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28,200 mobiles suspected of being used in cyber fraud blocked

Sanjay Kumar New Delhi, May 10: Attempting to stop ever-growing cases of cyber fraud in which citizens are losing hard-earned money, the Department of Telecom on Friday said directions have been issued to block 28,200 mobile handsets and immediate re-verification of 20 lakh mobile connections linked to these mobile handsets has been ordered. Failing re-verification of identity, the SIM card will be disconnected. Mobile handsets are blocked on the basis of their International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) number that is unique to each handset. Telecom service providers have been asked to ensure a pan-India block on these 28,200 mobile handsets and to carryout immediate re-verification of 20 lakh mobile connections linked to these mobile handsets, the DoT said adding that these SIM cards would be disconnected if re-verification failed. An analysis was carried out by Ministry of Home Affairs and State Police forces that identified these 28,200 mobile handsets were misused in cybercrimes. The DoT further analysed and found that a staggering 20 lakh numbers were used with these mobile handsets. This is not the first such instance of the DoT stepping in. The Lok Sabha was informed on February 6 this year that the government had blocked 3,20,000 SIM cards and 49,000 International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) numbers reported by the police.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal walks out of Tihar

Simmi Kaur Babbar New Delhi, May 10: Hours after the Supreme Court order, Kejriwal walked out of the Tihar Jail after spending 50 days in judicial custody. He thanked the Supreme Court judges for granting him interim bail and the people for their blessings. "We have to save the country from dictatorship, I will fight with all my might but need the support of 140 crore people," he told the media. Also read: Save country from dictatorship, says Kejriwal after release from Tihar The Supreme Court on May 10 granted interim bail to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal until June 1 in a money laundering case stemming from the alleged Delhi excise policy scam. He has been asked to surrender to the prison authorities by June 2. He is likely to participate in a roadshow in South Delhi for AAP's candidate Sahi Ram Pehelwan. This will be his first roadshow since his bail. "Our country is more than 4,000 years old. It's a great country but whenever anyone has tried to be dictatorial in the country, people haven't let them win.

Today, the country is going through this dictatorial rule and is fighting against it but passing a detailed order over the matter soon. Earlier, they pointed out that it



140 crore will have to come together to fight it. I appeal to everyone to fight this together," he said after he reached his home. A Bench comprising Justices Khanna and Dipankar Datta said they will

Watch: What was the New Delhi Excise Policy all about? Meanwhile, Opposition leaders have welcomed the decision, saying the "fight to save democracy" will now be with more intensity. Congress leader Pawan Khera said, "We welcome the intervention by the Supreme Court in granting bail to Arvind Kejriwal...We also hope that the prime minister gets enough time after June 4, when he becomes the former prime minister of India, to introspect sitting in Sabarmati Ashram the kind of politics he has indulged in." He also hoped that former Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren also get due justice soon. West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee said she was happy that Mr. Kejriwal got interim bail. "It will be very helpful in the context of the current elections," she said. NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar said the country remains steadfast in the pursuit of democracy. "I welcome the interim bail order granted to the chief minister of Delhi, Arvind Kejriwal by the SC. India remains steadfast in the pursuit of democracy," he wrote on X.

Freedom of speech doesn't mean freedom to support separatism: Jaishankar

New Delhi, May 10: By allowing political space to Khalistani separatist elements, the Canadian government is sending a message that its vote bank is "more powerful" than its rule of law, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said. In an exclusive interview to PTI late on Thursday, Jaishankar said India respects and practises freedom of speech, but that does not equate with freedom to threaten foreign diplomats, extend support to separatism or allow political space to elements advocating violence. The external affairs minister also wondered how people with dubious backgrounds are being allowed to enter and live in Canada, referring to Khalistani supporters among the Sikh migrants from Punjab. "In any rule-based society, you would imagine that you would check people's background, how they came, what passports they carried, etc," he said. "If you have people whose presence there was itself on very dubious documents, what does it say about you? It actually says that your vote-bank actually is more powerful than your rule of law," he said. The Indian diaspora in Canada is about 1.8 million strong and there are another one million Non-Resident Indians residing in the country.

BJP chief Nadda holds roadshow in Panchkula

Navdeep Singh Sahni Chandigarh, May 10: BJP chief J P Nadda on Friday lashed out at the opposition INDIA alliance, dubbing it an "assembly of corrupt" and asking the people to vote for the saffron outfit so that the country's march on the path of progress continues. At a roadshow in Haryana's Panchkula, Nadda also accused the opposition parties of promoting dynastic politics. "Modi ji says remove corruption, they (opposition) say save the corrupt and make them flourish," he said at the roadshow in favour of BJP's Ambala candidate Banto Kataria. "Is the Congress a party of scams or not. Is Lalu's (Yadav)'s party a party which indulged in scam. Did Mamata (Banerjee) indulge in scams or not? Did DMK Stalin's family indulge in scams or not? Did K Kavitha indulge in scam or not? Toh 'sare bhrashtachariyon ka jamavda hai' (assembly of the corrupt)," Nadda said. He also noted that many opposition leaders are either in jail or on bail. "Where is Arvind Kejriwal today. Where is Manish Sisodia. Where is (AAP's) Satyendar Jain. Where is (SP leader) Azam Khan...Rahul is on bail,

they have no concern for the people. "Farooq Abdullah wants his son Omar to become chief minister. When (former Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh) Badal sahab was there (alive) he was busy making efforts for his son Sukhbir (Badal). Chautala family also tried the same. "Everywhere you see the same thing. After Mulayam (Singh Yadav), Akhilesh has come...(in Bihar) it is Tejashwi now, Mamata (Banerjee) sees (her nephew) Abhishek, KCR sees Kavitha, Sharad Pawar sees Supriya Sule, Uddhav sees Aaditya Thackeray...they are all dynastic parties," he said. He said India has to be made a developed nation and for this we have to strengthen the hands of the prime minister. Nadda also spoke at length about the various development programmes and schemes of the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre. Polling for all the 10 seats in Haryana will be held in the sixth phase of elections on May 25.



Sonia is on bail. (B S) Hooda is on bail. Lalu is on bail. So, either these leaders are on jail or out on bail," the BJP leader said. Accusing the opposition parties of promoting dynastic politics, he claimed

ous development programmes and schemes of the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre. Polling for all the 10 seats in Haryana will be held in the sixth phase of elections on May 25.

Delhi court orders framing of charges against Brij Bhushan Singh in wrestlers' sexual harassment case

New Delhi, May 10: A Delhi court on Friday ordered framing of sexual harassment and other charges against BJP MP and former Wrestling Federation of India chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh in a case lodged by six women wrestlers, observing there was "sufficient evidence" against him. Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) Priyanka Rajpoot directed framing of charges against Singh, a six-time Lok Sabha MP, under IPC sections 354 (assault or crim-



inal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 354A (sexual harassment) and 506 (criminal intimidation). "There is sufficient evidence to frame charges against the accused," the judge said. The court, however, discharged Singh in a complaint filed by one of the six women wrestlers, citing lack of sufficient evidence in the complaint. The court will formally frame the charges on May 21. It also ordered framing of charges in the case against co-accused and former WFI assistant secretary Vinod Tomar. Reacting to the court decision, Singh said he will consult his lawyers and take a decision on whether to appeal against the order before a higher court or challenge it before the ACMM. "I welcome this decision of the judiciary. I had protested against the framing of charges but I did that within certain limits but now I have various options open to me. Either I appeal against the order or contest it. I will consult my lawyer and take a decision. I am not hurt, I was prepared for it. If the case continues, I will get an opportunity to present my side," Singh told PTI. Singh, an influential Rajput leader from Uttar Pradesh, has been denied BJP ticket from Kaiserganj Lok Sabha seat in the wake of the sexual harassment allegations levelled against him. The BJP has fielded his son Karan Bhushan Singh in Kaiserganj, his stronghold. The Delhi Police had filed a charge sheet in the case against Singh on June 15 under sections 354, 354A, 354D (stalking) and 506 of the Indian Penal Code.

Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah says have faith in SIT

Tejinder Kaur Babbar Mysuru (Karnataka), May 10: Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday expressed confidence in the state government-constituted SIT probing the sexual harassment case against JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna and asserted that there was no need to hand it over to CBI. Hitting out at the opposition parties, he claimed that BJP (when it was in power in the state) had never assigned even a single case to CBI and that there was a time when the outfit used to refer to CBI as 'Corruption Bureau of Investigation'. Former Prime Minister and JD(S) patriarch HD Deve Gowda used to call CBI as 'Chor Bachao Institution' and now they love CBI? he told reporters here. On JD(S) second-in-command and former CM HD Kumaraswamy's

demand to hand over the case to CBI, Siddaramaiah said, "There is no need to hand over the case to CBI. I have confidence and trust in our police (SIT). They will conduct an investigation in accordance with law." The CM cited some cases referred to CBI during the previous Congress rule in the State and asked: "but was anyone punished in

these cases?" "Our government does not interfere in legal proceedings and investigations. They (SIT) are conducting the inquiry in the right manner. Not now, nor in the past, have I instructed any police officers to do something beyond or against the law. However, there is no need for a CBI probe. Our police should be trusted," he said. As per the law, the SIT has been constituted. "I have trust in our police officers. They will find out the truth," he added. The CM made it clear that neither he nor Deputy CM DK Shivakumar are involved in the investigation of the case. Responding to allegations of "political interference" in JD(S) MLA HD Revanna's arrest in a kidnapping case, he asked: "If there is no truth in the allegation against him, why did he seek anticipatory bail? Why was the bail application rejected by the Court?"



12 Naxalites killed in Chhattisgarh in 3rd major encounter in a month

Bijapur, May 10: Twelve Naxalites were gunned down in an encounter with security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district on Friday, police said, taking the number of left-wing extremists killed in the state so far this year to 103. Two security personnel were also injured in an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) blast triggered by Maoists during the operation, they said. This was the third major strike on Naxalites by security forces in the last one month and comes three weeks after 29 extremists were killed in an encounter in Kanker district. Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai congratulated security forces and senior officials for the successful offensive in Bijapur. The latest gunfight took place in a forest near Pidida village under Gangaloor police station limits when a joint team of security personnel was out on an anti-Naxal operation, a police official said. Personnel belonging to the District Reserve Guard (DRG) from Bijapur, Dantewada and Sukma districts, Bastar Fighters, Special Task Force (STF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and its elite unit CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action) were involved in the operation, he said.

INDIA bloc leaders meet Election Commission over voter turnout data

Naresh Malhotra New Delhi, May 10: A delegation of opposition party leaders on Friday met the top brass of the Election Commission (ECI) and raised its concerns over the delay in releasing voter turnout figures for the first two phases, and urged them to take action on complaints of model code violations by ruling BJP leaders during the ongoing polls. Samajwadi Party leader Javed Ali, meanwhile, raised the issue of a "red card" being issued by the Uttar Pradesh Police to people in the state, which they said is stopping many from exercising their franchise. The delegation included Congress leaders Abhishek Manu Singhvi, Salman Khurshid, TMC's Derek O'Brien, DMK's TR Baalu, JMM's Mahua Majhi, CPI's Binoy Viswam, and Ali among others. "We have a very distinguished gathering of INDIA alliance. Each party across India is represented. We spent 45 minute to

an hour," Singhvi said briefing the media after the meeting. "Issue number one was one of great trust deficit, question mark and a feeling of alarm and distress that 11 complaints by the Congress alone, and complaints by all parties put together against the Prime Minister and Home Minister, starting from early April, have not been addressed," Singhvi said. "No action has been taken. Look at the oddity - you have sent notices after a long gap and not to the offenders. For the first time in the history of the Election Commission you have sent notices to the party presidents," Singhvi said, referring to its letter to BJP president JP Nadda over complaints against Modi's Banswara speech. He said they have not been informed about the response to the ECI notice, or about the action being taken.

"Why there is a delay?" The Congress leader also hinted that the opposition



parties may approach the Supreme Court with the issue. "It is no joy for us to go to the Supreme Court and get directions saying why don't you decide. This is not the way a constitutional functionality should function. We are distressed and there is no satisfactory

answer why these people are not touched," he said. Singhvi said the second issue raised was the "non-publication or publication with extreme delay of the voter turnout percentages." "We made three quick points — the difference of voter percentage increase is 5.74 per cent or 5.5 per cent. The comparable figure in the 2019 election the first three phases was two per cent, one per cent, two and half per cent, this time it is double," he said. "We are not given a stamp of approval by the published figures of ECI. We are told to calculate on our own because there is real time data available with the candidate or the voting app. That maybe so, but the stamp of approval of a published absolute figure and a percentage figure by ECI carries its own constitutional weight, we have asked for that," he said.

Indian Air Force draws up roadmap to outsource overhaul of 60 AN-32 aircraft to the industry

Chandigarh, May 10: The Indian Air Force (IAF) has drawn up a roadmap to outsource part of the repair and overhaul of airframes along with certain components of the Soviet-origin AN-32 tactical transport aircraft to the industry. The IAF is seeking proposals from the industry, including original equipment manufacturers and joint venture firms for overhaul processes as well as carrying out studies for technical life extension of the airframes and components beyond 40 years. Outsourcing is expected to commence this year. The IAF's defined requirement is to overhaul 60 AN-32 aircraft by the end of 2028-29 fiscal, with the average output being 15 aircraft per overhaul cycle. The AN-32 overhaul process includes a total of 11 stages, out of which five would be outsourced to the industry, air force sources said. These include disassembly of sub-systems and components, cleaning and paint removal, structural repair and refurbishment, re-assembly of sub-systems and final

painting. The work would be carried out at No. 1 Base Repair Depot (BRD) at Kanpur. While this depot is responsible for the repair and overhaul of AN-32 airframe and other components, the engines of these aircraft are overhauled at No. 3 BRD in Chandigarh. The IAF will provide the physical infrastructure, including work space and hangars, overhaul technology, training, specialised tools and test rigs, while the industrial partner will be responsible for provisioning manpower, general tools, spares and aggregates and ensuring safety protocols. Procured from the erstwhile Soviet Union, the twin-engine AN-32 turboprop began entering Indian service in 1984. A total of 125 aircraft were bought, out of which over 100 are said to be in service. These are heavily used for crucial air maintenance in northern and north-eastern sectors, besides performing other tasks such as tactical airlift, communication, para-troop training and disaster management.

MSCB scam case closure report: High Court's Intervention sought

Mumbai: Manik Jadhav, a complainant in the alleged Maharashtra State Co-operative Bank (MSCB) scam case, has sought the intervention of the Bombay High Court in a second closure report filed this Jan by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) before a special court in the city. Jadhav said the report specified that there is no criminal offence in the transactions allegedly linked to deputy chief minister and NCP leader Ajit Pawar, his wife Sunetra Pawar and nephew Rohit Pawar, who is part of the Sharad Pawar-led faction, and others. The plea came up before a bench led by Justice Revati Mohite-Dere who recused herself from hearing the matter. It will be placed before another division bench in due course. special court designated for the trial of criminal cases involving MPs and MLAs had in February issued notice to another complainant Surinder Arora seeking his reply on the closure report. Jadhav's affidavit of May 7 was in a petition filed by Arora and Jadhav in 2021 for transfer of EOW probe to CBI after EOW had filed its first closure report in September, 2020. Sharad Pawar's party alleges use of money and muscle power as voting begins in Baramati; Ajit Pawar rubbishes allegations NCP factions clash during Baramati voting. Allegations of money distribution and voter influence. Confidence in winning expressed by Ajit Pawar despite opposition accusations.

Rohith Vemula not a Dalit, says police in closure report Cyberabad police report reveals Rohith Vemula wasn't Dalit, died by suicide fearing true identity exposure. No evidence of accused involvement found. Vemula obtained SC certificate through mother, feared losing academic credentials. Ajit Pawar's mother goes with him & Sunetra; Supriya visits kaka after voting. During voting, Ashatai Pawar's seniority highlighted amid family split. Ajit emphasized her support.

Scorching heat, water scarcity halve betel leaf yields in Tamil Nadu

TIRUCHY: The fresh heart-shaped leaves plucked from the evergreen betel vine may be an essential ingredient for the auspicious rituals and ceremonies. But farmers from Karur, Tiruchy, Thanjavur, and Dharmapuri see their fortunes slip away in the adverse weather conditions and unprecedented water scarcity. Most farmers TNIE spoke to are at loss of words to explain how the heatwave-like conditions over the past few weeks coupled with the lack of availability of Cauvery water for irrigation brought down their yield. Some say it is down by as much as 50%. K Rajmohan, a farmer from Thottiyam in Tiruchy, said those who took up betel leaf cultivation in the district are now buying water from tanker lorries to save their crop. "Because of the production loss, the revenue earned by the farmers does not cover the expenses incurred to raise the crop," he says. Since last June, farmers in Karur district have raised the crop on about 1,250 acres while its cultivation has been taken up on about 200 acres in Tiruchy, according to horticulture department officials.



"Unlike other plantation crops, betel leaves are very tender in nature. This leaves it unable to endure the rising mercury levels," says K Ramasamy of Velayuthampalayam and secretary of the betel leaf farmers' association. According to him,

the betel leaf cultivation began from June 2023. "The crop started yielding after two months. We can go for its harvest once every 20 days and it will keep yielding for three years. The crop is now a year old. It is the perfect season when farmers get higher yield. But the water scarcity and the scorching summer heat have reduced production. While we got about 200 bundles (of 2,500 leaves each) per acre last year, these days we get less than 100 bundles," he said. S Manimekalai, deputy director of Horticulture (Karur), told TNIE that the banks of the Cauvery and its major tributaries help raise nurseries for betel vine in Karur, Tiruchy and Thanjavur districts. It is a wetland crop and requires copious amounts of water. Most farmers irrigate betel-leaf crop by digging trenches, the official said. "While the government is advocating for several

water management methods like sprinklers and drip irrigation, in the case of betel vine, no such method can be adopted as the crop is a creeper," the official added.

Thanjavur is a district where farmers undertook betel vine cultivation on a larger scale, covering around 6,000 acres, particularly in Kumbakonam and Papanasam and Thiruvaiyaru areas. Currently, they cultivated it on around 500 acres, a decrease from the few thousand acres cultivated sometimes ago. Kumbakonam, a popular pilgrimage centre, is also famous for betel leaves. Farmers and traders say that betel leaves grown in Kumbakonam are considered the best, due to their freshness and strong quality. A wholesale trader of betel leaves in Kumbakonam, A Batcha, said this year's arrival was significantly lower compared to last year, attributing it to reduced production caused by prevailing temperatures. This had led to a price hike for the betel leaves. "Last year, we sold each bundle (containing 100 leaves) for Rs 80 to Rs 100. This year, we are compelled to sell them for Rs 120 to Rs 170 per bundle," Batcha said.

Due to the lack of flow in Cauvery, drought like situation is prevailing in delta, affecting the growth of the crops, P Sugumaran, a farmer from Thiruvaiyaru said.

Fierce battle on cards in Ongole Assembly segment

ONGOLE: The Ongole Assembly constituency, a key coastal region in Prakasam district, is the administrative capital of the district. With the highest number of voters (around 2.39 lakh), the segment plays a pivotal role in deciding the fate of the contenders in the coming elections.

Further as a district headquarters and stronghold of fishermen folks, its political mood radiates impact throughout the district and a few surrounding places which fall into the limits of neighbouring Bapatla and Nellore district. Since its inception in 1951, a total of 17 elections were held from 1952 to 2019, which gave an opportunity for people to elect many great public leaders and political stalwarts like 'Andhra Kesari' Tanguturi Prakasam Pantulu, CR Reddy, BVL Narayana, S Jivaratnam Naidu and others. While YSRC has fielded sitting MLA Balineni Srinivasa Reddy, who won Ongole MLA seat for a record five times, TDP nominated Damacharla Janardhana Rao to win back the segment. Besides Balineni and Damacharla, Turkapalli Naga Lakshmi (Congress) and Tatiparti Venkata Swamy (BSP) are also in the poll fray.

