issue, which seems to have increasingly lost salience internationally. The fact that the spiritual and political head of Tibet was given sanctuary in India was seen as a hostile act by the Chinese. That the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA), also labelled as the Tibetan Government-in-Exile, was allowed to be set up in Dharamsala has always irked the Chinese Communist Party. In 1959, it was a bold move, but over the years, the Chinese hysteria about Tibet and 'splittist' Tibetans has seen India go overboard in trying to downplay this card. This attitude towards a



country that makes no attempt to hide its views about J&K, disregarding Indian sensitivities, is puzzling. China has no compunction in obstructing Indian efforts at the UNO to include Pakistani perpetrators of terrorism on the list of designated terrorists. That a permanent member of the Security Council behaves in such an egregious fashion only shows that it places the narrow interests of its close ally — Pakistan — over international obligations.

The CTA now increasingly controls political aspects, with the Dalai Lama stepping into the shadows, though it is his charisma that continues to be the principal asset of the Tibetan cause. The future of the institution of the Dalai Lama is somewhat uncertain, with the present incumbent, who is getting on in years, having even mentioned that it may cease after his demise. The Chinese as well as the Indian government may have their own game plans, but the CTA is here to stay and needs to be played up in a manner which becomes a leveraging point for India. Taiwan is the most sensitive issue for China, with the US playing hot and cold in the game of power politics in the South China Sea. India, while recognising the one-China principle, has semi-formal contacts and relations with Taipei. The India-Taipei Association in Taiwan and Taipei Economic and Cultural Centre in India are quasi-missions that recognise the extensive trade relations between India and Taiwan. Visits by retired chiefs of the armed forces, politicians and artistes recognise the fact that Taiwan cannot be wished away. Interestingly, PM Narendra

Modi had visited Taiwan in 1999, when he was a BJP functionary. A bilateral investment agreement with Taiwan has been in force since 2005 and was revised in 2018, reflecting a robust and growing economic relationship with potential.

This needs to continue and gather more substance. Communist China has blatantly disregarded Indian sensitivities about Kashmir's territorial inviolability as an integral part of this country by building the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, which runs through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. To pay back in the same coin and create a pressure point for hard bargaining, India needs to play up the Taiwan issue, creating ambiguity about its status.

Beyond all this, India needs to look at a lasting solution to the vexed LAC issue, with its multiple disputed and sensitive points, which are on the rise. China's leadership is a master of procrastination on troublesome issues, as per its political calculus. However, that should not deter our leadership from endeavouring to resolve a macro problem which impacts both security and economy. While the next government in India is expected to prioritise development and economic progress, it would possibly have the best opportunity for resolving the border issue with China in a comprehensive manner. This would entail some give and take, for which the political narrative would have to be built, seeking a satisfactory solution. A strategic handshake with the Dragon across the Himalayas would surely be in mutual interest.

Biden vs Trump

Bitter election rematch on the cards

THE stage is set for an election rematch between US President Joe Biden (81) and his predecessor Donald Trump (77) in November after they secured their parties' presidential nominations with thumping victories in key primaries this week. Biden will formally be declared the party's candidate during the Democratic National Convention in Chicago in August, while Trump will be officially nominated at the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee in July. This will be the first presidential rematch since 1956, when Republican Dwight D Eisenhower had defeated his Democratic rival Adlai Stevenson for the second time in four years. Both Biden and Trump are likely to give no quarter to each other on the campaign trail. The incumbent President has warned that the threat Trump poses is greater than ever. Appealing to voters to make a choice for the sake of the country's future, he has asked them: 'Are we going to



stand up and defend our democracy or let others tear it down?' Pulling no punches, Trump has dubbed Biden the worst President in US history. What makes the 2024 contest starkly different from the one fought in 2020 is that

Trump is facing over 90 felony charges. Later this month, he will become the first former American president to go on trial in a criminal case; he is accused of falsifying business records to hide hush money payments to a porn star. It's obvious that Trump's legal battles will run parallel to his electoral campaign, and he will leave no stone unturned to play the victim card to consolidate his vote bank. It's hard to say whether Americans will be voting for the better candidate or the lesser evil. A new opinion poll sums up the state of affairs: about 36 per cent of the respondents say they trust Trump, while 33 per cent believe in Biden; the rest trust neither. Around one in five Americans has an unfavourable impression of both the current and the former President. Whether this significant group votes — and for whom — will have a bearing on the poll outcome.

How coalition politics impacts electoral prospects

China has made no secret of its intent to recreate the Left alliance. Prachanda, though, has steered the ship deftly, balancing China with India.

INDIA witnessed the dawn of coalition politics at the Centre when the Janata dispensation led by Morarji Desai took charge in 1977. Subsequently, several multi-party governments have ruled the country.

In general, it makes sense for some coalitions to exist, given the shared interests of their constituents. Some electoral alliances appear a bit tricky, though. Take the example of West Bengal. The Trinamool Congress (TMC) and the Congress united against the then ruling Left Front in the 2011 Assembly elections; five years later, the Left Front and the Congress formed an alliance against the ruling TMC. Many political analysts expressed concern when the Left and the Congress formed a pre-election coalition with the newly formed Indian Secular Front in the 2021 Assembly elections. In Indian politics, there are neither permanent friends nor permanent enemies. "Constituent members regularly switch sides depending on the whims of their party leaders, state-specific policy concerns and sheer political expediency," Milan Vaishnav and Jamie Hinton wrote in the context of the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

However, does an alliance inevitably result in an increase in the political parties' vote share and number of seats? In a coalition, vote shares are typically not additive. In the context of the aforementioned West Bengal Assembly elections, there are still many experts who question whether the alliance with the Congress in 2011 helped the TMC, or if it helped the Left in 2016. Furthermore, the Left Front is still reeling from the 2021 election debacle. The term 'coalition' is derived from the prefix 'co-' ('together') and the Latin verb 'alescere' ('to grow'). A coalition should, thus, be judged by how the participating parties benefit from it. There is a growing body of research in economics, especially in the field of game theory, on coalition formation, which is the process by which one or more 'coalitions' consciously come



together to decide on actions as a group. Players establish alliances, break them up later, and even reform in shifting alliances, all the while reaping 'payoffs' (according to them) based on the coalition structure prevailing at the moment. Both the cooperative game theory and non-cooperative bargaining models are applied. Numerous studies have been conducted to comprehend the ways in which pre-poll coalitions influence voting behaviour in different countries. A 2020 research paper titled 'How do coalition signals shape voting behaviour? Revealing the mediating role of coalition expectations', which was published in the journal Electoral Studies, makes a reference to a survey experiment carried out during Sweden's 2018 general election. According to a recent paper published in Nature titled 'Pre-electoral coalition agreement from the Black-Scholes point of view', political parties can

be regarded as companies whose value depends on the percentage of the population supporting a party. To study the dynamics, D Mitrovic of the University of Vienna drew an analogy with option modelling, where the stock price behaves similarly to the voters' support. The June 2023 elections in Montenegro were elaborated as per this model. Conditions in India, though, might be different. When election time arrives, leading national parties invariably calculate the election math in unique ways to form a winnable coalition. The strategists might differ in their approaches and, typically, the masses are unaware of the details. In general, how would one comprehend that a coalition would be effective? It is never easy. Assume that five political parties — say P, Q, R, S and T — are competing in a constituency. Their possible vote shares are 33 per cent, 26 per cent, 7 per cent, 23 per cent and 11 per cent, respectively. In the event of

no coalition, P ought to win handily. Let us now assume that Q and R have formed a coalition. If, in effect, their votes are simply totalled, it would be a tight contest between P and Q+R. However, a coalition doesn't guarantee that the votes will be added straight. The coalition may unnerve certain voters. For example, some Q supporters may not want to vote for an R candidate running in their constituency, and vice versa. Because of this, Q+R's total vote share may become substantially lower than P's. Then again, a percentage of S or T voters may cast 'strategic votes' in support of P, increasing the likelihood that P will win. One should remember that sometimes, no coalition may be better than one. Alternatively, voters may experience a 'bandwagon effect' or a wave of support for the Q+R coalition, which would lead to a significant win for the combine. Therefore, it is crucial to comprehend how the coalition affects poll prospects, even though doing so is quite difficult.

Thus, by estimating the expected number of seats of Q+R alliance and the seats Q and R can win in the absence of an alliance, one can attempt to gauge whether an alliance would work. It's also possible to estimate how an alliance will impact the number of seats won by opposing parties. A thorough analysis conducted in such a complex setup could have enormous hidden political benefits. Undoubtedly, political parties conduct such studies to shape their game plans. Nevertheless, it is a complex topic as to how the political parties would generally find the best estimates for their goals under a variety of circumstances. The straightforward answer might be that carefully crafted survey designs, optimal statistical modelling and efficient data analyses could be helpful in this regard. But for such a process to be effective, one requires professionals with both statistical and political expertise.

It's sizzling hot and the rising mercury makes it tough for the plants, giving your garden a weary look. Just like we take extra care of our own health, our plants and lawns also need some extra care in this sweltering heat. So here are some easy tips and tricks for keeping your garden in good health and giving it a fresh look.

