

Air Surcharges if applicable Delivery Charges applicable

The winnability factor and the failure of NOTA

Dinesh Karthik or MS Dhoni...?

PRICE - Rs 2 /-

Ranchi | Friday | April 19, 2024 | Page 08 | Daily | Volume - 09, Issue - 68

RNI Regn No. JHAMUL/2016/75465

researchers.asia@gmail.com



The Researchers'

NEWS BOX

Croatia's ruling conservatives win parliamentary vote, but cannot rule alone

ZAGREB: Croatia's governing conservatives convincingly won a highly contested parliamentary election Wednesday, but will still need support from far-right groups to stay in power, according to the official vote count. The election followed a campaign that centered on a bitter rivalry between the country's president and prime minister. The ballot pitted the ruling conservative Croatian Democratic Union, or HDZ, led by Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic, against an alliance of centrist and left-wing parties informally led by populist President Zoran Milanovic and his Social Democratic Party, or SDP.

With over 90% of the ballots counted, the state electoral commission said that the HDZ won 60 seats in the 151-seat parliament. The SDP got 42 seats. The far-right Statehood Movement was third, with 14 seats, making it a kingmaker in future talks for the next government.

"Starting tomorrow morning, we will start forming a new parliamentary majority in order to form our third government," Plenkovic said in his victory speech. "I want to congratulate the other parties that were defeated by the HDZ." Turnout was more than 50% - a record - hours before the polls closed.

The election was held as Croatia, a European Union and NATO member, struggles with the highest inflation rate in the eurozone, a labor shortage, illegal migration and reports of widespread corruption. At stake in the race for Croatia's 151-seat parliament wasn't just the Adriatic Sea country's future domestic policies, but also the EU's unity as it grapples with the instability from Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

If the HDZ stays in power as expected, the country would continue on a pro-Western course in supporting Ukraine in its fight against Russia. Success for SDP could put it on track for victory in the European Parliament election in June and the presidential election in December. It would shake the HDZ's long dominance of politics and potentially open space for stronger pro-Russia influence in the country, akin to Hungary and Slovakia.

The HDZ has largely held office since Croatia gained independence from the former Yugoslavia in 1991. The Balkan nation became the newest member of the European Union in 2013, and joined Europe's passport-free travel area and the eurozone last year.

El Nino not climate change driving southern Africa drought: Study

JOHANNESBURG: A drought that pushed millions of people into hunger across southern Africa has been driven mostly by the El Nino weather pattern -- not climate change, scientists said on Thursday.

Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi have declared a national disaster over the severe dry spell that started in January and has devastated the agricultural sector, decimating crops and pastures. Appealing for almost \$900 million in aid this week, Zambia's President Hakainde Hichilema linked the lack of rains to climate change.

But scientists at the World Weather Attribution (WWA) research group found global warming had little to do with it. "Over the past year, attribution studies have shown that many extreme weather events have been driven by a combination of both climate change and El Nino," said Joyce Kimutai, of Imperial College London. "The southern Africa drought appears to be a rarer example of an event fuelled primarily by El Nino."

In a study focusing on Zimbabwe, Botswana, Zambia and Mozambique, researchers analysed historical weather data for the period from December to February -- the peak of the rainy season. They found rainfall has actually increased in the region as the planet warms.

But effective precipitation has remained the same, likely because higher temperatures lead to more water evaporation, they said. On the other hand, El Nino, a recurring natural weather phenomenon, brought fewer showers, increasing the likelihood of severe droughts, the data showed. "Together, the results indicate that El Nino, rather than human-caused climate change, was the main driver of the southern Africa drought this year," the group said.

El Nino corresponds to the large-scale warming of surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean.

Indian national, 57, awaiting deportation dies in US hospital

world. An Indian national, who was awaiting deportation due to his 'illegal entry' into the United States, tragically passed away at a hospital in Atlanta, as confirmed by federal authorities on Wednesday. The Indian Consulate in New York has been informed about the demise of Jaspal Singh, 57, said US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), emphasizing that his next of kin have also been informed. Singh tragically passed away at a hospital in Atlanta on April 15. According to ICE, an autopsy is pending to ascertain the official cause of death. Singh, identified as an Indian citizen, initially entered the US legally on October 25, 1992.



Subsequently, on January 21, 1998, an immigration judge ordered Singh's removal from the US, following which, at an unspecified time, Singh returned to India voluntarily.

On June 29, 2023, he was arrested by US Customs and Border Protection's Border Patrol officers for illegally reentering the United States at the US-Mexico Border. Border Patrol transferred custody of Singh to Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO), Atlanta. Subsequently, he was detained at a federal processing centre in Atlanta, where he continued his immigration proceedings.

In the event of a non-citizen's demise at a detention centre, it is obligatory for the ERO to make notifications to Congress, nongovernmental organisation stakeholders.

US official reacts to Elon Musk's remarks backing permanent UNSC seat for India

A spokesperson for the US State Department has said his country has supported reforms to the United Nations institutions, including the UN Security Council.

World The United States on Wednesday reiterated its support for reforms in the United Nations, including the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), in reference to India's permanent seat at the UNSC.

While responding to a question about Tesla CEO Elon Musk's question on India lacking a permanent seat at the UNSC, US State Department Principal Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel said that the US has offered support for reforms to United Nations institutions, including the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). "The President has spoken about this before in his remarks to the UN General Assembly, and the Secretary has

alluded to this as well. We certainly support reforms to the UN institution, including the Security Council, to make it reflective of the 21st-century world that we live in. I don't have any specifics to offer on what those steps are, but certainly, we recognise that there is a need for reform, but I will leave it at that for now," Patel told the media. "The President has spoken about this before in his remarks to the UN General Assembly, and the Secretary has alluded to this as well. We certainly support reforms to the UN institution, including the Security Council, to make it reflective of the 21st-century world that we live in. I don't have any specifics to offer on what those steps are, but certainly, we recognise that there is a need for reform, but I will leave it at that for now," Patel told the media. Earlier in January this year, Musk called the absence of India as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) "absurd." The Tesla CEO said that the current structure of the UNSC does not adequately represent the world's most populous nations and called for an



overhaul. "At some point, there needs to be a revision of the UN bodies. Problem is that those with excess power don't want to give it up. India not having a permanent seat on the Security Council, despite being the most populous country on Earth, is absurd," Musk said in a post on X (formerly Twitter). He also advocated that Africa collectively should have a permanent membership in the top UN body. Notably, India has been eyeing a permanent seat at the UNSC table for years. In September 2023, during the G20 Summit in New Delhi, US President Joe Biden supported India's bid to the UNSC.

A joint statement issued after the bilateral talks between PM Modi and Biden said that the latter reaffirmed his support for a reformed UN Security Council with India as a permanent member, and, in this context, welcomed once again India's candidature for the UNSC non-permanent seat in 2028-29.

"The leaders once again underscored the need to strengthen and reform the multilateral system, so it may better reflect contemporary realities and remain committed to a comprehensive UN reform agenda, including through expansion in permanent and non-permanent categories of membership of the UN Security Council," the statement issued by PMO said. The UNSC currently recognises five permanent members, often referred to as the P5: the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Russia, and China.

These nations wield significant power, including the ability to veto resolutions. Non-permanent members, elected for two-year terms, contribute to the council's agenda but lack the veto power of their permanent counterparts.

Earthquake of 6.4 magnitude jolts Japan's Ehime, Kochi



Tokyo. An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.4 hit southern Japan late on Wednesday, said the Japan Meteorological Agency, without issuing a tsunami warning. The

epicentre was the Bungo Channel, a strait separating the Japanese islands of Kyushu and Shikoku, the agency said. Ehime and Kochi prefectures were hit by the quake with an intensity

of 6 on Japan's 1-7 scale, the JMA said. Some water pipes burst, but no major damage has been reported, local media said. Shikoku Electric Power's Ikata nuclear plant in Ehime prefecture, where one reactor is in operation, reported no irregularities. Japan's government spokesperson Yoshimasa Hayashi told reporters.

Hayashi also warned of a chance of other earthquakes with lower six on the Japanese seismic scale.

Earthquakes are common in Japan, one of the world's most seismically active areas. Japan accounts for about one-fifth of the world's earthquakes of magnitude 6 or greater.

On March 11, 2011, the northeast coast was struck by a magnitude 9 earthquake, the strongest in Japan on record, and a massive tsunami. Those events triggered the world's worst nuclear crisis since Chernobyl a quarter of a century earlier.

Tsunami alert in Indonesia after eruption of Ruang volcano, thousands asked to leave

Jakarta, Indonesian authorities issued a tsunami alert Wednesday after eruptions at Ruang mountain sent ash thousands of feet high. Officials ordered more than 11,000 people to leave the area. The volcano on the northern side of Sulawesi island had at least five large eruptions in the past 24 hours, Indonesia's Center for Volcanology and Geological Disaster Mitigation said. Authorities raised their volcano alert to its highest level. Indonesia, an archipelago of 270 million people, has 120 active volcanoes. It is prone to volcanic activity because it sits along the "Ring of Fire," a horseshoe-shaped series of seismic fault lines around the Pacific Ocean. Authorities urged tourists and others to stay at least 6 kilometers (3.7 miles) from the 725-meter (2,378 foot) Ruang volcano. Officials worry that part of the volcano could collapse into the sea and cause a tsunami as in



a 1871 eruption there. Tagulandang island to the volcano's northeast is again at risk, and its residents are among those being told to evacuate. Indonesia's National Disaster Mitigation Agency said residents will be relocated to

Manado, the nearest city, on Sulawesi island, a journey of six hours by boat. In 2018, the eruption of Indonesia's Anak Krakatau volcano caused a tsunami along the coasts of Sumatra and Java after parts of the mountain fell into the ocean.

Widow Of Putin Critic, World Bank Chief In TIME Influential Leaders List

World Yulia Navalnaya, widow of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny and World Bank chief Ajay Banga feature on Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People of 2024 list in the 'Leaders' category. The magazine's annual list is divided into several categories like 'Leaders', 'Icons' and 'Titans', among others. Some other prominent personalities on the 'Leaders' are Indian-origin US official Jigar Shah, Italian Prime Minister Georgia Meloni and Iranian human rights activist Narges Mohammadi. In her first interview following Navalny's death on February 16 in an Arctic penal colony, the 47-year-old Yulia Navalnaya said she chose to enter politics to keep her husband's vision alive.

"I did not talk about me going into politics," she said. "I just thought that this can't be allowed to happen. If they think they can kill Alexei and that's the end of it, they are wrong." Ajay Banga, an Indian American, became the President of the World Bank last year, marking a historic moment as the first person of colour to lead either of the world's major financial institutions - the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Mr Banga serves as the 14th President for a five-year term.

Jigar Shah, another Indian-American on the list, holds the position of director in the US Department of Energy Loan Programs Office, overseeing the allocation of hundreds of billions of dollars in public funds towards clean infrastructure and energy initiatives.

Listen to the latest songs, only on JioSaavn.com

Italian PM Georgia Meloni is one of the few top politicians in the 'Leaders' category. The 47-year-old rose to power in 2022 and became Italy's first woman leader. Some had apprehensions about her far-right party but Ms Meloni still enjoys massive support in her country. Narges Mohammadi, aged 51, clinched the 2023 Nobel Peace Prize award for her tireless advocacy for human rights in Iran, a cause that has led to her frequent incarceration over the past twenty years. Ms Mohammadi is still detained in Tehran's Evin prison.

India successfully tests Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile

RNS I New Delhi: The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) achieved a significant milestone with the successful flight-test of the Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile (ITCM) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, off the coast of Odisha.

The test, conducted on Thursday, saw all subsystems performing as expected.

Monitoring the missile's performance were various Range Sensors, including Radar, Electro Optical Tracking System (EOTS), and Telemetry deployed by ITR at different locations to ensure complete coverage of the flight path. The flight of the missile was also monitored from the Su-30-Mk-I aircraft of the Indian Air Force.

Utilizing way point navigation, the missile followed the desired



path and demonstrated a very low altitude sea-skimming flight. This successful flight test also confirmed the reliable perfor-



mance of the indigenous propulsion system developed by the Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE) in Bengaluru.



Equipped with advanced avionics and software, the missile ensures better and more reliable performance. Developed by the

Bengaluru-based DRDO laboratory Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), with contributions from other laboratories and Indian industries, the test was witnessed by many senior scientists from various DRDO laboratories, along with representatives from the production partner.

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh congratulated DRDO for the successful flight-test of the ITCM, highlighting the development of an indigenous long-range subsonic cruise missile powered by indigenous propulsion as a major milestone for Indian defence R&D.

Secretary Department of Defence R&D & Chairman DRDO Dr Samir V Kamat congratulated the entire team of DRDO for the successful conduct of the ITCM launch.

ED seizes Rs. 266 Cr. assets in Ranchi land scam; Arrests several including former CM

RNS I Ranchi: Ranchi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached tainted land lots worth Rs. 266 crore in the Ranchi land scam.

In connection with the Bhanu Pratap Prasad and Others case, the agency arrested Priya Ranjan Sahay, Irshad Akhtar, Antu Tirkey, Bipin Singh, and Afsar Ali, who has been remanded to ED custody until April 22. Md. Saddam Hussain, another defendant, is in ED custody until April 20. The arrests were made on charges of forging, tampering with, and fabricating land records, altering the nature of non-saleable lands protected under the CNT Act, which safeguards property rights of indigenous and marginalized populations.

Former Chief Minister Hemant Soren, Chhavi Ranjan, IAS (Ex-DC, Ranchi), Bhanu



Pratap Prasad (Revenue Sub-Inspector), Amit Kumar Agarwal, Prem Prakash, and others have also been arrested by the ED. Three prosecution complaints have been filed in the land scam investigations. The ED has submitted its findings, including details of the land scam, to the Jharkhand government via 14 references under section 66(2) of PMLA.

The investigation revealed the involvement of officials from the Land Revenue De-

partment in Ranchi and Kolkata, and alleged that Hemant Soren illegally owned some of the falsified and forged lands of the accused individuals.