The Ongole Assembly constituency has only two mandals—Ongole and Kothapatnam. The residents of the constituency have been suffering from scarcity of potable water for a long time as there is no sufficient surface water available in Ongole Municipal Corporation (OMC) limits. The Ongole Municipal Corporation (OMC) authorities are drawing water from the Kandula Obula Reddy Gundlakamma Reservoir as well as from the Ramatheertham Balancing Reservoir near Chimakurthy to fill-up two Summer Storage (SS-1 & SS-2) tanks to cater the drinking water needs of the people. With the efforts of MLA Balineni Srinivasa Reddy, the State government has sanctioned around Rs 400 crore for the water supply schemes and Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) works are underway. Another major issue is the pollution plaguing Pothuraju Canal. To address this problem, around Rs 100 crore was sanctioned by the government to start the desilting, expansion and revetment works of the canal. The government has also sanctioned around 22,000 houses to the urban poor families of the OMC limits. However, Buckingham canal development works, Ethamukkala flyover works, city beautification works and other infrastructural development works are yet to be taken up. In a bid to bank the anti-incumbency votes, TDP candidate Damacharla Janardhana Rao has intensified election campaigning to win over his rival Balineni Srinivasa Reddy. Exuding confidence that the tripartite alliance will form the government with thumping majority, he said, "People across the State are vexed with YS Jagan Reddy led YSRC government's anti-public rule. I have a separate manifesto for the comprehensive development and welfare of the Ongole constituency people and immediately after forming the government, we will complete all our election promises, including tap water connections to every households, Pothuraju canal modernisation works, TIDCO houses to all eligible, beautification works, completion of Ethamukkala flyover and other key development works."

390 judges transferred

Ahmedabad: The Gujarat high court on Thursday transferred more than 390 judicial officers of the state judiciary in the second set of transfers this year.

In all, 287 civil judges have been transferred either to other districts or talukas or within the premises of the same court while more than 100 district cadre judges have been moved to other courts. The high court has framed a policy for transferring judges. Except under extraordinary circumstances, a judicial officer is posted at one place for three years. The court has divided the state into three zones and the judges are part of zone transfers every three years. These transfers take place routinely, mostly ahead of the summer vacation.

Government transfers DFO Shajna to Kasaragod. Shajna transferred to Kasaragod due to failure in tree felling case, replaced by Renjith B. Logs transported from Sugandhagiri despite cases filed. Department

suspended five officials over illegal felling impacting tribesmen.



India set to take UPI to Ghana, link up for faster money transfers. India and Ghana enhance money transfer with UPI-GHIPS integration, aiming for quick and cost-effective transactions. The collaboration extends to digital solutions, local currency trade, and leveraging AfCFTA benefits, fostering growing bilateral trade in various goods.

Central University of Kerala transfers teacher accused of sexual assault. A student, who filed a complaint, sought justice from the Union minister.

IN-SPACE & GalaxEye ink MoU for testing facilities

Bengaluru: GalaxEye, a space-tech startup Thursday said it has signed an MoU with the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACE), an autonomous agency under the Department of Space, on May 1. GalaxEye has become the first beneficiary of IN-SPACE's top-notch cowering as well as testing space through the partnership. The partnership further facilitates the utilisation of Isro's top-of-the-range laboratories and testing facilities," the firm said in a statement. It added that in 2023, GalaxEye built India's first indigenous drone equipped with Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) and is now working on building India's first private constellation of Earth Observation satellites.

IN-SPACE, GalaxEye ink MoU for testing facilities. GalaxEye, collaborating with IN-SPACE, aims to revolutionize data gathering with innovative satellite technology. Their focus on high-quality imagery for climate and urban development monitoring sets the stage for global decision-making improvements.

IN-SPACE rolls out guidelines for space activities by pvt sector. IN-SPACE guidelines align with Indian Space Policy 2023, regulating roles, responsibilities, and authorisations for various space activities in India, emphasizing compliance with national and international laws, space debris mitigation, ground station security, and third-party liability insurance requirements.

Operationalising space policy 2023: IN-SPACE releases guidelines for pvt sector. IN-SPACE guidelines promote private participation in space activities, align with Indian Space Policy 2023, cover operational safety, and national security aspects, ensuring compliance with regulations for a vibrant space ecosystem.

Car registrations rise by 40% this Akshaya Tritiya

Mumbai: New car registrations surged by around 40% in the past one week for special deliveries on Akshaya Tritiya compared to the festival period last year. There was a 22% rise in overall vehicle registrations during this festival period while the registrations of two-wheelers also rose by 19%, according to transport department statistics. The maximum number of cars, 489, was registered with the Borivli RTO, while Wadala RTO reported the highest number of bike registrations at 835, sources at RTO said. Car registrations rise by 40% this Akshaya Tritiya. Nearly 1,500 new cars and over 2,700 two-wheelers were registered for deliveries. The purchase of new automobiles in Mumbai usually peaks during four days of the year -- Gudi Padwa, Akshaya Tritiya, Dussehra and Diwali. These are actually auspicious days for starting new ventures or making new purchases. When it came to green vehicles, statistics showed that there were 162 new electric vehicles booked for Akshaya Tritiya while the registration of

CNG vehicles was 546 at the four RTOs collectively in the past one week. Transport experts are worried about the increasing vehicular population on city roads, especially two-wheelers. While the total vehicle population in the city has crossed 46 lakh, there are around 13 lakh private cars and 28 lakh two-wheelers. The density of vehicles in Mumbai is one of the highest in the country at 2,300 vehicles per km. n official from the Federation of Automobile Dealer's Association, however, said that private vehicles have become a necessity and are no longer a status symbol. "It is fair for a family to have 2-3 cars. It can be an utility -- some elderly person cannot travel without a car or someone who needs a car to travel long distances daily. It is something that you need to use," he said. Experts indicated with the car population bursting at its seams and limited roads, the density of vehicles could shoot over 2400 vehicles per km and cars over 700 per km in 2024, if left unchecked. They added that if this is not

regulated by strengthening public transport and dissuading people from bringing private cars and bikes on roads, this could lead to more congestion, pollution and also delays in daily commute. "There is a dearth of car parking in the city and it is high time we impose peak-hour congestion charges/tax like the one in Central London," a transport analyst said. When is Akshaya Tritiya 2024? Date, Story, History, Significance and all you need to know about Akshaya Tritiya. Akshaya Tritiya on May 10, 2024, symbolizes new beginnings, prosperity, and legends of Shri Krishna, Sudama, and the Pandavas. The festival involves Drik Panchang timings, astrology, rituals, and significant gold investments for auspiciousness and wealth. Akshaya Tritiya 2024: Astrologer Praduman Suri's guidance on auspicious timing and beneficial purchases. Akshaya Tritiya, a significant Hindu celebration, marks celestial energy convergence. Praduman Suri advises caution in financial matters and highlights.

Cybercrooks use Parivahan route to dupe man of 3.5L

Bengaluru: A 44-year-old man was recently bilked of Rs 3.5 lakh by cybercriminals who posed as officials from the transport department and asked him to pay a fine for violating traffic regulations. Konjengbam Bikim Chandra, architect with a private firm, told police that the miscreants siphoned off Rs 3.5 lakh from his accounts between 1.30pm and 3.30pm on April 24. According to his complaint, the miscreants sent him a WhatsApp message on April 24. It read: "We regret to inform you that a traffic violation has been recorded against your vehicle. Specifically, our records indicate that your vehicle was observed exceeding the speed limit. To verify and view evidence related to this violation, please access the Vahan Parivahan mobile application. This application will provide you with detailed information,

including photographic evidence of the violation. Yours sincerely, Regional Transport Office in Bengaluru (RTO), Karnataka." he message also contained a challan number, his car registration number with the date of violation as March 23. He believed it was genuine as it mentioned the registration number correctly. The miscreants also sent him a mobile app link to make the payment. He clicked on the link and later, Rs 3,57,360 was transferred out of his multiple bank accounts. He realised the fraud after receiving messages about the amounts deducted. Marathahalli police said Chandra's phone was hacked after he clicked the link. Chandra received repeated calls from an unknown number a day before his phone was hacked. He avoided them but later, received it only to find it was blank. He suspects the hackers might

have called him. According to police, cybercriminals had sent similar messages to several people in the name of Bengaluru traffic police in January and February this year. They had developed a



few mobile applications using its name. Consequently, traffic police registered a case with cybercrime police and got the fake apps removed. Now, the criminals have returned with fake apps in the name of Parivahan. M-Parivahan is a government app under the road transport ministry. Oshiwara police cyber team retrieves Rs 4.98

laks siphoned from actor's bank account. Oshiwara police cyber team recovers Rs 4.98 lakhs from actor Rakesh Bedi & wife Aradhana's joint account, praised for solving online fraud without needing OTP or link. Patil & Konde helped.

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37 arrested for rioting at Pirana shrine

Ahmedabad: The Ahmedabad rural police have arrested 37 people in connection with a clash between two groups at Pirana shrine after the graves of Imamshah Bawa and his family members were allegedly flattened by a faction of trustees. The shrine has been a symbol of Hindu-Muslim amity. During the clash that occurred on Tuesday night, members of two communities pelted stones at each other, injuring four people including a cop. Superintendent of police (Ahmedabad rural) Omprakash Jat said, "So far, 37 people from both the communities

have been arrested. More arrests will be made. Owing to some differences, one of the trustees flattened the graves of Sufi saint Imamshah Bawa and his family members, leading to stone pelting." Those arrested were booked under sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) pertaining to attempt to murder, rioting, and damage to public property among others, he said. The differences among the trustees on religious lines started becoming apparent over the last few decades, with the Muslim members



of the trust registering complaints with the

district collectorate and the police time and again. They have approached the Gujarat high court as well on certain occasions. Pelting at Pirana shrine after graves razed, 4 injured. Tension at Pirana shrine over grave desecration led to rioting among the Muslim community. Ahmedabad SP mentioned the longstanding dispute, while LCB and SOG patrolled the area due to the shrine's significant following. 37 arrested in Pirana incident. 37 arrested after clash at Pirana shrine due to trustee

differences, symbolizing Hindu-Muslim unity. Stones pelted, injuries caused, and legal actions taken. Police patrolled the area to control the situation amid ongoing religious disputes. Canada police arrest 'hit squad members' linked to Nijjar killing case: Report. Canadian police arrest hit squad members linked to Khalistani leader Nijjar's murder in British Columbia. Suspects identified months ago. RCMP played a key role in the arrests made in multiple provinces.

NEWS BOX

Five pvt schools in Noida get notice over empty RTE quota

Noida: The basic education department has issued notices to five private schools for not giving admission under RTE even after the second round of admission. The department has also written to the CBSE Board and RTE officials under the Union education ministry, urging them to ensure admissions are carried out as per RTE requirements. Despite several warnings, the schools have not facilitated the admission of RTE-allocated students. The district magistrate has also assured to look into the matter. Schools have been given one week's time. If they don't admit the students, actions will be taken against them. We will also urge the CBSE to withdraw their registration or affiliations, as RTE is a mandate that all schools must follow," said Raj Singh Yadav, in-charge at the basic education department, Noida. Currently, the third phase of RTE applications is underway in GB Nagar, with 1,500 applications received for admission to private schools. The district has 1,062 private schools with 16,516 seats reserved under RTE. Meanwhile, the education department has updated the U-DISE portal with the data of students for the academic year 2023-24. Students have been assigned permanent education numbers (PEN), but several schools lack a U-DISE code. Schools have been given a deadline of May 18 to apply for the same. We also published the following articles recently: Bombay HC stays Maharashtra Govt's rule that exempts certain pvt unaided school's obligation under RTE Act. Bombay High Court stayed a new State rule affecting RTE Act provisions, impacting admissions for weaker section children. Challenges through PILs raised violations of the Act and students' right to life, with the State defending its actions. Maharashtra to modify two RTE circulars after HC stays its exemption for pvt unaided schools. Maharashtra govt adjusts school reservation circulars after Bombay HC stay on RTE rules amendment. NGO challenges circulars as unconstitutional. Education department official clarifies reservation specifics. CJ suggests RTE Act amendment discussion with Parliament. State to respond by June 12. Tamil Nadu School Education Department warns schools against conducting special classes during summer vacation. Tamil Nadu School Education Department prohibits special classes in summer due to heat wave. Violations face severe consequences. Strict enforcement and compliance emphasized to ensure school adherence to the ban.

Noida cops in Delhi to nab AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan and son Anas Ahmed

NOIDA. A day after they were booked for allegedly assaulting and threatening employees of a petrol pump in the city, Noida police on Wednesday sent teams to Delhi to arrest AAP's Delhi MLA Amanatullah Khan and his son Anas Ahmed.

SHO of Phase 1 Dhruv Bhushan Dubey said the Okhla legislator and his son were not found at their Batla House residence.

"We have formed three teams to investigate the incident. On Wednesday, a team was sent to the MLA's residence in Delhi to nab the Khan and his son, but they were not found there. Another team is gathering statements of eyewitnesses and staffers present at the fuel station at the time of the incident, while the third is analysing the CCTV feeds," Dubey said.

A law student, Ahmed tried to skip the queue at a Sector 95 fuel pump on Tuesday and allegedly assaulted a staffer when he was asked to get back in line. The incident was caught on a CCTV camera installed at the fuel pump and widely shared on social media.

In his complaint, fuel station owner Vinod Kumar Singh claimed Ahmed had pulled out an iron rod from his car's boot and hit a staffer. He also said that Ahmed had vandalised a card machine.

"The MLA's son (later) called his father, who arrived in two cars. He threatened the petrol pump manager," the complaint said. Police filed an FIR against the MLA, his son and two other unidentified car occupants under IPC sections 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace), 506 (criminal intimidation) and 427 (mischievous causing damage).

Showers & thunderstorms likely for two days in city

Gurgaon. The maximum temperature on Thursday rose slightly to 38.4 degrees Celsius from against 36.9 degrees on Wednesday. It was, however, two notches below normal. The city is likely to get brief respite from the heat on Friday and Saturday, as India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a "yellow" alert for the city warning of thunderstorms with lightning. The thunderstorms are likely to be accompanied by gusty winds with speeds of 30kmph-40kmph, the forecast said. Meanwhile, Thursday's minimum temperature was 25.9 degrees Celsius, slightly higher than normal for this time but down from Wednesday's 27.8 degrees. According to the IMD forecast, the weather will be partly cloudy in the coming days with chances of rain, thunderstorms or dust storms, especially on Friday and Saturday. The maximum temperature during this period is anticipated to hover between 38 and 40 degrees Celsius. IMD officials said a fresh western disturbance is currently influencing the weather patterns in northwest India. Despite this, the city is unlikely to get any substantial relief from the heat. Residents should, therefore, take necessary precautions to stay cool and hydrated. Meanwhile, the air quality in the city continued to stay in the 'moderate' category on Thursday. The 24-hour average AQI was recorded at 152, an improvement from 189 on Wednesday.

Some parts of Delhi may witness very light rain or drizzle from Friday night to Monday under the influence of a western disturbance. The maximum temperature is likely to rise to 40 degrees Celsius on Friday, but it may dip again due to clouds, rain and strong winds. IMD's data shows that the maximum temperature was 38.8 degrees Celsius on Thursday. The minimum temperature was 26 degrees Celsius. The relative humidity oscillated between 41% and 69%. "The mercury is likely to touch 40 degrees Celsius on Friday, but there is a possibility of drizzle during the night. However, day temperature may dip slightly to 39 degrees Celsius on Saturday. Light rain or thunderstorm has been predicted for Sunday," said an IMD official.

Appeal from New Delhi Lok Sabha constituency: Unite on May 25 and vote for BJP leader Bansuri Swaraj: Charanjeev Malhotra

New Delhi. Prominent social worker and cow protection and Corona warrior Charanjeev Malhotra said that for the Lok Sabha elections 2024, BJP has fielded Bansuri Swaraj, daughter of former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, to contest from New Delhi Lok Sabha seat. Bansuri was already working as the secretary of BJP's Delhi unit. But Bansuri Swaraj got enrolled in the Bar Council of Delhi in 2007. He has been in the legal profession for the last several years and is a criminal lawyer. BA in English Literature from the University of Warwick, (Hons.), he studied law at the prestigious BPP Law School, London. He then qualified as a barrister at law. After this Bansuri completed his Master of Studies from St. Catharine's College, Oxford University. Bansuri Swaraj has fought Lalit Modi's case - Bansuri had attracted the attention of the media when it was revealed that

Sushma Swaraj's daughter Bansuri Swaraj was a part of the legal team of former IPL commissioner Lalit Modi. Let us



tell you, Lalit Modi had congratulated his legal team in a tweet. The members of the legal team whose names were mentioned by Lalit Modi in his tweet included 8 more lawyers including Sushma Swaraj's daughter Bansuri. Lok Sabha elections are in Delhi on 25th May. Bansuri: Like any leader, the talks with the public are going on in full swing before this election. Public meetings are gaining momentum

and a huge crowd is being seen in his public meetings. Charanjeev Malhotra said that this is the biggest challenge for



Bansuri Swaraj, daughter of BJP leader Sushma Swaraj, who is contesting on BJP

ticket from New Delhi parliamentary constituency. Now, with the increase in election activity, the method of campaigning will also have to change. Now, instead of meetings, efforts should be made to reach into the hearts of voters through the glamor of road shows. The path of building one's identity and credibility among the people is not easy. In front of him is Somnath Bharti, a senior leader of the ruling party in Delhi and three-time MLA Somnath Bharti, who is contesting the elections in alliance with the Congress. Till now all the three parties used to fight their battles separately, but due to the alliance, after this the contest is face to face, hence the election for the new warrior is going to be a tough one. There is an appeal to the residents of New Delhi Lok Sabha constituency to unite and vote for Bansuri Swaraj, daughter of BJP leader Sushma Swaraj on May 25. And all the countrymen are requested to participate in the festival of democracy and definitely vote.

Clear 25% of dues under relief pkg, Noida asks developers Bldg plan nod goes online in areas off Yamuna e-way

Noida. The Noida Authority met builders of defaulter projects and CREDAI officials on Thursday and urged them to expedite the process to pay 25% of the revised dues under UP govt's rehabilitation package for stalled projects. Noida Authority CEO Lokesh M said of the 57 defaulter projects, developers of 20 have deposited Rs 170.8 crore, which is 25% of the total amount payable after relief from interest and penal interest accrued by them over two years during the Covid pandemic. "Noida will get approximately Rs 450 crore from these 20 builders altogether. A total of 1,604 registries are to be executed in these projects. So far, 530 have been completed," he said. The CEO said developers of four other projects have deposited a partial amount of Rs 53.7 crore of the 25% dues, which amounts to Rs 83.5 crore, and registry of flats in these projects would commence soon. Since Jan, the Authority collected Rs 224.4 crore as part of the govt package so far. During the meeting, 18 project

developers, who agreed to deposit 25% of the dues but are yet to do so, were asked to expedite the process. Developers of 15 projects, who owe a significant portion of Noida's total dues, have not yet accepted the rehabilitation package, which was launched in Dec 2023 to ease the burden of dues on developers and start registration of flats. Promoters present at the meeting said they will organise camps to complete 200 registries soon. Meanwhile, the Greater Noida Authority has given builders of 41 projects a week to pay the initial dues or face legal action. Of the 96 defaulter projects in Greater Noida, 55 are in the process of depositing the initial 25% dues and executing registries, while 41 have not yet come forward. Dinesh Gupta, CREDAI secretary in west UP, said builders were ready to deposit the dues, but the process may take time due to the poll code. We also published the following articles recently: NCLT hearings, HC stays:

Why Noida is struggling to recover Rs 8k crore dues. Noida Authority grapples with recovering Rs 8,400 crore from defaulting developers like Supertech and Boulevard. Legal entanglements hinder efforts as the Authority plans individual meetings to resolve the stalemate and collect dues. 109847544 Traffic diversion on DND Flyway, Noida Expressway due to VIP movement. Traffic police halted DND Flyway and Noida Expressway for 10 minutes due to deputy vice president Jagdeep Dhankhar's visit. The VIP movement led to traffic disruptions near Okhla Bird Sanctuary metro station, causing delays for commuters. Dues & poll expenses: Sanctioning Rs 79 crore for police raises eyebrows. Govt grants 500 crores to police without sanction for dues and election expenses. Orders include Rs 26.35 cr for dues, Rs 53.50 cr for elections, covering various expenses like traveling allowance, fuel, hire charges, repair, maintenance, and other items.