WATER

Make sure that you water plants deeply everyday. "Do not just spray water on plants and lawn, make sure that you make a layer of three inches of water, so that it seeps down till the roots," says Sanjay Alok, owner of a nursery.

Remember, your hanging baskets would dry quickly, so help them retain soil moisture by adding soil moist water retention crystals. The best time to water is early morning or early evening.

MULCH

Mulch is an exclusive organic layer of decayed leaves, bark or composite spread over the soil to make it rich and protect the soil from drying fast. Apply two inch of mulch on top of the soil around your plants to save them from the heat. "Mulching is important to garden health, it protects plants from the heat and helps control weeds," says Aarti Mukhani, a botanist.

Here's how to let your

Garden blossom during Summer

PESTS AND DISEASES

Do you see something weird growing in your garden? Is your plant building up abnormally in some way? Do

not take that lightly. Call an expert for the proper treatment of your plant. Make sure that you do not spray insecticides and pesticides by yourself as the plant might die out of chemical exposure in this heat.

WEEDS

It is

summer time when the tiny weed seedlings become huge monsters. Pull all the junk flora as soon as they are spotted. They take up all the water and nutrients from your plants' soil and keep them away from

utilizing it. Weeds also encourage the spread of pests.

GARDEN BEDS AND CONTAINERLAWNS

"We usually raise the cutting height of our lawnmower from 1 to 1.5 inches to make sure that the grass is tall enough to slow down the evaporation of water and reduce weeds," says Janki Desai, who maintains her house garden. The tall turf shades the soil from excessive heat and slows the evaporation of water.

FRUITS AND VEGGIES

If you own a kitchen garden, then this is the time to harvest your fruits and veggies as they ripen fast in this season. Don't let the fruits overripe, as it would attract more insects resulting the ground become disease prone. Provide shade to your garden by covering it with an agro net so that they are spared of the burning sensation.

Bookmark or read stories offline

Remove the dead plants and clear the rough space for fresh colorful annuals. Choose plants in larger pots to fill in empty spots more quickly. Also, pick plants that love the heat and will bloom when the temperature is high. Clearing the dead patches in your garden would help promote more flowers, and keep the garden looking neat and fresh.



10 ideas to spruce up your bedroom

The bedroom is the most coveted place of the house, as it is where you head to after a tiring day's work. So it is imperative that you add some style to it. However, if you think spending tonnes of cash is the only way you can spruce it up, think again. You can inject style and comfort into it even on a budget. Before you start, make sure you know what you want your room to look like - quaint, fancy, rustic, colourful or peaceful. Once that is taken care



- Use these 10 affordable ideas to create a one-of-a-kind bedroom:
- Use fairy lights on a window or mirror to give the room a dreamy effect.
- Put sheer curtains on all sides of your bed to give it a romantic touch
- Traditional wall hangings, tools and rugs can give your room a warm feel
- Use a curtain rod to hang a traditional

Jaipur bedsheet or colourful curtains above your bed.

- Paint a section of the wall in a different dark colour, and use it to display your photographs and other memorabilia. You can even highlight a certain shelf.
- Use your painting skills, and create a mural on one of the walls or the door.
- Use colourful kites to liven up your room. Stick them up on the ceiling to add character.
- De-clutter your room and hang a couple of inexpensive paper light balls on one side to make it look spacious.
- Place a big bunch of faux flowers on your bedside table to give it a touch of freshness.
- If you put up a big picture of a landscape - say, waterfalls, mountains or open pastures - it will make you feel close to nature and give you a sense of calm.

Summer decor ideas for your home

As the temperature soars, enjoy your share of cool flowing space in summers and enjoy being at home. **Colours of life:** Didn't they say, first impressions lasts long. Spruce up your front door. Add a dash of color to your life, paint the door in bright colours if you want to make a bold statement. Even if you are living in an apartment, you can put some terra-cotta figurines and potted plants on the front, thereby creating a warm atmosphere.

Recycle fabrics and textiles. Lighten up any room by trading heavy fabrics for light and airy ones. As the temperature soars high, take down your old drapes in dark colours and replace them with an open flowing weave such as chiffon or light cotton. Add more life to your decor by adding crisp white, a bright solid or even floral patterns.

Clean up your kitchen: Spruce up cabinets with a fresh coat of paint. Put some flowers in the kitchen to give a feeling of freshness. Give your imagination a push and you can indulge

in some bottle art. If you are wondering what are we talking about? Then just take out some old used bottles and then paint them in different hues. Or you can even put shells, pebbles in a bottle.

Declutter: You want a feel of free flowing space. Then decluttering is the answer. Store away things which you



don't need. Or even have your share of charity by donating things to the needy. Life's always beautiful when you share. Larger, clutter-free spaces create the impression of a bigger house.

If you have been thinking to renovate your home and get rid of the clutter for the longest time, then this is the right time to start. However, if do not want to spend a lot and still want your house to look organised, then just get rid of these seven simple things and you can change the look of your living room instantly.

Bills, envelopes and invites:

Most living rooms have a stack of unimportant papers lying everywhere. From various utility bills to credit card statements, and from envelopes to wedding invites, we always tend



to dump all this on our coffee table or our TV cabinet in the living room. Get rid of empty envelopes and bills older than three years, and organise the rest in drawers, so that they're hidden.

Extra cushions:

Cushions lend a sense of style to the living room; vibrant coloured and abstract design cushions help the living area come to life. However, too much of anything is a bad idea. Do not overcrowd your living rooms with cushions, limit them to your couch or a baithak. Don't overdo it by keeping them on chairs, window seats, recliners or by simply increasing their number.

Big-size music system and CDs:

That big four-CD-changer home theatre system with four massive speakers covering a complete wall of your living room, might have emotional value, but it definitely adds to the clutter. Simply replace it with a sleek sound bar that would be hardly noticed but has effective sound quality, and you will notice that the room looks less cluttered.

Candles: You definitely had a romantic evening in mind when you picked up those scented candles. However, they are now lying unattended in various corners coated with loads of dust. Get rid of those candles and buy lights that are easy to clean and can be used for a longer duration. Make sure they are all hanging lights so that the floor remains de-

7 things to help organise your Living area

cluttered.

Bean bags:

A lot of people buy bean bags to create a relaxed sitting arrangement, however, they are rendered redundant after a while as they trigger back problems. They then just lie there in clumps, occupying a lot of space and we end up dumping things on bean bags which adds to the clutter. Make way for a smart pair of antique wooden or recliners that will occupy less space and will prove useful as well.

Artificial plants: This is one of the most useless things in anybody's living room, as they do not add any



dust and occupy unwanted space. Invest in real plants instead.

Miniature artifacts:

Not many people can maintain art-house like interiors, as it needs a lot of cleaning. Miniature artifacts and handicrafts enhance the look of your living room and make it look arty. These objects makes your house look dingy and unkempt if they are not dusted and maintained from time to time. If de-cluttering your house means having a clear space, then miniature artifacts need to be got rid off. In fact, a less-cluttered house looks bigger and better.

cha rm to the room whatsoever. In fact, Feng Shui and vastu experts warn about keeping artificial plants in homes as they have some kind of negative energy. Get rid of them as they attract a lot of

Case against BJP's BS Yediyurappa for allegedly assaulting minor

Bengaluru's Sadashivanagar police have filed an FIR under the POCSO Act against senior BJP leader and former Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa for allegedly sexually assaulting a minor girl.

New Delhi. A case has been registered against former Karnataka Chief Minister and senior BJP leader BS Yediyurappa for allegedly sexually assaulting a minor girl. It has been filed based on a complaint by the mother of the girl. Yediyurappa has been charged under the POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Act and 354(A) (sexual harassment) of the IPC.

According to the FIR, the incident allegedly happened on February 2 when the mother and daughter visited the BJP veteran to

seek assistance in a cheating case. Yediyurappa, however, has denied the allegations, calling them "baseless". He added that the matter has been put before the police commissioner. "A few days ago a woman came to my house. She was crying saying that there was some problem. I asked her what was the matter and I personally called the police commissioner about the matter and told him to help her. Later, the woman started talking against me. I have brought this matter to the attention of the police commissioner. Yesterday police filed a complaint against me. Let's see what happens next, I can't say that there is a political motive behind this," he told news agency ANI. Meanwhile, the complainant in the case has already registered as many as 53 cases (not related to BS Yediyurappa) till date. His office released a list of cases she has filed in the past over different matters, insinuating she has a habit of registering cases. The complainant has lodged a series of cases against known troublemakers, and has been filing complaints since 2015, India Today has learnt. In 2015, she lodged a sexual assault complaint involving her daughter against a relative of the complainant's husband.

Congress leader and Karnataka's Home Minister G Parameshwara said that the



police are investigating the matter, and the truth will only be revealed when the probe has been completed.