Hemant Soren and Bhanu Pratap Prasad were arrested for purchasing, owning, and concealing proceeds of crime related to an 8.8-acre property in Bariatu, Ranchi. The ED provisionally attached the property valued at Rs. 31 crore.

Saddam Hussain was arrested on April 9 for forging and

falsifying land papers. The ED is investigating money laundering in five land frauds with similar methods based on various FIRs from the Jharkhand and Kolkata Police against several individuals, including government officials.

The investigation revealed a syndicate involved in tampering with Ranchi and Kolkata land records, forging land papers, and selling parcels based on fraudulent records. The ED conducted 51 searches and nine surveys, resulting in the seizure of evidence such as forged seals, land deeds, records of Proceeds of Crime distribution, forged photos, and evidence of bribery to government officials.

The raids recovered Rs. 1.25 crore in cash and froze Rs. 3.56 crore in bank accounts.

ED attaches Rs 97.79 cr. assets of Raj Kundra in money laundering case

RNS I Mumbai: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday attached properties belonging to Raj Kundra worth Rs 97.79 crore under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Among the properties seized are a residential flat in Juhu registered under Shilpa Shetty's name, a residential house in Pune, and equity shares owned by Raj Kundra.

The investigation by the ED was initiated based on multiple FIRs filed by the Maharashtra and Delhi Police against Variable Tech and various MLM agents.

According to a statement by the Treasury Department, the accused collected large sums of money in the form of Bitcoins (valued at Rs 6600 Crore in 2017) from the public, promising a 10% monthly return in Bitcoins.

The ED probe revealed that Raj Kundra received 285 Bitcoins from Amit Bhardwaj, the mastermind of the Gain Bitcoin Ponzi Scam, to set



ED also seizes bitcoins worth Rs 150 cr for setting mining farm in Ukraine

up a Bitcoin mining farm in Ukraine. However, the deal did not materialize, and Kundra is still in possession of the Bitcoins, currently valued at over Rs. 150 Crore. Earlier, the ED conducted several search operations and arrested Simpy Bhardwaj, Nitin Gaur, and Nikhil Mahajan. However, the main suspects, Ajay and Mahendra Bhardwaj, remain at large.

The ED alleges that the promoters of the scam defrauded investors and concealed the ill-gotten Bitcoins in obscure online wallets.

Bokaro District Basketball Team Heads to Jamshedpur for State Junior Competition

RNS I Bokaro: The boys' team of the Bokaro District Basketball Association has set off for Jamshedpur to participate in the 24th Jharkhand State Junior Basketball Competition. The competition, open to players up to 19 years of age, is scheduled to take place from April 19 to 21 at Kerali Public School, Kadma, Jamshedpur.

A squad of 08 members from Bokaro district will showcase their skills in the 24th Jharkhand State Basketball Competition, organized by the Jamshedpur Basketball Association.

The team includes Shreyans Mishra, Ayush Khwash, Prateek Keshari, Aarush Singha, Sanjeet, Aditya, Harshit Sundaram, and Pritam Prakash. They will be under the guidance of Coach Kinkar Krishna.

Nikhil Ojha, Binod Kumar, and Haroon Ansari played significant roles in the team selection process. Prakash Singh, President of the Bokaro District Basketball Association, along with Secretary Sanjeev Kumar, Treasurer Binod Kumar, Selection Committee Chairman Nikhil Ojha, and members Vijay Kumar Minj, Sudhir Kumar, Ram Laxhan Mistry, Manoj Dubey, and Ran Vijay Ojha, among others, extended their best wishes to the team for a successful performance in the competition.

Sikshak Morcha Leaders Meet Education Officials Over Holiday Anomalies



RNS I Ranchi: Joint coordinators Vijay Bahadur Singh and Amin Ahmed of the Jharkhand Pradesh Sayunkt Sikshak Morcha held discussions with Uma Shankar Singh, Secretary of the School Education and Literacy Department, on April 18, 2024. The meeting, which took place at 4:00 p.m., aimed to address discrepancies in the uniform leave table, as highlighted in letter 368 dated February 27, 2024.

During a thorough analysis, Secretary Singh identified several anomalies in the holiday schedule. One major discrepancy noted was the duration of the winter holiday, which was listed as five days and should be reduced to one day by removing the New Year holiday. Additionally, the holiday list of the district establishment incorrectly marked Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Jayanti and Sant Ravidas Jayanti as primary school holidays, despite classes being held on these days.

To accommodate the holidays for these occasions, the Morcha requested a 17-day summer vacation (11 days for Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Jayanti and 6 days for Sant Ravidas Jayanti). Moreover, the uniform table counted Sunday as zero, but since Urdu schools conduct classes on Sundays and consider Friday as their weekly holiday, Sunday should be recorded as one day of holiday.

The issue of discriminatory treatment was also raised, particularly regarding the change in the Ambedkar Jayanti holiday for Urdu schools in Koderma district on April 14, 2024. While it is a uniform holiday for all, Urdu schools were instructed to count it as a working day. The Morcha emphasized that Sunday holidays should be consistent across all schools and not treated differently for Urdu schools.

Secretary Singh assured that the discrepancies would be addressed upon the return of the Director of the Jharkhand Education Project Council (JEPC) to Ranchi from Bengaluru.

Sanskar Bharti hosts Bhajan Sandhya at Sankatmochan Hanuman Temple, Bokaro



RNS I Bokaro: Sanskar Bharti, the Bokaro district unit of the all-India organization of art and literature, hosted a bhajan evening on Wednesday at the newly constructed Sankatmochan Hanuman temple in Sector 4G More, in celebration of Ramnavami.

The event featured performances by Sanskar Bharti, Bokaro District President and singer Amarji Sinha, who presented 'Shri Ramchandra Kripalu Bhajuman...' and 'Jag me Sunder hai do naam, Chaihe Krishna kaho ya Ram...' Singer and Sanskar Bharti, Bokaro District unit Music head Arun Pathak sang 'Ram ka Gungan kariye...' 'Tera Ram ji kareng bera par...' 'O Bajrangbali Ha-

numan, hey Mahavir karo Kalyaan...' and Maithili songs 'Ram Lakhan Sun Pahun Jinkar Sita Sanak Jakar Beti...' and 'Shankar aayel chhi hum pujari...' among others, filling the atmosphere with devotion.

At the beginning of the program, Sanskar Bharti, Bokaro District Unit Minister Swaroop Shekhar Pandey and Co-Minister Archana Chaudhary welcomed the artists and wished everyone a happy Ram Navami.

In his closing remarks, Music Head Arun Pathak emphasized Lord Shri Ram's significance in Indian culture, praising the organization of the bhajan evening on Ram

Navami as praiseworthy.

Future bhajan programs will continue to be organized on such occasions. The program was conducted by Rajesh Chaudhary. Kheer Mahaprasad was distributed among the devotees by the temple management committee. Saroj Kumar Mishra, co-painting head of Sanskar Bharti Jharkhand state unit, Sandeep Tiwari, patron of Bokaro district unit, Minister Swaroop Shekhar Pandey, Co-minister Archana Chaudhary, along with Anurag Kumar alias Bhajju, Munna ji, Rajesh Chaudhary, Reena Sinha, Saumit Chaudhary, and others were present at the bhajan evening.

'No CAA', 10 Free LPG Cylinders, and 5kg Free Ration, pledges TMC manifesto



RNS I Kolkata: Trinamool Congress unveiled its 2024 Lok Sabha manifesto, aligning with the Congress, DMK, and other opposition parties in the INDIA alliance to reverse citizenship law changes if the BJP is defeated.

In its manifesto, the party pledged to provide 10 free LPG (cooking gas) cylinders per year to below-poverty-line families and five kilograms of free meals (rice, wheat, and cereals) each month.

The TMC also committed to supporting farmers on the MSP (minimum support price) issue, echoing the recommendations of the MS

Swaminathan Commission to set the MSP "at least 50 percent higher than the average cost of production."

To address rising fuel prices, the party promised to cap petrol and diesel prices and establish a price stability fund to mitigate international market fluctuations.

The manifesto also included assurances of 100 days of work for all job cardholders, along with a daily wage of Rs. 400 for all registered workers. It proposed tripling higher education scholarships for OBCs, SCs, and STs to assist students.

Additionally, the TMC promised a monthly stipend

of Rs. 1,000 for senior adults over 60 under a new scheme, along with "dignified housing" for all impoverished families.

Despite failed seat-sharing negotiations with the Congress-led alliance, the ruling TMC in Bengal is considered a key player in the INDIA bloc and is contesting separately in the eastern state.

"These are the commitments we will fulfill as part of the INDIA bloc when it forms the next government," stated outgoing Rajya Sabha MP Derek O'Brien during the manifesto launch in Kolkata.

CCL ensures reduction in carbon footprint by adopting eco-friendly alternatives

RNS I Ranchi: Central Coalfields Limited (CCL), a Jharkhand-based subsidiary of Coal India Limited, is leading the way in environmentally conscious mining practices. Committed to conserving resources and adopting eco-friendly alternatives, CCL has embraced sustainable practices to minimize its environmental impact.

The company's approach prioritizes environmental consciousness in its operations and decision-making processes. It has invested in green technologies and aims to minimize environmental impact throughout its value chain.

To mitigate air pollution from mining activities, CCL has deployed surface miners and primary transports coal via railway rakes to power plants



across different states. This approach has eliminated the need for drilling, blasting, and crushing coal, which were significant sources of pollution. Over 15 surface miners are currently in use at various company mines.

Recognizing that drilling in mine areas also contributes to air pollution, CCL has equipped around 112 drills with dust extractors or wet drilling technolo-

gies. Additionally, mobile sprinklers are used at mining sites to control dust particles. The company has deployed 61 mobile sprinklers of 28 KL capacity and is transitioning to procure mist-type sprinklers, which are more effective at dust suppression.

CCL has also installed 27 trolley-mounted fog cannons for dust suppression and 28 PM10 analyzers for advanced air pollution

monitoring. Furthermore, the company aims to establish 425 MW of solar power plants by 2026 to achieve net-zero carbon emissions, with 20 MW already under construction in the Piparwar area.

In 2023, CCL planted trees on approximately 231 hectares of land, with a focus on the Rajrappa area using the Miyawaki method. This initiative aims to boost green cover and mitigate environmental impact.

Overall, CCL's commitment to sustainable practices not only ensures energy security for the country but also benefits local communities and stakeholders. The company is dedicated to playing a significant role in achieving the nation's energy security while minimizing its environmental footprint.

LS poll set to begin today; voting for 102 seats in first of the seven phases

RNS: The world's largest democracy is gearing up for the Lok Sabha elections, with the first phase of voting set to begin on Friday. This phase will cover 102 parliamentary seats across 21 states and union territories, marking the start of a massive electoral process.

Arunachal Pradesh (60 seats) and Sikkim (32 seats) will also conduct legislative elections as part of the first phase. Key candidates in this phase include Congressman Gaurav Gogoi, DMK leader Kanimozhi, and union ministers Nitin Gadkari, Sarbananda Sonowal, and Bhupendra Yadav.

According to the Election Commission, voting will commence at 7 a.m.



and conclude at 6 p.m. A staggering 18 lakh election officials will be deployed across 1.87 lakh booths. Approximately 16.63 crore voters are expected to cast their ballots in this phase.

The voter demographics include 8.4 crore men, 8.23 crore women, and 11,371 individuals identifying as third gender. Furthermore, 35.67

lakh first-time voters are expected to participate, along with 3.51 crore individuals aged 20-29 years.

Several regions will witness voting for all Lok Sabha seats in the first round, including Chennai (39 seats), Uttarakhand (5 seats), Arunachal Pradesh (2 seats), Meghalaya (2 seats), and single seats in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Mizoram, Nagaland, Puducherry, Sikkim, and Lakshadweep.

Moreover, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal, Manipur, Tripura, Jammu and Kashmir, and Chhattisgarh will vote for 12 seats, 8 seats, 6 seats, and 1 seat respectively in the first phase.

Ways to protect yourself from Dengue

Remove mosquito habitats

Use mosquito repellent

Keep your home clean

Use netting for windows and gaps

Clear clogged drain

Light up your home and use air conditioning

Wear long clothing

"Conspiracy To Weaken Country": Rajnath Singh Slams CPI(M) Manifesto

Rajnath Singh also demanded to know the Congress' stand on the issue and said that "talking about destroying our nuclear weapons is no less than playing with national security."

'Conspiracy To Weaken Country': Rajnath Singh Slams CPI(M) Manifesto
Rajnath Singh said that Congress and CPI(M) are playing with India's national security. New Delhi: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday accused the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and Congress of conspiring to weaken India while questioning the intention behind the CPI (M)'s election manifesto promise to dismantle all nuclear weapons in the country.



Mr Singh also demanded to know the Congress' stand on the issue and said that "talking about destroying our nuclear weapons is no less than playing with national security." "I want to ask Congress in particular what they have to say about this comment by CPIM. I want to ask them to clarify. CPIM says if they come to power, they will destroy all nuclear weapons. India's first nuclear tests were conducted in 1974 by Indira Gandhi. The need arose because China had continuously been doing nuclear tests. And even Pakistan had begun its nuclear trials," the defence minister said

while addressing a public rally in Kerala's Kasargod. Later, the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government conducted five successful nuclear tests and earned India the status of a nuclear power in the world. The Left and Congress want to weaken India," he added. The Communist Party of India (Marxist),

which is part of the INDIA bloc, in its manifesto, which was released last week, has promised "complete elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, including chemical and biological weapons." "At a time when India's neighbouring countries are nuclear powers, talking about destroying our nuclear weapons is no less than playing with India's national security. It is a very deep-rooted conspiracy to weaken the country," Rajnath Singh said. Attacking left parties, the Defence Minister said, "Once the public kicked the left party out of Tripura and Bengal, then there is no entry for them into power. Whether it is Congress or the Left Party, whenever they get exposed in public, their game is over. This is the reason that, whichever state they are kicked out of, the doors of that state are always closed for them."