Noida: The Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) has launched a building plan management system (BPMS) that will allow over 34,000 residential plot allottees to submit building plans online for approval. The new system, which became functional on Wednesday, will abolish the offline map approval system. The Authority said BPMS will simplify the building map approval process by providing quick, transparent and effective facility for handling applications. The Authority has prepared property data for residential sectors 16, 17, 18, 20, 22A, and 22D, and provided user IDs to all allottees. Allottees can now apply for map approval by simply logging into the BPMS link provided on the Authority's website using their user ID. When applying for map approval allottees will have to prepare the map with the assistance of an architect and submit the building map approval fee online. The Council of Architecture has been linked to the Authority's website, enabling allottees to prepare the map from home. The Authority has now made 32 of its services available online, with seven services currently in the first phase and 10 in the second phase of the process - all services will be moved fully online in the third phase. Applications must be resolved within 15 days, and all officials from OSD to CEO will be able to monitor pending applications or tasks. We also published the following articles recently: Highway engineers to be mandated to address issues with defined jurisdictional mapping. GIS mapping defines NH project jurisdictions for accountability. Officers input NH stretch details by May 10, validated for responsibility areas. Accurate data aids in maintenance accountability. 109899181 CAIB IIBF 2024 Online application process begins: Direct link to register, exam schedule and other details. Indian Institute of Banking and

No shortage of power: Discom blames snags in infra as long outages hit city

Gurgaon. Amid the soaring temperature, residents of several societies and residential sectors across the city have been reporting frequent power outages. The discom, however, said these are due to local faults or deficiencies in power infrastructure, not shortage of supply. For instance, Vatika India Next has been facing prolonged power cuts lasting up to seven hours at a stretch for the past few weeks. Residents blamed the developer, saying the township still doesn't have the required 33kV power electricity

K block RWA, said more than 2,000 families living in blocks E, F, and K of the colony have been suffering as the developer has failed to provide adequate power infrastructure. "As soon as the summer begins, our struggle with power cuts also starts. There are outages of 1-2 hours daily. On Tuesday night, there was no electricity for more than five hours," he said. SL Singha, a resident of E block, said: "Many senior citizens, especially those who need power for

divisional officer (Kherki Daula) Manpal Dhull said, "Necessary directions have already been issued and we have been informed that 70% of the work is complete." Other parts of the city are also reeling under erratic power supply. "On Tuesday, there was no electricity for eight hours, and on Wednesday, for five hours. Even on Thursday, there was no power supply from 11am till 2.30pm. Supply was again cut off around 6pm," said Puneet Pahwa,

Google removes fake apps from Play Store after police notice

Gurgaon. Days after the cyber police reached out to tech giants, urging them to remove fake apps and web links created by online fraudsters, Google has taken down two apps - FHT and SS-Equitrade - from the Play Store. According to the police, these apps had been downloaded more than 1.5 lakh times and were used by con artists to cheat people by offering them high returns from fraudulent investment schemes.

NAME CHANGE
I, SURESH KUMAR GOYAL S/O BISHAN SAROOP residing at 56, SECOND FLOOR, AMBIKA VIHAR, PASTHIM VIHAR, DELHI-110087 have changed my name to SURESH KUMAR for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, Nutan Jha R/o 240A, Phase-2, A Block, Gali No.5C, Najafgarh, Jai Vihar, Dwarka, New Delhi-110043, have changed my minor daughter name from Anshika Jha for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, PRIYANKA JAIN W/O MAYANK MITAL residing at FLAT NO-48 ENGINEERS ESTATE 21 IP EXTN PATPARGANJ DELHI-110092 have changed my name to PRIYANKA MITAL for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, Aahena Sharma D/o Deepak Sharma R/o Flat No. G-01, Tower-D2, Parshavnath Exotica Golf Course Road, Sector-53, Gurgaon, Haryana-122011 have changed my name to AAHENA V SHARMA for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE
I, SWETA GUPTA W/O DIPANSHU GUPTA residing at 231 TOP FLOOR JAGRITI ENCLAVE DELHI-110082 have changed my minor daughter name from PAHAR GUPTA to PEHAR GUPTA for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, KHURSHID AHMAD S/O GULAM RASOOL WANI residing at F-14/67 UPPER GROUND FLOOR SHAHEEN BAGH JAMIA NAGAR DELHI-110025 have changed my name to KHURSHID AHMAD WANI for all future purposes.

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client Farhat W/o Late Mohd. Iqbal R/o- 200 Ganger, Shamli, Uttar Pradesh -247775 Separated and debarred her son Mr. Zaid Iqbal, he has no claim or title to any of the properties possessed or belonging to my client as to the said properties.
Neha Khatri (Advocate)

NAME CHANGE
I, NITISH KUMAR VERMA S/O KISHUN DEV VERMA residing at C-31 B JAI VIHAR PH-3 HARPHOOL VIHAR, BAPROLA NAJAFGARH, DELHI-110043 have changed my name to NITISH for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, URAMILA DEVI wife of No. 16018685P Rank-NK, Name-LATE KAMLESH SINGH KASANA R/O VPO-BAWANPARA, TEH-SIKRAI, DIST-DAUSA, RAJASTHAN-303326 have changed my minor daughter's name from RACHANA to RACHANA KASANA for all future purposes and in my husband's service records my daughter's date of birth wrongly mentioned as 04/01/2009 instead of her correct date of birth as 24/09/2010 vide Affidavit dated 10/05/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for the information to the General Public that my clients namely Smt. Manju Devi, W/O Parvinder Singh and Sh. Parvinder Singh, S/O Sh. Late Kartar Singh, both Residents of House No. 543, Shiv Mandir, Devli, Gaoon, South Delhi, Delhi-110062 have Disowned/Debarred her child namely Paras Gupta and his wife Komal Gupta from all her Moveable/Immovable/Assets and any other Property which may be acquired or purchased hereinafter. In furtherance of the aforesaid Paras Gupta and his wife Komal Gupta, are not in my clients' control & do not follow my client's instructions, and always disobey my client. Hence my client withdraws them from all my clients' movable/ownership of all my clients' movable and immovable property/properties and assets. Paras Gupta and Komal Gupta and their children (if any) will have no right in the estate of my client.
Rohan Bhambr (Advocate)

NAME CHANGE
I, Nutan Jha R/o 240A, Phase-2, A Block, Gali No.5C, Najafgarh, Jai Vihar, Dwarka, New Delhi-110043, have changed my minor son name from Abhinav to Abhinav Jha for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, URAMILA DEVI Wife of No. 16018685P Rank-NK, Name-LATE KAMLESH SINGH KASANA R/O VPO-BAWANPARA, TEH-SIKRAI, DIST-DAUSA, RAJASTHAN-303326 have changed my minor daughter's name from MILAM to NEELAM KASANA for all future purposes and in my husband's service records my daughter's date of birth wrongly mentioned as 15/01/2007 instead of her correct date of birth as 20/08/2009 Komal Gupta, dated 10/05/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, Km. Godambari w/o Guman Chand R/o A-244, Street No. 4, Shankar Marg, Mandawali, Delhi-110092 have changed my name to Godambari Devi permanently.

NAME CHANGE
I, URAMILA DEVI Wife of No. 16018685P Rank-NK, Name-LATE KAMLESH SINGH KASANA R/O VPO-BAWANPARA, TEH-SIKRAI, DIST-DAUSA, RAJASTHAN-303326 have changed my minor son's name from BHUPENDER SINGH to BHUPENDRA SINGH KASANA for all future purposes and in my husband's service records my son's date of birth wrongly mentioned as 04/01/2009 instead of his correct date of birth as 24/09/2010 vide Affidavit dated 10/05/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE
BE IT KNOWN THAT MY Client Smt. Suman Gupta W/o Sh. Ashok Kumar Gupta, R/O House No. D-5/301 Sangam Vihar, Near Masjid, New Delhi 110062, has Disowned/Debarred her child namely Paras Gupta and his wife Komal Gupta from all her Moveable/Immovable/Assets and any other Property which may be acquired or purchased hereinafter. In furtherance of the aforesaid Paras Gupta and his wife Komal Gupta, are not in my clients' control & do not follow my client's instructions, and always disobey my client. Hence my client withdraws them from all my clients' movable/ownership of all my clients' movable and immovable property/properties and assets. Paras Gupta and Komal Gupta and their children (if any) will have no right in the estate of my client.
Rohan Bhambr (Advocate)

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as NEELAM KUMARI alias KRISHNA SHARMA W/O ASHOK KUMAR SHARMA D/O BALKISHAN SHARMA R/O RZ-D/21/22, GALI NO-12, SITA PURI PART-1, PALAM VILLAGE S.O. SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110045 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KRISHNA SHARMA.

NAME CHANGE
I hitherto known as Rashmi Chopra Daughter of Sh. Madan Lal Kherra, wife of Sh. Pradeep Chopra residing at B-35 Surajmal Vihar Delhi-110092, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Anju Chopra. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Information is given to general public at large that our client Mrs. Pooja and Mr. Ripul Kumar are the owner of Freehold Residential Plot area measuring 100 Sq. Yards Out of Kharsa No. 275 Mr. in the Village Noor Nagar, Pargana Loni, Tehsil and District Ghaziabad, U.P. By Virtue, Sale Deed dated 06.04.2022 Document No. 4604, Book No. 1 Volume No. 19123, Page No. 105-122, registered on 06.04.2022 by SR I Ghaziabad, now our client is declaring that that any other Person does not have any right over the said property, and same property sold to be Mr. Neeraj Kashyap and same has been finance by Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Ltd. Branch: - Shahdara, Delhi. If any person is having objection right of claim against the said property, contact to undersigned along with supporting documents within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice and or the same to be undersigned if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained.
[NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA] Advocate
F-211, sector-3 Vaishali Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh-201010, Contact at 0955871432

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)
N.I.T. No.:05 (A/B)24-25WE
Name of work with its location: (A) Renovation of account building in Annex-III at Baroda house in the section of SSE/WBH under ADEN/III, (B) Supply of portable water through tanker during summer in the s/OADEN/Hort./NDLS.
Approx. cost of work: (A)Rs. 2,02,92,376.47, (B) Rs. 34,99,658.76
EMD Amount: (A)Rs. 2,51,500.00, (B)Rs. 70,000.00
Completion period of work: (A) 06 Months, (B) 12 Months
Date and Time for submission of tender and opening of tender: Closing date of tender on 04.06.2024 at 15:00 Hrs.
Website particular notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.: Above tender available on website i.e. www.irps.gov.in
No.: 128-W/269/OET/24-25WE/NIT/05 (A,B) Dated: 08.05.2024 1412/24
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION
Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/FS, Delhi Division, Northern Railway, in terms of Railway Board letter no. 2022/TC (FM)/10/04 dated 13.06.2022, invites bids through e-Auction (www.irps.gov.in) for the contract of Management and Operation of Cloakroom (on ROMT basis) situated at PF-1 of Hazrat Nizamuddin (HNZM) Railway Station (Area 71.79 Sq Mtrs) for 5 (five) years as per detail and schedule given below:-

S. No.	Date & time of e-Auction	Assets to be auctioned
1.	24.05.2024 at 11:00 am	The contract of Management and Operation of Cloakroom (on ROMT basis) situated at PF-1 of Hazrat Nizamuddin (HNZM) Railway Station (Area 71.79 Sq Mtrs) for 5 (five) years.

Important notes:
1. For more information, requirement and various aspects regarding these e-Auctions, interested bidders are advised to visit https://www.irps.gov.in/html/helpdesk/learning_centre.html. (E-Auction leasing section).
2. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): 5% of the total contractual bid value to be deposited online during the auction. EMD of the successful bidder will be retained as Security Deposit.
3. Railway Administration reserves the full and absolute rights to short terminate these contracts at any point of time and/or for taking any decision regarding the discontinuation/continuation of these contracts with modified/additional terms and conditions depending upon the situation. 1416/2024
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PUBLIC NOTICE
Information is given to general public at large that our clients Sh. Om Prakash is the owner of Freehold Residential Property forming part of Khata No. 924, Rect. No. 60, Killa No. 24/2/3-12, Land area measuring 05 1/2 Marja (85 sq. yds.) Situated at Marja Palwal, Dharam Nagar Palwal, Tehsil and Distt. Palwal. By Virtue of Transfer Deed dated 25.04.2024 vide registered with the office of SR Palwal vide doc. no. 1046 till date and has lost/Misplace his Original Sale Deed dated 01.03.2006 duly registered with the office of SR Palwal vide doc. no. 11890 dated 01.03.2006. It was executed in favour of Smt. Radha, now our client is declaring that that any other Person does not have any right over the said property, and same property finance by Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Ltd. Branch- Sec. 16, HUDA Market, Faridabad, Haryana. If any person(s) has any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the Said Property then contact us within 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice and or the same to the undersigned if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained.
[NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA] Advocate
F-211, sector-3 Vaishali Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh-201010, Contact at 0955871432

NEWS BOX

Bread taken off shelves in Japan after consumers find 'rodent' in them

Tokyo, UPDATE Loaves of bread have been taken off store shelves in Japan after the remains of "a small animal" believed to be a rat were found. Production of the bread was halted at a Tokyo factory, with 104,000 packages being recalled, according to Pasco Shikishima Corp. The company apologised and promised compensation. We will do our utmost to strengthen our quality controls so that this will never happen again. We ask for your understanding and your cooperation," it said in a statement this week. Japanese media reports said at least two people who bought the bread in Gunma Prefecture, northwest of Tokyo, complained to the company about finding a rodent in the bread. The bread had been sold in various areas, including Ibaraki, Niigata, Kanagawa, Fukushima, Aomori and Tokyo, according to Pasco.

The company, based in Nagoya city, central Japan, also makes rolls, bagels and muffins.

Japan boasts relatively high food safety standards. But the nation has been rocked by food woes recently, including 1,000 schoolchildren sickened by milk and two people who got sick after eating steak at a restaurant, both earlier this month. Widespread food poisoning from a health supplement product broke out in March and killed five people.

US refutes Russia's meddling charge: 'Don't involve ourselves in Indian polls'

World "No, of course, we don't involve ourselves in elections in India," US State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller said, refuting Russian allegations accusing America of meddling in the Lok Sabha polls.

A day ago, Russia had claimed that the United States was trying to interfere in India's parliamentary elections and "unbalance" the internal political situation in the country. In a media briefing, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova also said the US was yet to provide "reliable evidence" of the involvement of Indian citizens in the foiled murder plot against Khalistani separatist Gurbat Singh Pannun. "No, of course, we don't involve ourselves in elections in India as we don't involve ourselves in elections anywhere in the world. Those are decisions for the people of India to make," Miller said in a press conference.

Speaking to reporters in Moscow, Zakharova called it "Regular unfounded accusations by the United States against New Delhi." "We see that they groundlessly accuse not only India but also many other states of violating religious freedoms, which are a reflection of the United States' misunderstanding of the national mentality, the historical context of the development of the Indian state and disrespect for India as a state," Zakharov added. However, refusing to comment on the alleged plot to kill Pannun, Miller said "There is a publicly returned indictment that contains alleged facts. They are allegations until they're proven before a jury that anyone can go and read. I won't speak to them here because, of course, it's an ongoing legal matter, and I'll leave it at that."

Hillary Clinton terms US campus protests 'propaganda', 'lack of knowledge'



World Former US States Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, has slammed campus protests across the country, over the Gaza war, saying the young people (students) do not know much about the history of the Middle East. Clinton also termed students ignorant and alleged they were being misinformed by propaganda on social media. In an interview with MSNBC, Hillary Clinton agreed with host Charles Joseph Scarborough, who said, "mainstream students were getting propagandised whether it's from their professors, or whether it's from the communist Chinese government, through TikTok, calling the President of the United States 'genocide Joe'. In response, Clinton said, "I have had many conversations, as you've had, with a lot of young people over the last many months now, and... they don't know very much at all about the history of the Middle East, or frankly about history in many areas of the world, including in our own country." "Propaganda is not education," she said, adding, "propaganda... whether it's TikTok, or in the classroom, is actually the opposite of education." "Anybody who is teaching in a university or anyone who is putting content on social media should be held responsible for what they include and what they exclude. So much of what we're seeing, particularly on TikTok, about what's going on in the Middle East is willfully false, but it's also incredibly slanted, pro-Hamas, anti-Israel," Hillary Clinton said. "With respect to the Middle East, they don't know that under the bringing together for the Israelis and the Palestinians by my husband (former US President Bill Clinton), then-Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak, the then-head of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation Yasser Arafat — an offer was made to the Palestinians for a state on 96 per cent of the existing territory occupied by the Palestinians with 4 per cent of Israel to be given to reach 100 per cent of the amount of territory that was hoped for," Clinton said. "This offer was made and if Yasser Arafat had accepted it there would have been a Palestinian state now for about 24 years. It's one of the great tragedies of history that he was unable to say, 'yes'," Clinton laments. "My husband has a book coming out later this year in which he talks about how Arafat kept saying that he intended to agree, he wanted to agree, but he was pretty sure he'd be killed because Sadat was killed by extremists when he made peace with Israel."

US says 'so far satisfied' with Indian accountability on Pannun murder plot

World The United States is so far satisfied with India's moves to ensure accountability in connection with the alleged assassination plot against Khalistani terrorist Gurbat Singh Pannun, its ambassador to India, Eric Garcetti, has said. At a Washington event organised by the Council on Foreign Relations, a top American think-tank, Eric Garcetti also said many steps were yet to be taken, calling it a "red line for America" for which there must be consequences. Garcetti's remark came when he was asked what effect the recent discovery of assassination plots against Sikh nationalists in Canada and the United States could have on Washington's relations with New Delhi. When I was referring to a relationship that might have bumps along the road, this would be potentially the first big fight in a relationship," he told the Council on Foreign Relations. "So far, knock on wood, I would say the administration is satisfied with the accountability that we've demanded on this, because this is a red line for America, for our citizens, and a

core part of what we need to do," he added. Garcetti said a criminal case and indictment had been brought "and if there is any connection to state actors in that, there has to be accountability." "We expect that not only from our side, but we expect India to have that accountability."

The US Ambassador to India also noted that India had set up a commission of inquiry. "We expect, while we do the criminal case that is about American justice, that there need to be consequences and shared information. And so far... I have been satisfied with what they have done. I think the administration is, but we have many steps still to go," he said at the event.

In November last year, US federal prosecutors charged Indian national Nikhil Gupta with working with an Indian government employee in the foiled plot to kill Pannun. Pannun, wanted in India on terror charges, holds dual citizenship of the US and Canada. He has been designated as a terrorist by the Union Home Ministry under the anti-terror law



Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. The allegations about the failed plot to kill Pannun came to the fore weeks after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau claimed in September last year of the "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar on June 18 in British Columbia.