On claims that the complainant is mentally ill, the minister declined to comment on the same. Parmeshwar, however, said he does not think there is any "political conspiracy" as the complaint in the matter has consistently been filing cases. The Karnataka Home Minister also declined to answer when asked if Yediyurappa would be detained or arrested. "I don't want to comment on the police investigation. There is an SOP followed by police," Parmeshwar said. Yediyurappa served as the Chief Minister of Karnataka multiple times - between 2008 and 2011, for a

shortwhile in May 2018, and again from July 2019 to 2021.

His resignation in 2021 had come after weeks of speculation and uncertainty. While announcing his decision, Yediyurappa was caught breaking down on the stage and saying the people of the state had lost faith in the government. BS Yediyurappa was

succeeded by the BJP's Basavaraj Somappa Bommai, who became the 23rd Chief Minister of Karnataka. Bommai served in the position from July 2021 to May 2023. The BJP has announced Bommai as its candidate from Haveri constituency for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Four of family killed as car falls into gorge in Jammu and Kashmir

New Delhi Four members of a family were killed and one injured when a car they were travelling in skidded off the road and fell into a gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district on Thursday, officials said. The accident took place in the Bhandarkot area when the car rolled down the hill into a deep gorge, Kishtwar Deputy Commissioner Devansh Yadav said. Four members of the family died on the spot. A child who was injured is out of danger, he said. Those dead include an employee of the health department, his wife and their two children. Democratic Progressive Azad Party chief Gulam Nabi Azad condoled the loss of lives in the accident and called for government intervention to address the "increasing" number of accidents in Chenab Valley. "My heartfelt

condolences to the bereaved families. Urging the administration to provide adequate compensation. The increasing



accidents in Chenab Valley are alarming; government intervention and preventive measures are imperative," Azad said on X.

Murder accused livestreams from UP jail, says 'enjoying in heaven'

New Delhi. A video of a murder accused hosting a live session on a social media platform, and saying he is "enjoying" his life in "heaven", has surfaced, triggering the police to order a probe into the matter. The accused is currently lodged in Bareilly Central Jail in Uttar Pradesh.

Police said action would be taken against whoever is found guilty in the investigation, news agency PTI reported. Deputy Inspector General (Prison) Kuntal Kishore told news agency PTI that he had seen the video. "A probe in the matter is underway. After investigation, legal action will be taken against whoever is found guilty," he was quoted as saying.

The 2-minute purported video of the live showed Asif, the murder accused, saying that he is soon going to get out of prison. "I am in heaven, and enjoying it. I will soon get out," he said during the live session.

Asif is accused of shooting a Public Works Department (PWD) contractor Rakesh Yadav, 34, to death in broad daylight on December 2, 2019, in Delhi's Sadar Bazar Police Station area of Shahjahanpur.

Another accused, Rahul Chaudhury, was also accused to have killed Rakesh Yadav. Both Chaudhury and Asif are currently lodged in Bareilly Central Jail. Rakesh Yadav's brother met District Magistrate Umesh Pratap Singh on Thursday after seeing the viral video, and submitted a complaint letter.

In the complaint, the victim's brother claimed that Asif was getting special facilities in the jail. He further said that Asif and Rahul Chaudhury were hired from Meerut to kill his brother.

Heatwave alert in parts of Karnataka, above-normal temperature likely in Andhra

New Delhi. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) stated in its Friday bulletin that isolated pockets of northern interior Karnataka may experience heatwave conditions today. Earlier predictions suggested that Karnataka would face above-normal temperatures this summer, though not exceeding 35 degrees Celsius. Additionally, the IMD forecasted hot and humid weather for Kerala, the Rayalaseema region in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Puducherry over the next five days. On Thursday, Rayalaseema recorded temperatures exceeding 40 degrees Celsius. In a long-range forecast, the IMD predicted above-normal temperatures for Andhra Pradesh this summer, anticipating more heatwave days than usual. In 2023, Andhra Pradesh saw 21 heatwave days, with temperatures reaching a maximum of 46 degrees Celsius.

HALF-DAY SCHOOLS IN TELANGANA

As temperatures soar above 40 degrees Celsius in various parts of Telangana, the state's schools have transitioned to half-day operations starting Friday. The school education department announced half-day schedules for primary, upper primary, and high schools. Additionally, mid-day meals in government schools will now be served at 12.30 pm, the department said.

Not sorry for miscommunication': Ram Gopal Varma denies political entry

New Delhi. Filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma, who on Thursday wrote on social media that he would be contesting from Pithapuram, on Friday said he wasn't making an entry into politics. Clarifying his social media post, the filmmaker today said he meant he was participating in a short film contest. Varma also said he was "not sorry" for the miscommunication, saying, he "did not even mention the world election." "For all those dumbos who misread this tweet, I meant that I was taking part in a short film CONTEST in which I am submitting my entry which I shot in Pithapuram," Ram Gopal Varma wrote on X, quoting his earlier post.

"No I am not sorry for this miscommunication because I dint even mention the word election and the media jumped into a frenzy of speculation," he added. On Thursday, it was reported that the filmmaker announced his candidacy for the Pithapuram constituency for the upcoming Andhra Pradesh assembly elections, against actor Pawan Kalyan, who is also contesting from the Pithapuram constituency.

Half of top 30 firms that donated to political parties were probed by agencies

New Delhi. More than 15 of the top 30 companies that donated to political parties through the now-scrapped electoral bonds scheme were investigated by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), and Income Tax department. The investigations into these companies have varied in intensity, ranging from case filings to raids on their premises. Some firms also had their assets attached by the Enforcement Directorate. Among the entities that were investigated by central agencies are Future Gaming and Hotel Services, Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Limited, Haldia Energy Limited, Vedanta Limited, Yashoda Super Speciality Hospital, DLF Commercial Developers Limited, Jindal Steel and Power Limited, Chennai Greenwoods Private Limited, Dr Reddy's Laboratories Limited, IFB Agro Limited, NCC Limited, Divi S



Laboratory Limited, United Phosphorus India Limited, and Aurobindo Pharma. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, speaking at the India Today Conclave, said the link between probe agency raids and firms purchasing election bonds were based on "assumptions".

"This narrative is based on huge assumptions that the money was given after the raids happened," Sitharaman said. "It may also be that the money was given earlier, and despite that, we went knocking at their doors," she said.

WHAT ELECTORAL BONDS DATA REVEALS

On Thursday, the Election Commission published detailed data on electoral bonds on its website after receiving the information from the State Bank of India (SBI), in adherence to a deadline set by the Supreme Court. Future Gaming and Hotel Services was the top buyer of electoral bonds, worth over Rs 1,350 crore. Future Gaming is a prominent lottery company owned by Santiago Martin. The second-biggest donor was Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Ltd (MEIL), which bought bonds worth Rs 966 crore. MEIL is a Hyderabad-based infrastructure giant and was involved in the Zojila tunnel project in Kashmir.

Among the known firms, Anil Agarwal's Vedanta Ltd bought Rs 398 crore worth of bonds. Airtel owner Sunil Mittal, through three companies, purchased a total of Rs 246 crore worth of bonds.

'One Nation, One Election' Explained. What Is It And How Can It Work

New Delhi. Sculptor Arun Yogiraj detailed the intense process behind bringing a stone to life for the divine statue of Ram Lalla for the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. Speaking at the India Today Conclave 2024, the Mysuru-based artist revealed that he had a 20-minute window to carve the deity's eyes, which captured the public's attention after the idol's grand Pran Pratishtha. "They gave me 20 minutes to sculpt the eyes. I had to go through various rituals before the mahurat, like taking a bath in the Saryu," Arun Yogiraj said. Yogiraj said he was confident that he could complete the feat in the allotted time, but admitted that he felt enormous pressure as the eyes were an indispensable aspect of Ram Lalla's idol.

Full coverage of Conclave 2024

Yogiraj said he was tasked with a huge responsibility as the entire nation has



been waiting for Ram Lalla's homecoming. "From day one, when I started sculpting, my thought process was that it is not my work. He will get it done through me." The young sculptor's skill resulted in remarkably expressive and deep eyes, conveying a sense of compassion and tranquility from the visage of the five-year-old Lord Ram. This was particularly impressive, considering the black stone used is harder to work with for details compared to white stone. In a

remarkable demonstration of his skills, Arun Yogiraj chiselled the eyes and lips on an idol of Lord Shiva before a live audience at the India Today Conclave, which is underway at the Taj Palace Hotel in New Delhi.

WHO IS ARUN YOGIRAJ?

Arun Yogiraj is a sculptor from Karnataka's Mysuru, belonging to a fifth-generation family of skilled carvers. He rose to fame for creating the new idol of Ram Lalla, the child form of Lord Ram, for the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. Chosen from three sculptors, Arun Yogiraj worked under immense pressure and with a deep sense of responsibility. Unlike existing depictions, this Ram idol portrayed him as a young boy. To capture the essence, Yogiraj spent months researching and observing children aged 3-9. The idol itself was carved from a special stone called Krishna Shilam.