Can you trust Congress and the LDF? Because in Kerala, both parties are fighting against each other, but in Delhi, the same Congress and Left do 'Modiram mata' (join hands) to increase friendship," he added.

Delhi Health Minister Vs Chief Secretary Over Shortage Of Medicines

New Delhi: Delhi Health Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj on Wednesday wrote to Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar on the issue of the shortage of medicines in Mohalla clinics, hospitals and dispensaries of the Delhi government and the stoppage of free test facilities in Mohalla clinics.

Taking to social media platform X, the Health Minister wrote, "The Chief Secretary and Secretary (Health) blatantly misled both the government and the Legislative Assembly regarding the availability of medicines... Instead of looking for new frivolous excuses every time, the Chief Secretary should do positive work as directed by the government." Earlier in the day, on the occasion of Ram Navami and in line with the preparations for the Lok Sabha elections, the Aam Aadmi Party launched a website on Wednesday named "Aap ka Ram Rajya" to showcase the party works being done inspired

by Ram Rajya in Delhi and Punjab. The party's senior leaders, Saurabh Bharadwaj, Sanjay Singh, Atishi, and Jasmine Shah, addressed a press conference here today and released the website. MP Sanjay Singh said that the Aam Aadmi Party's governments in Delhi and Punjab have done such work, and examples are being given by countries around the world. "In these 10 years, we not only formed the government thrice in Delhi but also formed the government in Punjab with an overwhelming majority. The Kejriwal government in Delhi and the Bhagwant Mann government in Punjab have done such work, whose examples are being given by the countries of the world today. Delhi is the only state that has a profitable budget despite doing so much work. We are determined to fulfil our vision of Ram Rajya on the ground," he said. "Those who want to see our imagination of Ram Rajya must visit our website."

Manipur Chief Minister vows strong action after firing on trucks on highway

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh said that a combing operation has been launched to apprehend those responsible for the attack on a fleet of trucks on the Imphal - Jiribam Highway.



Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh said on Wednesday that strong action would be taken against the miscreants who fired on a fleet of trucks, including fuel tankers. Addressing the media on the sidelines of the BJP's manifesto launching function at Thambal Shanglen in Imphal West, he said, "The government will not allow such barbaric acts on the highways or in any other part of the state. Stringent action will be initiated against the

culprits." Armed miscreants fired at a convoy of goods-laden trucks and oil tankers on Tuesday along NH 37, between Shanti Khunou and Kaimai in Tamenglong district, around 160 km away from Imphal. Four fuel trucks, including one LPG truck, were hit in the ambush. Responding to a query about the ambush that injured a truck driver, the

Chief Minister said that a combing operation has been launched to apprehend those responsible for the attack. "Both the state and the central government will deal with the attackers," he said. Talking about the BJP's manifesto, Biren Singh said that it is not merely a political document, as the BJP "has never failed to deliver on its promises". The Chief Minister highlighted the Northeast section of the manifesto, which promises to deliver peace and remove Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958, in a phased manner, and said that it reflects Prime Minister Narendra Modi's concern for the Northeast. He said that the BJP is committed to restoring peace in the state, without compromising the core issues such as territorial integrity and safety of the indigenous population. The Chief Minister appealed to the voters from the state to cast their votes for the BJP and said that it is the only party which can save Manipur.

Ajit Pawar's Draupadi jibe on Maharashtra's irregular sex ratio sparks row



New Delhi: Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Wednesday sparked a controversy with his reference to 'Draupadi's marriage to five men', and a promise to allocate funds to Indrapur only if people voted the Mahayuti candidate to power. The Mahayuti alliance comprises the BJP, the Shiv Sena led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. Addressing a gathering in Baramati's Indapur, Pawar said, "In some districts, we saw there was so much difference that after a thousand boys, nearly 850 girls were born. Also, it was up to 790 girls in some places. It is going to be very difficult."

"In the coming days, it seems as if we have to think about 'Draupadis'. Forget about the joke or else tomorrow I will be criticised for insulting Draupadi," he said in Marathi. As per the Hindu epic Mahabharata, Draupadi, the princess of Panchal, was married to Arjun and his four brothers. Lashing out at Ajit Pawar's comments, Jitendra Awhad, an NCP leader from the Sharad Pawar faction, said Ajit Pawar could have given other examples to highlight the issue of dipping in the sex ratio. He said that due to such statements, Sharad Pawar had to pay the price in the past. "When there's poison in the mind, what else can come out of his mouth? He could have given another example, saying that weddings won't happen and questions will arise, and problems will arise. Even in Maharashtra, the difference in birth rate never remained constant," Awhad said. "Suddenly, the thought of calling a woman Draupadi came to his mind. He used to speak in this way every time, and Sharad Pawar had to pay the price," he added. Notably, Baramanti is witnessing a close contest between two members of the Pawar family with Ajit Pawar's wife Sunetra, the NCP candidate, pitted against her sister-in-law and sitting Lok Sabha MP Supriya Sule, the daughter of Sharad Pawar. Elections to the 48 Lok Sabha seats in Maharashtra will be held in five phases from April 19 to May 20. In Baramati, polling will be held on May 7.

You Are Our Backbone And DNA Of Party": Rahul Gandhi To Congress' Workers

Rahul Gandhi alleged that the BJP-RSS are against the idea of India.

New Delhi: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi posted a heartwarming message to the party workers on Thursday ahead of the first phase of polling of the Lok Sabha elections. In a post on X from Congress' official handle, Rahul Gandhi alleged that the BJP-RSS are against the idea of India. "You are the Congress worker, our backbone and the DNA of our party. You understand our ideology and you fight for it every day. We couldn't do without you. The elections are taking place. The BJP-RSS are against the idea of India. They are attacking our Constitution, the country's democratic structure, our institutions, including the ECI, as well as the legal framework of India. You fight against the ideology of the RSS on the streets, in the villages, and everywhere. You are the defenders," he said. You helped us bring key ideas from the people of India into our Manifesto for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. We rely on you, and we love you! I send you my best wishes. We're going to defeat the BJP and their ideology!" Rahul Gandhi added. In another post on X from his official handle, Rahul



Gandhi said that the aim of the Congress is to ensure the participation of tribals in the building of modern India. The aim of the Congress is not only to protect water, forests and land but also to ensure the participation of tribals in the building of modern India. These 6 resolutions of ours dedicated to the tribal society will become a shield for the rights of the tribals by preventing the plunder of resources. The country will become strong only when the foundation is strong," he said.

Earlier, addressing a joint press conference with Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said there is a strong undercurrent in favour of the opposition INDIA bloc in the Lok Sabha elections and the BJP will be limited to 150 seats. I do not do prediction of seats. 15-20 days ago I was thinking the BJP would win around 180 seats but now I think they will get 150 seats. We are getting reports from every state that we are improving. We have a very strong alliance in Uttar Pradesh and we will perform very well..." the former Congress president said. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Jagdish Shetter challenged Congress to secure 40 seats in the Lok Sabha elections. In a fervent declaration during the filing of his nomination for the Belagavi Lok Sabha constituency, Jagdish Shetter said, "I challenge Congress to cross 40 seats. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who is a part of the INDIA bloc, said that they won't even secure 40 seats. The people have decided that we will cross 400 seats."

Congress's do-or-die battle for Gaurav in Jorhat

Gaurav Gogoi, Congress's deputy leader in the Lok Sabha, has shifted to Jorhat after the recent delimitation exercise. The Lok Sabha battle in Assam's Jorhat, which goes to polls on April 19, is both political and personal. Himanta Biswa Sarma is leaving no stone unturned to win this legacy seat for the BJP again.

New Delhi: No other seat in Assam is as interesting as Jorhat in this Lok Sabha election. The contest there has turned into a prestige battle between the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) and the Congress. It will decide if the Congress's deputy leader in Lok Sabha, Gaurav Gogoi, makes it to the elected House this time. The significance of the fight is evident from a rally by Assam Chief Minister and BJP leader Himanta Biswa Sarma. "Sivasagar was established as the capital of the Ahom kingdom by Swargadeos," Sarma said on Wednesday during his last election rally for the first phase of voting in the Lok Sabha election in Assam. Himanta's reference to Swargadeos, a title for Ahom kings, and the place of his rally, Sivasagar, are both interesting. Sivasagar comes under Jorhat Lok Sabha constituency, one of the 14 in Assam. Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi has switched to Jorhat



after the recent delimitation exercise in Assam. The seat is currently held by BJP's Topon Kumar Gogoi. Jorhat has a sizeable Ahom population and both Gaurav and Topon are Ahoms. **WHY JORHAT BATTLE IS PERSONAL FOR HIMANTA** The seat is a prestige battle because Gaurav Gogoi's father, Tarun Gogoi, was a two-time MP from here. Tarun



Gogoi, who was the chief minister of Assam, also won from Titabor Assembly seat, which is part of the Jorhat Lok Sabha constituency. Though Himanta Biswa Sarma has always been respectful of Tarun Gogoi, referring to him as 'dangoriya', the feud between the two is no secret. It was Sarma's fight with Tarun Gogoi that made him leave the Congress and

join the BJP. The Jorhat fight is indeed personal. Himanta Biswa Sarma played a crucial role in the Congress party's return to power in Assam in 2011 and people saw him as the successor of CM Tarun

Gogoi. However, Tarun Gogoi had other plans, and he had started projecting his son Gaurav Gogoi as the inheritor of his political legacy. Himanta, who had been a students' leader since the early

BJP Leader Kidnapped By Insurgents In Arunachal Pradesh

Itanagar: Hours after a BJP leader was kidnapped in Arunachal Pradesh, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Pawan Kumar Sain on Wednesday said no interference in the poll process by underground elements will be tolerated and stringent action will be initiated against such activities. Mr Sain's assertion came following abduction of the BJP leader by insurgents in Longding district and the alleged use of underground elements by a poll contestant in the same district

which falls under the Arunachal East Lok Sabha seat. Inspector General of Police (Law & Order) Chukhu Apa acknowledged the abduction and said that police and paramilitary forces are on the job to rescue the person. Longding Deputy Commissioner Bekir Nyorak and Superintendent of Police Dekio Gumja declined to speak. The northeastern state, which has two Lok Sabha seats, will hold the elections to the parliamentary and 60-member.

Shadow-boxing in West Asia

ISRAEL's war on Gaza, now in its seventh month, has always carried the risk of spiralling into a wider regional conflagration. After all, the veneer of shadow-boxing between Israel on the one side and Iran and its partners and proxies on the other could only be stretched to a point before it ruptured. That rupture came on the night of April 13 as Iran launched a wave of kamikaze drones and missiles towards Israel. This was the first time after four-and-a-half decades of fiery rhetoric against its 'Zionist enemy' that Iran had actually carried out a strike directed at Israeli territory. An immutable red line had been breached, some analysts felt. The gloves were off and a devastating revenge strike by Israel would inevitably take the region closer to the abyss. But is that really the case, or are we simply witnessing a new act in a long-running shadow-boxing drama? The fire and brimstone that characterise Iran's declamations in support of the Palestinian cause often conceal an underlying reality that is now quite apparent. The government of the Islamic Republic under its supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei is actually a lot more cautious and risk-averse and has shown little appetite for a frontal confrontation. Its preferred approach towards deterrence is to deploy its advanced capabilities in asymmetric warfare through proxies to send warnings to unfriendly states, even as it maintains a plausible deniability of its own actions. The operative principle, as the old song goes, is 'samajhne wale samajh gaye hain...'. An Iranian hand behind the October 7 attack by Hamas was widely presumed, even though there was no smoking gun to link Tehran or its Quds force to the attacks. As Israel started its destructive offensive against Gaza, there was genuine concern that Iran might unleash the battle-hardened cadres of Hezbollah to target Israeli assets from Lebanon, possibly opening a second front to support its Hamas allies in Gaza. However, six months down the road, it is clear that both Iran and Hezbollah have continued to stay within the unwritten red lines that have maintained an uneasy equilibrium on Israel's northern border with Lebanon. Hezbollah's precision munitions have mainly been used against the now depopulated villages and settlements in northern Israel, while military and civilian targets a few miles south have not been touched, even though they are well within the range of Hezbollah missiles. Israel has responded with dire threats against Lebanon if Hezbollah escalates the conflict. It has carried out targeted airstrikes against top Hezbollah personnel and assets in Lebanon and Syria, but has so far refrained from a frontal attack on Hezbollah.

The Houthis in Yemen, another proxy carefully nurtured by Iran over the years, have unleashed their drones and missiles to play havoc with merchant shipping in the maritime lanes of the Red Sea. There is little doubt about the origins of its stockpiles, training and tactics, but Iran has been content to play the ringmaster and quietly assert the influence that it can wield as a disruptor if the West continues with its hostile posture.

That fragile equilibrium, however, was shaken on April 1 when an Israeli airstrike on the consular building of the Iranian embassy in Damascus killed Hassan Mahdavi, head of the Quds Force of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps in Syria and Lebanon. The precision strike also took out six of Mahdavi's compatriots and created a furore in Tehran. Israel had in December 2023 killed Sayyed Razi Mousavi, Iran's seniormost commander in Syria, and there was mounting pressure by hardliners in Tehran that the leadership's frequent threats of severe retribution should now be matched by firm action.

However, the military action that eventually came on April 13 had been telegraphed by Tehran for almost two weeks. There was widespread expectation that it would come soon after the end of the Eid-ul-Fitr festivities, and it did. Iran has also confirmed that it gave a 72-hour notice to countries in the region, giving enough time to India and others to suspend flights and issue warnings to their citizens. Little wonder that '99 per cent' of the drones and missiles were successfully intercepted by Israel's formidable Iron Dome and other air defence systems and by a range of allies, including the US, the UK, France and even Jordan.

The wannability factor and the failure of NOTA

The best social security model, and not the one packed with freebies, should get preference in the selection of representatives.