WHAT GARCETTI SAID ON DEMOCRACY IN INDIA

Speaking at the event, Garcetti also dismissed concerns being raised in certain quarters about democracy in India

and observed that in many ways Indians are better than Americans. "Again, there are things that probably are worse and there are things that are better. They have a law, you can't go more than two kilometres to vote. So there'll be one guy who lives in the mountains as a monk (at) someplace. They will walk for two days to bring the voting machine, execute the vote," he said, responding to a question expressing concerns over the status of democracy in India. He said that during election times in India, there are people who check trucks to make sure that nobody has cash going around. "There's probably walk-in money, as they call it in some cities here in the United States, Philadelphia, that's like a tradition where cash kind of gets you votes and things like that. So, I've been impressed with certain things they do that are better than us." "100 percent believe we can trust this relationship. It's going to be one of the defining relationships of the 21st century, the US and India together," Garcetti said on Indo-US ties.

Chinese zoo dyes dogs black and white to fool visitors into seeing pandas

World A zoo in China's Taizhou city unveiled a new exhibition on May 1, featuring "panda dogs", which later turned out to be Chow Chow dogs dyed black and white to resemble pandas. The authorities at the zoo were heavily slammed after videos of the dogs were widely shared on social media. Later, the visitors noticed the animals were Chow Chows - a dog breed known for its thick double coat of fur from northern China. The dogs had been dyed to resemble pandas. According to a report with Sky News, the zoo authorities also charged visitors 20 yuan (231.08 Rs in Indian currency) to watch the exhibition. However, a zoo worker denied such accusations and told The Global Times that this was "just a new display" they offered to visitors. He also said the zoo authorities did not charge anything extra. "We are not charging extra. The wording featuring chow chow dogs is correct and exactly describes what they are, so we are not cheating our visitors," he told The



Global Times. Per Jam Press, a zoo spokesperson also defended the panda exhibit by saying: "People also dye their hair. Natural dye can be used on dogs if they have long fur. There are no panda bears at the zoo, and we wanted to do this as a result," the report said. This was not the first time a zoo in China had been accused of faking

animals. Earlier, in 2023, Hangzhou Zoo denied claims some of its bears were people in costumes. The development came after a clip of a Malaysian sun bear - named Angela - walking on its hind legs went viral and sparked speculation that the animal was a human being in a badly-fitting bear suit.

Elon Musk to donate 1,000 Starlink terminals to rescuers in flood-hit Brazil

Billionaire Elon Musk on Thursday (local time) said that Starlink, his satellite internet company, will donate 1,000 terminals to emergency responders in southern Brazil's flood-hit Rio Grande do Sul state. The region is battling with the worst flooding in 80 years due to torrential rainfall.

"Given the terrible flooding in Rio Grande do Sul, @Starlink will donate 1000 terminals to emergency responders and make usage for all terminals in the region free until the region has recovered. I hope the best for the people of Brazil," Musk tweeted. So far, 107 people have died in the severe flooding in southern Brazil as emergency responders race against time to save people trapped in homes and other places due to the calamity, Reuters reported. Rescuers rescued a horse that was trapped on a rooftop for two days in a badly flooded town in Rio Grande do Sul. As of now, 136 people are still missing and authorities rescued 1.65 lakh others trapped in their flooded homes by boats and helicopters as roads turned into rivers due to days of heavy rainfall. No respite is expected for the next few days as the weather department has forecast more rainfall. This has raised fears of a further rise in water levels in the inundated state capital of Porto Alegre and nearby



towns, a Reuters report said. The floods have destroyed infrastructure and bridges, blocking access to Porto Alegre, where supermarkets have been reported to be looted at night. As per initial estimates, Governor Eduardo Leite said, the flood damage is estimated at least 19 billion reais (\$3.68 billion). "The effect of the floods and the extent of the tragedy are devastating," he said on social media. In Brasilia, Brazil's capital, the federal government estimated the fiscal impact of the flooding at 7.7 billion reais (\$1.49 billion), mostly due to the injection of funds into a support program for small businesses hit by the floods. "This doesn't end here," President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said at an event announcing steps to help the stricken Rio Grande do Sul state. Lula said the full extent of the state's needs would be known only when the water receded.

US woman lived inside store signage for a year, extension cord exposed her

Michigan, US Contractors curious about an extension cord on the roof of a Michigan grocery store made a startling discovery: A 34-year-old woman was living inside the business sign, with enough space for a computer, printer and coffee maker, police said. "She was homeless," Officer Brennan Warren of the Midland Police Department said Thursday. "It's a story that makes you scratch your head, just somebody living up in a sign." Contractors curious about an extension cord on the roof of a Michigan grocery store made a startling discovery: A 34-year-old woman was living inside the business sign, with enough space for a computer, printer and coffee maker, police said. "She was homeless," Officer Brennan Warren of the Midland Police Department said Thursday. "It's a

story that makes you scratch your head, just somebody living up in a sign." Midland, best known as the global home of Dow Inc., is 130 miles (209 kilometers) north of Detroit. The Family Fare store is in a retail strip with a triangle-shaped sign at the top of the building. The sign structure, probably 5 feet (1.5 meter) wide and 8 feet (2.4 meters) high, has a door and is accessible from the roof, Warren said. "There was some flooring that was laid down. A mini desk," he said. "Her clothing. A Keurig coffee maker. A printer and a computer — things you'd have in your home." The woman was able to get electricity through a power cord plugged into an outlet on the roof, Warren said. There was no sign of a ladder. Warren said it's possible the woman made her way to the roof by climbing up elsewhere behind the

store or other retail businesses. "I honestly don't know how she was getting up there. She didn't indicate, either," he said. A spokesperson for SpartanNash, the parent company of Family Fare, said store employees responded "with the utmost compassion and professionalism." "Ensuring there is ample safe, affordable housing continues to be a widespread issue nationwide that our community needs to partner in solving," Adrienne Chance said, declining further comment. Warren said the woman was cooperative and quickly agreed to leave. No charges were pursued. "We provided her with some information about services in the area," the officer said. "She apologized and continued on her way. Where she went from there, I don't know."

You made this all up': Trump's lawyer grills Stormy Daniels at hush money trial

New York Donald Trump's lawyer sought to show inconsistencies in porn star Stormy Daniels' various tellings of a 2006 sexual encounter she has said she had with Trump, part of an effort on Thursday to undermine her credibility as a witness in the first criminal trial of a sitting or former US president. Her unflattering account of a sexual encounter with Trump in a Lake Tahoe hotel suite while he was married to his wife Melania riveted jurors on Tuesday and reminded US voters of some of the more lurid aspects of his 2017-2021 presidency as he campaigns to win back the White House this year. "You're trying to make me say that it changed, but it hasn't changed," Daniels told Necheles. Trump, 77, has pleaded not guilty to 34 counts of falsifying business records to cover up his former lawyer and fixer Michael Cohen's \$130,000 payment to Daniels, 45, for her silence ahead of the 2016 US presidential election about the alleged encounter. Trump has denied ever having sex with Daniels. Trump, the Republican candidate challenging Democratic President Joe Biden in the November 5 US election, has called the trial a politically motivated attempt to undermine his campaign. Prosecutors

have said Trump's efforts to obscure the paper trail for the payment to Daniels corrupted the 2016 election in which he defeated Democrat Hillary Clinton by preventing voters from learning about a story that might have swayed their vote. After testimony ended on Thursday, Trump lawyer Todd Blanche once again asked Justice Juan Merchan to declare a mistrial on the basis of Daniels' testimony. Blanche argued that her detailed testimony about the alleged sexual encounter, including her statement that Trump was not wearing a condom, had veered into territory that was irrelevant to the case and would prejudice jurors against Trump. "This is not a case about sex," Blanche said. "This is not a case about whether that incident took place or didn't take place." Merchan denied the request, saying that because Blanche had argued in his opening statement on April 22 that the encounter never happened, prosecutors were allowed to try to rehabilitate Daniels' credibility. "Your denial puts the jury in a position of having to choose who they believe," Merchan said. The judge also denied a similar



request on Tuesday. In addition, Blanche requested that a gag order restricting Trump's public comments about jurors and witnesses be loosened to let the defendant publicly respond to questions about Daniels' testimony. Merchan also denied that request, stating that other witnesses may see Trump's comments and become concerned that he would say similar things about them. Christopher Conroy, a prosecutor, suggested that the proper way for Trump to respond to Daniels would be to testify in his own defence. Trump before the trial told reporters he would testify, though it remains to be seen

whether he will do so. "There is a proceeding here that this (gag) order is designed to protect," Conroy said. "If somebody wants to respond to something that's said in this room, that can happen in this room."

The judge has fined Trump \$10,000 for running afoul of the gag order 10 times, and said further violations could land him in jail.

DEFENCE SAYS DANIELS 'MADE ALL THIS UP'

In nearly four hours of cross-examination on Tuesday and Thursday, Necheles asked Daniels about her earlier testimony of the alleged encounter compared with versions in a book she wrote and interviews she gave over the years. She asked Daniels why in a 2018 interview to Vogue magazine she did not mention that Trump's bodyguard had been outside the hotel room where the encounter happened. Daniels on Tuesday had testified that her awareness of the bodyguard's presence contributed to a power imbalance with Trump that left her feeling uncomfortable.

782 acre salt pan lands: HC upholds lease termination

Mumbai: Bombay High Court on Wednesday dismissed a suit filed in 2005 and upheld the termination of lease of 782 acres of salt pan land spread across Mulund, Bhandup and Kanjur Marg. Justice S V Marne directed the lease holder to hand over vacant lands to the salt commissioner. A Dadar resident, Vikas Walawalkar had filed the suit to challenge an order passed by the deputy salt commissioner terminating the lease of salt lands. Walawalkar had sought a declaration that the lease was valid for another 99 years. The dismissal could now pave the way for widening of Goregaon-Mulund Link Road (GMLR), as the BMC could not take possession of the requisite lands because of an interim order in the proceedings. The GMLR project is a connector between Eastern and Western Express Highway, said the BMC.

Best Packs For Your Fasting Needs Explore a variety of rock salts for fasting, like Tata Salt, Natureland Organics, Catch Premium, Tata Salt Iodized Rock, Sri Sri Tattva, and HILTON Classic Pink Rock Salt. These salts enrich fasting meals with essential minerals and flavors, enhancing your spiritual journey. **Salted Dry Fruits & Nuts:** Healthy Snacking Options For You Replace unhealthy snacks with high-quality salted dry fruits and nuts like Farnley Dry Fruit Mix, Tata Sampann Luxe Mix, Bikano Peanuts, and Farnley Premium Cashews for a healthier snacking option. **Youths take poll promises on paper** leaks with pinch of salt. **Question paper leaks in govt job exams** raise concerns among candidates. Political promises aim to address leaks, but doubts linger. Candidates call for transparency, unmasking culprits, and stringent penalties to ensure exam integrity.

Lowering the bar: KSEAB decreases pass mark from 35 to 25 per cent

BENGALURU: Despite the SSLC Board decreasing the qualifying marks from 35 per cent to 25 per cent, the total pass percentage of the state is just 73.4 per cent. This is the lowest pass percentage in the past four years, when the qualifying mark was 35 per cent. Karnataka State Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) is being widely criticised by educational experts for decreasing the qualifying marks instead of improving the overall quality of education in the state.

They also raised eyebrows about the future of students, and how well they can adjust in PUC if they cannot score the aggregate in Class 10. On Thursday, KSEAB, while declaring the results, announced that for academic year 2023-24, grace marks were increased from 10% to 20% in all subjects. The board called it a 'one-time measure for all three SSLC exams of 2024'. This change was attributed to the 30 per cent decrease in pass percentage since last year, which was at 83.89 per cent. According to officials, over 1,70,000 students were awarded grace marks under the new rule, bringing the pass percentage to 73.40 per cent. However, approximately only 54% of 8.5 lakh students have cleared the exams under the previous assessment. At least 78 schools in the state had zero students passing their boards, with Kalaburagi district recording the highest number of 18 schools with zero pass percentage.

'Not Completed' vs 'Failed'

In an official statement, KSEAB said, "The



pass percentage has declined by 30% in the last one year. Hence, the government has decided to enhance normalisation in the interest of students, since webcasting is a new intervention." This has restored integrity and inculcated a habit of writing exams without resorting to unfair practices, defended Ritesh Kumar Singh, principal secretary, School Education and Literacy department. The system shows 'Not Completed (NC)' instead of 'Failed', for the 2,28,763 students who have not cleared this exam. KSEAB Chairperson Manjushree N told TNEIE that only students in C+ (50-59%) and C (35-49%) grades have benefited from the grace marks, which was done to encourage them to perform better in the forthcoming exams. "As far as the total of 625 is concerned, a student needs to score at least 175 aggregate marks to qualify for grace marks. But this year, the bar was dropped to 125 marks. We saw that some students had scored 175 and above, but failed in some subjects. To help them move to the next class, grace marks were introduced. The aggregate will still be 35 per cent only.

Next year, this system won't be necessary," he explained. Educationists, principals and private school associations have questioned the department's move. "The department has failed to provide quality education. Poor quality education should not be encouraged," said secretary of Associated Management of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka Shashi Kumar D. President of the Karnataka Private School College Parent Associations Coordination Committee, Yogananda BN said, "Why were grace marks introduced in the first exam when students still have two more attempts? How will children adjust in PUC if they cannot score the aggregate in Class 10?"

Tie for Second rank, Both girls aspire to be doctors

Medha P Shetty, a student of Holy Child English High School, Ashoknagar, Bengaluru secured the 2nd rank with 624/625. Her father Prabhakara Shetty runs a restaurant - Bunts Biryani Palace, and hopes to fulfil her childhood dream of becoming a doctor. Medha has already started preparing for NEET. She will also be applying for revaluation to improve her score. Harshitha DM from Sri Vasai Vidya Samsthe Sira, of Madhugiri, became the third topper from the state with 624/625, achieving 99.84%. She is the daughter of a government school teacher and said that her family supported her through her preparation. Harshitha wants to become a gynaecologist and give her bit back to society.

Tata Sons doubles royalty fee to 200cr

Mumbai: Tata Sons, owner of the Tata brand, has doubled the royalty fee — paid by its operating companies — to Rs 200 crore. Companies like TCS, Tata Steel and Tata Motors pay the royalty fee for using the Tata name. Tata Sons has doubled the fee five years after fixing it at Rs 100 crore. Simultaneously, the holding company of Tata Group is ramping up its brand-building exercise through the title sponsorship of IPL, among other initiatives. TCS, in its notice to shareholders, revealed that it made a royalty payout of Rs 200 crore to Tata Sons in FY24. Tata Sons chairman emeritus Ratan Tata had introduced the brand subscription scheme in 1996 that required a group company, using the Tata name directly, to shell out 0.25% of its annual revenue or 5% of its pre-tax profit, whichever was lower, whereas a group entity, using the Tata name indirectly, has to pay 0.15% of its annual revenue. In 2015, Tata Sons, then led by the late Cyrus Mistry, capped the maximum brand subscription fee at Rs 75 crore. This was subsequently increased by 33% by current chairman N Chandrasekaran. For fiscal years 2023 and 2022, TCS shelled out Rs 100 crore each to Tata Sons.

A source said besides revising the upper limit to Rs 200 crore, Tata Sons has done away with the fee based on a company's pre-tax profit. In other words, an operating entity has to pay 0.25% of its annual revenue, with the maximum fee now set at Rs 200 crore. Brand subscription fee is one of the revenue streams of Tata Sons. In FY23, it earned Rs 1,008 crore as brand subscription income. This kitty has swollen over the years as fortunes of operating companies changed drastically with multi-billion-dollar businesses built through acquisitions and expansions. Tata Sons' FY23 brand subscription income saw a jump of 23% from Rs 820 crore in FY22. The holding company uses the brand subscription fund to promote and protect the Tata brand, which is worth \$29 billion (about Rs 2.4 lakh crore), according to international consultancy firm Brand Finance.

Tata Sons doubles royalty fee to Rs 200 crore Tata Sons increased the royalty fee to Rs 200 crore for operating companies. Brand promotion includes IPL sponsorship. Brand Finance values the Tata brand at \$29 billion, with revenue streams from the fee reaching Rs 1,008 crore in FY23.

Tata Power profit rises 11% to 1,000 crore Tata Power's consolidated net profit surged to Rs 1,046 crore in March, with total income at Rs 16,464 crore. FY24 saw a record net profit of Rs 4,280 crore, alongside remarkable revenue and ebitda performance.

Tata Power net profit up 11% to Rs 1,046 crore in Q4 Tata Power reported a surge in profits and revenue, with a focus on clean energy growth. The company's robust financial performance and strategic investments position it well for future opportunities in power distribution and renewable energy.

Kathakali artist in Kerala takes crash-course route to popularise the art form

THRISSUR: With its origins around the 16th century, kathakali is a classical performance art that combines dance, drama and music, and is rightly considered a national treasure. But society's unfettered march towards modernity has left practitioners worried about the art form losing its popularity and old-world charm. Realising the predicament, Kalamandalam Rajeev decided to do something about it. He developed a kathakali appreciation course that has been piquing people's interest in the art form and its nuances. Despite its traditional underpinnings, kathakali can be considered part of the state's pop culture, featuring in movies, endorsement campaigns and tourism promotion efforts. Yet performers accept the fact that its audience is shrinking. Rajeev's online course is an attempt to reverse the trend, by popularising the art form by sharing its stage magic. "It began during the Covid days when everybody was locked up in their houses with nothing to do. While it was started as a lockdown activity, the response I received became the fuel to take it forward," shares Rajeev.

In the last four years, more than 500 people have taken the six-month course, with some even inspired to pursue learning the art form. "The classes have been meticulously



designed, integrating both demonstration and theory. We begin by introducing the 24 mudras (gestures). It is difficult to master the mudras in such a short time. Hence through examples, with which everyone can connect, I demonstrate them to participants," says Rajeev. The course also covers 'navarasam' (nine emotions), 'ilakiyattangal', 'chamayam', stage, and accoutrements -- all essential

components of the art form.

Over the six months, participants become familiar with each other, to the extent that they form groups to watch performances according to their convenience. Each course ends with a gathering to review the sessions and reinforce the feeling of being part of a family," he adds. Inspired by the course, a nurse from Kottayam, presently working in the United States, learned kathakali online and completed arangettam. The beauty and grace of the art form inspired another person from Singapore to also take up the dance form. "It makes me happy when more and more people show interest in learning about kathakali as an art form and make the effort to appreciate it," says Rajeev.

Hailing from Kollam, Rajeev specialises in pacha vesham. Amid the performance schedules, he plans the classes and presents the concepts in a way that anyone can understand them. He charges a nominal fee of Rs 600 per month. "Kathakali is an unforgettable experience. Many people who were not familiar with stage performances are now searching for the next recital near them, thanks to the classes of Kalamandalam Rajeev," shared one of the participants of the appreciation course on social media.

SSLC pass % falls 30 pts to 54, 20 grace marks push it to 73%

BENGALURU: The SSLC 2024 pass results trudged to 73.4% this time, mainly on the back of grace-marks booster shot given by the state govt after the actual pass percentage collapsed to 54, a 30-point drop from previous year's 84. The drastic fall in results - attributed largely to strict, live surveillance at all exam centres to restore exam integrity - forced the govt to take up a "normalization process" in the interest of students: The qualifying marks for attracting grace marks was reduced from 35% to 25%, and grace marks was increased from 10% to 20% in all subjects.

Ankita Basappa Konnur from Moraji Desai Residential School, Mudhol, Bagalkot district, became the only student to secure 625 on 625 this year. Seven students secured the next big score of 624 and 14 students 623. Regaining its lost glory, Udupi bounced from 14th slot last year to the top of the table this time. Dakshina Kannada was the second, after lying at 17th position last year. Shivamogga was at No. 3 from 28th last time. Curative teaching for next 1 month SSLC pass % falls 30pts to 54%, 20 grace marks take it to 73.4% Nearly 8.6 lakh students

took the class 10 state-board exam; around 1.5 lakh received grace marks. Boys' pass percentage dropped by 14 percentage points, while that of girls was down by seven. In rural areas, the passes dipped by 13% and in urban areas by 7%. While the department felt teachers and students will be better prepared for the new system next year and enhanced normalization will not be necessary, it said it will take up curative teaching in the next one month for students who haven't done well in exam-1 and want to improve their marks for the second exam.