The 'Lottery King' who showered crores on parties

Known as the 'Lottery King' of India, Santiago Martin built his empire on the dreams of people who wanted to make it big in life. His Future Gaming and Hotel Services was the top buyer of electoral bonds, having spent Rs 1,368 crore.

New Delhi The story of his life is one that epitomises the success of a man who built nothing, into an empire," says the website of the Martin Foundation about Santiago Martin, the founder and chairman of the Martin Group of Companies. He worked in Myanmar and returned in the 90s to build his empire, never shying away from controversy and rubbing shoulders with politicians. And what helped him the most was a quality attributed to politicians -- knowing which side the wind would blow. Known as the 'Lottery King' of India, Santiago Martin built his empire on the dreams of people who wanted to make it big in life. Martin hit the jackpot as

millions of people in states like Kerala, Sikkim, West Bengal, Punjab, and Maharashtra kept matching the numbers of their tickets with the elusive magic number. Martin, now it has become evident, helped boost the fortunes of political parties too. As the State Bank of India put in the public domain the list of companies that bought electoral bonds and helped finance political parties, Santiago Martin's organisation came on top. His Future Gaming and Hotel Services Pvt Ltd contributed Rs 1,368 crore. The Congress alleged that the BJP got crores from Martin's company and has sought a CBI probe. However, with the data shared by the Election Commission, it can't be said with certainty which party the funds went to. Martin took his first steps in the lottery industry when he was just 13, according to the Martin Charitable Trust website. He built a vast marketing network of the buyers and sellers of lotteries across India. His lottery business, Martin Lottery Tickets, has an average annual growth of 109%.

Based in Coimbatore, Santiago Martin's business interests are spread beyond India's borders. He also operates in Myanmar, a country where he worked in his early years. Part of his Martin Group of Companies are Martin Myanmar and



Martin Yangon. The companies are into real estate, construction, alternative energy, visual media entertainment, hospitality, healthcare and education among others. In India, too, he diversified from the lottery to healthcare, real estate and television broadcasting. As his companies grew, Martin Santiago kept on getting entangled in controversies. His first brush with controversy was when he was accused of defrauding the Sikkim government of Rs 4,500 crore. That would return to bite him in 2023. He was embroiled in a political funding case in Kerala, where lottery is big. In 2008, he donated Rs 2 crore to CPI(M)'s Kerala unit and its mouthpiece, both controlled by now Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. The party was seeing internal feud and V S Achuthanandan took on Vijayan over the payment and the money was returned to

Martin Santiago. In Tamil Nadu, Martin cosied up to the DMK. He produced 'Iaignan', which was written by then Chief Minister M Karunanidhi. Martin's son-in-law, Aadhav Arjuna, is said to have been in the inner circle of the ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu. He has now joined the prominent Dalit party Viduthala Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK). In 2014, as the BJP was poised to sweep the Lok Sabha polls, Martin's wife Leema Rose joined the Indhiya Jananayaga Katchi (IJK), an ally of the BJP, and appeared on stage with prime ministerial candidate Narendra Modi, according to a Deccan Herald report. However, Santiago Martin's political connections couldn't keep him away from investigating agencies. In 2015, the Income Tax Department raided Martin's premises in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka. In 2023, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) attached Martin's assets worth Rs 457 crore in connection with a case linked to the defrauding of the Sikkim government.

Now, it has emerged that Santiago Martin is the top buyer of electoral bonds and helped finance political parties. The 'Lottery King', who lured the common people with the promise of good fortunes, has definitely brought good luck and crores to political parties.

5 surprise Cleaners for your home



What if we revealed some around-the-house staples that also moonlight as dirt-busting superstars? Here are five unexpected natural cleaners to help you with your kitchen woes:

Bread

Love to paint? Use white bread to dust an oil painting! Gently dab a slice of white bread over the surface to pick up dirt and grime.

Ketchup

Some tomato ketchup can be used to remove tarnish from copper and brass cookware. Squeeze the ketchup on a cloth and rub it on pots and pans. They should go back to their coppery colour in minutes. Rinse with warm water and dry with a towel.

Oatmeal

It is useful to scrub very dirty hands. Make a thick paste of oatmeal and water and rinse well.

Rice

Rice can be used to clean the inside of a vase or a thin-necked bottle. Fill three quarters of the vase with warm water and add a tablespoon of uncooked rice. Cup your hand over the opening, shake vigorously and rinse.

Tea

It can help in cleaning rusty garden tools. Brew a few pots of strong black tea. When cool, pour it into a bucket. Soak the tools for a few hours. Wipe each one with a cloth. (Wear rubber gloves or your hands will be stained.)

stained.)

Glycerin

If you want to remove dried wax drippings from candlesticks, a few drops of glycerin will be very helpful. Peel off as much wax as possible, then moisten a cotton ball with glycerin and rub until clean!



finished wood floors or solid-surface countertops, by pouring some rubbing alcohol on it.



Be smart when you Shop online



9 household crises you can solve with Salt

Turns out a simple dose of salt can solve a whole slew of home disasters, like cracked egg messes and spills. And not only are the fixes incredibly easy, but they're also usually cheaper than using other fancy cleaning products. Here are a few of our favourite ways to let salt save the day.

While online shopping has grown at an exponential rate in the past few years, industry experts say that it is still in its nascent stage when compared to Internet shopping abroad.

- In India, shopping websites have multiplied so quickly that consumers are literally being spoiled for choice and it quite literally, is raining discounts. However, don't get carried away when you see all the supposedly 'great' offers that lure you. Make sure that you do your homework before making any impulsive buy. Here's what you need to keep in mind...
 - Competition is hotting up and consumers are reaping the benefits. With hundreds of websites, prices inadvertently vary. So, if you're looking for something specific, go on multiple websites and compare the prices so that you get the best deal.
 - If you're unsure about a new website, avoid paying by debit or credit card. Instead, opt for the cash on delivery option to be on the safe side.
 - Before purchasing any item, it is always a smart idea to go through the exchange and returns policy so that you aren't stuck with something you don't want or something of an inferior quality. Go through the conditions of exchange properly. There are some items that can't be returned or exchanged, no matter what.
 - Sign up for newsletters on shopping websites. Members are always given something 'extra' for signing up. This can be discount vouchers, redeemable points or even prior information about a blowout sale.
 - Grocery shopping has also become huge in Indian metros. However, avoid shopping for food on an empty stomach! You might just end up ordering more than what you actually need.
 - A lot of shopping websites now have 'special sale days' where many items are sold at whopping discounts. Once you know the dates of the sale, make a list of the items you want so that you don't waste time browsing for them later. Once sale time begins (usually 8am), quickly buy your items before they get sold out or the server crashes.
 - Unsure about a particular item? Read the reviews posted by users. That should give you a fair idea of whether it is worth buying or not.

Get sticky gunk off your iron

Turn your iron on high, and sprinkle a generous amount of salt onto a piece of wax paper. Move the hot iron over the paper, and watch the salt cause your gunk to fall right off.

Get rid of mildew

To banish mildew stains and smells from clothes or towels, make a paste from salt and lemon juice. Rub the paste on the stain, then let dry (ideally in the sun). Run clothes through the washing machine for good measure.

DIY dishwasher soap

If you find yourself in a pinch, make your own dishwasher detergent from salt, baking soda and regular dish soap. It works like a charm!

Clean a grime-covered sponge

Fill a container with 2 cups of water and a

quarter cup of salt. Leave your greasy, blackened sponge in the mixture overnight, then watch the grime fall right off.

Get rid of caked-on pan grease

Cover the greasy residue with a layer of salt, then add some water and wait 10 minutes. The solution will dissolve the grease, allowing you to easily wipe it away.

Clean a grimy wood cutting board

You shouldn't put wood cutting boards in the dishwasher, but you can disinfect them with hot water, salt and lemon juice.

Clean up a cracked egg

There's no need for wads of paper towels. Cover the mess with salt, and wait 10 to 15

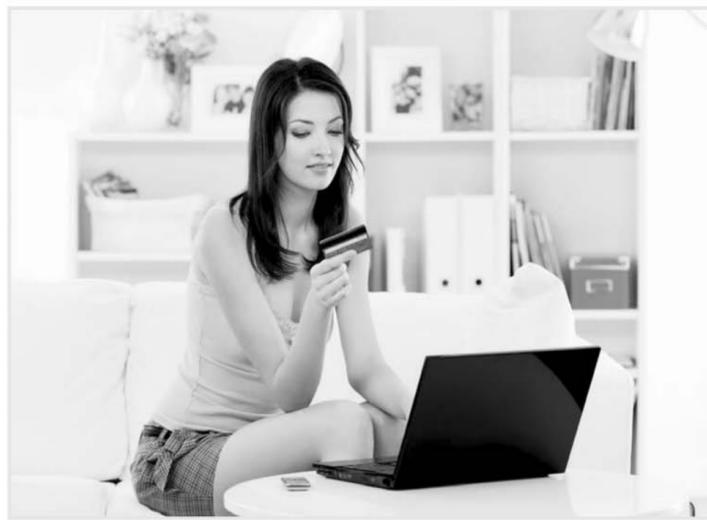
minutes. The salt will turn the egg goo into a crumbly sand that's easy to wipe up.