THE most vibrant form of democracy is governance through elected representatives, and elections are the best way to elect such representatives. This year is crucial for democracy as more than 50 countries, covering nearly half of the population of the world, will go to the polls. This is significant for taking new initiatives for strengthening the civilisational discourse and inclusive development narratives in all aspects of human endeavours, be it economic growth, sustainable development, affordable quality education and health, climate change mitigation, emerging technology usage, human rights, territorial integrity, international relations and peace, etc, in a highly volatile world. Poll-bound India, which is considered the mother of democracy, is among the largest democracies. We should bear two fundamental things in mind at this juncture: firstly, whether electability alone should be the criterion for political parties to select candidates, and secondly, whether electorates would cast their votes solely for the purpose of electing or rejecting contestants.

The electorate should ponder whether the selection of candidates should entirely be based on the electability factor and whether the casting of votes is solely for the purpose of electing one nominee and rejecting others. Experience in public life, popularity among the masses for good causes, honesty, integrity, transparency, commitment to the public good and nation-building attributes should form the basis for the selection and rejection of candidates as representatives. The elected representatives should be competent enough to set a development agenda and advocate for it. They should be able to articulate the aspirations of the public for inclusive and sustainable development. Elections are opportunities for an electorate to decide which party can better articulate the aspirations of the public, can take better decisions for public good, enact better laws for good governance, frame and execute better policies and programmes for inclusive and sustainable socio-economic growth and influence the worldview for sustainable development. Polls are also an occasion for the public to endorse its historical, cultural, defence and environmental preferences. The best social security model, and not the one packed with freebies, should get preference in the selection of representatives. This would encourage healthy competition among political outfits in terms of policy formulation and programme implementation for public welfare. Most importantly, elections are an occasion for the expression of choices in terms of social, emotional, intellectual, spiritual, patriotic and pluralistic quotients. Such considerations should be the guiding principles in the selection or rejection of candidates by parties and electorates. It is widely believed that 'we elect the government we deserve'. Therefore, candidates should be thoroughly screened and assessed with respect to such attributes



during campaigns. An unblemished reputation, a zeal to do public good, the ability to govern in the fairest manner and the capability to think and innovate should prominently figure in the thought process of parties and voters while choosing candidates and casting votes. It appears that the right to abstain — the provision of NOTA (none of the above) — has not served its purpose. NOTA has not forced political parties to evolve better criteria for the selection of candidates, implying that the parties and candidates have not learnt any lesson from this provision. One of the best pieces of voting advice has come from Singaporean doctor Paul Tambyah: "Voting is not a marriage. It is public transport. You are not waiting for 'the one'... You are getting on the bus. And if there is not one going exactly to your destination, you do not stay home and sulk. You take the one that is going closest to where you want to be." The message is loud and clear: the best option is not to abstain but to elect the candidate with a policy orientation most closely aligned to your own. Earlier, parties selected candidates on the basis of caste, community, language, influence and financial resources — all euphemistically called the 'wannability factor'. However, the selection of candidates and voting patterns based on such considerations is detrimental to democracy, which is all about exercising choices in the most unbiased manner. It would be prudent to provide a common platform for all candidates to share their development agendas with the electorate. The media plays a crucial role in educating voters. The quality of debates in electronic, print and social media has a huge impact on the psyche of the

voters. Therefore, elections are opportunities for the media to refrain from spreading misinformation, disinformation and fake or paid news. The press ought to reflect ground realities on issues confronting the voters and help them select the best candidates. Those in public life seeking renomination must educate the public about the healthy traits of elections and democracy. They should present an alternative model of development and governance during the election campaign and offer themselves for performance reviews. Some voters develop disengagement from the electoral process and refrain from voting, thinking that their ballot does not matter.

How can we overcome this defeatist attitude and encourage voters to participate in elections and uphold democratic values? One way would be to consider that voting is not merely a right but also a duty to perform. Inaction on the part of the electorate may lead to severe consequences in terms of the election outcomes and governance, and the blame for electing an unfit government will also have to be equally shared by even those who did not cast their votes. Complacency on the part of the rich, as popular belief goes that the poor vote while the rich do not, is liable to get our democratic system derailed. Scores of our national heroes made sacrifices for making India the mother of democracy. Casting the vote, therefore, is an important way to honour the values and high morals they strived for. Such considerations may eventually lead to an increase in the turnout and, thereby, people's participation in government formation.

BJP manifesto

Focus on development & welfare, but gaps remain

SANKALP Patra, the BJP's election manifesto that was released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other senior party leaders on Sunday, is being dissected not just for its inclusions but also the exclusions. According to the PM, the document — also titled Modi Ki Guarantee — is 'more than just a collection of promises. It outlines the collective aspirations and goals of our nation.' Reiterating its commitment to rolling out 'one nation, one election' and a pan-India Uniform Civil Code — two issues mentioned in its 2019 manifesto as well — the BJP has highlighted development and public welfare as its top priorities.

The manifesto comes days after the Lokniti-CSDS survey's findings red-flagged unemployment and rising prices as primary concerns of the voters surveyed. The recently released India Employment Report also painted a grim picture of the job scenario in the country. Looking to retain its hold on the middle class



— its time-tested vote bank — the ruling party has promised 'ample employment opportunities, quality housing and healthcare, and access to quality education' for this section of the population. The pledge to extend the

PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, under which free ration is being provided to over 80 crore citizens, for another five years is aimed at mobilising the support of the poor.

Eyeing a third successive term, the BJP has largely desisted from announcing sops to woo voters. It has also avoided any mention of the National Register of Citizens, a controversial initiative which had been promised in the 2019 manifesto. In the agriculture sector, the party has patted itself on the back for the 'unprecedented' increase in the minimum support price (MSP) for major crops, but has stopped short of addressing the main demand of farm unions — legal guarantee of procurement at the MSP. All in all, the manifesto walks a tightrope while spelling out a roadmap for making India a developed nation by 2047.

The grand myth of absolute happiness

The fundamental needs of food, shelter, education, political freedom and non-alienated work have to be distinguished from the virus of irresistible greed.

EVEN though we live in a terribly violent world characterised by endless war, militarism, new forms of authoritarianism, heightened economic inequality, climate crisis and multiple forms of societal neurosis, there seems to be no end to our quest for happiness. Furthermore, in modern times, as we love the virtue of mathematical precision, even a highly qualitative and subjective experience like happiness is quantified and measured. Every year, the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network ranks and hierarchises different countries on the basis of what it regards as the measurable 'happiness index' — encompassing gross domestic product, life expectancy, state efficiency, freedom, social support, or for that matter, altruistic behaviour. While Finland continues to be the 'happiest country', India ranked 126th out of 143 nations in the World Happiness Report 2024.

Well, I do not altogether deny the merits of a report of this kind. Of course, a reasonable degree of economic security, social welfare policies by the state, better medical facilities, fulfilment in the sphere of work, the presence of a dialogic civil society and political freedom generate some sort of contentment in everyday life. However, it is equally important to realise that there is no such thing as pure happiness because our finest moments of joy and contentment are always accompanied by some sort of anxiety — say, the fear of losing whatever we have, be it our material wealth, the vitality of the body, or the company of the loved ones. We strive for absolute happiness, yet it deludes us. No wonder there is no dearth of life coaches, motivational speakers and spiritual gurus in our times who repeatedly instruct us to follow a set of 'techniques' — meditative practices, breathing exercises, mindfulness, etc. — in order to be 'happy' and 'successful'. But then, it has to be realised that happiness is not an instant remedial capsule to be consumed from self-help books, or special retreats in some ashrams and monasteries. In fact, if we

really want to move towards a modestly peaceful and contented world, we need to build a bridge between the self and the world, or the political and the spiritual. Think of, for instance, the absurdity of teaching 'mindfulness' (the ability to live in the present without any obsession with the trauma of the past or the anxiety of the future) to a person tormented by hunger, malnutrition and homelessness. Or, think of the psychic violence you would inflict on an unemployed young man, continually rejected by potential employers, if you ask him to read a self-help bestseller like I'm OK — You're OK, and feel good and positive. It is as absurd as teaching the lessons of 'minimalism' to a slum-dweller or a homeless person. We cannot move towards a reasonable degree of contentment without altering the political and economic foundations of a highly asymmetrical, uneven and exploitative world. No, Palestinians cannot be happy amid the normalisation of genocide.

Likewise, if, as the India Employment Report 2024 indicates, 83 per cent of jobless Indians are the youth; or, as a research paper titled 'The Rise of Billionaire Raj' reveals, if the top 1 per cent of the people in India hold 40 per cent of the wealth, it is not difficult to imagine the intensity of pain, agony, fear and stress an average Indian experiences. We might have thousands of babas, gurus and self-help tutors constantly offering us diverse brands of salvation capsules, but then, the harsh reality is that ours is an unhappy nation. Possibly, without a political/economic restructuring of our society, we cannot create a social milieu conducive to



the growth of a reasonably contented population. This is not to suggest that I am denying the significance of introspection or the need for inner calmness for a meaningful, sustainable and compassionate living. While a reasonable degree of economic security and political freedom makes our everyday living somewhat comfortable, we cannot move towards a more meaningful and peaceful existence (not necessarily absolutely 'happy' existence) without what I would regard as the religiosity of life. For instance, this religiosity is about the cultivation of the art of non-consumptionist mode of living. The fundamental needs of food, shelter, life-affirming education, political

freedom and non-alienated work have to be distinguished from the virus of irresistible greed — the greed that a market-driven society has normalised.

Yes, there is no happiness in a society that sanctifies the principle of mindless consumption, or the greed for the ever-growing new products and styles that the neoliberal market constantly invents. This craving disrupts tranquillity and calmness; instead, it causes envy, restlessness and the chronic fear of lagging behind. Likewise, it is equally important to cultivate the art of developing a relational self — the self that finds immense joy in apparently simple acts — say, meeting a friend without any ulterior motive, or, walking through a mountain terrain and experiencing the glimpses of the infinite. This art of being 'ordinary' — yet filled with creative surplus — helps us to free ourselves from the neurotic restlessness for achieving a mythical 'success', or running after a mirage of a 'perfect and happy living' through which the seductive 'culture industry' continually deludes us. The religiosity of life requires the courage to accept the inherent melancholy of existence; it is like accepting that not everything is under our control. Everything we try to hold is transitory and impermanent. Inexplicable accidents and tragedies can shatter our existence without any prior notice; and none can escape the reality of death — the ultimate reduction of our inflated egos into nothingness. Possibly, this realisation, far from making us bitter, enables us to pass through this earthly existence with sacred tears.

ভিজয়াওয়াড়ায় পাথর হামলায় জগন মোহন রেড্ডি আহত

ভিজয়াওয়াড়া: শনিবার সন্ধ্যায় ৩৫মেম্বার্স সিন্দ্রা বাস পর্যটনের সময়, আন্ধ্রপ্রদেশের মুখ্যমন্ত্রী জগন মোহন রেড্ডি এবং যুবজন প্রমিক রাইত কংগ্রেস পার্টি (ওয়াইএ-সআরসিপি) এর এমএলএ ভেল্লান্সাপ্পা শ্রীনিবাস রাও, ভিজয়াওয়াড়ায় একটি পাথর ওড়ের হুমকির ঘটনায় আহত হয়েছেন, প্রচারমাধ্যমে জানা গেছে। মুখ্যমন্ত্রী তাঁর বৈদিকায় একটি ক্ষতি হয়েছে, যদিও এমএলএ ভেল্লান্সাপ্পা তাঁর বৈদিকায় চোখে ক্ষতি হয়েছে। দুজনেই বাসেই তাড়াতাড়ি প্রাথমিক চিকিৎসা পেয়েছেন। হামলার পরেও, মুখ্যমন্ত্রী জগন তাঁর প্রযাত্র চালিয়ে যাচ্ছেন। ওয়াইএসআরসিপি সূত্রগুলি দাবি করেছেন যে, হামলায় তেলগু দেশমুখ দলের কর্মীরা शामिल ছিল, মিডিয়া রিপোর্ট করেছে।

ভোজপুরী বর্ডিতা লোক গীত (শ্রুংগার)

বর্ডিতা মহিলা

- শ্যাম কুন্ডর ভারতী (রাজধর)

চম চম বাজেলে গোরী কে পায়লিয়া যে রামা

চম চম বাজে।

তহ তহ তহকেলে মাথে কে টিকুলিয়া যে রামা

তহ তহ তহকে।

টীক দুপহরিয়া মেন রানী কজরা লগবলু অখিয়া মেন।

চতিয়া মেন অখিয়া কে কটরিয়া ধনবলু চতিয়া মেন।

সর সর উডেলে গোরী কে চুনরিয়া যে রামা

সর সর উড়ে।

চহত মহিনবা তোহরো চলিয়া বা বদলল।

হিরনিয়া কে চাল গোরী কমরিয়া বা লচকল।

চম চম চমকে সোনে কে নথুনিয়া যে রামা

নকিয়া মেন।

কারী কারী কেসিয়া মেন ফুল গজরা লগবলু।

কেসিয়া হাতকী গোরী বরসা বদরা বুলাবলু।

গোর গলিয়া কে তিলবা মারে মোর জনিয়া যে রামা

গোর গলিয়া।

For Advertisements
call us @
9431744001
mail4daily@gmail.com

সর্পিফা বাজার में जारी तेजी पर ब्रेक, सोना और चांदी में मामूली गिरावट

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। रामनवमी बीतने के बाद घरेलू सर्फा बाजार में जारी तेजी पर ब्रेक लगता हुआ नजर आ रहा है। हालांकि आज की गिरावट के बावजूद देश के ज्यादातर सर्फा बाजार में आज भी 24 कैरेट सोना 74,100 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर के ऊपर ही कारोबार कर रहा है। इसी तरह 22 कैरेट सोना भी 68 हजार रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर के करीब बना हुआ है। सोने की तरह ही चांदी में भी आज मामूली गिरावट आई है। इस गिरावट के कारण आज दिल्ली सर्फा बाजार में चांदी 86,400 रुपये प्रति किलोग्राम के स्तर पर कारोबार कर रहा है। देश की राजधानी दिल्ली में 24 कैरेट सोना आज 74,120 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर कारोबार कर रहा है, जबकि 22 कैरेट सोने की कीमत 67,940 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम दर्ज की गई। इसी तरह मुंबई में 24 कैरेट