Transport corporation is also exploring tourism collaboration with the IRCTC that covers inbound and outbound travellers

Budget tourism project a hit, KSRTC now eyeing expansion to Tamil Nadu, Karnataka

KOCHI: KSRTC's budget tourism project is going great guns. Things are so rosy that the state-run carrier is now planning to expand its list of destinations in its tour packages by including popular spots in neighbouring Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. "We have placed two proposals each before the RTCs of both the states," said Sunil Kumar, state coordinator, KSRTC (budget tourism). "One proposal is that KSRTC applies for temporary permits for its buses to conduct destination tours to these states. The second proposes a collaboration, under which we will take tourists to the Kerala-TN or Kerala-Karnataka borders. From there, they will proceed to the destinations in buses arranged by the respective RTCs," Sunil said.

Hill stations Ooty and Kodaikanal, besides Rameshwaram, Vellankanni and Kanyakumari, in TN, are the destinations shortlisted, said Sunil. As for the rates, he said, "Since the proposals are mooted under our budget tourism

project, the charges will be commensurate to the rates charged for present tours." KSRTC is expecting a very good response to its proposed tours to the neighbouring states once they are rolled out. As of now, KSRTC's budget tourism has been a huge success. "From its inception in November 2021 to March this year, we have generated Rs 39 crore in revenue from 10,500 trips. A total 5.95 lakh people availed the trips," Sunil said. Meanwhile, KSRTC is also exploring a tourism collaboration with the IRCTC that covers inbound and outbound travellers, said Sunil. "In the case of inbound travellers, KSRTC has proposed picking up tourists from railway stations and taking them to destinations listed in their tour packages. For outbound tourists, KSRTC will provide them the facility to book IRCTC's tour packages," he said. On the city tour programme started in Thiruvananthapuram, Sunil said the project, which employs a double-decker electric bus, has



received wide acceptance in the two months of its launch. "We are monitoring the progress of the project, but as of now, things are looking very good," Sunil said. Considering the

programme's initial success, KSRTC is studying the viability of launching similar projects in Ernakulam and Kozhikode, he said. "Studies are on to determine the most viable routes for the tours. In Ernakulam, it has been observed that people are more into visiting coastal areas. There is the question of getting buses though.

The Thiruvananthapuram city tour bus was launched with the help of Smart City Mission. We are looking into something similar in Ernakulam and Kozhikode as the buses are very costly. Converting our old double-decker buses into electric vehicles and using them for the project is another possibility being explored," Sunil said.

Like many things, KSRTC's budget tourism project also faced some setbacks in the past few months, Sunil said. "Closure of tourist destinations in Wayanad and the heatwave did affect our operations to some extent," he said.

aPeace elusive without unanimity

WORLD history of the past 400 years shows that geographically large nations have been relatively benign or far less aggressive compared to countries with smaller territories. The latter have demonstrated a peculiar penchant for worldwide expansion — conquering, killing, plundering and profiting while redrawing maps and dividing weak nations. Take today's 10 biggest nations in terms of area — Russia, Canada, the US, China, Brazil, Australia, India, Argentina, Kazakhstan and Algeria. They are no match for nine particular countries/empires — Portugal, Spain, Britain, France, Italy, Germany, Denmark, Belgium and the Netherlands — when it comes to overseas aggression and transcontinental imperial conquests. Barring the post-1945 hostile posturing of the US and the post-1949 Chinese belligerence, the 'big 10' have largely avoided any activity aimed at intercontinental usurpation. Today's Russia-Ukraine conflict, however, is an aberration; it is an exception to the rule owing to a combination of factors for which neither Russia nor Ukraine is solely responsible. Till 1991, both were part of the Soviet Union and never did their rulers resort to a ruthless assault on territories abroad. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 was an aberration as well. Among the other constituents of the 'big 10', Australia and Canada were British dominions, whereas Argentina and Brazil were under Spanish and Portuguese empires for hundreds of years. Algeria came out of French clutches after being vanquished in the 19th century. India was partitioned by the British, while the 1991 breakup of the USSR led to the birth of landlocked Kazakhstan and other nations.

Contextually, one understands how and why the West felt the need for an overarching umbrella to launch a collective attack like that on Yugoslavia in 1999, and on Iraq and Afghanistan in the beginning of this century. Now, it is the bloc of nations under the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and the European Union that is keen to prolong the Russia-Ukraine conflict at the behest of warmongers. In the midst of the war in eastern Europe comes the proposal to hold the Ukraine peace summit at Burgenstock, Switzerland, in June. On the face of it, this is good news, yet Russia's reported absence/non-participation makes the summit a potential non-starter because no peace move can fructify without the presence of all belligerents on the high table. Russia's exclusion would only result in a stillborn agenda. Germany, Europe's most populous and second largest country, is a key member of the anti-Russia front of the West. Berlin needs to recall its own humiliation at the Treaty of Versailles in June 1919, when the German delegation was threatened that war would be resumed in five days if the draft treaty was not signed instantly. German signatories were not even allowed to sit with the Anglo-French delegates at the negotiating table. Germany must also not forget its bifurcation after World War II. Having been among the worst sufferers of 20th-century wars, Germany must put its foot down to abort any peace summit without Russia's participation and not provoke Moscow into causing mutually assured destruction. Of late, political stalwarts of the West have virtually stooped to the level of foul-mouthed street urchins while castigating their opponents. Germany, Europe's most populous and second largest country, is a key member of the anti-Russia front of the West. Berlin needs to recall its own humiliation at the Treaty of Versailles in June 1919, when the German delegation was threatened that war would be resumed in five days if the draft treaty was not signed instantly.

Right to apprenticeship should be a priority in India

Skill policies and schemes need a big overhaul on the lines of Swiss and Germanic models, in which the youth and the industry take centre stage.

IN its manifesto for the 2024 elections, the Congress announced a right to apprenticeship (RA) for all post-secondary certificate/degree/diploma holders. It guarantees all under-25-year-olds the right to apprenticeship with firms where the youth can get training and work together, based on the duality principle of the Germanic skilling model (involving schooling and simultaneous work experience). India has always had a supply-driven vocational skilling ecosystem, where youth are getting educated but not 'skilled' in a true sense, where there is very little employer connect and no requirement for internship or apprenticeship. This calls for a scrutiny of the performance of the government's skill development initiatives in India and why reforms like an RA are a step in the right direction.

Vocational education and training (VET) has been neglected in India for over half a century until the 2000s (just as school education had remained neglected in India's planning strategy) — the costs of which we continue to pay today. In 1991, when India's economic reforms began, literacy was 51 per cent — or half of India's population was illiterate, mostly concentrated in the agriculture sector. Although school education received a new-found emphasis in public spending in the 1990s, VET still continued to be neglected (although that was not the case for technical higher education). The 11th Five-Year Plan (2007-12) was the first Plan that had a chapter on skill development.

The result is that India's manufacturing and services workforce still has very low levels of education. Worse, the National Sample Survey Office's Employment-Unemployment Survey (2011-12) says 2.2 per cent of the workforce had received formal VET. Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) data shows that the percentage of formally vocationally trained individuals decreased from 2.2 per cent (10.43 million) in 2011-12 to 2 per cent (9.14 million) in 2017-18, but in five years, rose to 3.7 per cent (21.05 million) in 2022-23. So, who have been added as 'vocationally trained'?

PLFS 2017-18 shows that 22 per cent of total vocationally trained undertook less than six-month courses, and that share has now risen to 37 per cent. More worryingly, in 2017, 29 per cent individuals used to take two-year or longer courses, now

reduced to 14.29 per cent. The VET duration of Skill India Mission courses is very short (in some cases, only 10 days). Since 1961, India has had the Apprentices Act, which requires all registered firms to accept apprentices for at least one year or more. Ten years ago, about 250,000 apprentices existed in registered non-farm enterprises. In August 2016, the government of India launched the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS), worth Rs 10,000 crore. Though the objective was to train 50 lakh apprentices by 2020, only 20 lakh could be trained by 2022. Out of the envisioned Rs 10,000 crore, only around Rs 650 crore was disbursed to



states between 2017 and 2022. NAPS-2 was launched in 2023; no figures for the same are currently available. An International Labour Organisation study in 2022 concluded that the amendments to the 1961 Act have contributed to an increase in the number of apprentices in India. In a workforce of 570 million in 2022-23 (PLFS), the apprentices were just over a half million, a rise from 2.5 lakh 10 years ago. Clearly, the amendments have not worked wonders. This is not surprising, given that practically the entire private corporate sector has largely ignored the apprenticeship schemes. Only central and state public enterprises have tended to fulfil their obligations. MSMEs still continue to ignore the scheme. The result: Germany, with a 46-million workforce, has at least 6 million apprentices; India has, by contrast, half a million. The difference arises from the industry/employer involvement in pre-employment training — which makes India's approach supply-driven, but successful VET programmes around the globe have been demand-driven. What India's youth need

urgently, as 6 million or more join the labour force each year, and over 100 million wait in the wings as NEETs (Not in Education, Employment or Training), is a pathway to work from their education, whether the education is of a general academic nature or vocational or technical. This requires that the Central Government think seriously and urgently about involving employers/industry in the skilling process.

The urgency arises from the following facts: The India Skills Report 2021 argues that nearly half of India's graduates are unemployable. Open unemployment was barely 2.1 per cent in 2012 and had already nearly tripled to 6.1 per cent in 2018, the highest rate in 45 years of India's labour force surveys. The number of unemployed was one crore in 2012; it tripled to three crore by 2018. The youth unemployment rates went through the roof for those with middle school (Class VIII) education, rising from 4.5 per cent to 13.7 per cent; those with secondary education (Class X) from 5.9 per cent to 14.4 per cent; and with higher secondary (Class XII) education from 10.8 per cent to 23.8 per cent. Educated unemployment worsened sharply. For graduates, the unemployment rate rose from 19.2 per cent to 35.8 per cent; and for postgraduates from 21.3 per cent to 36.2 per cent (2022-23).

In the light of educated unemployment, a lack of takers of skill programmes, low-quality training and abysmal placement rate, there is an urgent need for a comprehensive overhaul of the skill ecosystem. India, suffering from unemployment among the highly educated, in the future is moving towards the problem of skill underutilisation and overeducation (or 'degree mania'). Mere rhetoric and inflated government statistics will no longer suffice. It is imperative that the government prioritises quality over quantity, ensuring that every individual emerges from these programmes truly equipped to contribute meaningfully to the workforce. Anything less would be a disservice to the aspirations of millions seeking a better future through skill development.

Skill policies and schemes have failed; they need a big overhaul on the lines of Swiss and Germanic skill models, in which the youth and the industry take centre stage. A Right to Apprenticeship for every youth should be an urgent priority.

Vaccine withdrawal

AstraZeneca can't evade responsibility

UK-based pharmaceutical major AstraZeneca has initiated global withdrawal of its Covid-19 vaccine, which was sold and administered as Covishield in India and Vaxzevria in Europe, amid a furore over its admission of a rare side effect, thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS), which can cause blood clots and a low blood platelet count. Citing commercial reasons, the firm has attributed its decision to a 'surplus of available updated vaccines'. AstraZeneca has claimed that the vaccine withdrawal is not linked to the court case it is facing and that the timing is just a coincidence. However, the move is being seen as a damage-control exercise reeking of desperation.

The company's legal troubles are not going to end anytime soon as TTS has been linked to at least 81 deaths in the UK as well as hundreds of serious injuries. Seeking damages, more than 50 purported victims and their relatives have moved the High Court of Justice in London. In India, the Supreme Court has



agreed to hear a petition pertaining to the AstraZeneca vaccine, which was manufactured here by the Pune-based

Serum Institute of India. The petitioner has sought that an expert panel be set up to investigate the side effect in question and that the government must provide compensation in cases where individuals died or became disabled after being inoculated.

It is not enough for AstraZeneca to assert that patient safety is its highest priority. Vaxzevria and Covishield undoubtedly played a major role in saving millions of lives and controlling the global pandemic, but the health problems caused by TTS cannot be overlooked. A thorough probe is the need of the hour. The regulatory authorities, which apparently failed to maintain stringent standards to ensure safe use of the vaccine, must also be brought to book. At stake is the people's trust in vaccine safety in general, besides the accountability and credibility of vaccine makers.

The enduring lesson of strategic restraint

Powerful nations employing disproportionate force to achieve tactical objectives need to introspect.

IN 1999, Pakistan's Kargil intrusions challenged India's territorial integrity. Emboldened by its nuclear tests conducted the year before, Pakistan aimed to internationalise Kashmir as a nuclear flashpoint, assuming that its newly acquired capability would deter India from a full-scale military response, forcing early mediation and allowing it to keep the intruded territory across the Line of Control (LoC). To resolve the unprecedented crisis, India categorically rebuffed any diplomatic efforts proposed by Pakistan until the intruders were completely evicted. A long period of diplomatic parleys would have afforded adequate time for the Pakistani intruders to consolidate their positions and indulge in excessive nuclear rhetoric to pressure India to accept the new alignment. Accordingly, the Cabinet Committee on Security instructed the armed forces on May 18, 1999, to clear the intrusions employing air power offensively but laying down a term of reference not to cross the LoC. India's declaratory self-imposed caveat of not crossing the LoC, reflecting its policy of 'strategic restraint', was aimed at garnering international acceptance of a responsible nation avoiding escalation and prioritising peace. This could also help lift sanctions imposed by the global community after it had conducted nuclear tests in 1998, though this stance left many questioning the policy. Not surprisingly, it created a paradox, wherein India wanted to evict the intruders from its territory but was not ready to enter Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), which was under Pakistan's illegal control since 1948. It was tantamount to accepting the LoC as the international border and abdicating its claim to PoK. This limitation bolstered Pakistan's belief that India feared escalation because of the former's nuclear capability. The restriction also caused tremendous

consternation among the Army and the Indian Air Force (IAF), as it involved frontal attacks along the expected approaches, causing larger Army casualties and curtailing the radius of the circuit of IAF combat aircraft. On being explained the adverse implications for the conduct of military operations, as the contingency might arise to cross the LoC, the National Security Adviser diluted the restriction, stating publicly that not crossing the LoC holds good today, but not sure what would happen tomorrow. The damage was, however, done, with Pakistan perceiving it as a meek military response.

Pakistan raised the spectre of a nuclear confrontation, with its Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif, declaring its newfound confidence in countering an Indian attack on equal terms. Days later, Pakistan issued an official warning of retaliation, implicitly with its nuclear weapons. These threats were primarily aimed at the international community, especially the US and other Western nations, to pressure them to restrain India's military push. However, New Delhi dismissed these threats, well aware of Islamabad's limited nuclear capability — possessing only a few undeveloped nuclear weapons with restricted delivery systems sans a proper command structure for using them. Lt Gen Prakash Menon, former Military Adviser to the National Security Council Secretariat, aptly remarked: "It was with a non-existent capability around which Pakistan wove its paradigm of a nuclear umbrella, to prevent escalation as well as leverage the nuclear flashpoint card internationally." The international community, initially swayed by Pakistan's rhetoric, saw through it as India presented concrete evidence of the Pakistani army's involvement in the intrusions. The shift in the narrative compelled Pakistan to tone down its rhetoric. Reacting to Islamabad's threats of more

incursions, New Delhi hinted at military action across the border. The Army's success in recapturing the intruded heights reflected the hollowness of Pakistan's nuclear rhetoric. India carefully calibrated strategic troops posturing close to the border and relocating naval assets to the Arabian Sea to create a strategic asymmetry along the entire Indo-Pak front to achieve escalation dominance, should there be a need for war. While the Western media overplayed



the nuclear threat, Pakistan's attempt to link its actions to a potential nuclear flashpoint failed. Instead, it came under intense international pressure to withdraw. As the Indian military operations gathered momentum, Pakistan sought an exit strategy. Its Prime Minister visited Washington in July 1999 to meet then US President Bill Clinton, who categorically rejected Pakistan's repeated pleas for direct US intervention in the J&K dispute and called again for withdrawal. Pakistan eventually agreed, and the Indian Army accepted a phased withdrawal on its terms and conditions. The Pakistani army withdrew by July 17, barring three areas, which were cleared by the Indian Army by July 25. On July

26, the Indian Army declared the successful conclusion of the Kargil War. The Kargil conflict marked a strategic shift in the international perception of India, whose measured response, exercise of strategic restraint and prioritisation of regional stability over escalation were viewed positively. The US unequivocally favoured India, with its Congress recommending the suspension of loans from international financial institutions to Pakistan until it withdrew its troops. The G8 countries and the European Union adopted a similar stance. Russia was more supportive, while Pakistan's trusted ally, China, maintained a neutral stand. Most of the other countries showed evenhandedness, asking for restraint, while Saudi Arabia and Iran sought UN intervention. The saga of the unparalleled courage and bravery of Indian soldiers was superbly supplemented by politico-diplomatic initiatives bolstering India's international standing as a responsible country. Pakistan was humiliated not only on the Kargil battlefield, but also globally. The Kargil conflict highlighted the contrasting perspectives of India and Pakistan. India conceptualised a limited conventional war as an option below the nuclear threshold. Pakistan, however, believed that its newly acquired nuclear capability had deterred a stronger Indian response, emboldening it to continue using terrorism as an instrument of state policy, as evidenced by the terrorist attacks on Parliament in December 2001 and the Mumbai terror attack in November 2008. Whether an all-out war in 1999 could have prevented major terror attacks originating in Pakistan remains debatable. The strategy of restraint can be a powerful tool of a strong nation and not a sign of weakness, as it underscores a country's confidence in its long-term strategic approach.

Monsoon décor decoded



This season with its damp, humid and overcast days needs a soul-stirring freshness to revive it. Monsoon should be about refreshing vibes with earthy colours and floral prints. Doing up your home or modifying your existing décor to get the

glow of nature into your house is one the best way to crack this. Interior specialist Sonam Gupta, Design Head of Tangerine shares some easy décor trends that flawlessly sync with the season and make your little abode, peaceful and attractive.

Go earthy

Refurbish homes with loom woven dhurrie or wool infused kilims as rugs and mats to create a natural and unrefined look. These are hand washable and safe during the rainy days and gives the space an added dimension

Go vibrant

Despite low sunlight and grayish tone of the ambiance, one can go effervescent by adding together colors using multihued soft furnishings, kitchenware, serve ware, table, bed and bathroom linen. They bring a lovely change with additional tints and twinkle

Go floral

Floral prints together with geometric, paisley, damask, chevron and scroll as well as the traditional, Indian lifestyle, food, costumes and cultural blueprints create an impressive array of furnishings and designer crockery and cutlery ware for the kitchen, making it look sophisticated and eye-catching

Go radiant

Adding a series of decorative lights, lanterns, gel and wax, scented and enhancing candles bring



much desirable illumination and makes the place beam with insignia. These also append an alluring and stimulating fragrance to the room

Go organic

In the humid season of rains, adopting skin friendly linen made of cotton and silk is highly advisable. They absorb perspiration, is organic and safe to the skin and environment while is capable of carrying varied hues, prints and handwork like embroidery and zari. The cotton fabric is easy to maintain and looks rich at home Monsoon décor is all about keeping the space animated, clean and in the pink. Add vivacity using quirky ornamental products that are season-friendly and enjoy adorning your drenched homes.

Three golden rules to water your Garden right



The most important element to have a beautiful, growing garden is to water the plants. However, there is a way to do this correctly. Follow these watering tips for a nice green growing garden.

1. Water properly
Pour enough water so that it reaches the roots of the

plant. This can be ensured when you see water draining out of the container into the saucer below.