Clear up a red wine stain

Sprinkle salt on the fresh stain, and wait 5 minutes. Splash with cold water, and rub until the stain disappears.

Clear up a hair clog in the drain

Make a natural drain cleaning mix by mixing 1/4 cup of baking soda and 1/4 cup of salt. Remove as much hair from the drain as you can with your (gloved!) hands, and then pour the mixture down the drain. Follow with 1/2 cup of white vinegar, and let sit for 15 minutes. Rinse everything down with a pot of boiling water. Voila!



Sensex, Nifty fall amid cautious trade; Paytm jumps 5%

New Delhi Benchmark stock market indices opened Friday's trading session on a cautious note, tracking weak global cues.

The S&P BSE Sensex was down 0.58 per cent at 72,669.74 at 10:07 am, while the NSE Nifty50 fell 0.66 per cent to 22,001.35. Most of the broader market indices were also trading in negative territory as volatility spiked. All the Nifty sectoral indices were also trading in the red except Nifty Media. It may be noted that heavyweight indices such as Nifty IT, Nifty Bank and Nifty Financial Services fell sharply in early trade. Nifty Oil and Gas was the top loser, falling over 2 per cent after the government reduced petrol and diesel prices. The top five gainers on the Nifty50 were Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, UPL, Adani Enterprises and ITC. On the other hand, the top losers were BPCL, Coal India, NTPC, ONGC and M&M.

Meanwhile, shares of digital payments firm Paytm jumped 5 per cent after the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) approved its request to become a third-party UPI app. Deven Mehata, research analyst at Choice Broking, said, "Traders are advised to lighten their overnight positions as global markets are also becoming volatile. Investors can watch the lower levels for fresh investment for the long term."

"If Nifty closes below the strong support of 21850 levels today, we may witness further correction down to 21530 levels. Traders holding long positions in NIFTY should consider the support levels for their stop loss," he added.

Mid, small-cap funds disclose stress test results

NEW DELHI. A day before AMFI's mandate, prominent fund houses have released their first stress test report to show they will take longer time to liquidate their mid-cap and small-cap schemes.

A few asset managing companies (AMCs) have given a detailed analysis of where and in which category their fund is parked. They are releasing data such as volatility of the scheme and valuation which compares the portfolio PE (price-to-earning) with the benchmark PE and portfolio turnover which is a measure of how frequently assets within a mutual fund scheme are bought and sold by a fund manager over a given period of time. The fund houses have disclosed a few other additional risk-adjusted measures. The stress test evaluate the liquidity of a scheme by calculating the time required to sell off 25% and 50% of its holdings. This result would allow investors to see how long they can get their money back if the equity market crashes.

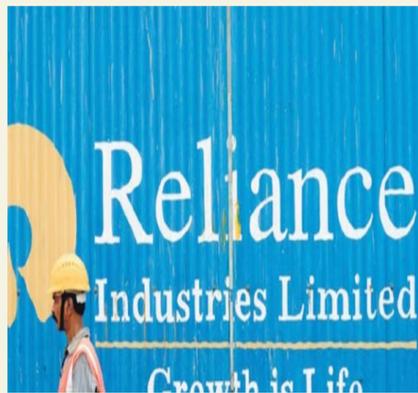
As per third-party estimates, most fund houses will take anywhere between 3 days to 111 days to liquidate their small-cap schemes. As per data sourced by industry players, it will take SBI Mutual Fund 111 days to liquidate SBI Small Cap Fund scheme. This scheme had an asset under management (AUM) of Rs 24,862 crore as of January 2024. It would take 29 days for the HDFC Small Cap Fund (AUM: Rs 28,604 crore) scheme to liquidate. Quant Mutual Fund on Thursday said the time taken for 50% portfolio liquidation is six days for its Quant Mid Cap Fund and 22 days for Quant Small Cap Fund. Further, the time taken for 25% portfolio liquidation is 3 days for Quant Mid Cap Fund and 11 days for Quant Small Cap Fund.

Nippon India Mutual Fund (MF) said it would require up to 27 days to liquidate 50% of the small-cap fund portfolio and 13 days to offload 25% of the assets. Nippon manages India's largest small-cap fund with AUM of Rs 46,044 crore. Third-party data shows schemes such as HSBC Fund, Franklin India Smaller Companies Fund, Canara Robeco Small Cap Fund, ICICI Prudential Small Cap Fund and Aditya Birla Sun Life Small Cap Fund would take less than 10 days to sell their portfolio, showed the data.

RIL buys 13.01 per cent in Viacom18 for Rs 4,286 crore

Reliance clarified in a filing that this acquisition is not a related-party transaction and none of its affiliated groups have any interest in it.

NEW DELHI. Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) signed an agreement on Thursday to acquire a 13.01% equity stake in Viacom18 Media Private Limited (Viacom18) for a consideration of Rs 4,286 crore. Viacom 18 is currently owned by Paramount Global through its two subsidiaries. Viacom18 is a subsidiary of TV18 Broadcast Limited. "A binding agreement has been entered between Reliance and two subsidiaries of Paramount Global to acquire a 13.01% equity stake (on a



fully diluted basis) in Viacom 18 Media held by Paramount Global via two subsidiaries for an aggregate consideration of Rs 4,286 crore," said RIL in an exchange filing. Upon completion of the transaction, RIL's stake in Viacom 18 will increase to 70.49% (on a fully diluted basis). Reliance clarified in a filing that this acquisition is not a related-party transaction and none of its affiliated groups have any interest in it.

As previously announced on February 28, RIL, Viacom18, and The Walt Disney Company (Disney) signed binding agreements to form a joint venture (JV) merging Viacom18's businesses with Star India. The transaction involves merging Viacom18's media operations into Star India Private Limited (SIPL) via a court-approved scheme of arrangement.

DA hiked by 4 percentage points to 46% in Madhya Pradesh

Madhya Pradesh hikes DA by 4% for government employees
Dearness Allowance now reaches 46% of basic pay in MP
Increased allowance will be paid from the month of April



Bhopal. The Madhya Pradesh government on Friday announced a hike in the Dearness Allowance (DA) by 4 per cent for all the government employees in the state. With the latest hike, the DA in the state has reached 46 per cent. As per a government notification, the increased allowance will come into effect from March 1, 2024, and will be paid in the month of April 2024. "It has been decided

to increase the rate of dearness allowance payable to government servants by 4%. After this increase, the rate of dearness allowance will be 46% from July 1, 2023. Its benefits will be available from March 1, 2024 (payment April, 2024). Congratulations to all the government

servants of the state," Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said in a post on X (formerly known as Twitter). Notably, the announcement comes a day ahead of the implementation of the Model Code of Conduct (MMC) as the Election Commission will announce

the schedule for the April-May Lok Sabha polls on Saturday. The increase in allowance will benefit nearly 7.5 lakh government employees in Madhya Pradesh. Even the BJP-led Rajasthan government announced its decision to increase the Dearness Allowance for government employees in the state by 4 per cent on Thursday. This hike surged the DA of government employees to 50 per cent. The announcement will benefit nearly 8 lakh government employees in the northern state. "Our government, dedicated to good governance, has also increased the Dearness Allowance of state employees by 4 per cent. This will benefit 8 lakh employees and 4 lakh 40 thousand pensioners," Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma said. "Our state employees, symbols of hard work, will benefit from this decision. 'Modi ji's guarantee' is a guarantee of the welfare of the people and our government is continuously moving forward on this path of public service," he added.

Byju's ordered by US court to freeze \$533 million in relief for lenders

NEW DELHI. Think & Learn Pvt has been ordered by a US judge to freeze \$533 million in funds in a dispute with lenders claiming ownership over the money, reported Bloomberg. The decision by US Bankruptcy Judge John Dorsey came as a relief for lenders who had sought to protect their interests amid financial turbulence surrounding the education-tech firm operating as Byju's. The order, directed at Riju Ravindran, a director of the company and the brother of founder Byju Raveendran, aims to safeguard the disputed funds while addressing concerns over their whereabouts. Judge Dorsey expressed suspicion regarding Ravindran's claim of not having knowledge about the funds' location.

"I do not believe him when he says he cannot learn the location from Think & Learn," said Judge Dorsey.

Ravindran's attorney, Sheron Korpus, argued that the lenders themselves contributed to the financial challenges faced by the company. Korpus said that



Think & Learn was justified in withholding the funds due to what they perceived as aggressive actions by the lenders in asserting defaults on debt obligations. The company is actively contesting the lenders' claims in state courts in Delaware and New York.

The dispute over the \$533 million arises from actions taken by lenders who took control of a holding company established by Think & Learn to issue \$1.2 billion in debt. This unit, Byju's Alpha, is presently undergoing bankruptcy proceedings overseen by Judge Dorsey. Meanwhile, Ravindran

is appealing a prior decision by Delaware's Chancery Court regarding the seizure of assets. The Thursday bankruptcy hearing also witnessed the issuance of an arrest order for the founder of a Florida hedge fund, William C Morton, for his refusal to disclose the whereabouts of the contested funds.