सोना 74,120 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम और 22 कैरेट सोना 69,940 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर बिक रहा है। जबकि चेन्नई में 24 कैरेट सोने की रिटेल कीमत 74,940 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम और 22 कैरेट सोने की कीमत 68,690 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम दर्ज की गई है। इन प्रमुख शहरों के अलावा अहमदाबाद में 24 कैरेट

सोना आज 74,170 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम की कीमत पर और 22 कैरेट कैरेट सोना आज 74,270 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर और 22 कैरेट सोना 68,090 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर बिक रहा है। वहीं पटना में 24 कैरेट सोने की कीमत 74,170 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम हो गई है, जबकि 22 कैरेट सोना 68,090 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर बिक रहा है। इसी तरह जयपुर में 24 कैरेट सोना 74,270 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम और 22 कैरेट सोना 68,090 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर बिक रहा है। देश के अन्य राज्यों की तरह कर्नाटक, तेलंगाना और ओडिशा के सर्फा बाजार में भी सोने की कीमत में आज गिरावट दर्ज की गई है। इन तीनों राज्यों की राजधानियों बंगलुरु, हैदराबाद और भुवनेश्वर में 24 कैरेट सोना आज 74,120 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर कारोबार कर रहा है। वहीं इन तीनों शहरों के सर्फा बाजारों में 22 कैरेट सोना 67,940 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर पहुंचा हुआ है। लखनऊ के सर्फा बाजार में 24



कच्चा तेल 88 डॉलर प्रति बैरल के करीब, पेट्रोल-डीजल की कीमत स्थिर

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में कच्चे तेल की कीमत में उतार-चढ़ाव का सिलसिला जारी है। ब्रेंट क्रूड 88

रुपये, कोलकाता में पेट्रोल 103.94 रुपये, डीजल 90.76 रुपये, चेन्नई में पेट्रोल 100.75 रुपये और डीजल 92.34 रुपये प्रति लीटर की दर पर



डॉलर और डब्ल्यूटीआई क्रूड 83 डॉलर प्रति बैरल के करीब है। सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की तेल एवं गैस विपणन कंपनियों ने मंगलवार को पेट्रोल-डीजल के मूल्य में कोई बदलाव नहीं किया है। इंडियन ऑयल की वेबसाइट के मुताबिक, दिल्ली में पेट्रोल 94.72 रुपये, डीजल 87.62 रुपये, मुंबई में पेट्रोल 104.21 रुपये, डीजल 92.15

रुपये है। अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में इस हफ्ते के चौथे दिन शुरुआती कारोबार में ब्रेंट क्रूड 0.23 डॉलर यानी 0.26 फीसदी उल्टकर 87.61 डॉलर प्रति बैरल पर ट्रेड कर रहा है। वहीं, वेस्ट टेक्सस इंटरमीडिएट (डब्ल्यूटीआई) क्रूड 0.15 डॉलर यानी 0.18 फीसदी की बढ़त के साथ 82.93 डॉलर प्रति बैरल पर कारोबार कर रहा है।

भारत से दुबई के लिए एयर इंडिया और इंडिगो ने रद्द की उड़ानें

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। दुनिया के सबसे व्यस्त एयरपोर्ट में शामिल संयुक्त अरब अमीरात के दुबई में भारी बारिश के कारण पूरा शहर जलमग्न हो गया है। दुबई का अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा भी इससे अछूता नहीं रहा। देश के विभिन्न शहरों से दुबई के लिए उड़ानों का संचालन करने वाली एयर इंडिया और इंडिगो ने अपनी उड़ानें फिलहाल रद्द कर दी हैं। टाटा की अगुवाई वाली एयर इंडिया और इंडिगो हफ्ते में दुबई समेत संयुक्त अरब अमीरात के विभिन्न शहरों लिए करीब 72 उड़ानों का संचालन करती हैं। इंडिगो ने 'एक्स पोस्ट' पर कहा कि खराब मौसम और सड़क अवरोधों के कारण हवाई अड्डे पर प्रतिबंधों और परिचालन चुनौतियों के कारण दुबई आने-जाने वाली उड़ानें 18 अप्रैल दोपहर 12 बजे तक रद्द कर दी गई हैं। एयरलाइन ने कहा कि उड़ान

विकल्पों की जानकारी के लिए <https://it.ly/x/juyMh~> पर पूर्ण वापसी का अनुरोध करें।

24*7 संपर्क केंद्र 91 116 932 9333 या 91 116 932 9999 पर संपर्क करें। उल्लेखनीय है कि दुबई



एयर इंडिया ने बयान में कहा कि कल खराब मौसम के कारण दुबई अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे (डीएक्सबी) पर उड़ान संचालन फिलहाल बाधित है, जिसके कारण रद्दीकरण और उड़ानों में देरी हो रही है। एयरलाइन ने कहा कि वैकल्पिक विकल्प या पूर्ण रिफंड का विकल्प चुनने के लिए

अंतरराष्ट्रीय एयरपोर्ट दुनिया के सबसे व्यस्त एयर हब के तौर पर जाना जाता है। भारत से एयर इंडिया एयरलाइन और इंडिगो एयरलाइन के अलावा एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस, विस्तारा एयरलाइंस और स्पाइसजेट भी दुबई के लिए अपनी उड़ानों का संचालन करती हैं।

यूएनसीटीएडी ने 2024 में जीडीपी 6.5 फीसदी रहने का जताया अनुमान

एजेंसी संयुक्त राष्ट्र/नई दिल्ली। मूडीज रेटिंग्स और आईएमएफ के बाद संयुक्त राष्ट्र की संयुक्त राष्ट्र व्यापार एवं विकास (यूएनसीटीएडी) ने अपनी एक रिपोर्ट में भारत की अर्थव्यवस्था 2024 में 6.5 फीसदी की दर से बढ़ने का अनुमान जताया गया है। यूएनसीटीएडी ने मंगलवार देर रात जारी अपनी रिपोर्ट में कहा कि भारत 2023 में 6.7 फीसदी की दर से बढ़ी है, जिसकी वर्ष 2024 में 6.5 फीसदी की दर से बढ़ने की उम्मीद है। इस रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक यह दुनिया में सबसे तेजी से बढ़ती प्रमुख अर्थव्यवस्था बनी रहेगी। संयुक्त राष्ट्र व्यापार एवं विकास की रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनियों अपनी आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाओं में विविधता लाने के लिए देश में अपनी विनिर्माण प्रक्रियाओं का विस्तार कर रही हैं, जिसका भारतीय निर्यात पर

सकारात्मक प्रभाव पड़ेगा। रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि 2023 में हुई वृद्धि मजबूत सार्वजनिक पूंजीगत निवेश

2024 के लिए भारत की आर्थिक वृद्धि दर के अनुमान को बढ़ाया है। हालांकि रिजर्व बैंक ऑफ इंडिया



आरबीआई ने चालू वित्त वर्ष 2024-25 में 7 फीसदी की आर्थिक वृद्धि दर रहने का अनुमान जताया है।

इफको का नैनो यूरिया प्लस तीन साल के लिए अधिसूचित, कीमत 225 रुपये

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। केंद्रीय कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय ने नैनो यूरिया प्लस को तीन साल के लिए अधिसूचित किया है। इंडियन फार्मर्स फर्टिलाइजर कोऑपरेटिव लिमिटेड (इफको) का नैनो यूरिया प्लस उसके नैनो यूरिया का उन्नत फॉर्मूलेशन है। इसकी अधिसूचना जारी होने के साथ ही किसानों को नैनो यूरिया प्लस मिलना शुरू हो जाएगा। इफको के प्रबंध निदेशक (एमडी) और मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी (सीईओ) डॉ. यूएस अवस्थी ने नैनो यूरिया प्लस की अधिसूचना जारी होने की जानकारी

देते हुए कहा कि इफको का नैनो यूरिया प्लस (तरल) 16 फीसदी

भारत सरकार के कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय ने तीन साल के



नाइट्रोजन 2/2 जो कि 20 फीसदी नाइट्रोजन 2/1 के बराबर है। इसको

लिए अधिसूचित किया है। उन्होंने कहा कि नैनो यूरिया प्लस की कीमत

में वृद्धि नहीं की गई है। यह 225 रुपये की दर से 500 मिली. की बोतलों में उपलब्ध है। अवस्थी ने कहा कि नैनो यूरिया प्लस इफको का नैनो यूरिया का उन्नत फॉर्मूलेशन है, जो फसल विकास के महत्वपूर्ण चरणों में नाइट्रोजन की जरूरतों को पूरा करता है। उन्होंने कहा कि इससे मिट्टी की उर्वरता को बढ़ावा मिलेगा। अवस्थी ने बताया कि इसका उद्देश्य किसानों को फायदा पहुंचाना और स्थाई पर्यावरण बनाना है। उन्होंने कहा कि यह सूक्ष्म पोषक तत्वों को बढ़ावा देता है। यह एक क्लोरोफिल चार्जर है, जो बदलती जलवायु में खेती में मदद करता है।

आईआईएफएल फाइनेंस का राइट्स शेयर निर्गम 30 अप्रैल से



एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। आईआईएफएल फाइनेंस ने वर्तमान शेयरधारकों के लिए करीब 1272 करोड़ रुपये का राइट्स शेयर निर्गम लाने की घोषणा

की। यह निर्गम 30 अप्रैल से 15 मई तक खुला रहेगा। कंपनी ने मुंबई शेयर बाजार को दी गयी एक सूचना में कहा कि उसके निदेशक मंडल की आज हुई बैठक में यह निर्णय किया गया।

वालमार्ट मार्केटप्लेस ने भारतीय विक्रेताओं के लिए समर्पित लैंडिंग पेज लॉन्च किया

एजेंसी जयपुर। वालमार्ट ने भारतीय विक्रेताओं के लिए कंपनी की मार्केटप्लेस वेबसाइट वालमार्ट डॉट कॉम पर एक समर्पित लैंडिंग पेज लॉन्च करने की घोषणा की। इसके माध्यम से वे साइट पर पंजीकरण एवं बिक्री कर सकेंगे। साथ ही वालमार्ट ने क्षेत्रीय स्तर पर सम्मेलनों की श्रृंखला शुरू करते हुए जयपुर, राजस्थान में पहले वैश्विक विक्रेता सम्मेलन का आयोजन भी किया। इन सम्मेलनों के माध्यम से संभावित विक्रेताओं को उपभोक्ताओं एवं कैटेगरी ट्रेंड्स से जुड़ी इनसाइट्स एवं जानकारी प्रदान करते हुए मदद की जाएगी और ऑनबोर्डिंग सपोर्ट व कैटलॉग सपोर्ट में सहयोग किया जाएगा। सालभर पूरे देश में वैश्विक विक्रेता सम्मेलन आयोजित करने की योजना है। वालमार्ट मार्केटप्लेस को 2021 में भारतीय विक्रेताओं के लिए खोला गया था। वर्तमान में इस

मार्केटप्लेस पर भारत में बनाए गए, विकसित किए गए या असेंबल किए



गए उत्पादों के हजारों एसकेयू हैं। वालमार्ट का अमेरिकी मार्केटप्लेस दुनिया का सबसे तेजी से बढ़ता हुआ ई-कॉमर्स प्लेटफॉर्म है। पिछले वित्त वर्ष में इसका राजस्व 45 प्रतिशत बढ़ा, जबकि वालमार्ट के विक्रेता

20 प्रतिशत बढ़े। वालमार्ट नए विक्रेताओं से कोई मासिक शुल्क या सेटअप का शुल्क नहीं लेता है। इस साल की शुरुआत में कंपनी ने न्यू सेलर सेविंग्स प्रोग्राम का एलान किया था, जिसमें प्रतिभागियों को वालमार्ट डॉट कॉम पर पहले 90 दिन रेफरल और

वालमार्ट फुलफिलमेंट सर्विसेज (डब्ल्यूएफएस) फीस में 50 प्रतिशत तक की छूट मिलती है। डब्ल्यूएफएस से विक्रेताओं को अपनी इन्वेंटरी को अमेरिकी ग्राहकों के नजदीक लाने का सुविधाजनक एवं किफायती समाधान मिलता है। वालमार्ट की इमर्जिंग मार्केट्स एंड बिजनेस डेवलपमेंट वाइस प्रेसिडेंट मिशेल ने कहा, 'वालमार्ट के लिए भारत प्राथमिकता वाला बाजार है और समर्पित लैंडिंग पेज लॉन्च करना भारतीय विक्रेताओं के प्रति हमारी प्रतिबद्धता का प्रमाण है। वालमार्ट मार्केटप्लेस विक्रेताओं को दुनियाभर के ग्राहकों तक पहुंच प्रदान करते हुए भारतीय कंपनियों की क्षमता को अनलॉक करने के लिए प्रयासरत है। समर्पित ऑनबोर्डिंग सपोर्ट और वैश्विक आपूर्ति श्रृंखला में नेविगेट करने की हमारी विशेषज्ञता के माध्यम से हम विक्रेताओं को ऐसे उपकरणों से सशक्त करते हैं,