2. Water at regular intervals
Keep a tab on which plant needs how much watering since there are some which can do without water for

couple of days and for such plants you should avoid over watering. However, if it is a plant that needs daily watering and you avoid doing that then the soil becomes too dry which is not good for the plant's growth.

3. Go with the seasons
Watering needs will change as per the seasons so summers means more water is needed for the plants while the cold and rainy season does not require much watering of plants.



Uses of salt in home care

While salt is an absolute necessity in any meal, there are many other potential uses of salt. So, apart from its use in the kitchen, here's how you can put salt to some good use in other parts of the house.

To fight odour - Mix salt with lemon juice to make a paste and rub it on clothes. Keep it to dry in the sunlight and wash it off later.

To remove grease - Cover the pan which has grease with a layer of salt and put water over it. After 20 minutes the grease can be wiped off easily.

To deodourise your shoes - Sprinkle salt over your stinking canvas shoes / sneakers. The salt will absorb all the moisture from the shoes and make them smell good.



The art of finding lost things



Lost your house keys? Can't find your specs? Your daughter can't find her favourite doll? Try some findology to prevent losing things around the house. According to Findologist Michael Solomon, author of How to Find Lost Objects: "Don't get frantic and keep searching around. There are no missing objects, only unsystematic searches and clutter."

Solomon says if everything is in its place, nothing will be lost. Meaning: design spaces for specific things. So, your keys, spectacles, mobile, its charger and all thingamajigs must have designated spaces - and then, consistently put the objects there.

Clutter begone

While designing a house, it's important to keep it free of clutter. Because amid clutter, things become invisible and virtually unfindable. Solomon says, "Keys are among the most common objects we lose. And a missing set of keys can bring our day to a sudden and infuriating halt." But if you have lost something key, the big tip to finding it is to remain calm. "The moment you calm down, the lost object shows up," he says.

Solomon says that there's also "The Camouflage Effect" - a common situation in which your missing object is where you thought it was, or

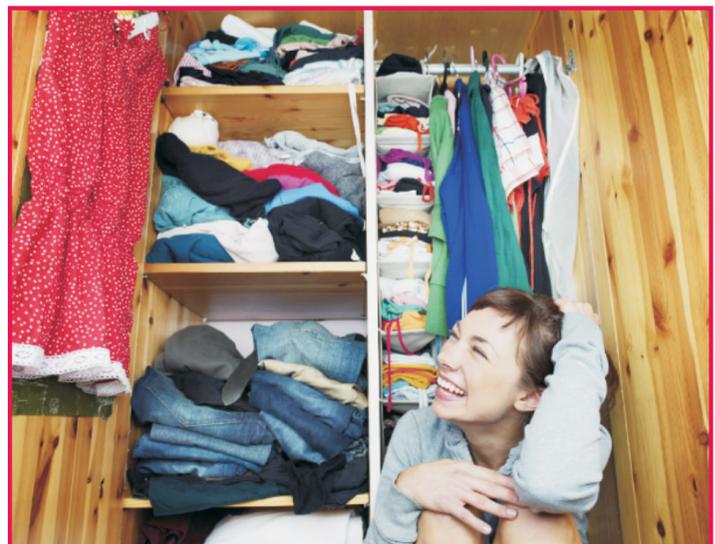
where you remember last having seen it. But it has become hidden from view, due to some other object having been inadvertently placed on top of it. The way out: look underneath things.

Make up for lost time

The basic reason people should use findology while designing houses is to stop wasting time that goes in looking for things. Interior designer Namita Sharma says, "People want specific corners in cupboards for placement of things in the kitchen and bedrooms." In smart houses, Sharma mentions that they try to create uncluttered spaces where there's no scope for an object just disappearing. Her take: "Lost keys, books, eyeglasses, jewellery, many times simply vanish and resurface after years. We want to reduce the frustration and trauma."

The 12 principles of finding lost objects

1. Don't look for it.
2. It's not lost - you are.
3. Remember the three C's: be comfortable,



4. calm and confident.
4. Its where it's supposed to be.
5. Domestic drift. If an object is missing

from its designated space, it's probably where it was last used.

Covishield Side Effects: Doctors' Group Urges Centre To Review All Covid Vaccines

New Delhi: In the wake of pharmaceutical giant AstraZeneca admitting in a UK court that its Covid vaccine can cause blood clots in rare cases, a group of doctors on Thursday expressed deep concern over the safety of the Covishield vaccine manufactured by the Serum Institute of India.

At a press conference, the doctors, under the banner of the Awaken India Movement (AIM), urged the government to review the science behind all Covid vaccines and audit their commercialisation as well as implementation of active surveillance and monitoring mechanism to ensure vaccine adverse events are identified as early as possible. "The government has wholly ignored the rising number of cases of tragic deaths post-Covid vaccination all the while and continues to promote Covid vaccines as 'safe and effective', without scientific investigation and invoking epidemiology," Dr Tarun Kothari, a radiologist and an activist, said at the press conference.

The world is learning about a side effect of the Covid vaccine called Thrombosis with

Thrombocytopenia Syndrome (TTS), he said. When the COVID-19 vaccines were being administered, not many people were aware that it was being done without the completion of phase-3 trials. Administration of COVID-19 vaccines was started without the manufacturers having complete information and data on the possible short-term or long-term side effects, or fatalities, said Dr Sujata Mittal, a gynaecologist and oncologist. There is an already low awareness around vaccine injuries, especially in India, she said. Thousands of women reported abnormalities in their menstrual cycles, which was confirmed much later as a side effect of the vaccine in a study published in September 2022, she added. "The Awaken India Movement (AIM) has been collecting details of Covid Vaccine deaths covered by media/social media in India and sharing them with various high authorities of the country since 2021, when the vaccination began. The government has failed to respond to our repeated requests to investigate deaths and debilitation from adverse effects of



vaccination," Dr Kothari said. The AIM urged the government of India to compensate all the victims of Covid vaccines, including their family members, through a mechanism that involves vaccine manufacturers as well. "We also demand establishing fast track courts and vaccine courts to provide swift justice to

the vaccine injured and their families," Dr Mittal said. Besides, active surveillance and monitoring mechanisms should be implemented to ensure vaccine adverse events are identified as early as possible and early treatment protocols must be created and widely publicised so that lives can be saved,

she stated. "Review science behind all Covid vaccines and audit their commercialisation," Dr Kothari said.

The United Kingdom-based AstraZeneca has started global withdrawal of its COVID-19 vaccine, which was provided in India as 'Covishield' in partnership with the Serum Institute of India, days after it admitted to rare side effects of blood clotting and lowering of platelet counts. The withdrawal has been initiated due to a surplus of available updated vaccines since the pandemic, the company said in a statement.

In India, the company's partner Serum Institute of India said it has stopped the manufacturing and supply of additional doses of Covishield since December 2021 while reiterating that it had disclosed all rare to very rare side effects, including TTS, in the packaging insert in 2021. Listen to the latest songs, only on JioSaavn.com

AstraZeneca had partnered with Oxford University to develop the COVID-19 vaccine, which was sold as Vaxzevria in Europe.

Convict Can't Get Parole To Just Maintain Relationship With Live-In Partner: High Court

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court has held that Indian law, including the Delhi Prison Rules, does not permit the grant of parole to a convict solely for the purpose of maintaining a conjugal relationship with a live-in partner, especially when the convict is already legally married.

Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma said that parole cannot be granted to a convict on grounds of having a child or maintaining conjugal relationships with a live-in partner when the convict has a legally wedded wife and children born from that marriage. Granting such parole, the court cautioned, would set a detrimental precedent. The court's observations came while dismissing a plea by a murder convict seeking parole to consummate his marriage with his live-in partner and to maintain social ties. The convict failed to disclose his existing marriage and children from his first marriage.

Justice Sharma said that a live-in partner, lacking legal recognition as a spouse, does not fall within the scope of the definition of "family" under the Delhi Prison Rules, which include grandparents, parents, siblings, spouse, children, and grandchildren. While acknowledging the personal choices and relationships of individuals, the court clarified that it doesn't interfere in the personal lives of adults unless there are criminal complaints. However, when such matters come before the court seeking legal relief, decisions are made based on existing laws and prison rules, devoid of personal or societal morality, it added.

"India Should Respect Pak As...": Mani Shankar Aiyar Hands BJP New Ammo

New Delhi: Senior Congress leader Mani Shankar Aiyar has come under fire after he said that India should engage in dialogue with Pakistan or the country could end up paying a heavy price. Mr Aiyar said that Pakistan has nuclear bombs which they could drop on India if our governments irked them.

In an interview that has gone viral, Mr Aiyar says, "India should give respect to Pakistan as it has an atom bomb! If we don't give them respect, they'll think of using an atom bomb against India." "You should talk to them. But instead, we are flexing our military might. And this is just increasing the tensions. And they have atom bombs. What happens if a 'madman' decided to launch bombs (at India)," he said. "We have them too, but if a 'madman' decides to drop a bomb on Lahore, it won't take 8 seconds for the radiation to reach Amritsar," he added. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has attacked Mr Aiyar for his remarks saying that this reflects the Congress's "ideology" for India. Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar, sharing the video on X, said "Rahul's Cong 'ideology' is fully visible in these elections. Support to and from Pakistan including offering to give up Siachen. Dividing people, Lies, Abuse and fake guarantees to mislead poor and vulnerable (sic)."

BJP leader and Bhojpuri actor Ravi Kishan also took a jibe at Mr Aiyar, saying that the Congress leader should get treated somewhere as Pakistan is currently struggling for food. At this time Pakistan is collecting foodgrains for itself. They are facing a food crisis... Mani Shankar Aiyar should get himself treated somewhere. This is not the India of Congress. Now, India is very powerful. This is the India of PM Modi," Mr Kishan said. The Congress leader's remarks come just days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and several other top BJP leaders warned that Indian forces would enter Pakistan to kill any terrorist who escapes. "During the Congress regime, the news headlines were about India handing over another dossier to Pakistan about terror activities. It used to be big news. Today, India doesn't send dossiers. Aaj Bharat ghar mein ghus ke mara hai (Today, India eliminates terrorists on their home turf)," PM Modi said at an election rally in Maharashtra's Latur.

Pak spy posed as IBM employee, got Gujarat man to leak military drone data

New Delhi: A man has been arrested in Gujarat's Bharuch district for allegedly spying for a Pakistani intelligence agency, police said. Pravin Mishra, a resident of Ankleshwar in Bharuch, is accused of collecting classified information about the Indian Armed Forces and defence research firms for Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). According to the Gujarat Criminal Investigation Department (CID), Mishra fell victim to a "honey trap" orchestrated by an ISI operative posing as a woman named Sonal Garg who claimed to work for IBM Chandigarh. The Pakistani operative used an Indian WhatsApp number and the fake Facebook ID of Sonal Garg to target and trap Mishra. "She honey-trapped one Pravin Mishra, who



worked in Hyderabad in an organisation which in turn worked with DRDO," said CID ADGP Rajkumar Pandian. "She got Pravin Mishra to extract India's defence-related information... Pravin Mishra shared some vital information," he added. Pandian said the information included details on drones manufactured by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The ISI

operative also reportedly attempted to install malware on Mishra's office server. "It was found that the information was being sent to an intelligence agency located in Pakistan," the CID said. The investigation began after a tip-off from Military Intelligence in Udhampur, which alerted authorities about attempts to target current or retired personnel of the Armed Forces, DRDO, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), and those involved in missile system development. A case has been registered against Mishra, the Pakistani operative using the fake identity "Sonal Garg," and any Indian officials who may have been involved in the conspiracy. Further investigation is ongoing.

5 Indian sailors released from Israeli-linked vessel seized by Iran

New Delhi: Five of the Indian sailors on board an Israeli-linked vessel seized by Tehran were released on Thursday, the Indian Embassy in Iran confirmed. It also said the sailors had departed the country during the evening.

Sharing details of their release, the Indian Embassy also thanked the Iranian authorities for their close coordination with the Embassy and Indian Consulate in Bandar Abbas. In an X post, the Indian Embassy in Iran wrote, "5 of the Indian sailors on MSC Aries have been released and departed from Iran today



evening. We appreciate the Iranian authorities for their close coordination with the Embassy and Indian Consulate in Bandar Abbas." The Israel-linked cargo ship was seized

by Iran on April 13, with 17 Indian nationals onboard.

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy seized the container ship near the Strait of Hormuz and MSC Aries was last seen on April 12, sailing towards the Strait of Hormuz off the coast of Dubai. On April 18, one of the 17 Indian sailors was released and returned home to Kerala.

Ann Tessa Joseph, a resident of Thrissur, was welcomed at the Cochin International Airport by government officials when she arrived from Iran.

Twist In Karnataka Sex Scandal, Woman Claims Was Forced To File False Case

The SIT officers are threatening the victims that if they don't make statements in favour of the Congress government, they will be charged with prostitution, the JDS leader claimed.

Bengaluru: In a twist to the sex video scandal in Karnataka involving JDS MP Prajwal Revanna, the National Commission for Women (NCW) said on Thursday that one of the woman complainants in the case has claimed that

she was forced by a group of people claiming to be cops to lodge a false complaint after being threatened with harassment.

Taking a cue from the NCW's allegation, former Chief Minister and JDS state President H.D. Kumaraswamy on Thursday night accused the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the case of threatening the victims with prostitution to extract false statements. The SIT officers are threatening the victims that if they don't make statements in favour of the Congress government, they will be charged with prostitution, the JDS leader claimed.

The investigating officers are going to the doorsteps of the victims and threatening them. Tell us, isn't it a fact that the SIT officers are threatening the victims with false prostitution cases against them? Is this how the probe is being conducted," Mr Kumaraswamy questioned Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, who earlier described the sex video scandal as the biggest sex scandal in the world.



"Where have you kept the rescued woman who was kidnapped? Why is she not being produced before the court? Do you support the act of distribution of private videos of the victims," Mr Kumaraswamy asked Mr Gowda. Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna is the grandson of former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda, and son of JD-S MLA H.D. Revanna, who has been arrested for his alleged role in the kidnapping of a victim of the sex scandal involving his son. Mr Kumaraswamy is the younger brother of H.D. Revanna. Stating that there is no question

of defending Prajwal Revanna, Mr Kumaraswamy said, "Everyone should respect the law and the guilty should be punished. H.D. Deve Gowda has four sons and two daughters. We have our own businesses and families. I had gone to Hassan only at the time of the Assembly elections." Meanwhile, Karnataka Home Minister G. Parameshwara defended the SIT probe, saying that it is functioning efficiently. The state government doesn't need to reply to all the allegations being levelled by the JDS, he said. "The SIT is conducting a probe and the state government has taken the matter seriously," he added. "I can't answer everyone. If they have a complaint against the SIT, let them file it. The investigation is underway and once the report is submitted, all the details will be made available. If the victims are blackmailed over the videos, action would be initiated against the guilty," Mr Parameshwara said.

Congress's Mani Shankar Aiyar says 'Respect Pak or they'll drop atom bomb'

New Delhi: Congress veteran Mani Shankar Aiyar courted controversy after saying that India should engage in dialogue with Pakistan and not flex its military muscles as it may irk Islamabad into deploying nuclear weapons against New Delhi. Aiyar, a former diplomat and vocal advocate of normalising India-Pakistan relations, stated that the government can talk tough to Islamabad if it wants to, but if it doesn't respect the neighbouring country, it may have to pay a heavy price.

"They have atom bombs. We have them too, but if a 'madman' decides to drop a bomb on Lahore, it won't take 8 seconds for the radiation to reach Amritsar," he warned. "If we respect them, they



will remain peaceful. But if we snub them, what happens if a 'madman' comes up and decides to launch bombs [at India]?" Aiyar asked. In a veiled dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Aiyar said, "In order to become the vishwaguru, no matter how serious our issues with Pakistan are, we have to show that we are working hard to resolve them. But in the last 10 years, there has been no hard work [to this end]." The Congress leader's remarks came against the backdrop of heightened tensions between India and Pakistan after PM Narendra Modi's famous ghar me ghus kar warning where he said Indian forces would enter Pakistan to kill anyone who escapes over the border. In the wake of the Prime Minister's remark, other senior BJP leaders have also dialled up the anti-Pakistan rhetoric. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh asserted that Pakistan-Occupied-Kashmir (PoK) "was, is, and will remain ours", but India won't have to capture it with force because its people, on their own, would want to be part of India. National Conference (NC) chief and former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah reminded Rajnath Singh of Pakistan's nuclear capabilities. "Remember, they (Pakistan) are also not wearing bangles. It has atom bombs, and unfortunately, that atom bomb will fall on us," he warned.

Beginners' guide

to growing orchids at home



And just when you are about to give up, they surprise you with their real beauty - in various shapes, sizes, colours and fragrances. And like most pretty things, they are high-maintenance," says Dr SL Rahman, joint secretary, The Agri Horticultural Society of India. However, not all orchids are difficult to grow. Some are practically indestructible. It is estimated that there are more than 1,300 species of orchids found in India, primarily in the Northeast - Assam, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh - and also in Sikkim and south India. Most orchids are perennial herbs with simple leaves and if raised in the right conditions (temperature not less than 16-17°C), they should last eight weeks with flowers, after which the blooms slowly start dropping off. They eventually re-flower. A word of caution: Never cut off the aerial roots, and never, ever remove the orchids from the pots they root in.

BEGINNERS' CHALLENGE

Growing orchids can be addictive. But you can take proper care of your orchid only when you know its genus. Most orchids you get in nurseries are hybrids, created specifically for flowers. They are easy to care for at homes and offices. However, a few things should be kept in mind, like light and humidity. If you can imitate a plant's natural habitat, it will thrive.

ORCHIDS WHICH ARE GOOD FOR BEGINNERS

The most commonly available orchids, such as the Moth Orchid, Phalaenopsis and Cattleya are so popular because they grow well at home. Phalaenopsis hybrids are usually considered the 'beginners' orchids', largely because they re-bloom under the conditions most windowsill growers can offer them. They require lower light. African violets can adapt to different humidity levels. They, however, easily die off due to over-watering. Underwatering can be a problem too. In Vedic scriptures, there is mention of a plant named Vanda, which has been adapted as a generic name for one of the most beautiful group of orchids. "Vandas could be mostly found on trees. And unlike most plants, they do not grow in soil, but air. Their roots attach to trees or rocks, and they draw moisture and nutrients that wash over them in the forest," Dr Rahman tells us. SOIL. Beginners often make the mistake of assuming that orchids need to be potted in soil like other

blooming flowers. That would be a grave mistake. Most orchid roots need far more air than potting soil would give them. So, look for a porous mix.

LIGHTING

Direct sunlight should be avoided. Some common types of orchids that thrive on bright light are Cattleya and Vanda, while low light is preferred by Phalaenopsis and Paphiopedilum, among others. Orchids should be given as much light as they can tolerate. Varieties with thicker and erect leaves can tolerate more light than those with thinner or more horizontal leaves. Too little light is one of the common mistakes beginners make.

TEMPERATURE

Warm-growing orchids like day temperatures between 21°C and 29°C. This includes Phalaenopsis orchids. The commonly available orchids that are sold in nurseries do well in temperatures that are comfortable for human beings.

HUMIDITY

Most orchids like about 70 per cent humidity in the atmosphere, which is more humid than most homes. So, you have to make an effort to provide your plants with extra humidity. Orchids usually appreciate misting with a spray bottle. If the plant has aerial roots growing up and out of the pot, those roots will like getting some moisture. At home, you can keep the planter on a tray. Fill it with water and gravel. As the water evaporates, it will provide some extra humidity to the plant. For anyone keeping tropical plants on a windowsill, this technique really helps.

NUTRITION

Orchids need nitrogen, sulphur, phosphorus, potassium, calcium and magnesium for growth.