Judge Dorsey directed US Marshals to apprehend Morton, who faces charges of contempt of court and daily fines until he provides relevant information.

The funds in question were briefly held by Morton's hedge fund before being transferred to an undisclosed offshore trust, as disclosed by Byju's Alpha lawyer Benjamin Finestone.

Amid these legal proceedings, Byju's finds itself grappling with financial instability and internal turmoil.

Finestone highlighted the urgency of accessing the disputed funds, citing the company's precarious financial situation.

Markets trade lower on weak global market trends, foreign fund outflows

NEW DELHI. Equity benchmark indices declined in early trade on Friday amid weak global market trends and foreign fund outflows. The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 314.56 points to 72,782.72 after a weak beginning. The NSE Nifty dropped 101.65 points to 22,045. From the Sensex basket, Mahindra & Mahindra, Infosys, Axis Bank, HCL Technologies, NTPC and Asian Paints were the major laggards. Bharti Airtel, Power Grid, State Bank of India and IndusInd Bank were among the gainers. The rebound in the market yesterday after the Wednesday crash is unlikely to be sustained. Brent crude rising to \$85 and the 10-year US bond yield spiking to 4.29% are headwinds for the market. "Results of the stress tests conducted by the mid and smallcap schemes of mutual funds expected

Centre transfers Air India building in Mumbai to Maharashtra govt



NEW DELHI. The Centre on Thursday transferred ownership of Air India building in Mumbai to the Maharashtra government for Rs 1,601 crore. In addition, the Government of Maharashtra has agreed to forgive old dues payable by AI Assets Holdings Pvt Ltd (AIAHL), totalling about Rs 300 crore. "GoI has approved transfer of Air India building in Mumbai of AI Assets Holding Company to Government of Maharashtra (GoM) at consideration of Rs 1,601 crore. GoM has agreed to waive dues of Rs 298.42 crore, which would have been otherwise payable by AIAHL to GoM for this transaction,"

tweeted Tuhin Kanta Pandey, DIPAM secretary. AIAHL was established as a special purpose vehicle (SPV) on January 22, 2018, for owning and overseeing remaining non-core assets such as paintings and artifacts of the state-owned Air India, which was later acquired by the Tata group.

After a prolonged five-year effort to privatise the debt-ridden Air India, the government accepted Tata Sons' bid of Rs 18,000 crore for the flagship carrier in October 2021. The transfer of ownership of the airline took place on January 27, 2022. The SPV, fully owned by the central government, was set up to

After a prolonged five-year effort to privatise the debt-ridden Air India, the government accepted Tata Sons' bid of Rs 18,000 crore for the flagship carrier in October 2021.

manage a working capital loan without asset backing, including four subsidiaries -- Air India Air Transport Services Ltd (AIATSL), Airline Allied Services Ltd (AASL), Air India Engineering Services Ltd (AIESL), and Hotel Corporation of India Ltd (HCI). The non-core assets, land and buildings, were assessed at Rs 14,718 crore. As per reports, the new owner intends to utilise the building to accommodate its offices. The iconic 23-storey building, built in 1974 on land owned by the Maharashtra government, with 46,470 square meters of space, attracted interest from various entities like the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) and the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India before being acquired.



today will be keenly watched by the market," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services. In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai, and Hong Kong were trading lower. The US markets ended in the negative territory on Thursday.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 1,356.29 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge traded 0.79 per cent lower while the smallcap index quoted 0.28 per cent down.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.18 per cent to USD 85.27 a barrel. The BSE benchmark climbed 335.39 points or 0.46 per cent to settle at 73,097.28 on Thursday.

'World oil output to fall in Q1; OPEC+ to continue with supply cut in 2024'

Additionally, OPEC+ voluntary cuts will remain in effect through 2024, adjusting the market balance from a surplus to a slight deficit.

NEW DELHI. The world oil production is projected to fall by 870 kb/d (thousand barrel per day) in the first quarter of 2024 compared to the fourth quarter of 2023 on account of heavy weather-related shut-ins and new curbs from OPEC+, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA) oil marketing report. The report also noted that the global market is anticipated to face a deficit throughout the year. Additionally, OPEC+ voluntary cuts will remain in effect through 2024, adjusting the market balance from a



surplus to a slight deficit. "Global oil demand is forecast to rise by a higher-than-expected 1.7 mb/d in Q124 due to an improved outlook for the United

States and increased bunkering," the report reads. "From the second quarter, non-OPEC+ is set to dominate gains after some OPEC+ members announced

they would extend extra voluntary cuts to support market stability. Global supply for 2024 is forecast to increase 800 kb/d to 102.9 mb/d, including a downward adjustment to OPEC+ output," the report reads. According to the IEA report, trade flow disruptions also boosted bunker fuel use. Longer shipping routes and faster vessel speeds saw Singapore bunkering reach all-time highs. That, along with surging US ethane demand for its petrochemical sector, underpins a slight upward revision to global oil demand expectations for this year by 110 kb/d compared to last month's report.

"World oil demand growth is now forecast at 1.3 mb/d in 2024, down sharply from last year's 2.3 mb/d expansion," IEA said in its monthly report. Iran, which last year ranked as the world's second-largest source of supply growth after the United States, is expected to increase production by a further 280 kb/d this year. Output policy for the remainder of the OPEC+ bloc will be revisited when ministers meet in Vienna on June 1 to review market conditions.

NEWS BOX

IPL 2024: Delhi Capitals rope in Jake Fraser-McGurk as injury replacement

New Delhi. Delhi Capitals on March 15 announced the decision to rope in Jake Fraser-McGurk as an injury replacement for pacer Lungi Ngidi. Ngidi, who had played recently in the SA20, will not be taking part in the upcoming season and this prompted Capitals to go for Fraser-McGurk.

The youngster had already represented the Dubai Capitals, DC's sister franchise, in the ILT20 this year and made a big impact during his time with the side. In the ILT20, he played three matches for the Capitals and scored 109 runs with a top score of 51 and a staggering strike-rate of 213.72. "Delhi Capitals (DC) named all-rounder Jake Fraser-McGurk as replacement for Lungisani Ngidi for the upcoming edition of the TATA Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024." "Ngidi, who has played 14 IPL matches and has 25 wickets against his name, was ruled out of the TATA IPL 2024 due to injury." "Jake Fraser-McGurk has



played 2 ODIs for Australia. He joins DC for his reserve price of INR 50 Lakh," read the statement from IPL. Fraser-McGurk had played two ODI matches for Australia recently and made head turns in both matches against West Indies with the attacking intent he showed early on.

Delhi Capitals will also be missing the services of England batter Harry Brook, who they had bought in the IPL 2024 auction for 4 crores. Brook decided to withdraw from the tournament to mourn his grandmother's death and be with his family. DC are yet to name a replacement for Brook.

The Capitals will be welcoming back Rishabh Pant into their fold as the Indian wicketkeeper was declared to play in IPL 2024 after an intense 14-month rehab and recovery process. DC will begin their campaign on March 23 against Punjab Kings in Mohali.

Delhi Capitals Full Squad for IPL 2024

Rishabh Pant, Pravin Dube, David Warner, Vicky Ostwal, Prithvi Shaw, Anrich Nortje, Abhishek Porel, Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel, Lalit Yadav, Khaleel Ahmed, Mitchell Marsh, Ishant Sharma, Yash Dhill, Mukesh Kumar, Jake Fraser-McGurk, Tristan Stubbs, Ricky Bhui, Kumar Kushagra, Rasikh Dar, Jhye Richardson, Sumit Kumar, Shai Hope, Swastik Chhikara.

PV Sindhu aiming to work on mistakes after early All England Open exit

New Delhi. PV Sindhu has said that she needs to work on her mistakes and come back stronger after an early exit from the All England Open 2024 on March 14, Thursday. World No.1 and defending champion An Se Young was at the peak of her powers and made light work of Sindhu's challenge in the second-round clash. The South Korean star won the match 21-19, 21-11 in just 42 minutes in Birmingham. It was Sindhu's 7th defeat in as many meetings to An and the Indian shuttler has managed to take a game against the South Korean only once in those 7 meetings. While the Indian ace did look good in the initial phases of the match, taking a 4-1 lead, Young proved to be too good for her on the day. Speaking after the loss, Sindhu admitted she should have done better and avoided some of the unforced errors during the match. "Well I think I should have done a bit more better, the first game was



pretty good I was giving away two or three points but then I was coming close but in the second game I gave her a huge lead there were a lot of unforced errors. I need to work on my mistakes and come back stronger," said Sindhu.

Should have been more patient: Sindhu

Further analysing her match with Young, the Indian ace shuttler admitted that she needed to be more patient during the match, as the unforced errors would give the South Korean star a big lead in the second game.