जिनकी उन्हें अमेरिका व अन्य मार्केटप्लेस में आगे बढ़ने के लिए जरूरत है।' अभी अमेरिकी मार्केटप्लेस में भारतीय विक्रेता कीमत पर पूरे नियंत्रण के साथ होम टेक्सटाइल, बाथ, होम डेकोर, कपड़े, आभूषण, खिलौने और सौंदर्य प्रसाधन समेत विभिन्न श्रेणियों में इन्वेंटरी को सूचीबद्ध कर सकते हैं। कंपनी अपने मार्केटप्लेस पर विभिन्न श्रेणियों में भारतीय विनिर्माताओं और ब्रांड मालिकों को जोड़ना चाहती है और लाखों ग्राहकों के लिए मूल्य सृजित करना चाहती है। वालमार्ट डॉट कॉम पर बिक्री से कंपनियों को डिजिटल आपूर्ति श्रृंखला तैयार करने में मदद मिलती है, साथ ही उन्हें निर्यात प्रक्रियाओं को नेविगेट करने और अमेरिकी उपभोक्ताओं की प्राथमिकताओं को समझने में मदद मिलती है। भारतीय सेलर्स यहां क्लिक करके वालमार्ट मार्केटप्लेस पर आवेदन कर सकते हैं।

मतदान के दिन 19 अप्रैल को इन शहरों में बंद रहेंगे बैंक

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। देश में लोकसभा चुनाव 2024 में पहले चरण के लिए 19 अप्रैल को मतदान होगा। पहले चरण में जिन शहरों में मतदान होगा, वहां सार्वजनिक और निजी क्षेत्र के दोनों ही दफ्तरों में अवकाश रहेगा। ऐसे में किन-किन शहरों में 19 अप्रैल को बैंक बंद रहेंगे। यह जानना बहुत जरूरी है, ताकि आपको कोई असुविधा न हो। रिजर्व बैंक ऑफ इंडिया (आरबीआई) के जारी निर्देश के मुताबिक 18वीं लोकसभा चुनाव के लिए होने वाले मतदान के दिन संबंधित शहरों में बैंक बंद रहेंगे। इसके अलावा कुछ राज्य सरकारों ने पहले ही मतदान के दिन सार्वजनिक अवकाश का ऐलान किया है। पहले चरण में 19 अप्रैल को चेन्नई, देहरादून, इटावारा, जयपुर, कोहिमा, नागपुर और शिलांग में बैंकों में अवकाश रहेगा। इन राज्यों के अलावा असम, बिहार, छत्तीसगढ़,

मध्य प्रदेश, मणिपुर, मिजोरम, सिक्किम, उत्तर प्रदेश, पश्चिम बंगाल, जम्मू-कश्मीर, लक्षद्वीप और



पुडुचेरी और अंडमान एवं निकोबार द्वीप समूह में भी पहले चरण में आम चुनाव है। हालांकि, आरबीआई ने इन राज्यों में बैंकों को छुट्टी पर फिलहाल कोई जानकारी नहीं दी है। 19 अप्रैल को उत्तराखंड में मतदान के दिन सार्वजनिक अवकाश की घोषणा की गई है। नगालैंड ने पहले ही ऐलान

किया है कि राज्य में सरकारी, निजी और व्यावसायिक प्रतिष्ठानों के सभी कर्मचारियों मतदान के दिन

संवैतनिक अवकाश मिलेगा, ताकि वे मतदान के दौरान अपना वोट डाल सकें। तमिलनाडु सरकार ने भी 19 अप्रैल को सार्वजनिक अवकाश का ऐलान किया है। इस दिन सभी 39 लोकसभा सीटों पर मतदान होगा और विलानक्कांड विधानसभा क्षेत्र के लिए उपचुनाव भी होगा।

अंबुजा सीमेंट में अडानी परिवार की हिस्सेदारी हुयी 70.3 प्रतिशत

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। अडानी समूह की सीमेंट और निर्माण सामग्री कंपनी अंबुजा सीमेंट्स लिमिटेड में अडानी परिवार ने 8,339 करोड़ रुपये का निवेश करके अपनी हिस्सेदारी को बढ़ाकर 70.3 प्रतिशत करने की आज घोषणा की। कंपनी ने यहां जारी बयान में कहा कि कुल 20,000 करोड़ रुपये का निवेश किया गया है। अडानी परिवार ने कंपनी में अपनी हिस्सेदारी 3.6 प्रतिशत बढ़ाकर 70.3

प्रतिशत कर ली है। उसने कहा कि यह रणनीतिक कदम पोर्टफोलियो कंपनियों के लिए मजबूत पूंजी प्रबंधन दर्शन को अटूट प्रतिबद्धता को रेखांकित करता है और नवीनतम निवेश भविष्य की संभावनाओं और सीमेंट वॉर्टिकल की क्षमता को बढ़ावा देने के लिए अडानी परिवार की प्रतिबद्धता की गवाही देता है। अतिरिक्त निवेश कंपनी की वित्तीय स्थिति को मजबूत करेगा, जिससे उसे अपनी महत्वकांक्षी

विकास योजनाओं को आगे बढ़ाने और बाजार में उभरते अवसरों का लाभ उठाने के लिए उन्नत क्षमताएं मिलेंगी। सीमेंट वॉर्टिकल द्वारा 2028 तक 14 करोड़ टन प्रति वर्ष की क्षमता को पूरा करने के लिए धनराशि महत्वपूर्ण होगी। इसके अलावा, यह परिचालन प्रदर्शन को बढ़ाने के लिए पूंजीगत व्यय को कम करने के साथ-साथ संसाधनों, आपूर्ति श्रृंखला में दक्षता लाने सहित विभिन्न रणनीतिक पहलों को भी सक्षम करेगा।

यह भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था में विकास से प्रेरित क्षेत्र की बढ़ती आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने के लिए उन्नत प्रौद्योगिकी एकीकरण के माध्यम से नवाचार और उत्पाद वृद्धि को भी बढ़ावा देगा। अंबुजा सीमेंट्स लिमिटेड के पूर्णकालिक निदेशक और सीईओ अजय कपूर ने कहा, 'हम अंबुजा में अडानी परिवार के 20,000 करोड़ रुपये के प्राथमिक निवेश के पूरा होने की घोषणा करते हुए रोमांचित हैं। विकास, पूंजी प्रबंधन पहल और सर्वोत्तम

श्रेणी की बैलेंस शीट ताकत न केवल हमारे दृष्टिकोण और व्यवसाय मॉडल में दृढ़ विश्वास का प्रमाण है, बल्कि हमारे हितधारकों को दीर्घकालिक टिकाऊ मूल्य सृजन प्रदान करने की हमारी प्रतिबद्धता को भी मजबूत करती है और यह हमें प्रतिष्ठित करेगी। हमारे विकास में तेजी लाने के लिए नए मानक स्थापित करने की दिशा में और परिचालन उत्कृष्टता, व्यावसायिक तालमेल और लागत नेतृत्व प्रदान करना जारी रहेगा।

अकेलेपन को करें एंजॉय

अकेलापन शायद ही किसी को अच्छ लगता हो, लेकिन यह भी सच ही है कि जो लोग ज्यादा सामाजिक होते हैं या फिर जिन्हें सामाजिकता से ज्यादा प्यार होता है, उनके पास अपने लिए भी वक्त नहीं होता है। लेकिन अगर आप ज्यादा सामाजिक नहीं हैं या फिर आप इससे दूर भागते हैं और अकेले हैं तो कोई बात नहीं। आप अपने अकेलेपन को भी एंजॉय कर सकते हैं। क्योंकि हर परिस्थिति हमेशा बुरी नहीं होती है। पूरी बात हमारे नजरिए पर निर्भर है कि हम क्या सोचते हैं। इसलिए अगली बार अकेलापन को सकारात्मक नजर से देखें।

...तो हो जाएं थोड़ा क्रिएटिव

अकेलेपन का यह मतलब बिल्कुल भी नहीं है कि आप लेजी हो जाएं, दिनभर सुस्ती के साथ बिस्तर पर लेटे रहें। बल्कि यही मौका होता है जब आप अपने अंदर की रचनात्मकता को निखार सकते हैं। अगर आपको कुकिंग का शौक है तो कोई डिश, जो आप रोज बनाते हैं उसे अलग तरीके से बनाइए। लिखने का शौक है तो वयों न कुछ लिखें। अगर कोई विषय नहीं मिल रहा है तो अपने आपको केंद्रित करके भी कुछ लिख सकते हैं। तूलिका से अगर प्यार है तो आडी-टेडी रेखाओं से ही सही कुछ तस्वीर ही खींच दें।

सीखें खुद से प्यार करना...

जब आप अकेले रहते हैं तो आपने यह महसूस किया होगा कि आपके आस-पास कोई ?सा शख्स नहीं होता है कि जो आपको देख रहा हो। आप पूरी तरह से मुक्त होते हैं हर तरह के बंधन से। आप वो सारी चीजें कर सकते हैं जो आप करना चाहते हैं। पहले आप वो चीजें इसलिए नहीं कर पाते थे क्योंकि लोग आपके आस-पास रहते थे। लेकिन चूंकि आप अकेले हैं तो हर वो चीज करें जिसकी आपको खाहिश थी। नाचे, गाएं, मनपसंद खाना खाएं। यह थोड़ा अजीब है लेकिन इसमें मजा आएगा। आप कहीं जाएं और लोगों के व्यवहार को ऑब्जर्व करें कि वो क्या करते हैं (अक्सर लोगों को लगता है कि वो जो काम कर रहे हैं उसे कोई नोटिस नहीं कर रहा है) आप पार्क में या किसी मॉल में जाइए लोगों के व्यवहार को देखिए। आप पाएंगे कि हर व्यक्ति अलग-अलग लोगों से कैसे व्यवहार करता है। इस चीज में आपको मजा आएगा लेकिन अगर नहीं आता है तो कोई बात नहीं, किसी शांत और प्रकृतियम जगह जाएं। जहां पशुओं-पक्षियों के व्यवहार को ऑब्जर्व करें, मजा आएगा।



जा रही हैं ब्यूटी पार्लर...

आज ब्यूटी पार्लर जाना आम बात हो गई है पर कई बार हम वहां जाते तो हैं अपनी खूबसूरती में चार चांद लगवाने पर अनजाने में डेर सारी बीमारियां साथ लेकर चले आते हैं। ब्यूटी के मामले में लापरवाही से काम लेना उचित नहीं है। जब भी पार्लर जाएं, वहां कुछ बातों का ध्यान रखें...

पेडीक्योर के समय

खतरा : फंगल इन्फेक्शन, मससे सावधानी : पैर रखने वाले बरतन को अच्छी तरह से स्टरलाइज्ड करवाएं वरना पैरों में इन्फेक्शन होने का भय रहता है। इस बात का ध्यान रखें कि क्यूटिकल स्टिक दोबारा इस्तेमाल आप पर न हो।

समाधान : पर्सनल झावां और क्यूटिकल स्टिक अपने साथ ले जाएं। ऐसे पार्लर पर जाएं जहां फेश या एक ही बार इस्तेमाल की जाने वाली पेडी पैडल का उपयोग किया जाता है।



आई ब्रो बनवाते समय

खतरा : त्वचा रोग, हर्पीज

सावधानी : आई ब्रो निकालने के लिए चिमटी का इस्तेमाल किया जाता है। मामूली सी दिखने वाली चिमटी बहुत सारी बीमारियों से भरी होती है। जब ब्यूटी थैरेपिस्ट चिमटी का इस्तेमाल करे तो उससे चिमटी स्टरलाइज्ड कर लेने को कहें, नहीं तो आप इन्फेक्शन का शिकार हो सकती हैं।

समाधान : ब्यूटी पार्लर में यह जरूर चेक करें कि ट्रे में रखे टूल्स स्टरलाइज्ड है या नहीं। हो सके तो अपने सामने चिमटी को स्टरलाइज्ड करवाएं। चिमटी को खोलते पानी में उबाला गया है तो बेशक इसका इस्तेमाल करें। अपने साथ पर्सनल चिमटी ले जाएं।

जब फेशियल करवाएं

खतरा : इम्पेटिगो डर्माटाइटिस (त्वचा रोग)

सावधानी : कई लोगों द्वारा इस्तेमाल किए गए तौलिए से त्वचा में संक्रमण होने का खतरा रहता है। इसमें चेहरे पर सूजन या जलन हो सकती है। एक ही फेशियल प्रॉडक्ट्स को अंगुलियों में डुबोकर हर किसी के चेहरे पर लगाने से इन्फेक्शन का खतरा रहता है।

समाधान : इस्तेमाल किए जाने वाले तौलिया या गाउंस साफ - सुथरी हों। दूसरों द्वारा इस्तेमाल न की गई हों। फेशियल करते वक्त थैरेपिस्ट को हाथों को अच्छे से धोने या हाथों पर दस्ताने चढ़ाने के लिए कहें। ध्यान रहे कि दस्ताने नए हों, पहले से काम में लिए न हों। थैरेपिस्ट के हाथों में घाव, सूजन या इन्फेक्शन हो तो उससे फेशियल न करवाएं ताकि उसके हाथ से कीटाणु आपके शरीर में न पहुंचें।

वैक्सिंग के वक्त

खतरा : दाद, खाज या जलन

सावधानी : वैक्सिंग के वक्त जरूर चेक कर लें कि फेश स्पैचुला का इस्तेमाल किया जा रहा है या नहीं। समाधान : पार्लर वाली से नया स्पैचुला इस्तेमाल करने को कहें। तिल, मससे, दाद, खुजली पर वैक्स न करवाएं।

फुरसत के समय या टीवी देखते समय अच्छी क्रीम या तेल के हल्के हाथों से गोलाई में पैरों की मालिश करें। थोड़ी देर में तेल त्वचा में रम जाएगा। इससे थके-हारे पैरों को आराम मिलेगा और सूखी त्वचा मुलायम बनी रहेगी। नहाते समय प्यूमिक स्टोन से पैरों की अच्छी तरह स्फाई करें ताकि कटी-फटी त्वचा उतर जाए। नहाने के बाद कोई अच्छा बॉडी लोशन या क्रीम पैरों पर लगाएं।