WATER

Overwatering kills far more orchids than underwatering. When in doubt, just don't water. The potting mix also has a lot to do with how often an orchid needs watering. Most orchids are sold in mixes that allow for weekly watering. Don't water until the soil is approaching dryness. To water, just submerge the pot in a bucket for a few seconds, then lift it out and let the excess water drain off.

PRUNING

Beginners often wonder how to prune orchids. Trimming old flower stems that have turned brown is a good idea. If it's still green, it may re-bloom, either from the tip or by branching further back on the stem. Trimming orchids should only be done to remove leaves, roots, or flower stems that have already died or have turned brown. You must sterilise your cutting tools or use disposable ones so that you don't spread diseases between plants. The best time to re-pot is when new roots start to grow. So, what are you waiting for? Get started!

This is what Indian offices need to change

An office worker spends nearly five years sitting at a desk and thus it is important to understand that the ergonomics in relation to office furniture is important. With the league of start-ups, new work culture has cropped up. There are no rigid cabin walls and heavy furniture anymore to keep the equations between the employees at bay. New-age concept furniture is building the backbone of successful offices. We spoke with Umesh Rao, Founder & CEO, Vector Projects to understand what is the latest trend and if Indian offices are ready for the change.

What is floating furniture all about? How does help soothe an office environment?

Floating furniture is a new concept that has been introduced in the interior space. While in the recent past, rigid and bulky furniture were the norm at workspaces, the new-age concept of floating furniture has changed functionality of an office.

One such product is E-Stilis Desk System. This product can be modified to not only function as a staff workstation, but as a manager workstation or conference table. The system offers the utility of a sturdy desk, while allowing agility of a compact workstation at the same time. It was also built to solve one of the basic challenges faced by small offices - a cluttered workspace with numerous pieces of furniture & accessories.

The modern designing techniques using cutting-edge technology, by not completely tamishing the traditional furniture look has increased the demand for floating furniture in the markets.

What kind of changes do you think Indian offices need currently and why?

In order to successfully create a rich working environment, it is essential to make employees feel comfortable and at ease, while being efficient and productive. With open workspaces, flexi-seating, and ergonomically enhanced furniture, Indian offices today are in the process of re-invention. It is important that workplaces that can help enhance productivity are introduced. For example, many companies like Google, Facebook have opted for new age offices that have employee friendly environment. While the country is still adapting itself to this new concept, start-ups have started to pave the way. They have redefined commercial interior spaces in the country by breaking the monotony and cutting the clutter associated with traditional workspaces.

What is radical seating all about? The term 'Radical' in its simplest form, means a departure from tradition. For us, it represents change and departure. Change from routine and departure from monotony at the workplace. Radical design has slowly started to gain acceptance in offices. The scenario has changed from restrictive to refreshing,

confined to comfortable and passive to portable. Radical design doesn't mean only futuristic. If interpreted correctly, it could be a mix of traditional and modern decor. That is the beauty of this concept, it lets you decide how 'radical' you want to be.

While radical design and seating has transformed large offices, it has also come as a boon to small offices and has changed how small spaces are planned. The question of small working spaces confining the application of radical designs has been solved by creating multipurpose furniture and systems that fit the needs & budget of clients.

Which is the most difficult corner in Indian offices that you always fail to modify?

It wouldn't be right to generalize; however, we have seen that the Indian Companies are still paper intensive and this leads to a huge requirement for storage. There are statutory obligations that require some of the contracts, legal documents to be preserved for 10 years. High numbers of storage units limit the flexibility and openness in the office. We are suggesting ways to combat this by providing Compactor storages for dead and movable storage caddies for personal storage. This partially helps to achieve the balance between storage needs and flexibility.

What changes do you wish to make to Indian Government offices?

Indian Government offices are the perfect example of traditional work-spaces. With private organisations adapting new age office concepts, the government workspaces also need to transform to become attractive to young talent. For starters, the work environment and the office design can become more transparent. The area could be distributed more equitably between cabins and open work areas. Technology could be integrated more closely in the office design. An efficiently planned, well lit, well ventilated workspace can really help to enhance productivity regardless of the sector.

Set up your own terrace Vegetable garden

Have you, inspired by what Jyotika did in 36 Vayadhinile, wanted a terrace veggie garden of your own? It's a good idea, actually, to grow everyday spices and herbs, so that you have them at hand — fresh — whenever needed. But if you're among the many who don't know how to go about setting up this garden, read on...

Choose the right space

Go to the terrace, take a good look. Judge the play of the sun throughout the day. And then, select a place that is shady, but at the same time, gets direct sunlight for some part of the day. You've to ensure that the plants get at least five hours of sunlight daily. But mind you, herbs are delicate leaves, so be careful that the sunlight is not so strong that the leaves get scorched by the heat.

Get this...

The state government, as part of its environment and green cover initiatives, provides coir peats that come in plastic bags, which means you can grow the veggies in them, without having to bother about spending on pots. To begin with, wet the peats, place them on a sheet in the terrace. Keep watering them regularly, and in about a week, you'll see what looked like a small brick would've expanded to look like debris, and filled the bag. Now, to plant the seeds...

Prepare the soil

Get some soil and natural manure from any nursery, and mix it well with the peats. If you want to keep it organic, add cow dung or goat dung manure to the mix.

Leave this mix aside for a few days. Meanwhile, when you peel veggies, etc, do not throw away the skin. Instead, create your own compost with these vegetable skins and waste veggies in another pot in the terrace, and add them to this mix. After about a week, this mix is ready for plantation. Get the seeds of whatever you want to grow (tomatoes, chillies, coriander, basil and herbs are good choices). Sprinkle a few seeds over the mix, slightly dab them in with your hand, and leave it be for a couple of days. Watch them grow. Pick the right veggies



To start with, try out just one or two vegetables, and then go in for more veggies. Tomatoes, chillies and keerai (spinach) are easy to grow, so start with them. Sometimes you might need to net out the seeds and the saplings as they grow, to keep pesky sparrows and other birds from feasting on them.

Watering is the key factor

Water the plants regularly, as and when needed. Excess water often causes damage and decay to plant roots, and it also washes away the nutrients of the soil. Also, post every heavy rainfall, remember to add manure to the soil.



Sensex, Nifty open in green; Bharat Petroleum shares gains 4%

New Delhi Benchmark stock indices opened in green on Friday led by gains in auto stocks and a strong performance from Bharat Petroleum after its Q4 results. The S&P BSE Sensex added 523.61 points and rose by 0.4% to 72,927.78, while NSE Nifty50 gained 151.15 and climbed 0.69% to 22,108.65 points as of 10AM.

Shares of Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) saw a rise of 4% despite falling short of fourth-quarter profit expectations. The company's shares received a boost from its announcement of issuing bonus shares. The auto sector also saw a rise of 0.9%, with Bajaj Auto and Hero MotoCorp leading the gains with a jump of 2%.

Although the Sensex and Nifty were up for the day, they have each dropped around 1.75% this week, with the Nifty remaining 2% away from erasing its gains for the year and the Sensex up by less than a percent so far in 2024. "Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) are playing safe and reducing their positions ahead of upcoming election phases and vote count," Deepak Jasani, head of retail research at HDFC Securities told Reuters.

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) sold Indian shares worth \$1.2 billion in May, marking the highest FPI sale since January. Market technicals suggest weakness, with the Nifty50 slipping below its 100-day moving average for the first time in six months on Thursday before recovering on Friday. Ten out of thirteen major sectors saw gains on Friday. Energy stocks were up by 1%, led by a 3% increase in Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited following its March-quarter results. "While BPCL missed its profit estimate, we expect the company to post better profitability than peers in fiscal year 2025 and 2026, due to likely margin improvement across refining and marketing segments," said Jefferies, reiterating its "buy" recommendation. BPCL was the top Nifty 50 gainer for the day.

Domestic mobile market heading towards premium segment

NEW DELHI. Domestic mobile market witnessed a significant shift towards the premium segment in Q1, 2024, as for the first time ever premium smartphones captured a remarkable 20% share in terms of volume and a 51% share of the overall market value.

This reflects a growing consumer preference for high-end devices (priced at Rs 30,000 and above). As per the Counterpoint's Monthly India Smartphone Tracker, Samsung and Apple maintain their dominance in value segment, holding 25% and 19% market shares, respectively. "During the quarter, India's smartphone market reached its highest ever Q1 value. The growth was driven by the strengthening trend of premiumization, with consumers upgrading to higher-value smartphones across price tiers..."

Factors driving this trend include affordable financing schemes, better value for trade-ins, and bundled schemes, along with the demand for top-tier features such as AI, Gaming, and imaging enhancements," said Senior Research Analyst Shilpi Jain.

PNB profit rises 160% to Rs 3K cr on NPA fall

MUMBAI: Third-largest public sector lender Punjab National Bank on Thursday said its net income for the March quarter zoomed 160% to Rs 3,010 crore on improved asset quality and higher loan disbursements. For the full year ending March 2024, the New Delhi headquartered bank reported a net income of Rs 8,245 crore recording a robust 228.8% growth from Rs 2,507 crore posted in FY23.

In the reporting quarter, gross non-performing assets (NPAs) fell to 5.73% from 8.74% last year and from 6.24% a quarter ago, net NPAs plunged to 0.73% from 2.72% a year-ago and from 0.96% in the previous quarter, the bank management led by Atul Kumar Goel, the chief executive, told reporters in a concall. In absolute terms, gross NPAs declined by Rs 20,985 crore to Rs 56,343 crore from Rs 77,328 crore in March 2023 and net NPAs plunged by Rs 15,786 crore from March 2023 to Rs 6,799 crore as of March 2024, he said. While the net interest



margin stood at 3.25%, total yield on advances improved 50 bps to 8.44 percent in Q4 and by 112 bps to 8.28% in FY24. Net interest income increased to Rs 10,363 crore in Q4 from Rs 10,293 crore in Q3 and Rs 9,499 crore in Q4FY23 showing an improvement of 9.1% year-on-year.

During FY24, the same rose 16.2% to Rs 40,083 crore from Rs 34,492 crore in FY23. Credit cost improved by 91 bps from 1.72% in Q4FY23 to 0.81% in Q4 FY24 and by 63 bps from 2.03% in FY23 to 1.4% in FY24, while the provision coverage ratio improved by 849 bps on-year to 95.39%, the slippage ratio improved on-year by 159 bps to 0.72 in FY24 from 2.31 in FY23.

Akshaya Tritiya 2024: Digital gold vs gold jewellery. Which sparkles brighter

New Delhi Akshaya Tritiya, a festival symbolising prosperity, is here again, and with it comes the customary tradition of purchasing gold. This annual celebration marks a time when many believe that buying gold will bring wealth and a secure future. In recent times, alongside the customary purchase of physical gold jewellery, the option of investing in digital gold has also become available. Several fintech platforms now provide the option of buying digital gold, offering an alternative to traditional gold purchases. This includes options such as Sovereign Gold Bonds, Gold ETFs, and Gold FOFs, where the option to purchase digital gold, starting from as little as Rs 1, is available. So, the question arises if you should invest in digital gold or stick with the timeless allure of gold jewellery, this Akshaya Tritiya? Investing in digital gold can serve as a stable hedge against

inflation and market fluctuations. It offers the same benefits as physical gold but without the additional expenses. Market expert Dr Ravi Singh told Business Today that investing in digital gold provides an alternative to traditional gold jewellery as it offers a convenient and secure way to avoid storage costs and the risk of theft. "Transactions occur at market prices, ensuring fairness. Sovereign gold bonds, with a fixed annual interest rate of 2.5%, add to its appeal," said Singh. However, Shivam Batra, CEO of Rajni Jewellers had a slightly different opinion and said that digital gold may suit individuals lacking



storage options or with short-term investment goals. "For those seeking enduring jewellery pieces that can be cherished for years, quality, handcrafted gold jewellery is unmatched," he said. "In India, gold signifies more than just an investment; it embodies our cultural heritage. It has

always represented prosperity and tradition. Despite this year's rapid price increases, it's crucial to view this positively. The rise in prices reflects not only market conditions but also the inherent value of gold as a tangible, enduring asset," Piyush Gupta, director at PP Jewellers by Pawan Gupta told Business Today. Ultimately, the choice between digital gold and gold jewellery hinges on individual needs and preferences. For Akshaya Tritiya, your decision will depend on your investment horizon, risk tolerance, and desire for a physical asset. Digital gold offers ease of purchase, storage, and potentially lower costs, while jewellery provides the tangible satisfaction of owning a physical piece.

Air India Express expects operations to normalise within next two days

New Delhi Tata-owned Air India Express operations began to improve on Friday as more cabin crew members returned to duty following the disruption caused by a recent strike, which has now been called off. A section of the cabin crew went on strike on Tuesday night, leading to the cancellation of over 170 flights. However, the strike was called off on Thursday evening, and the airline reinstated the 30 cabin crew members who earlier went on mass sick leave without notice. Air India Express, which normally operates approximately 380 flights daily, had to scale back operations due to the strike. An official told news agency PTI on Friday that normal operations are anticipated to resume within the next two days. The cabin crew members who



participated in the strike are now rejoining the workforce, and the airline is assisting them in obtaining the necessary fitness certificates required to resume their duties, the official told PTI. The official also said that most international flights are scheduled in the evening, and with more cabin crew available, operations in this segment are expected to improve starting from

Friday. The airline operates 120 international flights and 260 domestic services daily, though the number of flights may vary on certain days.

In response to the cabin crew shortage, Air India Express had to cancel 85 flights on Thursday, which represents around 23% of its total daily capacity. Following the resolution of the strike on Thursday, the airline announced to restore its flight schedule and apologised to affected passengers for the disruptions caused.

Air India Express, which is currently in the process of merging with AIX Connect (formerly AirAsia India), employs around 6,000 individuals, including over 2,000 cabin crew members.

Oil companies register 71 times profit in FY24

NEW DELHI. After a tepid FY23, the PSU oil marketing companies have turned the table and raked in record profits in FY24. The three state-owned oil marketing companies (OMCs) — IOCL, BPCL and HPCL — have together posted ₹2,500 crore standalone profit in 2023-24, 71 times the profit earned in the previous year. This is significant because these companies have been holding fuel price cuts citing low profitability. Experts cite robust double-digit gross refining margins (GRM) and healthy marketing margins on high speed diesel (HSD) and petrol for most part of the year. Prashant Vasishth, senior vice-president and co-group head, corporate, ICRA, also attributes high profitability to low base effect. "The profits were significantly weaker in FY23 owing to negative marketing margins on HSD and petrol for a large part of the year," he says. Stable crude oil prices have also helped the OMCs maintain their GRM, even

though they came down by a few basis points vis-à-vis previous year. Indian Oil Corporation, the country's largest oil marketing company,



achieved its highest-ever net profit of Rs 39,618.84 crore in 2023-24. However, quarterly profits saw a significant decline, in the January to March quarter, the company's net profit stood at Rs 4,837.69 crore, compared to Rs 10,058.69 crore the

previous year and Rs 8,063.39 crore in the preceding quarter. The company's gross refining margin (GRM) also dropped to \$12.05 per barrel in 2023-24 from \$19.52 a year ago, attributed to lower refining margins, a negative performance in the petrochemical segment, and price cuts despite rising crude oil costs. Currently, Brent Crude Future was trading at \$82.94 a barrel at 7.54 IST. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) also reported impressive financial results in FY24, with a record net profit of Rs 14,600 crore compared to a loss of Rs 8,974 crore in the previous year.

However, HPCL also experienced a decrease in quarterly profits. In the January-March quarter, HPCL's net profit was Rs 2,709.31 crore, down from Rs 3,608.32 crore in the same period of the previous financial year.

BENGALURU. Cash-strapped Byju's has slashed its product prices by at least 30%. Sources said the annual subscription for the Byju's Learning App is now available at yearly price of Rs 12,000, while Byju's Classes and Byju's Tuition Centres (BTC) are priced at Rs 24,000 and Rs 36,000, respectively, for a complete year. This comes after the company's founder Byju Raveendran took over daily operational responsibilities of Byju's after nearly four years. In a meeting with over 1,500 sales associates and managers, Raveendran announced a shift in the company's sales strategy. As per sources, the firm has completed its transition from a push-based to a pull-based sales model. Managers will now act as coaches, focused on supporting and enabling the sales team rather than enforcing strict call quotas. Associates will have the flexibility to work on



their own terms, with no tracking of the number of hours spent on calls, sources added.

"If you can get results by spending half an hour a day, please do that. Want to only work on the weekends? Why not?" Byju has told sales associates. The edtech firm's sales associates will receive 100% of the sales closed directly into their accounts the next working day, with managers receiving 20% of the same from the company. "The average sales salary is Rs 40,000 per month. So, close a couple of sales, and you can get not just your salary but also clear your arrears. You can earn many multiples of your CTC through this model," Raveendran told staff. After clearing arrears, associates will receive 50% of sales closed, while managers will receive 10%. "I want you to understand what it means about the quality of our content and the power of our brand. So, your job is not to sell, but to counsel," Raveendran said.

JPMorgan: India index inclusion on track, most clients ready

NEW DELHI. JPMorgan Chase & Co is on track to include India in its emerging market debt index from June with most of its clients ready to trade, according to the firm's global head of index research. "Based on the annual Index Governance Consultation process, market feedback so far has been largely positive, with the majority of our index clients already set up to trade in the IGB market," managing director Gloria Kim said in an emailed reply to questions.

"As always, there are still teething issues when entering a new market, however we have found these to be related mostly to the operational readiness and flexibility of counterparties and custodians rather than barriers to entry," she said, acknowledging the reforms made by the government. The difficulty in setting up to trade in India due to an elaborate documentation process has been one reason why foreign investors have been apprehensive about the nation's entry into global indexes. Last September, JPMorgan said it would include India in

its emerging market bond index, where it will have a maximum weight of 10%.

JPMorgan estimates foreign inflows will be between \$20 billion and \$25 billion, assuming an index-neutral position, Kim said. The firm estimates its emerging-market bond gauge currently has \$216 billion of assets under management, she added. "We have seen in the past that assets tracking the index are relatively sticky in nature and generally remain consistent," Kim said.

Indian sovereign bonds have seen about \$8 billion of inflows into the so-called Fully Accessible Route securities since the JPMorgan announcement, though there were some outflows in April amid a global debt selloff. A Bloomberg gauge of the bonds has outperformed major peers this year. The inflows from the long-anticipated index inclusion are leaving their mark on a variety of Indian assets,



with corporate bonds also besting peers and foreign exchange reserves hitting a record high. They have played a role in helping the rupee shrug off the impact of a broad strengthening in the dollar.

Bloomberg Index Services Ltd will also start including India to its emerging markets index from January. Bloomberg LP is the parent company of Bloomberg Index Services, which administers indexes that compete with those from

other providers. Indian government authorities have made substantial market reforms for investors, according to JPMorgan. These include extending the trade-matching window for foreign portfolio investors and streamlining the onboarding process through the introduction of a single application form, Kim said. The registration process was also simplified by accepting digital signatures and scanned copies for account registration, she said.

There are also several India-dedicated bond exchange-traded funds and UCITS funds offering intraday liquidity to investors, Kim said. "These steps have improved the overall market accessibility and tradability for FPIs, making investors more comfortable with investing in the Indian government bond market," she said.

NEWS BOX

Doha Diamond League Live Streaming: Neeraj Chopra, Kishore Jena begin 2024 season

Neeraj Chopra and Kishore Jena will begin their 2024 season in the prestigious Doha Diamond League on Friday, May 10. The Olympic and former world champion, Neeraj, will be keen on starting the year on a high and laying down a marker ahead of the Paris Olympics. Neeraj is the defending champion in the Doha Diamond League, but he is in for a stern test in the season-opening javelin event in Doha. Neeraj Chopra will be up against the likes of Olympic silver medalist and Diamond Trophy winner from 2023, Jakub Vadlejch, and former world champion Anderson Peters. Giving him stiff competition is compatriot Kishore Jena, who will be looking to replicate the form that he showcased in 2023. Kishore, who has a personal best of 87.54m, was leading Neeraj in the Asian Games final last year before he finished with a silver medal. The 28-year-old also finished fifth in the World Championships last year.