"She is, of course, the top player now. But I should have been much more patient. I made unforced errors. There were easy mistakes. You know, in the first game it was fine but then I was coming closer. But I think in the second set I gave her a huge lead, and then I was making receiving mistakes," said Sindhu. Sindhu's exit also meant that India's campaign in women's singles ended as Akarshi Kashyap suffered a first-round exit.

UEFA Europa League: Liverpool thrash Sparta Prague, Leverkusen clinch late win

← Liverpool won the match 6-1

← Leverkusen secured a late 3-2 win over Qarabag

← Milan, Atalanta and West Ham also made it to the quarterfinals

New Delhi. Liverpool continued their march in the Europa League with a stunning performance against Sparta Prague while Bayer Leverkusen's fairytale season added a new chapter with a comeback win over Qarabag in the UEFA Europa League Round Of 16 ties. Liverpool unleashed a football masterclass, decimating Sparta Prague with a 6-1 victory, propelling them into the Europa League quarter-finals with an impressive 11-2 aggregate score. The Reds' onslaught began early, with Darwin Nunez, Bobby Clark, Mohamed Salah, and Cody Gakpo finding the net within the first 14 minutes, setting the tone for what was to



become a memorable night at Anfield. Despite Veljko Bismancevic's effort to claw one back for Sparta Prague, Liverpool's dominance was undeniable, further solidified by Dominik Szoboszlai and a second from Gakpo. Meanwhile, Bayer Leverkusen's encounter with Qarabag turned into a dramatic spectacle, culminating in a last-gasp 3-2 victory for the German side. Patrik Schick emerged as the hero, as his stoppage-time double flipping the script and secured Leverkusen a 5-4 win on aggregate, extending their unbeaten

streak to an astonishing 37 matches. What are the other results from Europa League Round Of 16? Elsewhere, Brighton & Hove Albion's aspirations to overturn a significant deficit against AS Roma were dashed despite a valiant effort and a stunning goal from Danny Welbeck, ending their journey with a 4-1 loss on aggregate. In another gripping match, Atalanta battled to a 2-1 victory over Sporting CP, thanks to pivotal goals from Ademola Lookman and Gianluca Scamacca, ensuring the Italian side's progression with a narrow 3-2 aggregate

advantage. AC Milan effortlessly advanced to the quarter-finals of the Europa League, overcoming Slavia Prague with a decisive 3-1 win in their latest encounter. This victory was underscored by a significant moment when Slavia's Tomas Holes received a red card, contributing to Milan's triumphant 7-3 aggregate score. In another remarkable match, West Ham United achieved a historic milestone by thrashing Freiburg with an astonishing 5-0 scoreline. This resounding victory marked West Ham's most significant win in European competition history, propelling them into the quarter-finals with a 5-1 aggregate advantage. Olympique De Marseille faced off against Villarreal, the champions of the 2020-21 season, in a gripping contest. Despite Villarreal's strong performance, which saw them win 3-1 in their final match, it wasn't enough to overturn Marseille's lead, with the French team securing their place in the next round with a 5-4 aggregate victory. Rangers, hailing from Scotland, encountered a rare setback at home against Portuguese giants Benfica. The match ended in a 1-0 defeat for Rangers, marking their first loss at home to Portuguese opposition in a UEFA competition, with Benfica moving forward 3-2 on aggregate.

Virat Kohli a must for T20 World Cup 2024: Kris Srikkanth blasts 'rumour-mongers'

New Delhi. Former India captain and ex-selection committee chairman Kris Srikkanth has lashed out at rumours over Virat Kohli's place in India's T20 World Cup 2024 squad, saying that the star batter is a must for the team if they are to go on and win the trophy. The T20 World Cup will be played in the USA and the West Indies from June 1, weeks after the completion of IPL 2024. Virat Kohli returned to the T20 set-up in the 3-match series against Afghanistan in January, it was the first time Kohli played the shortest format of the game at the highest level after the T20 World Cup semi-final in 2022. Kohli and Rohit Sharma were brought back into the T20 set-up by the Ajit Agarkar-led selection committee, signalling their intentions to have them back in the T20 World Cup set-up.

Kohli made his intentions clear in the T20I series, hitting a 16-ball 29 in the 2nd T20I and then throwing his wicket away in the 3rd T20I by trying to be aggressive. Kohli missed the 5-Test series against England in February-March to be with his wife Anushka Sharma during the birth of their second child and the former captain is expected to return to competitive action in



IPL 2024. Ahead of his competitive return, a media report claimed that the senior selection committee was mulling not considering Virat Kohli for the T20 World Cup in the USA and the West Indies.

"No chance. It's not possible to be without Virat Kohli at the T20 World Cup. He is the one who took us to the semi-finals in T20 World Cup 2022. He was the Man of the

Tournament. Who is saying all this? These rumour-mongers, don't they have any other job? What is the basis for all this chatter? If India have to win the T20 World Cup, Virat Kohli is a must in the squad," Srikkanth said in his YouTube show.

'INDIA SHOULD WIN THE CUP FOR VIRAT'

While there were concerns about Virat Kohli's strike rate in the past in T20I cricket, the former India captain has always managed to do what the team needs. At the T20 World Cup in 2022, Virat Kohli top-scored with 296 runs in just 6 matches and played one of the finest knocks in T20I history against Pakistan at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. While stressing India need an anchor in the batting order in the West Indies, Kris Srikkanth said that the Indian team should win the World Cup as a tribute to Virat Kohli, recalling Sachin Tendulkar's World Cup 2011 triumph. "You need a guy who can just stay there. India need that sheet anchor, be it T20 World Cup or ODI World Cup," he added. "Without Virat Kohli, the Indian team cannot go. We need Virat Kohli, 100 percent.

World No. 1 Satwik and Chirag bow out of All England Open 2024 in second round

New Delhi. World No. 1 Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty's wait for an All England Open crown continued as the top seeds were knocked out in the men's doubles second round by former champions Muhammad Shohibul Fikri and Bagas Maulana of Indonesia. In a shock result on Thursday, the Indian pair were beaten in straight games - 16-21, 15-21 in just 44 minutes at the United Arena in Birmingham. Satwik and Chirag exiting the prestigious Super 1000 tournament as early as the second round serves a big blow to India's hopes of ending their long wait for an All England champion. Only Prakash Padukone in 1981 and Pulella Gopichand in 2001 are the Indian players to have won the tournament in England in the past.

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty were unusually error-prone, especially in the front of the court as several close points



did not go their way. The Indian duo allowed Fikri and Maulana to take a 13-6 lead in the opening game. Despite their efforts to close the gap, the 2022 champions took the early advantage by winning the opening game. The World No. 9 pair from Indonesia did not waste the momentum gained as they stormed to a straight-game win. It was Satwik and Chirag's 3rd defeat to the

Indonesian pair in 7 meetings. The Indian duo had beaten Fikri and Maulana in straight games in Malaysia in January. The defeat ends Satwik and Chirag's streak of reaching the final of all the tournaments that they featured in 2024. Satwik and Chirag headed to Birmingham with a lot of confidence after having won the French Open Super 750 title last week in Paris.

LAKSHYA KEEPS INDIAN CAMPAIGN ALIVE

Meanwhile, India had another disappointing result on Thursday as Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto were knocked out in the second round of the women's doubles competition. The World No. 23 pairing lost to No. 6 pair of Zhang Xian and Zheng Yu 11-21, 21-11, 11-21.

All England crown my dream, says Lakshya Sen amid Olympic qualification race

Birmingham. Former finalist Lakshya Sen said he is determined to go one step further than 2022 in the ongoing All England Open badminton championships, stressing that winning the title at the prestigious tournament is one of his biggest dreams. Lakshya's comments came after the 22-year-old stormed into the men's singles quarter-final of the Super 1000 tournament on Thursday. Lakshya Sen, ranked 19, defeated 6th seed Anderson Antonsen in a sensational three-game battle at the United Arena in Birmingham. Lakshya stormed back from behind to beat the Danish shuttler 24-22, 11-22, 21-14 and set up a quarter-final clash with 2021 champion Lee Zii Lakshya Sen did not begin the season well as he faced first-round exits in India Open and Malaysia Open before exiting the Indonesia Masters in the second round. However, Lakshya bounced back to reach the semi-final of French Open before making another deep run, this time at the All England Open.

Mitchell Starc will be Kolkata Knight Riders' X-factor in IPL 2024: Gautam Gambhir

← Starc returns to the IPL after nearly 9 years

← Gambhir feels Starc will be a X-factor for KKR

← Starc has 34 wickets in two IPL seasons

New Delhi. Kolkata Knight Riders mentor Gautam Gambhir has claimed that Mitchell Starc will be an X-factor for the two-time champions during the upcoming IPL 2024

season. Starc, who is set to make his return to the IPL after a long 9-year gap, was bought by KKR for a whopping 24.75 crores after a big bidding war with the Gujarat Titans. The left-arm pacer was previously bought by KKR during the 2018 auction when he was bought for 9.4 crore rupees. Speaking after reaching Kolkata on Thursday ahead of the new season, Gambhir said that the price tag won't be an added pressure for Starc. "I don't think the price tag will be an added pressure for him. I only hope he can do for KKR what he does for Australia in international cricket," said Gambhir. In the two seasons Starc played before his IPL hiatus, the left-arm pacer picked up a total of 34 wickets while playing for the Royal Challengers Bangalore.