पाँवों को भी है देखभाल की जरूरत

अगर पैरों में पसीना ज्यादा आता हो तो गुनगुने पानी में नींबू की कुछ बूंदें डालें। इसमें पैरों को डुबो कर रखें। पंद्रह मिनट के बाद पैरों को पोछ लें। थोड़ी सी मुलतानी मिट्टी में गुलाबजल डाल कर पेस्ट बनाकर पैरों पर पतली परत लगाएं और सूखने पर उसे धो लें। पसीने की समस्या से बचने के लिए पैरों पर अच्छी तरह पाउडर लगाकर जूते पहनें। गर्म पानी में नमक डाल कर उसमें कुछ देर के लिए पैरों को डाल कर रखें। इससे थके पैरों को आराम मिलता है। मुलतानी मिट्टी में थोड़ा सा दही डाल कर पेस्ट बना कर पैरों में लगा लें और सूखने पर धो दें। इससे पैर मुलायम हो जाएंगे। पैरों की त्वचा ज्यादा सूखी हो तो गुनगुने पानी में कुछ बूंदें जैतून के तेल की मिला लें। पंद्रह मिनट तक अपने



पैरों को इसमें भिगो कर रखें फिर पोछ कर किसी अच्छी क्रीम से मालिश करें। पैरों को मुलायम बनाने के लिए मलाई में कुछ बूंदें नींबू की मिलाएं और इससे पैरों की मालिश करें। दो चम्मच ग्लिसरीन और एक चम्मच गुलाबजल में एक चम्मच नींबू का रस अच्छी तरह मिलाएं। इस मिश्रण को एक बोतल में बंद करके रोज सोने से पहले लगाएं। इससे पैरों की त्वचा मुलायम बनी रहेगी। आपके पैर ठंडे रहते हैं तो सोने से पहले जैतून के तेल से मालिश करें। पैरों के अंदर धंसे नाखूनों की समस्या उन्हें गलत ढंग से काटने से होती है। नाखूनों को सीधा और चौड़ाई में काटें। नेलपॉलिश लगे हुए पैर सुंदर लगते हैं पर

बीच-

बीच में नेलपॉलिश का प्रयोग बंद कर देना चाहिए ताकि नाखूनों का स्वाभाविक रंग बना रहे। लगातार कुर्सी पर बैठे रहने के कारण पैर खिंच जाते हैं तो पैरों को क्लॉकवाइज और एंटी क्लॉकवाइज थोड़ी-थोड़ी देर में घुमाते रहें। जूते-चप्पल हमेशा सही माप के खरीदें जिससे आपके पैरों को उनमें पूरी जगह मिल सके। बहुत देर तक ऊंची एड़ी की सैंडलें नहीं पहनें इनसे थकान ज्यादा होती है और शरीर का संतुलन बिगड़ता है। अगर हील पहननी ही हो तो प्लेटफॉर्म हील ही खरीदें। नंगे पांव हरी घास पर टहलना भी पैरों के लिए लाभदायक होता है।



खूबसूरत मुलायम पैरों का सौंदर्य में उतना ही महत्व है जितना कि चेहरे का। चेहरे व शरीर के अन्य अंगों की तरह पैरों की भी देखभाल की जानी चाहिए। अपने दिनभर के रूटीन से थोड़ा सा समय निकाल कर पैरों की देखभाल में लगाएं और देखें कि आपके पैर कितनी जल्दी मुलायम और सुंदर बन जाते हैं।

नीम की पत्तियां निखारे त्वचा

नीम की पत्तियां आपको आसानी से हर जगह मिल जाएंगी। इनका इस्तेमाल भी मुश्किल नहीं है। आपको बस करना यह होगा...

नीम की पचास पत्तियों को दो लीटर पानी में डालकर खूब उबाल लें। उस उबले पानी को ढंका करके एक बॉटल में रख लें। रोज नहाते वक्त उस पानी की थोड़ी मात्रा नहाने वाले पानी मिलाएं। त्वचा में कोई संक्रमण नहीं होगा।



नीम के इस पानी का उपयोग आप चेहरा साफ करने के लिए भी कर सकती हैं। रात में सोने से पहले एक कॉटन बॉल को नीम के पानी में डुबोएं उसके बाद उस पानी से चेहरे को साफ करें। ?सा करने से चेहरा तो साफ होगा, साथ ही मुंहासे और ब्लैकहेड्स की समस्या से भी छुटकारा मिलेगा। नीम की छाल और जड़ भी सेहत के लिहाज से बहुत प्रभावी होते हैं। इनका पाउडर बनाकर बालों में लगाने से रूसी और जूं की समस्या नहीं होती है। क्योंकि नीम अपने आप में एक बहुत ही अच्छा एंटीबैक्टीरियल होता है।

NEWS BOX

Main Catch Lunga": Sanju Samson Trolled By RR Player On Catching 'Disaster' After Superb Effort

New Delhi. Rajasthan Royals are well on course for the IPL 2024 playoffs. After their two wicket win over Kolkata Knight Riders on Tuesday, Rajasthan Royals now have 12 points. If no major upset in the next couple of games, RR might well be the first team to enter the playoffs. While there were two centuries in the match in KKR's Sunil Narine and RR's Jos Buttler, there was one particular fielding effort by Avesh Khan that is now the talk of the town.

It happened in the fourth over of the KKR innings when Avesh Khan outstretched arm caught hold of a shot from Phil Salt. The improbability of the catch made it more interesting. After the catch, Avesh Khan gestured towards Sanju Samson and said something like: "Main catch lunga (I will take the catch)". Later, he celebrated with



Sanju Samson gloves. For the unversed, Avesh Khan was absolutely livid with Sanju Samson during RR's match against Punjab Kings last Saturday for a dropped catch. In the 19th over of PBKS innings, Samson did not pay heed to Avesh Khan's call as he charged to take a catch of Ashutosh Sharma. Though Avesh was closer, Samson went ahead and dropped the catch. Avesh Khan was clearly frustrated with the call. It was called a 'disaster' on social media.

Talking about the match, Rajasthan Royals pulled off the Indian Premier League's biggest run chase to beat Kolkata Knight Riders by two wickets on Tuesday. Asked to bat first, KKR rode on Sunil Narine's 56-ball 109 to post 223/6 in the allotted 20 overs. In reply, RR were in all sorts of trouble at one stage but Jos Buttler blasted his way to an unbeaten 60-ball 107, as the visitors completed the chase in the last ball of the match. After his team was asked to bat first on a fresh pitch, Narine blazed away to a 49-ball 100 to lead KKR's charge in this top-of-the-table clash at Eden Gardens. It was a one-man show from KKR as Narine (109 off 56) batted till the 18th over, first stitching 85 runs with Angkrish Raghuvanshi (30) and then adding 51 runs with Andre Russell (13).

Shubman Gill's Clear Blame After GT's Terrible Loss To DC Following Lowest Score



New Delhi. The T20 World Cup is around the corner and Rishabh Pant is striving to be the best version of himself, and the latest proof of that is his brilliant all-round display in Delhi Capitals' six-wicket victory over Gujarat Titans in the IPL in Ahmedabad on Wednesday. It was a great outing for DC as they bundled out GT for 89, which is also their lowest-ever total in the history of IPL. In the match, Pant had two stumpings, two catches, managed his bowlers well and stayed not out, as DC completed a chase of 90 in 8.5 overs in an away game.

Asked about his work behind the stumps and with the bat, Pant said, "The only thought process before coming to the field is that I wanted to come in a better way." "Only thought when I was doing my rehab. Each and every match I am loving the process and being on the ground." The DC captain has made a remarkable comeback to competitive cricket after suffering a horrific car accident in December 2022. Opting to field first, the Capitals rolled over Gujarat Titans for 89 in 17.3 overs, the bowlers finally having a say after being blasted all over the park in the last few matches of the lucrative league. Mukesh Kumar was the most successful bowler for DC with figures of 3/14, while there were two wickets apiece for Ishant Sharma (2/8) and Tristan Stubbs (2/11). "Lots of things to be pleased about. We spoke about champion mindset and our team spoke about it," Pant added at the post-match presentation. When asked if it's the best bowling effort of IPL 2024, he said, "Definitely one of the best. Still early in the tournament and we can still improve from here." Chasing a small target of 90, DC completed the formality in just 8.5 overs to register their third win and give their run rate a boost. "The only conversation was to get it as early as possible because we lost few net run rate points in some other games where we lost," he said.

Dinesh Karthik or MS Dhoni? Rohit reveals 'convincible' choice for T20 World Cup

- RCB lost by 25 runs despite posting 262, the highest total by a chasing team
- SRH hit 287, the highest total in the history of the IPL
- RCB have won only 1 out of their first 7 games in IPL 2024

New Delhi. India captain Rohit Sharma revealed that he can easily convince Dinesh Karthik for the wicketkeeper's role for the upcoming T20 World Cup while joking about getting MS Dhoni back into the senior national team. The IPL 2024 has been looked at as a platform audition for the World Cup, which will begin within a week after the final of the IPL, i.e. June 1 in the USA and West Indies. Rohit, while speaking on the Club Prairie Fire podcast, heaped praise on MS Dhoni and Dinesh Karthik, lauding their form in IPL 2024. In his usual style, Rohit joked it could be hard to convince Dhoni for the much-discussed wicketkeeper spot, adding he was impressed by his former captain's knock for CSK against MI when



Chennai trumped Mumbai at Wankhede Stadium by 20 runs. "I was quite impressed, especially with Dinesh. The way he batted a couple of nights back. Dhoni, as well, he came to play 4 balls, made a huge impact, with those 20 runs. That was eventually the difference in the game," Rohit said in the podcast.

VINTAGE DHONI IMPRESSES ROHIT Dhoni continued his love affair with Wankhede, which was possibly his last competitive cricket match at the iconic venue. Dhoni finished off in style, again, at

the Wankhede by slamming 3 consecutive sixes on the trot against MI captain Hardik Pandya in the last over to propel CSK to a winning total of 206 runs. His vintage knock sent not only the fans and experts in frenzy, but also Rohit, who also slammed a hundred in the same match. IPL 2024 Full Coverage | IPL 2024 Points Table and Standings | 2024 IPL Full Schedule While ruling out a rather 'sick and tired' Dhoni, Rohit affirmed Karthik's chances for a place in the T20 World Cup. "It'll be hard to convince MSD for sure to come to the West Indies I guess.

He is sick and tired. He is coming to the US though to do something else. He is into golf, so he will play golf I guess. DK will be easy to convince I guess," Rohit said. Rohit's stump-mic remark went viral as he engaged in an on-field banter with Karthik. He was impressed with Karthik's fine knock for RCB and teased him for making it into India's squad for the T20 World Cup.

DINESH KARTHIK FOR T20 WORLD CUP?

Rohit revealed that he was trying to put pressure on Karthik who played a 23-ball 53 to guide RCB to a fighting total of 196 runs. "I was just trying to put some pressure on him. Eventually, after the game against SRH, he went and spoke after the SRH game. I think that some captain was asking if I was ready for the World Cup, this is the answer from me," Rohit said. Karthik has been juggling between commentary duties and playing franchise cricket for RCB. He has been in great form lately and recently played a valiant knock of 83 runs from 35 balls to nearly help RCB chase down the highest-ever IPL total of 287 runs, put up by SRH. Karthik had made a sensational return to the Indian team and played in the T20 World Cup in 2022. However, he has not played for the Indian team after their match against Bangladesh in Adelaide.

Champions League: Real Madrid end Manchester City's defence, Bayern beat Arsenal

New Delhi. Real Madrid, as usual, found a way to progress in the Champions League, this time after beating Manchester City on penalties in a dramatic quarter-final second leg at the Etihad Stadium on Wednesday, April 17. The 14-time winners of the European top prize dethroned the Premier League giants, ending their hopes of a second successive treble. Carlo Ancelotti's men did not look convincing but they got the job done at the end of a draining contest to reach their fourth successive Champions League semi-final. On the other hand, Bayern Munich beat Arsenal 1-1 at home to progress to the semi-final with a 3-2 aggregate scoreline and set up a mouth-watering clash with Real Madrid. After having found the back of the net thrice in a 3-3 draw in Madrid last week, Manchester City headed into the second-leg tie as favourites. Pep Guardiola's men were eyeing back-to-back Champions League



crowns - a feat that would have sealed their status in European royalty. However, it was not meant to be for City as they had only themselves to blame when the extra-time ended 1-1. Real Madrid won a nail-biting penalty shootout 4-3 with Antonio Rudiger, the former Chelsea man who was booed throughout the contest at the Etihad, stepping up to score the winning penalty. There was no separating the two teams at the end of 120 minutes after a Kevin de Bruyne

strike in the second half cancelled out Rodrygo's first-half goal. Manchester City had plenty of chances to go ahead, but with Erling Haaland hitting the woodwork, Manchester City, somehow, found a way to keep it 1-1. Rudiger himself had a good opportunity to seal the deal in extra-time from close range, but he missed the target. His mistake also led to the equaliser, but the German international rose up to become Real Madrid's hero in the shoot-out along with goalkeeper Andriy Lunin, who was one of the busiest men on the big night.

Manchester City dominated possession and created numerous chances, showcasing why they were the defending champions. They had an impressive 64% possession and forced 18 corners, compared to Madrid's solitary one, throughout the match and extra time. However, Real Madrid, known as the all-time kings of Europe, withstood the onslaught, demonstrating their pedigree in this competition.

Rohit Sharma rubbishes reports of T20 World Cup selection meeting: Everything is fake

New Delhi. India captain Rohit Sharma denied media reports that claimed that he had a special chat with selection committee chairman Ajit Agarkar and head coach Rahul Dravid earlier in the month over T20 World Cup 2024 selection, urging fans not to believe speculation and rumours. Rohit laughed off speculation about him and Virat Kohli opening the batting in the World Cup, starting June 1 in the USA and the West Indies. Rohit Sharma joked about the speculation about team selection in the media, saying that Ajit Agarkar had been keeping himself occupied by playing golf in Dubai and head coach Rahul Dravid was working with his sons, giving them cricket training on a red soil pitch in Mumbai. "I haven't met anyone. Ajit Agarkar is somewhere in Dubai, playing Golf. Rahul Dravid is watching his kid play in Bengaluru. He was in Mumbai, actually. He was. He got him to play on a red soil wicket here at CCI (Cricket Club of India). That's about it," Rohit Sharma told Adam Gilchrist and Michael Vaughan in the latest episode of Club Prairie Fire Podcast.