Neeraj has high hopes for Kishore. The Tokyo Olympics gold medalist even said he would be super happy to share the Olympic podium with Kishore later this year in Paris. However, the star attraction at the Doha Diamond League will be Neeraj, who will return to action for the first time since winning the Asian Games Gold with a best effort of 88.88m in October last year.

WILL NEERAJ BREACH 90m BARRIER IN DOHA? Neeraj has trained in South Africa and Turkey in the lead-up to the 2024 season. The Olympic star was in good spirits as he addressed the press on the eve of the Doha



Diamond League meet. Neeraj opened up about the chatter around the much-awaited 90m throw, but stressed that he would be looking for consistency in the Olympic year.

"This question, a lot of people have asked me since 2018 -- when I threw 88.06m in the Asian Games. But, then, lots of things have happened -- my elbow injury, surgery. I am stuck between 88m and 90m. But, I really want to break this barrier. Last year, I told in this press conference that Doha is famous for 90m. But, we were not lucky because of too much of a headwind. Yeah, maybe tomorrow, it will be good," Neeraj said. Yes, Doha has been one of the meets known for big throws. Thomas Rohler's 93.90m, the third-best-ever throw in men's javelin history, came in Doha in 2017. Anderson Peters' best effort of 93.07 came here in 2022. Jakub Vadlejch's personal best of 90.88m also came in 2022 in Doha. Neeraj won the Doha meet last year with a best effort of 88.67m.

PBKS assistant coach Brad Haddin rues dropped catches after 60-run loss against RCB

PBKS assistant head coach Brad Haddin rued his team's catch drops during Match 58 of the Indian Premier League 2024 against RCB, which led to their 60-run loss on Thursday, May 9 in Dharamsala. Notably, Punjab dropped five catches during the first innings of the game, which included two of Virat Kohli. The star batter was given reprieves on 0 by Ashutosh Sharma in the first over and later by Rilee Rossouw on 10.

To make matters worse for the hosts, Harshal Patel failed to hold on to an opportunity at



deep square from Rajat Patidar on just his second ball of the innings. As a result, the Sam Curran-led side was made to pay for the drop chances as Kohli went on to play a scintillating innings of 92 (47) while Patidar scored a quick-fire 55 (23) as RCB posted a massive score of 241/7 in their allotted 20 overs. Reflecting on the game during the post-match press conference, Haddin stated that the catch drops proved to be the turning point of the game as both Kohli and Patidar took the game away from Punjab with their remarkable batting spot on 100%, I thought if we have a look through the game where we dropped the two guys, one got a hundred (92) and one got a fifty, both on a duck and that's where the game is won or lost simply. There wasn't much in the batting or bowling. I think from both teams. It was just the catches we put down cost us the game," said Haddin in the post-match press conference.

PBKS' playoffs dream shattered

Following their loss, Punjab have been knocked out of the tournament as they're on the ninth spot on the points table with four wins from 12 matches having eight points to their name. Speaking about the positives from the season, Haddin lauded Shashank Singh who's been the find of the season for PBKS being the highest run scorer for his side (352 runs). "It's disappointing when you see it but it shouldn't be tough work to know to motivate the boys. This is one of the premier competitions in the world, it's a great opportunity to show your skills. We just got to look at Shashank what he's done this tournament and for players in the remaining two games, there's an opportunity. s

Europa League: Bayer Leverkusen set European record after last-minute Roma stalemate

UEFA Europa League: Xabi Alonso-managed Bayer Leverkusen clinched the European record for being undefeated for the most number of games, after their draw against Roma in the Europa League semi-final. Leverkusen defeated Roma by 4-2 on aggregate to secure their spot in the final against Atalanta.

Leverkusen. Xabi Alonso managed Bayer Leverkusen clinched the record for being the team who has gone undefeated for the most number of games after their thrilling stalemate against Roma in their UEFA Europa League semi-final second leg on May 10. With a 2-2 draw against the Daniel Rossi-managed Roma on Friday, Leverkusen are now 49 games unbeaten across all competitions, which is one more than SL Benfica's 59-year-old strong record. Having already won the first leg by a comfortable 2-0 margin, the results at the BayArena sealed the place for Xabi's side in the Europa League final against Atalanta on May 23.

Having conceded two goals from the penalty spot by Roma's Leandro Parades, the match saw the German giants almost slip off their



phenomenal streak and also their treble winning hopes. However, Leverkusen yet again came in clutch and managed to keep their record intact due to a late own-goal from Roma's Gianluca Mancini and a stoppage-time goal from Josep Stancic. Leverkusen's pattern of grabbing late goals and extending their brilliant record, has been a constant sight for the football world this season, which has seen them turn from underdogs to heavyweights in an emphatic

Treble hopes for Leverkusen

After completing their fairytale run of winning the 2023-2024 Bundesliga title, which was also their first-ever, the football world started anticipating Bayer Leverkusen's chances of extending their historic season by winning a treble. The German side has already secured their place in the DFB Pokal, where they will face FC Kaiserslautern on

May 25. Now, the Europa League final shot has well and truly sent those speculations and anticipations sky-high, and their phenomenal unbeaten record has only added further promise to Xabi Alonso grabbing a treble in his very first top-tier coaching stint. However, their opponents Atalanta have been in some impressive form themselves, which has recently seen the Italian Serie A side beat Marseille 4-1 on aggregate, to qualify for the final.

We're just focussing on next game: Cameron Green on RCB's playoffs chances

Australia and RCB all-rounder Cameron Green revealed that his team is just focused on the next game and things are going as per the plan right now. Green also revealed that he saw vintage Kohli in action

New Delhi. RCB all-rounder Cameron Green revealed that the team is just focussing on the next game after their 60-run win against PBKS in Match 58 of the Indian Premier League 2024. The Faf du Plessis-led side has kept their slim chances of playoffs alive by winning four matches on the trot.

The three-time runner-ups didn't start the tournament well by winning just one out of the first eight matches but have made a dramatic turnaround with four consecutive victories. Speaking about RCB's playoffs chances, Green stated that they're just focussing on the next game and things are going according to the plan at the moment.

"I think what we've done really well is just look at the next game and I think obviously at the start of the tournament you can always look what's coming up, where are



we on the table. But I think that's the beauty of where we are. We're kind of pushed into a corner and all we can really do is yeah focus on next game. I think we had to win every game. Four games and it's going according to the plan at the moment, it always doesn't go to plan especially in the IPL. So, we're just going to focus on the next game," said Green at the post-match press conference. Notably, RCB are now placed on the seventh spot on the points table with five wins from 12 matches having ten points to their name. They have their remaining fixtures against DC and CSK which can help them earn a maximum of 14 points in the league stage. The Bengaluru-based franchise will also need

some other results to go their way to qualify to the playoffs.

Meanwhile, further speaking ahead Green extolled Virat Kohli for his scintillating innings against PBKS and stated that Punjab dug their own grave by dropping him multiple times. He played like that vintage Virat that we all know: Green

"That's the beauty of having Virat in your team. I think as opposition teams you can't give him that many chances. He's always going to make you hurt. Especially dropping him three or four times, early in his innings when he's trying to be aggressive. I think he looked like after a couple of dropped catches he didn't have much to lose and he played like that vintage Virat that we all know. Yeah, he was beautiful to watch from the other end," he added.

Kohli was the top scorer for RCB against PBKS with his knock of 92 (47) with the help of seven fours and six sixes. Following his innings, he further strengthened his position at the top of the leading run scorers list of the season. The RCB opener is the Orange Cap holder having 634 runs to his name from 12 innings at an average of 70.44 and a strike rate of 153.51 with one hundred and five fifties.

New Zealand's Colin Munro announces retirement from international cricket

New Delhi. A New Zealand left-handed batter Colin Munro announced his retirement from international cricket after a career spanning 123 matches for the Blackcaps across all formats. The 37-year-old has featured in 65 T20Is, 57 ODIs and a single Test for New Zealand, with his last appearance coming in their T20I home series against India back in 2020. With New Zealand announcing their pick of players for the upcoming T20 World Cup, Munro was one of the lot who did not make the cut. The usually explosive batter went on to cite his exclusion from the squad as the ideal window of opportunity to finally call time on his illustrious career.

At the end of Munro's international career, the batter finished sixth on the list of New Zealand's all-time leading T20I run-scorer with his 1,724 runs at an average of 31 and a strike-rate of 156.4. His prowess in the shortest format of the game saw three

brilliant centuries, which is also the highest by any batter to have played for his national side. Taking to his social media handles, Munro reflected on his time representing New Zealand and how he deems the time fit for his ultimate retirement from national team duties. "Playing for the BlackCaps has always been the biggest achievement in my playing career. I never felt prouder than donning that jersey, and the fact I have been able to do that 123 times across all formats is something I will always be incredibly proud of. I am today announcing my retirement from International cricket," Munro's post said. Munro went on to give his take on his absence from New Zealand's recent T20I fixtures, while reflecting on the reasons behind that. Although it has been a while since my last appearance, I never gave up hope that I might be able to return off the back of my franchise T20 form. I completely

understand the reasons why that never happened, but with the announcement of the BlackCaps squad for the World T20 now is the perfect time to close that chapter officially. I can't wait to watch the boys do their thing in the Caribbean. I look forward to continuing to ply my trade across the world in the franchise arena." Munro added. New Zealand Cricket chief Scott Weenink also reflected on Munro's career with the national side. Colin was one of our first players to embrace the aggressive, 360-degree style batting that is now accepted all around the world as best practice. He was one of the pioneers of the new game, an innovative batsman who took calculated risk-taking to a new level, and led what was to become a revolution in the way short-form cricket was played. We thank him for his amazing contribution in more than hundred international games.



IPL season, and the opening duo have been at the basis of their brilliance multiple times already. The post from Komal Sharma has gained quite some praise from the massive fanbase of SRH, and also that of Abhishek. "What an electrifying match it turned out to be! The sheer madness and excitement were palpable throughout. My brother Abhishek and Travis Head's performance was nothing short of legendary." The post read. "It felt like we were in the midst of a virtual game, with every ball being greeted with either a thunderous six or a blistering four. The synergy between the openers was awe-inspiring. Being able to witness such an extraordinary spectacle live is a memory I'll cherish forever -- it was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I savoured every moment of it. This year, this team has truly reached unprecedented heights. Heartiest congratulations to the entire team for their stellar performance.

BCCI will call applications for head coach role, Rahul Dravid can apply: Jay Shah

BCCI secretary Jay Shah revealed that they will soon begin the hunt for the new head coach of the men's team with Rahul Dravid's tenure ending in June.

New Delhi The BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) will soon begin the hunt for the new head coach for the men's team with the incumbent coach Rahul Dravid's tenure ending in June. While revealing the information, Secretary Jay Shah stated that Dravid could also apply for the role and didn't rule out the possibility of hiring a foreign coach as well. Other members of the coaching staff such as batting, bowling and fielding coaches will be appointed after the consultation with the new coach. Notably, Dravid's contract was extended in November

2023 till the upcoming T20 World Cup 2024 scheduled to begin in the West Indies and USA from June 02. "Rahul's tenure is only up to June. So if he wants to apply, he is free to do so. We cannot determine whether the new coach will be Indian or foreign. It will be up to the CAC, and we are a global body," Jay Shah said as quoted by Cricbuzz. Further speaking ahead, Shah shared his opinion about the much talked about impact player rule in the Indian Premier League which has aided free stroke play in the ongoing edition and allowed teams to post humongous totals. Speaking about the rule, Shah stated that it has allowed more Indian players to get an opportunity to play in the league. He also added that the board will discuss with all the parties involved before discontinuing the rule which he said was 'not permanent'. Impact player was a test case: Jay Shah Impact



player was a test case. Two new Indian players are getting a chance in the IPL. We will discuss with the stakeholders - franchisees and broadcasters - before deciding on the continuation of the Impact Player. It's not permanent, but no one has provided feedback against the rule," he added.

Shah also ruled out the possibility of having different coaches for different formats.

"That decision will also be made by the CAC. There are many all-format players, like Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, and Rishabh Pant, among others. Moreover, there is no precedent for such a situation in India," he added. Shah also quashed the reports of revival of the Champions League T20 but revealed that there might be discussions of holding the next final of the World Test Championship (WTC) outside of England. He also added that all-rounder Hardik Pandya who's been added in Grade A in Central Contracts will be playing white-ball domestic cricket. The BCCI secretary also disclosed that the domestic cricket structure will be unveiled soon and the High-Performance Centre at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru will be functional from August.

Ankita Lokhande

Dances Like No One Is Watching In This Viral Video, Fans React; Watch



Ankita Lokhande is undoubtedly a wonderful dancer and many times she has also shown her moves. Recently, she was seen dancing to Madhuri Dixit's song on the Dance Deewane reality show. However, Ankita has set social media abuzz with her recent dance video. In the video clip that has been circulating online, she can be seen dancing like no one is watching. In the video, shared by Instant Bollywood, Ankita is sitting in a restaurant with friends and her husband Vicky Jain. She is wearing a lavender colour dress and dancing to an English song. She is doing every step and is entertaining everyone. Fans have trolled her in the comment section.

Recently, News18 Showsha has exclusively learnt that the actress was recently offered Karan Johar's Student Of The Year 3. However, the 'Pavitra Rishta' star has rejected it. A reliable source close to the actress told us that Ankita was offered Student Of The Year 3, which will be a web series, but she turned down the opportunity to be a part of Karan Johar's project for reasons best known to her. "Yes, Ankita was approached for Student Of The Year 3. I am not sure about the role she was offered but she was definitely asked if she could be a part of the SOTY franchise. However, she has rejected the offer and nobody knows the reason behind her decision," the insider informed us.

Several reports also claim that KJo is planning to cast Shanaya Kapoor and Ibrahim Ali Khan in the Student Of The Year 3. However, there is no official confirmation regarding this as of now. Meanwhile, Ankita Lokhande was recently seen in the film, Swatantra Veer Savarkar, which also starred Randeep Hooda in the lead. The film, released on March 22, is based on Vinayak Damodar Savarkar and his contribution during the Indian Independence struggle. Besides this, Ankita's music video with her businessman husband, Vicky Jain was also released recently. It was titled Laa Pila De Sharaab.



Babil Khan Sits On Ranveer Singh's Lap, Shares Photos With Sanya Malhotra; Fans React



Babil Khan has been grabbing attention after his photos with Ranveer Singh from an event went viral. The actor today took to his social handle and shared two photos in which he is seen sitting on Ranveer's lap and having an intense discussion with Sanya Malhotra. The photos are again going viral and fans are reacting to it. Taking to his Instagram handle, Babil shared photos and wrote, "Finding friends." The trio is seen smiling and having a serious discussion. One of the fans wrote, "Oh God! You should definitely work with Ranveer. You both have the same kind of energy." Another wrote, "Hope you both - @ranversingh and you - entertain us in the On Thursday a video surfaced in which Ranveer can be seen sharing a heartwarming moment with late actor Irrfan Khan's son, Babil Khan. In the viral clip, Ranveer is seen hugging and kissing Babil as greets the young actor. Interestingly, this comes on the day when Ranveer Singh's actress wife Deepika Padukone also penned down a heartwarming note to celebrate the 9th anniversary of her 2015 movie Piku. The film also starred Babil's late father Irrfan Khan along with Amitabh Bachchan.

The photo that Deepika shared featured Amitabh Bachchan and the late Irrfan. In the click, a production assistant was seen offering a platter of fruit to Big B as he pointed towards Deepika. Irrfan was also seen engaging in a conversation with them. "He loves telling everyone how much I eat! @amitabhbachchan@irrfan Oh how much we miss you," Deepika wrote in the caption. Babil then followed it up with another post a few days later which read as an open letter to his late father, Irrfan Khan. "You taught me to be a warrior, but engage with love and kindness. You taught me of hope and you taught me to fight for the people. You do not have fans, you have a family, and I promise you baba I will fight for our people and our family till you call upon me. I will not give up. I love you so much," he wrote.

Kylie Jenner 'Felt Like A Princess' At Met Gala 2024



There is no beating Kylie Jenner in the fashion game. Her attendance at the Met Gala 2024 stood as a testament to this fact. Held at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, the biggest fashion extravaganza witnessed the arrival of prominent personalities from the world of glitz and glam. Celebrities displayed their sartorial finesse, keeping in mind the theme — The Garden Of Time. Needless to mention, florals dominated the glittery night. Following the dress code, Kylie Jenner picked out a white satin gown dishing out major "princess" vibes. The beauty mogul recently treated us to some pictures from the gala ceremony on Instagram. "Felt like a princess," captioned Kylie Jenner, adding a bunch of emojis to the post. Crafted with perfection by the Oscar de la Renta label, the floor-sweeping evening gown was inspired by garden statutes mentioned in English novelist JG Ballard's short story The Garden Of Time. It featured a strapless neckline with a cone-styled bustier cascading down into a cinched waist and forming a flared trumpet skirt. A pink rose hair accessory was tucked into Kylie's secured updo and rosy makeup made the diva look every bit the belle of the ball. She struck a bunch of poses for the camera, looking drop-dead gorgeous in the OOTD.

In the post, Kylie Jenner offered a glimpse of her walking the red carpet with a helping hand from her assistants. She waved at the paparazzi and smiled for the clicks. In one snap, makeup products from her beauty brand Kylie Cosmetics were showcased on a table underlining her usage of the same. In the last photograph, Kylie shared the same frame with her sister Kim Kardashian, who was also dressed to the nines for the Met Gala. Agreeing with Kylie Jenner's "princess" caption, her sister Khloe Kardashian commented, "You literally were and probably are." Kylie's mother Kris Jenner wrote, "STUNNING my beautiful PRINCESS". "Your dress was sensational," gushed one admirer.

Rashmi Gautam

Drops Glimpses From Her Birthday Trip And We Are Loving It



Rashmi Gautam came into the limelight for her outstanding anchoring skills in the popular Telugu comedy show, Jabardasth. The actress has been a part of the film industry for over 22 years, establishing herself as a seasoned artist. She made her debut at the age of 20 with the film Holi, and has never looked back ever since. Rashmi Gautam enjoys a massive fan following on social media and has become a household name, owing to her impressive anchoring skills and sense of humour. The actress, who always keeps her fans updated, recently posted some pictures from her birthday trip, which are gaining attention on the internet. Rashmi celebrated her birthday on April 27. In the post, Rashmi Gautam is seen sitting in a cafe. She wore a white top, which she teamed with a pink blazer and denim. She chose minimal makeup and tied her hair in a half-bun. Sharing the candid photos, she wrote, "Spoil for choice."

The pictures went viral in no time. One of the users commented, "Beautiful picture." Another one said, "Lovely." Many dropped heart emojis in the comment box. Few days ago, Rashmi Gautam shared another couple of photos from her birthday vacation. In the pictures, Rashmi was seen in a casual avatar. She wore a white t-shirt, which she paired with sky blue joggers and white sneakers. In the photos, she chose no make-up and tied her hair in a high-rise ponytail. In the photos, she is seen exploring the streets. "Colors #birthdaytrip 2024 #taxi #vacation" reads the caption.

Rashmi Gautam was last seen in a cameo appearance in the action film Bhola Shankar. This Telugu movie was directed by Meher Ramesh. It was a remake of the 2015 Tamil film Vedalam. It stars Chiranjeevi as the titular character, along with Tamannaah Bhatia, Keerthy Suresh, and Sushanth. She will soon be seen in the upcoming sci-fi movie Trishanku. It is written and directed by Sri Krishna Gorle.