KKR is an emotion for me: Gambhir



For Gambhir, it was an emotional homecoming on Thursday as the former opener returned to the franchise ahead of the new season. Gambhir had been the mentor of LSG for the past two seasons and made the decision to

come to KKR. Speaking after reaching Kolkata, Gambhir said that KKR has been an emotion to him and he is happy to be back with the side. Gambhir said that he is aware of the expectations and will be hoping to live up to them. "I have always mentioned that KKR to me is not a franchise, but an emotion. I am thus happy to be back."

"I know there will be expectations and I hope to live up to it and make the fans happy," said Gambhir. KKR will begin their campaign at the Eden Gardens on March 23 against the Sunrisers Hyderabad. They will be playing only three matches in the first phase of the IPL 2024 campaign.



Nora Fatehi

Flaunts Her Hot Dance Moves As She Grooves To A Marathi Song

Nora Fatehi is busy promoting her upcoming film *Madgaon Express*. She recently set the temperatures soaring when she grooved to a Marathi song at an event. The film marks Kunal Kemmu's directorial debut. The film stars Nora Fatehi, Divyendu Sharma, Pratik Gandhi, Avinash Tiwary and others. A video of Nora Fatehi flaunting her dance moves on stage at an event has gone viral online. Nora looked beautiful in a brown top which she paired with blue jeans. She left her hair open, framing her face perfectly. She accessorised her look with a sleek black belt. *Madgaon Express* is backed by Ritesh Sidhwani and Farhan Akhtar under the banner of Excel Entertainment, directed and written by Kunal Kemmu, and is all set to hit theatres on March 22, 2024. Kareena Kapoor Khan took to her social media and shared the trailer and wrote, "Love it looks so much fun @kunalkemmu". Hansal Mehta also shared the trailer on his social media and wrote - "Hit already @kunalkemmu This one's an absolute blast! @pratigandhiofficial @divyendu @avinashitiwary15. Too good you guys are!" Zoa Morani took to her social media and shared the trailer and praised the director Kunal Kemmu and said, "Toooodoo goood @kunalkemmu cant wait!!!!!!" Patralekhaa also hailed the trailer, "@kunalkemmu this is such a banging trailer but never expected anything lesser from you anyway. You are such a talented dedicated actor. Congratulations for adding one more feather in your cap... Director Saab I love this movie all the more because I can see so many friends in it @pratigandhiofficial @divyendu @norafatehi @avinashitiwary15." *Madgaon Express* stars Divyendu, Pratik Gandhi, and Avinash Tiwary in the lead roles. The story unfolds as a comedy film following three childhood friends who embark on a trip to Goa that goes completely off-track. This marks the dynamic trio's first collaboration on the silver screen in a light-hearted comedy. Brace yourself for a hilarious journey with *Madgaon Express*, brought to you from the makers of blockbusters like *Fukrey*, *Rock On*, and *Don*, ensuring continuous laughs and pure entertainment.

Ananya Panday Stuns In A Purple Mini Dress As She Gets Papped, Fans Call Her 'Hot'



Ananya Panday never fails to impress fans with her impeccable fashion sense. Keeping up with the trend she, on Thursday set social media abuzz as she stepped out in style, donning a captivating purple mini dress. Ananya was spotted in the city and undoubtedly was looking very beautiful. In the video, shared by Instant Bollywood, we can see Ananya wearing a purple colour mini dress with minimalistic makeup. Her hair was left open and was seen posing for the camera. As soon as the video was shared, fans were seen reacting to it. Many called her hot and also dropped heart emojis in the comment section. Paired with minimal accessories and chic footwear, Ananya's ensemble was looking very pretty.

Ananya Panday will be next seen in a TV series *Call Me Bae* alongside Varun Dhawan and Vir Das. The storyline revolves around a billionaire fashionista who, following a scandalous controversy, is disowned by her ultra-rich family and navigates life independently. Ananya is also part of projects like *Control*, *Battle Thy Seeds*, *Darbadar*, *Shankara*, *The Untold Story of C Sankaran Nair*, and *Run For Young*.

She was last seen in *Kho Gaye Hum Kahan*. Her performance was lauded by everyone. Set in Mumbai, this refreshing narrative of three friends is brought to life by the debutant director Arjun Varain Singh and the creative forces, known for exploring different facets of friendship, Excel Entertainment's Ritesh Sidhwani and Farhan Akhtar in collaboration with Tiger Baby's Reema Kagti and Zoya Akhtar. *Kho Gaye Hum Kahan* chronicles the lives of Imaad (Siddhant Chaturvedi), Ahana (Ananya Panday) and Neil (Adarsh Gourav), through the very relatable journey of three best friends- together navigating aspirations, relationships and emotions. Bringing their infectious energy from reel to real, the young and dynamic cast helped turn a wall on the bustling street in Mumbai into a vibrant mural capturing their friendship and inviting the crowds to join their journey as they kick off the promotions for the film.

Salman Khan DELETES His Laapataa Ladies Review Hours After He Got Trolled, Shares This Instead



Salman Khan has shared a corrected version of his review of Kiran Rao's *Laapataa Ladies*. He had earlier shared a review of Kiran Rao's latest release. Salman took to X, previously known as Twitter, and said that he loved the film. Salman said he watched it with his father, Salim Khan, and he too liked the film. However, his review featured a big mistake. Salman confused *Laapataa Ladies* as Kiran's directorial debut whereas the filmmaker made her debut with *Dhobi Ghat* in 2010. Salman's review now reads, "Just saw Kiran Rao's *Laapataa Ladies*. Wah wah Kiran. I really enjoyed it and so did my father. superb job. Kab kaam karogi mere saath?" Check it out here:

Salman's earlier post led to several social media users schooling him about his mistake. They reminded him that *Dhobi Ghat* was Kiran Rao's first film and even pointed out that Salman attended the premiere. The actor has thus shared a corrected version of the post.

Laapataa Ladies has received impressive reviews from the critics. The film is set in the rural backdrop of the fictional Nirmal Pradesh. The narrative opens in a second-class train car with a number of recently married couples making their way to their separate villages. The brides are all wearing long ghunghats, or veils, covering their faces. After hurriedly stepping off the train and avoiding the night's darkness, Deepak (Spash Shrivastava) takes his wife's hand and heads toward his village only to realise he has left behind the woman he has married and dragged home the wrong bride. All hell breaks loose. News18 gave the film a 4-star rating and wrote, "Rao manages to intertwine all these stories and juxtapose them with one another at right junctions, without being too in-your-face about it. The subtlety works beautifully as the stark contrast in each of the characters' lives unfolds."

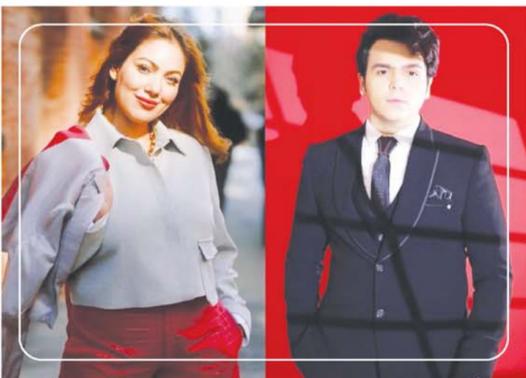
Munmun Dutta

Shares FIRST Post After Denying Engagement With Raj Anadkat

Tarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah actress Munmun Dutta took to her Instagram handle on Wednesday night to share her first post ever since her engagement reports with former co-star Raj Anadkat made headlines. Munmun shared a series of throwback pictures from her recent trip to New York and penned down a cryptic note: "Living my best life Sharing the last set of pictures from my NYC trip and photoshoot," she wrote. In the pictures, Munmun was seen posing on the streets of New York. She sported a grey shirt with orange trousers and looked stunning as always. Check out her post here:

On Wednesday, News18 Showsha exclusively reported that Tarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah actors Munmun

Dutta and Raj Anadkat are engaged. Munmun, 36, and Raj, 27, exchanged rings earlier this month in the presence of their respective families, the source informed us. The insider further revealed that the two actors got engaged in a low-key ceremony outside Mumbai. "The engagement took place just a few days back. The two apparently exchanged rings in Vadodara (Gujarat). Munmun and Raj's families have accepted their relationship and they were also present at the ceremony," the source said. However, Munmun dismissed the engagement report and issued a statement which read, "This news is ridiculous, fake and ludicrous. Zero ounce of truth in it. And frankly, I don't want to give my energy to this fake



thing that keeps coming up again and again."

Later, Raj also took to his Instagram stories and called the engagement report false. "Hello everyone. Just to clear things up, the news you've been seeing on social media is false & baseless," he wrote. While Munmun plays the role of Babita in the popular sitcom, Raj played Dilip Joshi's son Tappu in the show. Raj announced his departure from TMKOC in December 2022.