"We haven't met, to be honest. In today's day and age, unless you hear it from either myself, Rahul himself, Ajit himself, or someone from the BCCI coming and talking in front of the camera, everything is fake," he added. A section of the media claimed on Wednesday that Rohit Sharma met with Ajit Agarkar and Rahul Dravid earlier in April to discuss several important selection matters, including the need for Hardik Pandya to bowl consistently in IPL 2024. The reports also claimed that Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma would open in the T20 World Cup for India. Virat Kohli is the leading run-getter in IPL 2024, having single-handedly carried the burden of scoring runs for RCB. On the other hand, Rohit Sharma scored a hundred in MI's El Clasico defeat to CSK at the Wankhede Stadium on Sunday. Hardik Pandya, on the other hand, has struggled to come up with all-round performances amid all the negativity surrounding his ascendancy to MI captaincy.

RISHABH PANT FOR T20 WORLD CUP?

Meanwhile, Rohit Sharma jokingly said that he would want to have Rishabh Pant in the squad, responding to Michael Vaughan's interesting question. The former England captain asked Rohit if there was one player whom he would like to have in the squad just for the sake of entertainment.

Shikhar Dhawan in rehab, full faith in Sam Curran as PBKS skipper: Sunil Joshi

New Delhi. PBKS spin bowling coach Sunil Joshi has said that Shikhar Dhawan has started his rehab process for the injury he is currently carrying and the team has full faith in Sam Curran being the captain of the side during the opener's absence. Dhawan didn't play Punjab's match against RR and is expected to miss the next few matches due to injury. PBKS coach Sanjay Bangar had indicated that Dhawan would be out for at least 7-10 days after loss to RR and said Curran would take over the captaincy duties for now. Speaking to the reporters ahead of the clash with MI, Joshi said that the medical team needs to assess the situation of Dhawan at the moment and respond to the team management. The PBKS coach said that Curran had done well last season in Dhawan's absence and the team expects him to do well once again. "As far as an update on Shikhar Dhawan is



concerned, the medical team will assess the situation and inform us. Now, he is in rehab. Sam Curran has been donning the Captain's hat for us in his absence. He was also the

stand-in captain last year when Dhawan was injured, and he led the side well. So, we trust him completely," said Joshi.

Why PBKS have an advantage in Mullanpur?

Joshi also feels that the nature of the bounce in Mullanpur is completely different from the other tracks and it would give them an advantage over others. "Bowlers win tournaments, batters win matches. Our bowling unit is doing consistently well in all areas. We have addressed that our top-order needs to bat well in the powerplay overs. But this is a challenging wicket for all batters, especially for the visitors, because the nature of bounce is completely different from all other surfaces. It gives us an advantage on this surface," Joshi said. PBKS are currently 8th in the points table with 4 points to their name from 6 matches.

Rishabh Pant best wicketkeeper-batter, his captaincy getting sharper: DC coach Hopes

IPL 2024, GT vs DC: Delhi coach James Hopes said the team found it difficult to cover the gap that Rishabh Pant left last year and that the return of the 'best wicketkeeper-batter' has boosted their side immensely in the ongoing season.

New Delhi. Rishabh Pant's hole was tough to fill for Delhi last year and his return has been a welcome boost to the Delhi side in IPL 2024, their assistant coach James Hopes said after the wicketkeeper-batter came up with an all-round show in their big win against Gujarat on Wednesday, April 17. Pant was instrumental in Delhi's hammering of Gujarat as the former finalists bowled the home side out for just 89 at the Narendra

Modi Stadium before chasing the target down in just 8.5 overs. Rishabh Pant had the rub of green going his way at the toss and his decision to bowl first against Shubman Gill's GT worked wonders. Pant was spot on with his bowling changes and field placements as Delhi bowlers responded wonderfully well to bowl the power-packed Gujarat batting unit for a paltry total. Mukesh Kumar and Ishant Sharma broke the back of GT's top-order, leaving them 4 down at the end of the powerplay. Pant was mighty impressive behind the wickets as he took a sensational catch to dismiss the dangerous David Miller, diving to his right. Rishabh Pant also affected two pieces of stumping in the 9th over as he gave South African big-hitter Tristan Stubbs an over of spin. GT were reeling at 48 for 6 at the end of the 9th over and Pant's Delhi did not take the foot off the pedal as they kept the pressure on GT and bundled them out in just 17.3 overs.

Pant's keeping, it's pretty good. Ain't it? Last year, we tried really hard to cover that gap. But it's very hard to cover a world-class



keeper, if not the best wicketkeeper-batter in the world. Now that he is back, you can just see everything about his game, his keeping is improving, his captaincy is becoming very sharp, his batting has been pretty good from the start of the tournament," Hopes told the press at the Narendra Modi Stadium. He is rounding into some pretty good form for the back half of the tournament. And he is leading pretty well at the moment," he added. **PANT'S DREAM COMEBACK** Rishabh Pant was rewarded for his sensational all-round show as he won the Player of the Match award. His wicketkeeping and captaincy was acknowledged as the

comeback man was in top form, marshaling his troops wonderfully well. It was a statement from Pant, who is one of the frontrunners for the wicketkeeper's slot in India's T20 World Cup squad. Pant has shown the world that is ready for top-flight cricket again after having recovered well from multiple injuries he suffered in a near-fatal road accident in December 2022.

Pant also hit an unbeaten 16 off just 11 balls, helping Delhi finish off the chase quickly and boost their Net Run Rate. Delhi jumped from 9th to 6th in the IPL 2024 points table after their 3rd win of the season. Delhi will be looking to make full use of their home stretch in the upcoming week. In the first of the three home games at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, Delhi welcome in-form Sun Risers on Saturday and James Hopes said the team has already been preparing for the freight train. "We are halfway through now. We spoke, leading into the game, that a win tonight, will put us onto the table. And we also got a good week-and-half for us, with three home games in Delhi. We are running into the freight train, the next game which is SRH.



Medha Shankr

Says Directors, Producers Messaged Her After 12th Fail Success: 'I Hope I Get To Work...'

Actor Medha Shankr, who made her cinema debut with the acclaimed "12th Fail", says she was inundated with congratulatory messages after the film was released on OTT. Starring Vikrant Massey and Shankr, the Hindi film is based on Anurag Pathak's best-selling novel about the incredible journey of IPS officer Manoj Kumar Sharma and IRS officer Shraddha Joshi. Directed by Vidhu Vinod Chopra, "12th Fail" was a surprise hit at the box office, earning around Rs 70 crore worldwide upon its release last October. Two months later, the digital relse on Disney+ Hotstar only amplified its reach. Shankr, who played Shraddha Joshi in the movie, said she received a lot of love from all quarters once "12th Fail" started streaming. "I tasted success after the OTT release because of the kind of love I got from the industry and otherwise on the internet. My Instagram literally blew up.

This is just my first film and people have been incredibly kind to me," the actress told PTI in an interview. "Audiences were lovely to me but also the fraternity directors, producers, actors, they all messaged me, called me, warmed up to me to appreciate my work and how much they loved the film. I hope and pray that I get to work with the kind of filmmakers I've always dreamt of working with," she added. The film, based on the 2019 eponymous non-fiction book by Anurag Pathak, recently completed 25 weeks in theatres. Shankr said she is full of gratitude. "Twenty-five weeks in the cinemas.

It's big. We're just cherishing that moment for now. It's definitely opened up more avenues, more opportunities. But right now, I'm just enjoying the moment. People have so much respect and regard for every single actor in the film and the filmmaker.

They (audience) look at us as if we have given them some motivation and inspiration. That regard in somebody's eyes is very special," she added. The Noida-born actor, who was earlier seen in projects such as "Beecham House", "Shaadisthan" and "Dil Bekaraar" in supporting roles, said it took her around six years to get a breakthrough.

"I've been in Bombay for the past five-six years now, and it took me that long to get a film like this. Before that I've done some projects but it didn't give me the kind of recognition I wanted. It was a long journey till this film happened." One just has to believe in themselves and keep going, said Shankr. "Every single day we have to restart in our lives because self-doubt is going to creep in from time to time. All the negative talk is going to creep in. But you have to believe in yourself and keep going. "You have to be your biggest critic and your biggest cheerleader and just give yourself the self-belief because nobody else is going to give it to you. So, you have to give it to yourself and keep going," she added.

Nayanthara Looks Gorgeous In Saree As She Shares New Photos; Fans Call Her 'Elegant'



Nayanthara is one of the most fashionable actresses. She has many times turned heads through her fashion sense. Today also, Nayanthara has set many hearts aflame as she shared new photos of herself draped in a saree. The actress exuded elegance in the photos. Fans hailed her as gorgeous and elegant. In the series of photos shared on her social media handle, Nayanthara can be seen donning a beautiful saree paired with exquisite jewellery. She has opted for minimalistic makeup and kajal. Completed the look with a bun and pearl stud earrings. Fans dropped heart emojis in the comment section. One of the fans wrote, "Elegant". Another wrote, "Old is gold."

Nayanthara is set to reunite with her Love Action Drama co-star, Nivin Pauly, in the upcoming film Dear Students. An exclusive video was released by the makers, announcing the actress as the new addition to the film, through a motion poster.

The clip was posted on the official YouTube channel of Pauly Jr Pictures. The clip opens with an empty and windy classroom, with some sheets that look like students' test papers, being scattered due to the wind. These sheets then somehow reach the cabin of one of the teachers. As the papers are released in the wind, the mysterious teacher aims a pen cap to its middle and throws it with force. The sheets, stained with blue ink, get stuck on the front wall, on the far side of the teacher's cabin. The stained ink expands to draw itself into Nayanthara's face outline, seen carrying a fierce expression. It is then followed by the actress's name in bold letters. The whole statement is revealed to be, "Nayanthara on board," announcing the actress as a cast member.

The film is being directed by George Philip Roy and Sandeep Kumar and includes Nivin Pauly and Nayanthara in the lead. It is being produced under the banners of Pauly Jr Pictures, Karma Media Network LLP, Rowdy Pictures and Ultra. Mujeeb Majeed is composing the music in the film and the vocals in the motion poster are given by Jymah.

My Family Is My Inspiration, Says Newcomer Keerthi Krishna Ahead Of Her Debut In Kannada Films



Keerthi Krishna is the niece of noted Kannada actors Sharan and Shruthi. The newcomer is now all set to mark her debut in the Kannada film industry with Sudheer Shanbhogue's Dharani. She will star opposite Manoj Kumar. Recently, in an interview, Keerthi Krishna opened up about her excitement as she ventures into the world of acting. She said her family is her support. Initially, she wanted to be behind the camera, as she found directing short films to be fun. But, when everyone insisted she come in front of the camera, she decided to do so. As a child artist, Keerthi Krishna marked her debut with Shri Naga Shakthi in 2011. She was excited to act in the film. She expressed her joy after she got the opportunity to work with veteran actors like Ramkumar. Further, getting to star in a big-budget film has only doubled her happiness. After her brief stint with acting as a child, Keerthi Krishna turned her focus to academics. Now, after more than a decade, she is ready to make her debut with the film Dharani as a lead actress. She is the third generation artiste in her family to enter the industry. She reportedly picked the nuances of her field from her grandparents at a very young age.

Many have often pointed out the resemblance of Keerthi Krishna to Shruthi; but both have their own unique style, which sets them apart and makes them appealing to the audience. Keerthi Krishnashared that her inspiration for acting is strongly influenced by Shruthi and the support and guidance from the whole family, including her grandparents helped her. Apart from acting, Keerthi Krishna is also a great dancer and has been interested in this art form since childhood. She also is a great sportsperson, who enjoys playing badminton. Along with this, Keerthi Krishna also used to participate in plays during her college days. When asked about singing, she shared that she does not enjoy it. She added that her sister Gauri is a fine singer.

Parineeti Chopra

Blushes As Paps Call Her Amarjot, Video Goes Viral

Parineeti Chopra has been getting an overwhelming response for her performance in Amar Singh Chamkila, released on the OTT platform on April 12. The actress essayed the role of Amarjot in the film co-starring Diljit Dosanjh. Well, today, Parineeti was spotted for the first time in the city and rocking the casual wear. She was seen blushing as Paps called her Amarjot. In the video, shared by Viral Bhayani, we can see Parineeti wearing a casual outfit. She opted for a white colour hoodie and denim. She is looking very beautiful and opted for minimalistic makeup. As soon as the video was shared, fans rushed to the comment section. They once again showered praise on her and called her performance great.



Earlier, Diljit Dosanjh shared a behind-the-scenes (BTS) video from the Chamkila set. Taking to his Instagram handle, Diljit shared the video in which he is seen singing with other stars and Parineeti is seen enjoying the view. She is standing and laughing as Diljit dedicates a song to her. As soon as the video was shared, fans praised and called the movie his best performance. On Monday, Parineeti took to social media to express her gratitude to her fans for their praise. She shared a video in which she is seen singing a song while the real Amarjot is also seen in the frame. Both are singing the same song. "Amarjot ko itna pasand karne ke liye Shukriya

#Chamkila Overwhelmed with all the love that's been pouring in... thank you... #Grateful," read the caption. On Sunday, Parineeti shared BTS photos from Chamkila set and wrote, "Curled up in my blanket. Overwhelmed with your words, calls, and movie reviews. (tears are not stopping) "PARINEETI IS BACK." These words are ringing loud. Hadn't thought of this. Yes I am back, and not going anywhere!" Chamkila directed by Imtiaz Ali, is a biographical drama based on the life of the iconic Punjabi singer Amar Singh Chamkila. Diljit Dosanjh steps into the shoes of Chamkila, while Parineeti Chopra plays his wife Amarjot.

